

*The First
Screaming*

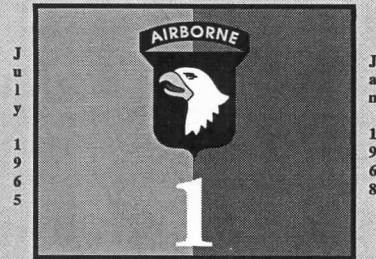
A HISTORICAL REVIEW OF
THE 1ST BRIGADE (Separate) 101st AIRBORNE DIVISION
in Viet Nam from July 1965 through January 1968



Published Quarterly
January - April - July - October

*Eagles
in Viet Nam*

1st Brigade (Separate) Viet Nam



101st Airborne Division

Volume 10, Number 4

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The ALWAYS FIRST Brigade



FLAMETHROWER



At the Airborne Walk on Fort Benning, following the Memorial Service for Don Lassen on October 5, 2008 (L to R) MAJ(R) Ivan Worrell, INFO OFF 5/66-5/67 and Anthony A. "Tony" Bliss, Jr., 1/327 A 10/65-10/66, pose with the 101st Airborne Division marker.

The past quarter has been interesting and active for me.

The preparations for the September Brigade Reunion were interesting and different. The William C. Lee Chapter of the 101st Airborne Division Association, under the leadership of Jim Shamblen, did an outstanding job of preparing for and executing the reunion. Attendance was about 280 and if there were complaints I did not hear them. The January issue of the magazine will have a great deal more about the reunion with plenty of pictures. The 2010 Reunion is scheduled to be held in

This magazine is produced by and for veterans of the ALWAYS FIRST BRIGADE who served in the brigade from July 1965 through April 1968. The publication will chronicle the military history and accomplishments of veterans who served, as well as units that were assigned, attached or supported the brigade. The editor solicits material about the brigade for use in the magazine and for future publication in a book that will contain a comprehensive history of the brigade.

Another goal of the editor is to lead an initiative to place a monument, to honor members of the brigade, at the Wings of LIBERTY Military Museum at Fort Campbell, Kentucky (the museum will be located on the Tennessee side of Fort Campbell).



Omaha, Nebraska, with Terry R. Zahn, SPT BN HQ Elt 7/65-5/66, as our host. Terry, and his wife Carol, have hosted three 101st Association reunions in Omaha, so they certainly have reunion experience.

If you have not perused the magazine you will later see a notice about raising the subscription rate. This decision came after much study of the books and exploration of cost cutting methods. As you may or may not know I do not pay myself. My travel on behalf of the magazine is paid for by me and used as a tax deduction. This increase in the subscription rate will make it possible to carry on publication of the magazine. I hope that the additional \$5.00 per year will not cause you to decide not to continue to read about the history of the First Brigade (S), 101st Airborne Division in Viet Nam from July 1965 through January 1968.

On October 5th I attended a Memorial Service for Don Lassen at the Airborne Walk on Fort Benning, Georgia. Don was the long time Editor and Publisher of the STATIC LINE, a monthly newspaper for all who are and were airborne. He hosted the Airborne Awards Festival each April in Atlanta that for many years attracted veterans from most of the airborne community. The STATIC LINE will continue to be published but Don will be sorely missed.



Tuy Hoa

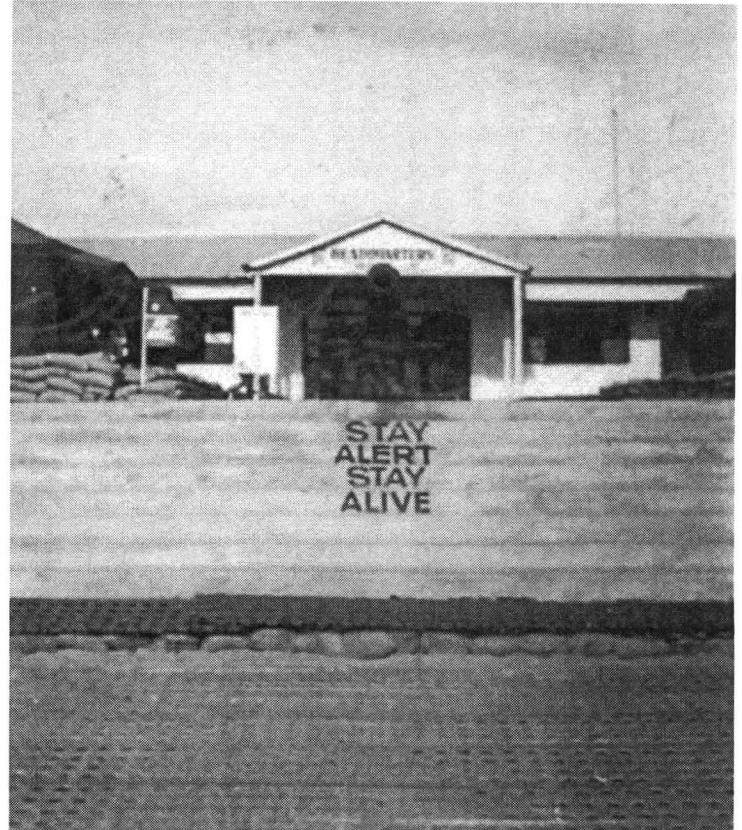
RAY LAKE, 2/327 B 7/65-7/66, 824 Hawks Bridge Rd., Salem, NJ 08079-4502, (856) 351-0155 wrote: Please accept my subscription renewal. I've sent \$101.00 to you to help the "First Screaming Eagle" organization stay together. You always kept alive the memories and deeds of our fallen airborne brothers. I salute you!

I've also enclosed some artifacts you may enjoy and share with other members. The After Action Report is supplied courtesy of Ed Bonk, B Co. 2/327 Inf. 7/65-6/66.

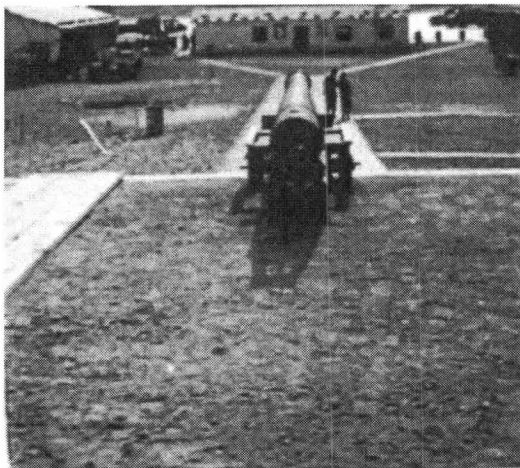
The pictures of the cannon were taken by Bill Larsen, B Co. 2/327 65-7/66, as it sits at Tuy Hoa headquarters.

The cannon was found by 2nd Platoon B Company 2/327 in 1965 and recovered with a Huey. Platoon Ldr was Lt. Sablan. Ray Lake and Bill Larsen were also on the team. The cannon did not return to the U.S.

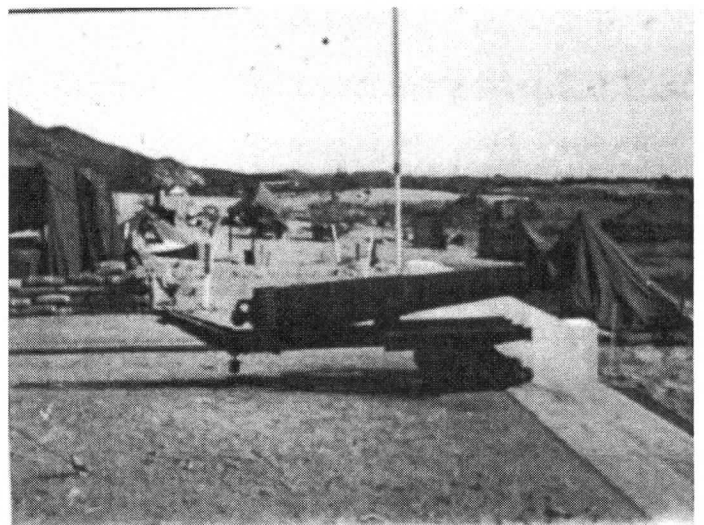
Editor's Note: The material on this page and the six pages that follow was sent by Ray Lake 2/327 B 7/65-7/66. Although the quality of some of the pages is bad I believe all First Brigade (S) veterans will be interested in how the enemy saw us. Send your comments about anything in this enemy After Action Report to me.



First Brigade Forward Headquarters at Tuy Hoa



Captured Cannon at Tuy Hoa



Captured Cannon at Tuy Hoa

Translation of an enemy After Action Report beginning on page two.

HOW THEY SAW US

HEADQUARTERS
2D BATTALION (AIRBORNE), 327TH INFANTRY
1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division
APO US Forces 96347

AVALB-B

30 March 1966

SUBJECT: Captured Enemy After Action Report

TO: See Distribution

1. An enemy after action report of combat operations in the Tuy Hoa area during the period 19 Jan through 15 Feb 66, was captured in a cave vicinity CQ 118279 by the 2nd Bn (Abn), 327th Inf on 15 March 1966.

2. The period covered by the after action report coincides with FWMAF operation Van Buren (17 Jan - 21 Feb 66).

3. The following is a translation of this captured document (minor grammatical and organizational improvements were added in preparation of this translation, however, no adjustments were made to the witer's comments or their sequence):

"Resolve to Achieve Victory over U.S. Invaders"

CONCLUSIONS

((After Action Report))

1. This is a report of sweep operations and counter sweep operations by Tuy Hoa I Armed Forces (19 Jan - 15 Feb 66).

2. Enemy Situation and Plot

a. After our Spring - Summer and Winter - Spring victories, the ranks of the puppet army were crushed and scattered; E47 ((47th Regt)) was totally annihilated; the enemy reinforced with paratroops and E41 ((41st Regt?)); we also spoiled them, and turned them inside out.

b. In order to recoup from these defeats, they had to bring in US and Korean Satellite troops, whose objectives were to:

(1) Reinforce the puppet army and puppet authorities who we have driven into disorder.

(2) Liberate the villages, clear communications routes, and free the administrative centers heavily oppressed by us.

(3) Reoccupy a number of agricultural areas, secretly reserved for principal attack in accordance with the dry season plan of the US.

(4) Confiscate out people's rice, to cause us difficulty and, at the same time, solve their own economic inadequacies.

(5) Sabotage the cease fire order of the Front, and sabotage the traditional TET of our people.

1. Therefore, the enemy concentrated troops and divided to attack in two areas in two phases with these important points:

a. Phase I (1 Jan - 17 Jan 66)

SUBJECT: Captured Enemy After Action Report

(1) The enemy proposed to sweep these four villages: Mien Dong, Hoa Hiep, Hoa Xuan A and B, and Hoa Vinh.

(2) Enemy strength: 3000 Korean troops; 3 Airborne Bn's (Bn 1, Bn 2, and Bn 7); 1 Korean artillery Bn; 3 ships standing by from Dong Tac to Cape Dien, with 6 tubes, plus 4 tubes of puppet army from Phu Lam; 60 helicopters; many fighter planes and jet bombers; Special Forces, Popular Forces, and Regional Forces in the rear; one M113 Detachment; many GMC's and jeeps. Each concentrated platoon had 8 puppet soldiers.

(3) Conduct of the enemy sweep operation:

(a) The enemy split into three points:

1. One column advanced from Dong Tac toward Hoa Hiep; this column moved to Phu Lac, ai Xep, Bai Goc (this unit was purely Korean troops).

2. One column advanced from Phu Hiep intersection using the railway route to My Khe (Korean troops).

3. One column advanced from Hoa Binh through Bn Thach to Phu Khe (this column had one Bn of Koreans and one Abn Bn).

(b) During their sweep, these columns entered the mountains to occupy the high points, and search and destroy in the forest from Deo Ca pass out to Phu Khe, Thach Cam, Nam Binh, My Khe, Lac Long, Bai Xep, Bai Goc (Hoa Hiep).

(4) Enemy plan:

The enemy used the "Three Door Temple Gate" policy to destroy the revolutionary movement of our people.

~~(a) They used their newest equipment, weapons, techniques, such as various types of planes, poisonous chemicals, napalm bombs, crowds of infantry, helicopters, mechanized vehicles, etc.~~

(b) They applied the "Chieu Hoi" policy, threats, and deceit.

(5) Enemy Strategy: The enemy used the "Leap Frog of Columns" method, and heliborne landings to encircle us. Their mechanization is very fast. Before their forces advance, the enemy uses air and artillery fire to soften up the area. Only then do they use heliborne landings or an infantry approach.

(6) Our counter sweep activities:

(a) The enemy sweep came unexpectedly. Therefore, the leadership of the Huyen ((District)) could not directly lead the basic elements, but left it to the village units to solve their problems independently.

(b) Although the enemy swept through the hills and valleys, and used every cruel technique and weapon, our armed forces and paramilitary forces bravely fought continuously day and night to wear down and annihilate the enemy forces.

(7) Results:

(a) During the 17 day period, we fought the enemy in 25 large and small battles, and killed and wounded 369 (71 airborne, 15 puppet Psy War ((PAT)), the remainder Korean).

(b) We seized 20 weapons (1 HMG, 4 ARs, 1 M79, 1 Garand, 1 Thomson, 2 carbines, 2 pistols), 2 PRC/6 radios, 10 gas masks, and military equipment of various kinds. We also captured 40,000 rounds of assorted ammunition, shot down 4 HU1A planes, damaged 1 other, and destroyed 1 HMG, 1 AR, and 2 rocket launchers.

SUBJECT: Captured Enemy After Action Report.

(c) The following units were responsible for the enemy losses in the above battles:

1. Huyen ((District)) Concentrated Company: Enemy KIA and WIA: 118; captured: 1 HMG, 6 Garands, 1 carbine, 3 ARs, 1 M79, 1 pistol, 1 PRC/6 radio, 8 gas masks and some military equipment.

2. Huyen ((District)) Eastern Area Concentrated Platoon: Enemy KIA and WIA: 89; shot down one plane; captured: 1 AR, 1 Garand, a quantity of military equipment and ammunition, and a camera.

3. Hoa Xuan A Guerrilla: Fought 6 battles: Enemy KIA: 73, WIA 28 (30 casualties were Korean); captured: 2 Garands, 1 Thompson, 1 carbine, 1 pistol, 2 PRC/6 radios, 1 pair binoculars, 1 compass, 1 radio, and a quantity of other military equipment. Shot down 1 A1A helicopter.

4. Hoa Xuan B Guerrilla: Fought 5 battles: Enemy KIA: 23, WIA 12 (Among the enemy killed was a Korean major).

5. The Hoa Hiep Guerrilla and Subsector concentrated forces killed 24 persons; captured a quantity of ammunition.

(8) Friendly Casualties:

(a) Guerrillas: 6 KIA, 11 WIA, weapons lost: 6 German rifles; damaged 1 Garand, 1 German rifle.

(b) Concentrated Force (C377): 2 KIA, 6 WIA (Slightly).

(c) People killed by enemy: 95, 28 wounded, and 72 captured. (Hoa Hiep: 58 killed, 10 wounded, 72 captured; Hoa Xuan B: 32 killed, 15 wounded, Hoa Xuan A: 5 killed, 3 wounded).

~~(9) Observations:~~

(a) Strong Points: Even though enemy forces outnumbered us a hundredfold, and they used every cruel strategy and weapons, our forces continued to close and fight with the enemy, wiping out many elements, thus limiting their sweeps and destructiveness. Our battle strategy was based upon the "One Step Forward" doctrine, resisting the cruel sweep by close in fighting, hand to hand fighting, methodically destroying and seizing weapons, and shooting down planes. Even though we were hungry and thirsty, lacked funds, and were out of contact with our upper echelons, our units automatically solved their difficulties. Our objectives were to look for the enemy, fight bravely, and preserve our forces. Other strong points included: timely leadership of the masses, using legal and illegal refugees, face to face political struggle with the enemy, continuous resistance and destruction. The village unit commander, who holds the guerrilla leadership, is the key to resisting the sweep, and solving our difficulties.

(b) Cause of Strong Points: Thanks to their extensive experience with enemy sweep operations, combing operations, and their ability to cadre the masses, the guerrillas have challenged and borne many cruelties. Because of the fighting resolve and the bravery of our forces and the guerrillas, the commanders of village units were able to hold the guerrilla forces and people, and to lead the resistance to the sweep. The political struggle succeeded because the cadre stayed close to the people. Because of their belief in their own strength, and by taking advantage of the enemy's weak points, and by having no fear of violence or sacrifice of oneself, we were victorious.

(c) Weak Points: Some cadre and guerrillas still fear violence, are reluctant to sacrifice themselves, fear hardships, and lack belief in the revolution. Thus they become pacifistic and pessimistic, and a few even join the enemy. A few guerrillas and party cadre members go to the forest to hide from the enemy and don't fight, while other cadre desert the masses and leave the villages (as at Hoa Xuan B). The concentrated forces fight bravely, but in defense, lack courage and are not yet able to hold the battle field. Specifically, even in well fortified terrain, they desert the battle field and leave it for enemy occupation. Supply cache dispersal is not good and this permits the enemy to destroy much, causing us difficulties later.

SUBJECT: Captured Enemy After Action Report

(d) Cause of Weak Points: A few cadre and guerrillas are not yet firm in their ideological beliefs. Therefore, in the face of enemy cruel violence, they surrender and adversely influence the masses. Many still fear personal sacrifice, violence, and hardships. Some of our people, cadre, troops, and guerrillas still only complacently despise the enemy, and fail to see clearly the plots and violent objectives of the enemy.

(10) Experience gained in resisting sweeps in the east:

(a) Leadership of the masses to evacuate toward the enemy should be timely. Refugees should obstruct operations routes and enemy camps. Our main targets should be the Popular Forces, Interpreters, and the puppet troops.

(b) Village unit leaders must strive constantly and collectively to insure unity of the combat plan. The leadership must stay close to the people and be able to solve every requirement.

(c) Party members in the ranks of the cadre must set the example in battle and be the backbone of the mission.

(d) Our forces should try to fight close in, using hand to hand combat in order to annihilate the enemy, seize weapons, and preserve our forces.

(11) Evaluation of our Victory:

(a) Enemy forces outnumbered ours, but we annihilated them and at the same time, strengthened our forces. The enemy used the tactic of total kill - total burn, but due to good leadership, the masses avoided large casualties and heavy property damage, while securing a large quantity of their possessions.

(b) The enemy has provoked a debt of blood with our people, which we repaid by exacting an extremely high price: 369 enemy killed, and who ~~knows how many~~ ~~guerrillas~~ ~~how much money~~ ~~and property~~. ~~With all of this~~ ~~they still cannot damp our the revolutionary movement of our people, and our forces survive.~~

(12) Situation in the East after the Sweep: Although the enemy's violent sweep caused us many difficulties, thanks to the brilliant leadership of the District Party, the village committees have quickly reorganized and resolved the beliefs and difficulties of the masses, cadre, and the guerrillas. Thus, only 10 days later, these villages returned to their normal state. They actively continued their missions without stopping, and the people's guerrilla warfare movement holds firm. It builds stronger forces, builds combat hamlets, is active outside, annihilates the enemy, and protects the lives and property of the people. The movement still holds the liberated area, and has been continuously resisting a sweep for 2-3 days in mid-February 1966 (separate report).

b. Phase II (19 Jan - 15 Feb 66)

(1) Situation, plots, tactics of the enemy as above.

(2) ~~With the aim of~~ ~~winning~~ ~~totally~~ ~~the~~ ~~above~~ ~~plots~~, the enemy ~~withdrew its troops~~ ~~from the east on~~ ~~11~~, and on 19 Jan displaced its troops for a sweep in central and western TUY HOA I.

(3) Enemy forces participating in this sweep were twice those used in the first phase and included: 4 puppet battalions, 6 US battalions, 7 Korean battalions, 2 artillery battalions, 30 transport vehicles, 90 helicopters, 12 observation planes, 18 fighters, many jets, 2 B-52 squadrons, and 2 M113 detachments. The total enemy forces was 10,000 troops and 32 tubes of artillery (includes TUY HOA II).

(4) Enemy strategy: Terrain here is very different from the terrain in the east. It consists of plains, and widely liberated and densely populated areas. Therefore, the enemy used the strategy of destroying area by area, leap frog, cover and occupy, then move forward, and complete use of helicopters.

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(5) Conduct of the enemy sweep operation:

← This is US

(a) On 19 Jan 66, troops landed and occupied Mt BUONG, and used high ground to control the military columns landing on Route 5 and advancing to Phouc Nong. One column advanced from HOA TAN to DONG THANH (this infantry column was driven back by guerrillas as it attempted to move).

(b) On 25 Jan 66, troops landed and occupied BEN CUI and PON SAC.

(c) On 4 Feb 66, they attacked and occupied HOA THINH, and used forces at HOA MY to advance to HOA DONG.

(d) ~~On 10 Feb 66~~ they conducted a sweep to BEN DA and PHAN stream, and landed troops at SON and THACH THANH.

(e) On 13, 14, and 15 Feb, they swept up to LAC SANH, THINH THO, and MAI NHA Mountain (THEOU'G LAC). Another military column entered HOA THINH swept to MY CANH mountain and DONG TRU, and penetrated HOC XOAI and HOC RAM (halted by us).

(f) While the troops moved, jet fighters strafed along the flanks of the mountains from TONG DAO pass to DOC PHUONG. They even used 2 squadrons of B-52s to bomb and strafe PHAN stream, CHONG GAY River, and MY THANH.

(g) The enemy repaired Route 5 to DONG BO. Dozens of GMC's travelled this road daily, transporting food and taking refugees out to steal our people's rice.

(6) Enemy weaknesses: Enemy troops were weak and weary, but were bolstered by air and artillery superiority. They used poisonous chemicals, gas and smoke to seize the corpses.

~~to determinedly resist the sweep, resist occupation, and limit burning; destruction and careful search by the enemy, with the objective of protecting the lives of our people and saving rice and property.~~

(8) Our Specific Mission:

(a) Tactical: We planned to position guerrillas close to the villages and use guerrilla activity everywhere to restrict the careful search, seizure of rice, and the burning and killing by the invaders. We were to increase the war of attrition and create a tense situation for the enemy. We were prepared to combine the Main Force units with local units to attack, raid, and defend against sweeps. We planned to set up ambushes for piecemeal annihilation of the enemy columns.

(b) Political: We were to legally circumvent the troops, (a few illegal refugees). We planned to stabilize the masses by categories, maintain full control of them, and educate them rapidly. We were to mobilize the masses to form a strongly united bloc and press the resistance of the destructive enemy plan. We were to battle the puppet army, and puppet government, and concentrate our arrows ((arguments)) on the US and their colleagues. We were to assemble the cadre and the workers participating in the resistance to the sweep and prepare them for combat.

(c) Economical: We were to thoroughly disperse and hide our property, and organize legal units to save our rice by creating conditions to legally return the masses to cut out rice. We planned to mobilize assistance for hungry countrymen and orphans.

(9) Situation:

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(a) The enemy sweep was different this time. Their fire-power was more violent, and they used new tactics. For this reason, our forces moved forward discouraged and afraid. The health of our forces was poor, because they were continuously active. Confidence was not high (especially the guerrillas). Combat hamlets hampered by the floods and bombings were not reinforced. We did not have experience fighting Americans and Koreans, and did not grasp their weak points in strategy and tactics. Because we could not determine enemy strong points and weak points, our forces were demoralized and afraid.

(b) Our Difficulties: The enemy was very destructive. Our demoralized masses, cadre, and guerrillas left the villages, and we lost support. The forceful enemy attacks split up up, and we lost contact with some villages and districts. During the early stages, we lost contact from district to province. While the enemy conducted a big sweep and was destroying violently, the masses were further demoralized by the lack of cadre confidence, and by the nonchalant soldiers who ran far away (This is our principal difficulty).

4. By decision of the cadre committee and the District Unit Command Committee the armed forces and guerrillas are directed to accomplish the following:

- a. Main forces destroy from 2-4 Co's (CK attacks 4-5 times to annihilate 1 Co).
- b. Province CK attacks 2-3 times.
- c. Engineers mine Highway 5.
- d. District massed company annihilate from 2-3 platoons (100 to 150 people).
- e. Guerrillas - 4 comrades kill 1 enemy.

5. Policy: Main forces must disperse by companies to resist the sweep, using hit after attack, and 1 Main Force element penetrating deeply to protect the guerrillas and local forces disperse and fight guerrilla warfare.

6. Essential:

- a. Use massacre and burning to mobilize the rumor of the cadre, troops and guerrillas.
- b. Bring the people back legally, and bring the guerrillas close to the villages.

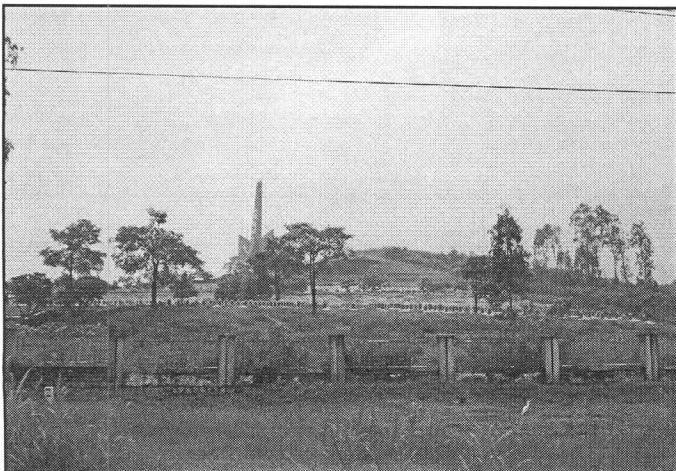
AROUND THE 25TH OF FEB. WE PUSH THEM INTO THE MOUNTAINS
 ABOUT THE 10TH OF MARCH THEY CAME OUT & FOUGHT THE
 1ST BATTALION.
 THE 1ST BATTALION WENT INTO THE MOUNTAINS THE 11-12-13-14-
 + 15TH OF MARCH + CAPTURED WEAPONS, DOCUMENTS - OTHER STUFF

BACK TO VIET NAM

+ ROBERT C. HUDSON, 2/327 C&HHC 6/65-7/66, 5221 NW 119th St., Gainesville, FL 32653, work (352) 337-8590, home (352) 332-6373 sent the following.

Ivan, I have been meaning to send you a report of a trip back to Vietnam my wife and I took last fall but am just getting around to it. We had an incredible and very positive trip. We thoroughly enjoyed it, and I highly recommend it for anyone who served there. Brought back a lot of memories of places and old friends, some of whom did not make it back. I've attached a "trip summary" and a few photos. I'll send more photos by separate emails to so the message isn't so large. We went to about 80% of the general areas where I served. If you think any of this is appropriate for the Always First Brigade, feel free to use it. I was a boat guy who went over with the 2/327 in 65 as a platoon leader in 2/327, and also served in the battalion S-3 shop later in my tour. I had a second tour as a MACV advisor in 71-72 and was in the NVA 1972 spring offensive. Interesting times.

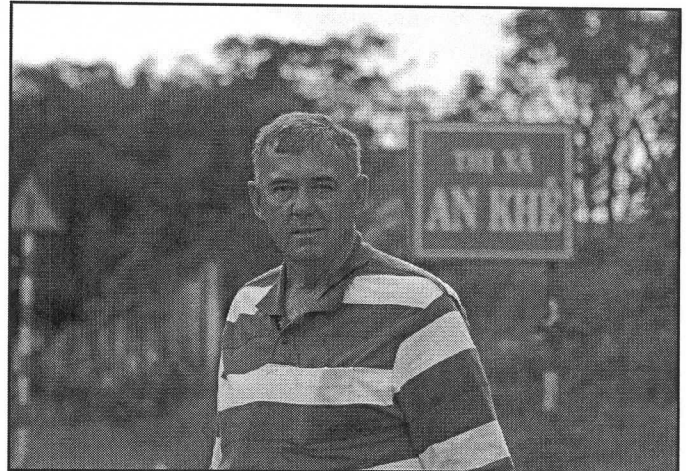
Regards, Bob Hudson



Former site of forward TOC of 2/327 at Tuy An, now NVA graveyard.

Trip Summary

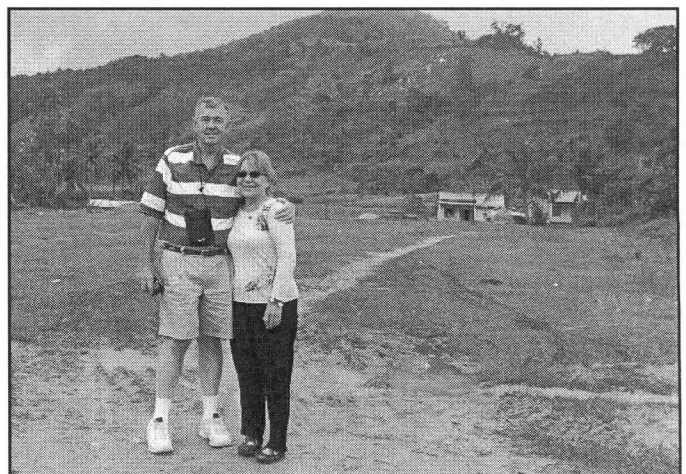
Thought I would give you a rundown on Barbara and my trip to Vietnam. We just returned from a tour of Vietnam, mostly in the areas I served during my two tours. We spent a week in the III Corps area and a week in the Central Highlands. We had an incredible and positive time. Their communist government formally adopted capitalism as their economic model about 10 years ago and the economy is booming. Saigon (aka Ho Chi Minh City) is as cosmopolitan a city as I have ever seen. The locals still call it Saigon, and refer to themselves as "Saigonese." There are major hotels everywhere, including Sheraton, Hyatt, Omni, etc. We stayed in a great older hotel built by the French in the 1930's that has been modernized, the Grand Hotel - formerly the Saigon Palace. I preferred that



Bob Hudson at village of An Khe

"colonial" touch. Obviously Saigon, now with 8 million population (it was 3.5 million during the war), has the same problems any big city has - traffic congestion, air pollution, etc. But, Saigon was a neat experience especially since I never spent any time there during my tours.

We started off in Saigon and saw some of the sights there such as the War Remnants Museum and the former U.S. Embassy which is now the U.S. Consulate. We couldn't go inside or take pictures of the U.S. Embassy because of the guards. We visited the former President's home that is now a museum and some other sights. This is the one where you saw the NVA tanks crashing the gates in 1975. We drove to Cu Chi and toured the tunnels there. They were started in the 1940's and continued to be developed during our time there. There were over 200 kilometers of tunnels. We visited the former base camp of the 25th Division and ran into two ladies that had worked for the 25th back then. They were very proud that they had worked for the Americans. We visited the former COSVN HQ over on the Cambodian border near Katum, outside of Tay Ninh. COSVN ran the entire Viet Cong and NVA operation in South Vietnam. We spent one night in Tay Ninh in a hotel built by the Russians



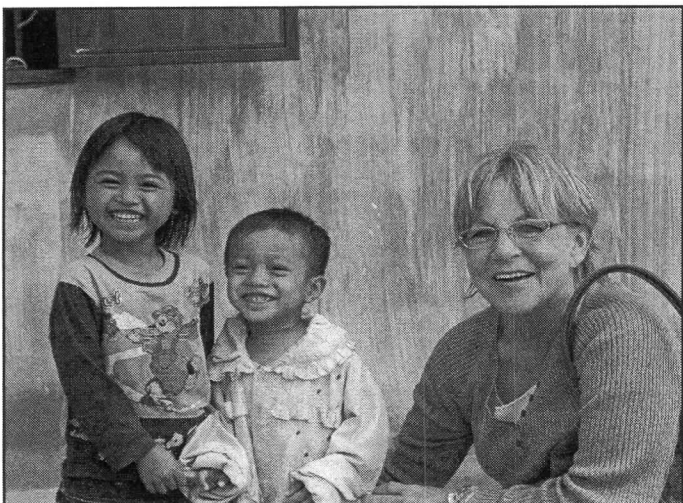
Bob Hudson and wife Barbara at Hill 674, which his platoon occupied in 1965.



Former site of HQ 21327, at Tuy Hoa North Airfield, now a beer factory.

(pretty drab). I went to Tay Ninh many times in 71-72. We attended a service at the Cao Dai temple there. I remember it from my time there in the Army. We then visited Nui Ba Den (Black Virgin Mountain) which is now a tourist attraction with gondolas that go up to the top on a cable. There is a temple on the top. Riding the gondolas up was really neat. It was kind of like a ski lift. As you may recall, Nui Ba Den had a radio relay team on top and the VC controlled the sides of the mountain. It was overrun several times. My good friend Alex Hottell was KIA when his helicopter crashed into the side of Nui Ba Den. Alex was a terrific officer and person.

Then we went to Vung Tau from Saigon on a modern high-speed hydrofoil on the Saigon River. Vung Tau is a beautiful modern city now. The first thing you see when you dock is a Kentucky Fried Chicken franchise. Pretty neat. We visited the former Emperor Ao Dai's palace. We drove back through the former Long Binh U.S. Army base which was a huge logistical base. It is now an industrial park with many foreign companies located there. We left Long Binh and drove through Bien Hoa where I was located during my second tour as a MACV advisor.



Children in Montagnard village, near Kontum, with Barbara Hudson.

We drove past the compound where I lived (now a VPN, Vietnamese People's Army base) and also drove by the former ARVN III Corps HQ where I worked, also now a VPN base.

From there we flew from Saigon to Pleiku on Vietnam Airlines, modern aircraft with attractive and pleasant flight attendants. We stayed in a beautiful 4 or 5 star hotel in Pleiku, very modern, bright and shiny. There was an ATM outside the hotel and I used my Wachovia ATM card to get some Vietnamese Dong, and it told me my bank balance back in the U.S. in Dong! We visited the former base camp of the 4th Infantry Division. Then we drove to Kontum and Dak To where we visited the former Ben Het Special Forces Camp. The 101st operated in the jungles around Dak To in early 1966. We stopped at the area outside Dak To where the HQ of the 1st Brigade, and airstrip, was located. Ben Het is in the tri-border area and you can see Cambodia and Laos from there. We found a lot of artifacts at the SF camp such as old sandbags, claymore



Going up side of Nui Ba Den in gondolas.

mine detonators and expended M-16 and 7.62 MM bullets. Believe it or not, there is no jungle left around Dak To and Kontum. The timber has been harvested and it is now all in coffee and tea plantations. We also visited an orphanage in Kontum behind a large wooden church that has been run by the Catholic nuns for over 100 years. The kids were terrific and we obviously left some donations to their orphanage because we were so touched by the kids. We also visited a Montagnard village outside Kontum. The "yards" have been persecuted by the government because of their support of the U.S. and the French. Apparently, there is still some underground resistance by the Montagnards.

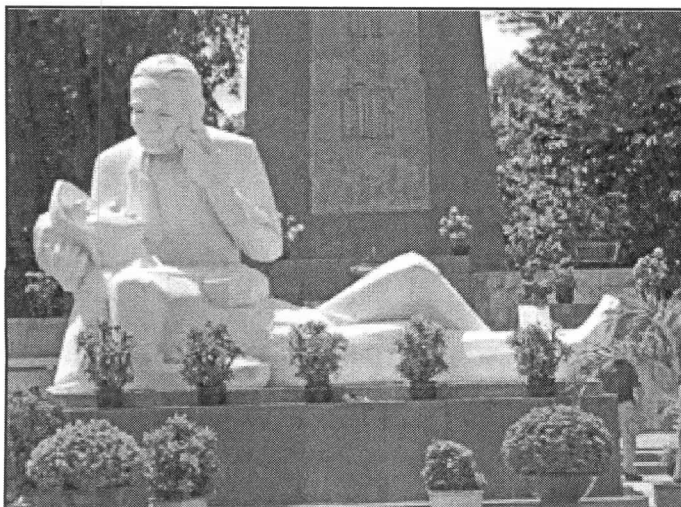
From Pleiku we drove East on HWY 19 through the Mang Yang Pass, site of the annihilation of French Mobile Group 100 in 1954. Then on to An Khe where I operated with the 101st Airborne in the Fall of 1965, securing it for the 1st Cav to make it their base camp. It is a large village now. When there in 1965, my platoon secured Hill 674 on the South side of Hwy 19. We stopped at that hill and had lunch in a little restaurant right at the base of it. Brought back a lot of memories. The woman who owns the restaurant said she used to work for the



Americans in 1965. Outside of An Khe we happened to stop at a farmers house to look at how they grow peppers. Turns out he was an NVA soldier that came down the Ho Chi Minh trail in 1974 and stayed. His father was living with him and we met him. Our interpreter learned that the father, who is 80 now, fought with the Viet Minh at Dien Bien Phu. That was an interesting exchange and they were very friendly and opened up their home for us to tour and visit. Then we drove on towards Quinhon on the coast, passing by the general area where I was wounded outside of Quinhon. We couldn't see the exact place because it was out in the villages North of Hwy 19 several kilometers, but we found the general area. In Quinhon, we stayed in a first class 4 or 5 star resort on the beach. I was in the 85th Evac Hospital in Quinhon, and the hospital was located right on the runway of the U.S. airbase. That area is now a 6 lane divided boulevard with beautiful parks on the ocean side and hotels and a mall with a supermarket on the other side. The old runway is now part of the boulevard.



Wedding photos in Saigon park. We saw quite a few weddings with beautiful gowns, etc. Also saw a rural wedding which was neat.



Statue of NVA soldier and mother in NVA graveyard near Cu Chi.



Lunch with our tour group in floating restaurant on Saigon River near Cu Chi.

From Quinhon we drove down the coast on HWY 1 (the French called it the Street Without Joy) through Tuy An and Tuy Hoa. There is a ridgeline in Tuy An right on Hwy 1 where we had our battalion forward TOC several times. I have a picture taken there of our battalion commander at the time, LTC Garten, briefing some visiting dignitaries. That was also the site where Cpt. Joe Mack's company CP was overrun about a month after my tour ended and Joe and his entire CP group was KIA. It is now a cemetery for Viet Cong and NVA soldiers killed there. There is a bunch of them. We drove down Highway 1 to Tuy Hoa and passed by the area where LTC Garten was seriously injured by a mine. Tuy North airfield where our battalion was headquartered is now a beer factory. I thought that was fitting! All the old buildings and the PSP runway are gone. In fact, we saw PSP everywhere that is being used as sides for trucks and trailers. From Tuy Hoa we drove on down the coast to Nha Trang and stayed in a gorgeous 5 star resort called Ana Mandara. Nha Trang is completely built up with beautiful resorts. Then we drove down to Cam Ranh Bay where we landed in our troopship in 1965. It is now the commercial airport for Nha Trang. We flew Vietnam Airlines back to Saigon from Cam Ranh Bay, stayed overnight and then flew back to the U.S. All along the coastline between Quinhon and Cam Ranh Bay are shrimp farms.

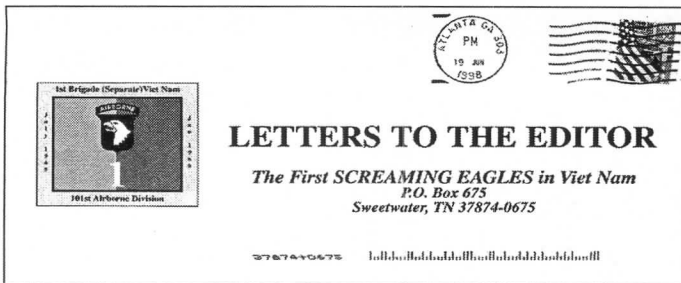
It was a terrific trip and not very expensive considering everything we did. The people were very, very friendly. It was gratifying to see the country and the people doing so well. Out in the countryside there is still a lot of poverty but the people are all smiling and happy, industrious and moving on. We went with a group of about 10 people put together by MILSPEC Tours, who specializes in tours for veterans.

Sorry to send you such a long email but I thought you might be interested in our return trip. It brought a lot of closure for me. I highly recommend it for all who served there.

Editor's Note:

My thanks to Bob and Barbara Hudson for the account of their return to Viet Nam. Additional photos from the trip may be used in future issues.





E-MAIL MESSAGES

+ COL(R) E. WAYNE DILL, 1/327 A & C 3/66-3/67
250 Springdale St., Athens, GA 30606-4236
work (706) 583-0449 home (706) 549-5757
ewd@esd.uga.edu

June 23, 2008

Hello Ivan..... You were missed at the Cobra Company 1-327 reunion this past weekend. I understand that you are dealing with some family health issues. We had a nice turn out in spite of the high fuel costs, although I am sure that it impacted some that were planning on driving to Crossville. Ken and Angie Ihle, 1/327 C 3/65-7/66, did an outstanding job as usual, along with the volunteers on the reunion committee. Please take care and I look forward to seeing you before too long.....ATR, Wayne E. Wayne Dill, Associate Vice President, Environmental Safety Division, The University of Georgia, 240A Riverbend Road, Athens, GA 30602-8002, Tel. (706) 583-0449, Fax (706) 542-0108.

+ ROBERT O. MARTIN, 2/327 HHC Recon 1/67-11/67
1041 55th St., Downers Grove, IL 60515
work (630) 915-6702 home (630) 968-3852
ronamvet@comcast.net
Finding an old friend -- Mines Elmore 2/502 1967

Dear Ivan,

Between 1965 to 1966 I was with the First Air Cav Division's Airborne Brigade and served with a guy by the name of Mines Elmore. In early 1967 we ran into each other in Phan Rhang. I was with 2/327 and Mines was assigned to 2/502, I believe it was B Company. Anyway, we'd get together when possible at stand downs, but I later heard he was wounded around July or August while we were in Duc Pho. Someone told me he'd been medevaced to Japan, but was expected to return to Vietnam. I never heard from him again. And since that time, wondered what became of him. I would love to know whatever happened to my friend. Is there anyone who can help me out?

Editor's Note: I do not have a Mines Elmore in my database. Can anyone help?

+ COL(R) SAMUEL J. WATSON, III, 2/327 HHC 9/65-9/66
6364 Hillcrest Place, Alexandria, VA 22312-1234
work (412) 383-7985 home (703) 941-1468
samuelwatson3@verizon.net
CW3 Keller request for photo

Dear Chief – saw your request in First Screaming Eagles. I was HHC CO at the time and had the pictures taken for each of our great Airborne soldiers to have a memory. I have the original photos. Have one of the 2/327 HQ section with my note on the back of an S-4 SFC Keller; and another I labeled as S-4 Section with a SFC Keller. Any chance they were you? Also a note written on the back of one, probably from Ivan, of Jan 2001 (perhaps the publication date). If you think either or both are you I'll have copies made and send to you – free of charge. Least I can do for your service.

+ DEAN J. BEAUPRE, 2/502 A WPNS Plt 1/67-1/68
3469 Fancher Rd., Holley, NY 14470-9393
(585) 638-2327
frog1_502@yahoo.com

Dear Ivan,

Thank you for the great job as usual with the magazine. I have enjoyed it for years.

I will finally get the chance to attend a reunion. My wife Elaine and I will be there for this one.

I also got in contact with an old friend and have talked him into attending and subscribing also. He is Henry Willey of Tamworth, NH. His wife will be attending also.

Secretary Peake was my platoon leader in Nam, so will be looking forward to seeing him again. LTC (R) Rod Tillman and his wife will also be attending the reunion. He also was my platoon leader in Nam. I was his RTO.

George Fallon and his wife will also be there. He is the president of the NY/NJ Chapter. He and I went through AIT, Jump School and Nam together. We were stationed with the 2/509th in Mainz, Germany, together.

I have renewed for two years this time. I think the wife was going to send extra money for expenses. If she didn't, I will give it to you at the reunion. We all want you to continue the magnificent job you have been doing. Thank you for a very professional magazine!



+ LTC(R) DAVID B. SMITH, 2/320 FA A Btry 1/64-6/66
18311 Short Road, Vernonia, OR 97064-9426
work (503) 624-9352 home (503) 429-2470
attyd_smith@hotmail.com

Dear Ivan,

Just wanted to let you know that I will not be able to attend the reunion in Hampton in September, due to a business conflict. I have to be at a business conference in Los Angeles at the same time. I saw in the latest newsletter about the passing of Bill Madden in February. Those of us who served in the 2-320th Airborne FA in Vietnam will miss him. I passed on the information to the editor of the 320th Airborne FA Association's newsletter, Rodger Jacobson.

Last September, I was elected chairman of the 320th Association. In your contacts list on page 36 of the Brigade newsletter, Tom Walinski is shown as Vice Chairman of the Association. Tom now is our Webmaster (Jack Johnston is the new Vice Chairman). Please keep Tom as our point of contact, but do show him as Webmaster. All other 320th data are correct.

In my column in the Association's latest newsletter, I have solicited all veterans of the 2-320th FA who were in the Brigade in Vietnam to sign up for the Brigade Reunion. We'll just have to wait and see if more Redlegs sign up.

Thanks for all your good work.

Airborne, Willing and Able!

David B. Smith, LTC (Ret)
Chairman, 320th Airborne FA Association

LTC(R) RAY MILLARD, 2/327 CO B 1/67-1/68
520 Dry Creek Rd., Monterey, CA 93940-4204
(831) 375-3713 Fax 831-641-9282
millard4@comcast.net

Greetings to all,

Carolyn and I just returned from another school-building trip to Guatemala, a great experience once again. We will be at the 1st Brigade Reunion in Hampton, VA on September 25, 26 and 27. We're looking forward to seeing as many of our Company B and 2-327th comrades as can make the trip. In the meantime, please keep all the current members of Bravo Company in your thoughts and prayers as they near the end of their 15-month

deployment in Iraq. Casey, I can absolutely assure you that we are all thinking about you and your troopers as you perform your mission each day. Godspeed.

No Slack,
Ray, "Green Hornet"

FROM U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

+ CPT(R) THOMAS J. COURTNEY, 2/502 B&E 67-68, 335 Cedar Lane, Fayetteville, GA 30214-4729, work (404) 669-6069, home (770) 487-1333 wrote: Please renew my subscription for another year. Love the magazine, brings back a lot of memories. Strike Force!

+ 1SG(R) EUGENE T. DEAN, 326 ENGR A 7/66-7/67, 310 Verdun Drive, Clarksville, TN 37042, (931) 647-7932 along with his new subscription wrote: I found through some research the General Order Number 136 signed by BG Willard Pearson, the CG of the 1st BDE authorizing and making A Co. of the 326th ENGR Bn the 4th Provisional Rifle Company and authorizing the award of the Combat Infantry Badge (CIB) dated sometime between 1965-1967.

However, I can not find a copy of the order anywhere, only the number. NO COPY ITSELF. I've checked with many, many of my old comrades that were with A Co. 326th Engrs during the 1966-1967 period and they are aware of the order but no one has a copy.

I have checked with my former First Sgt and he is very much aware of the order (But no copy). The XO 1st LT Lynwood S. Mullins (Ret LTC) is now deceased.

Somewhere, someone has a copy of this General Order.

I've written St. Louis hoping they can help but so far no word. I'll keep you informed.

Airborne,
Dino

Editor's Note: Can anyone help?

+ BEN MELTON, 2/320 Arty HHB 6/67-10/67, 104 Stratmore Cr., Bossier City, LA 71111-2286, (318) 747-5245, along with his two-year subscription renewal wrote: About two years ago you put a warning about



some of us paying a year or two ahead for "The First Screaming Eagles in Viet Nam."

Well I just ignored that warning and paid two years. Seems like it has worked out for both of us!

I am tempted to send five years ahead but thought maybe I should check with you first! Just joking – please keep up the good work as long as you can.

Editor's Note: Thanks for your confidence. I want all to know that the longevity of the magazine is now tied to my life expectancy.

+ JAMES W. GEARY, SPT BN A 7/65-1/66, 216 Elm Drive, Upper Sandusky, OH 43351-1046, (419) 294-5739 wrote: Received my July 2008 issue of "The Always First Brigade" a few days ago. As always, it is full of a lot of great information. I noticed your announcement about the scrapbook on page 32 and decided to order a copy. Enclosed please find my check for \$15.00. Please send me a copy at your earliest convenience. Hope all is well on your end. Best wishes for an enjoyable summer!

+ RICHARD A. LUTTRELL, 2/327 A 3/67-3/68, 27 Taft Drive, Rochester, IL 62563-9200, (217) 498-7409 wrote: Enclosed please find copies of December 1967 and November 1967 "The Screaming Eagle." There is an article on the back page of the December 1967 about myself titled "Tunnel Found Below Ambush." It brings back the memories. Also on the front page of November 8, 1967, titled "60 NVA Killed In Battle," was a bad day!

Hope you will print these, thank you so much.

Airborne! No Slack!

Editor's Note: See story titled TUNNEL FOUND BELOW AMBUSH on page 20. I will use the November 8, 1967 paper in a later issue.

+ MRS. JAN (SIGURDSON) MCMULLEN, American Red Cross, 6318 23rd St. N.W., Gig Harbor, WA 98335-7525, (253) 265-8589, wrote: Please send a subscription to: Brad Hoot, 129 Carnoustie Dr., Franklin, TN 37069. He was with the 101st and the Army Corps of Engineers in VN.

I have thought some more about the Donut Dollies leaving Phan Rang. I know I never heard anything negative. When we left the base commander gave each of us a certificate of appreciation, an engraved coin and an engraved brass cup, both of which gave dates of service

and the 101st emblem. Everyone was always kind to us. Also, Bill's (Bergman) message (July 08 issue/Letters to the Editor page 12) said that we performed some notification duties. Those sad duties were performed by a Red Cross professional, who was also assigned to the 101st. Thank you again for your efforts to connect people with one another and keep the memories alive.

+ CHAP(COL-R) FRED "MAX" WALL, JR., 2/327 4/67-8/67, 445 Franklin St., Apt 28, Athens, GA 30606, (706) 353-7482 wrote: I hope you and your family are well and happy. I am enclosing a check to cover my renewal for another year, plus a little extra for the personal expense you have assumed. In addition, the check covers the cost of one "1st Brigade (S) Challenge Coin" in the amount of \$10.00. Total: \$35.00.

I continue to appreciate all your devoted efforts to keep the flame of unit loyalty and pride burning brightly in the hearts of all of us who share those signal moments as members of the 1st Brigade. Thank you!

Hope the upcoming reunion will be a success for all in every way.

Editor's Note: + ROBERT H. BERRY, 2/502 HHC&B 1/67-12/67, 26743 W. 109th St., Olathe, KS 66061-7499, (913) 397-6206, sent the following message with a \$39.80 order.

Ivan, enclosed is a check for \$101.00 to help cover cost increases. Keep up the great work.

+ KEN POTTS, 1/327 C 12/66-12/67, 1857 N. 185th St., Shoreline, WA 98133-4206, (206) 546-8498 along with his subscription renewal wrote: I don't know why I forget to renew my subscription every year. I LOVE the magazine! I must be showing my age!!! Sorry 'bout that.

+ BILL CARPENTER, 1/327 HHC TF 12/66-12/67, 1041 CR. #14, Rayland, OH 43943, home (740) 859-4447, cell 740-275-2052 wrote: Hello Ivan, "Above The Rest." Please renew my subscription to "The First Screaming Eagles" for another year. I very much enjoy the articles of our glory days -- of when we were soldiers once and young.

We will always be soldiers, more than soldiers, but airborne soldiers, as the airborne spirit has no age. If our bodies would only react with our spirit we would be doing great.



I very much look forward to the "Week of the Eagles," in the Spring of 2009. It is always so good to see all of our airborne brothers.

In addition I have enclosed funds for a copy of Airborne Salute on CD.

+ JOHN BRIGGS (PUD), 2/502 HHC Recon 4/67-4/68, 20133 3rd Ave NW, Arlington, WA 98223, (360) 961-3361 wrote: enclosed you will find my new address and a check for my renewal and a new subscription for Gary Hillyer. On a recent visit Gary read every issue I had. He enjoyed the back issues so much I had to get him on board. Thanks for all your work.

+ = CURRENT SUBSCRIBER

COL-R Harry A Buckley, Jr.
2/502 CO 66-67

COL Harry A. Buckley of Northfield, Vt., died January 2, 2007. Col. Harry A. Buckley died of multiple myeloma. Col. Buckley graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1948 and married his lovely bride, Sarah "Sally" Hallahan later that year.

Harry was awarded the Purple Heart and the Silver Star for his service in the Korean War as G Company Commander in the 5th Cavalry Regiment. He earned another Silver Star and Purple Heart in Vietnam, where he was a battalion commander in the 101st Airborne Division.

With the help and support of Sally, Col. Buckley earned a Ph.D. from Purdue and became head of the department of military psychology and leadership at West Point in 1969. He was also the first head of the department of behavioral science and leadership at West Point when it moved from the tactical department to become a full academic department. Col. Buckley retired from the Army in 1978 after 30 years of distinguished service to his country. In 1978, Col. Buckley started a second career as assistant to the president of Norwich University and later became a faculty member as the associate division head of the division of business and management at Norwich. A beloved teacher and advisor, Professor Buckley received the Beatty Award for outstanding teaching three times. Upon his retirement in 1999, Professor Buckley was awarded the honorary title of Professor Emeritus and in 2001 he received the Board of Fellows Outstanding Service Medallion. Harry earned the deepest respect and love of all those who had the privilege to know him.

He is survived by his wife, Sally; his sons, Brett, Booth and John; and his daughters, Betsy Buckley and Anne Buckley.

Editor's Note: The obituary notice ran in the April 2008 magazine.



SUBSCRIPTION PRICE TO BE RAISED

The yearly cost of a subscription to
THE FIRST SCREAMING EAGLES
in Viet Nam
will be \$25.00 after January 1st, 2009. The
magazine will continue to be published
quarterly.

The increased costs of production of the
magazine and postage have made this
difficult move necessary.

I hope you will continue to subscribe and that
you will continue to share your Viet Nam
memorabilia with the magazine that brings
you the history of the First Brigade (S) in
Viet Nam that is on a quarterly basis shared
with 650 to 700 veterans of the ALWAYS
FIRST BRIGADE.

I look forward to continuing to serve you
with this more than 10 year old historical
publication.

Ivan Worrell
Editor and Publisher

Airborne Unit Gets Taste of Battle, VC-Style

By HAL DRAKE

S&S Staff Writer

CAM RAIN, Vietnam—A small knot of townspeople gathered around the American jeep and watched impassively as its grim burden was unloaded.

First Lt. William R. Wilson, a 24-year-old platoon leader with 1st Squad, Alpha Troop, 17th Inf., 101st Airborne Div., untied the body of a Viet Cong guerrilla and slid it off the hood of the vehicle onto the sand along the Song-cai River, which flows outside the town of Dien Khahn 170 miles northeast of Saigon.

An hour before, the shirtless Viet Cong with the American pistol belt and the blue work pants had been alive and dead. He had been flushed from a

thatched-roofed hut and chased up a tree.

Called on to surrender, he elected to fight, hurling a grenade at the Americans who had caught up with him.

And Wilson's four-man hunter-killer team—the oldest soldier 23, the youngest 19—shot him out of his perch, inflicting the division's first casualty since the last days of World War II, when troops wearing the "Screaming Eagle" patch battled up the slopes of Hitler's mountain lair at Berchtesgaden.

"Everyone did the right thing fast," related Wilson, who is from Merced, Cal.

"My people were great, simply wonderful. They really reacted. They wanted to get into a fight

and get this thing over with."

"For seven days we were out getting shot at," added 23-year-old 2d Lt. Seth F. Hudgins, a thin, hard-looking New Englander who graduated from West Point only last year.

"They shot at us and ran, all the time. We could hear their shots cracking overhead but we could never see them or hit them. At last we shot back and got something."

The paratroopers had moved from their camp at Cam Rahn Bay—a shoreline wilderness they share with scorpions as big as lobsters and green, finger-sized reptiles that are kin to the American coral snake—to join soldiers of the 1st Bn. Combat Team, 18th Inf., 1st Inf. Div., in

a three-day sweep of a dusty valley between two jagged mountain ranges.

More than 30 dead Viet Cong had been counted—and young soldiers from both outfits, novices when they arrived only a few weeks ago, had drawn first blood and emerged as veterans.

One fight was sudden and furious—and over very fast.

Sgt. Carl H. Killgrove, 23, of Percy, Ill., found the operation a long, hot, flustering walk, until he saw him (the Viet Cong) go into a house.

"We moved toward it. He came out, saw us, and ran for the tree. We couldn't tell whether he was in it or behind it.

"We ran up in spurts, covering each other, and saw him up in

the tree. He didn't have a rifle. We shot over his head and motioned for him to come down. I emphasize that. We tried to take him alive.

"He got halfway down and threw a grenade, likely a home-made one. It was black and about as big as a softball. It landed about 15 feet away, between me and PFC (James R.) Johnson. If it had been an American grenade, we'd both be dead."

Killgrove and Johnson, a rangy 19-year-old from Fort Myers, Fla., replied with shattering bursts from their M-16 rifles. PFC Robert Dawkins, 21, of Union, S.C., opened up with a machine gun.

PFC Richard E. McWilliams, a strapping, 19-year-old farm lad from Norman, Okla., shook the tree with an explosive round from an M-79 grenade launcher.

The dead guerrilla was laid across the jeep's hood and driven to the Dien Khahn, there to be placed beside the body of a Viet Cong killed two days before.

The operation was over, although armed helicopters still blistered a nearby hill range with machine gun fire and flashing rockets.

Naked children swam and frolicked in the river as jeep-mounted machine guns and 106mm recoilless rifles swung around to cover towering clumps of bamboo that spread like green fans on the opposite bank.

A long column of two-wheeled and four-legged traffic was held up on the north end of the bridge.

The townspeople waved, smiled or watched blankly as sweaty, dog-tired, green-clad soldiers slogged past them and climbed into a row of trucks. In a few minutes, they were rolling through the streets of a sturdy little French colonial town that had straw roofs on the outskirts and ornate old villas that looked like chess pieces.

It was just another day in the life of the old town. Soldiers were nothing new to the townspeople. Nor was war—nor was the sight of death. The sun came up, the sun went down and life went on.

"Look at that," Wilson said, nudging the man next to him.

The wadded belongings of both dead Viet Cong had been dropped beside their bodies. A cyclo (bike ricksha) driver spotted a roll of long, thick cigars. He scooped them up, lit one and stuffed the rest into his shirt.

Cav. Unit Gets CIB

SAIGON (10)—The U.S. Army's A Troop, 2d Sq., 17th Cav. of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Div., became one of the few cavalry units in the history of the U.S. Army to receive the Combat Infantryman's Badge at a formal ceremony near Qui Nhon last week.

The "Screaming Eagles" Cavalry, under the command of newly promoted Capt. William R. Wilson of Merced, Cal., received the Infantryman's award for their performance as a provisional infantry company while attached to Task Force Hansen, a provisional infantry battalion during Operation Highland for a period of 35 days.

As a motorized infantry company, A Troop participated in most of the brigade's operations in the An Khe area. They also had the responsibility for the security of strategic Highway 19 and the safe passage of the more than 200 convoys that traveled between Qui Nhon and An Khe. Additionally this unit bears the honor of having accounted for the first VC killed by the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Div.

Pinning the CIB on the troop guidon, Col. James S. Timothy, the brigade commander from New Orleans, stated, "I know of no other unit that deserves this award more than you, the 17th Cavalry."

Pacific Stars & Stripes 17
Thursday, Dec. 9, 1965—V

All material from STARS AND STRIPES PACIFIC was sent by David P. Perrine, 2/502 HHC 5/67-10/67 of Annandale, Virginia.



The picture of the 3rd Platoon, A Troop, 2117th Cavalry, below, was sent by MG(R) James R. Harding, 2117 CAV A 6/66-1/68. The picture was taken in September 1966 and was sent to him by a SGT Andrews who lives in West Virginia. Please inform the editor if you know how to contact SGT Andrews.

Pacific Stars & Stripes 7
Sunday, Sept. 5, 1965



3,700 PARATROOPS ARRIVE IN VIETNAM



CAM RANH BAY, Republic of Vietnam (AP) — American troops of the 101st Airborne Div. began landing Thursday at Cam Ranh Bay, 180 miles northeast of Saigon, to bolster U.S. combat forces in Vietnam.

The troop transport General Le Roy Eltinge brought the 3,700 paratroopers into the deep-water bay where the U.S. is building a major base. The men were transferred to landing craft for the trip ashore.

Among the first ashore was the commander of the 1st Brigade of the 101st, Col. James Timothy, who said his men were "capable of deploying anywhere in the war theater by any means, including parachute."

He said the brigade would deploy initially around Cam Ranh Bay to provide security for the 2,500 U.S. Army engineers building the base here and also to strike at any Viet Cong buildup.

Transfer of the 101st Brigade to Vietnam is part of a six-battalion increase in U.S. forces that had been programed some weeks ago and not part of the increase announced by President Johnson Wednesday, a U.S. spokesman said.

The brigade brings to about 79,000 the number of U.S. servicemen in Vietnam.

On hand to meet the new arrivals was a former commander of the 101st Airborne Div., Ambassador Maxwell D. Taylor, and among the men who came ashore was Taylor's son Thomas, an intelligence officer with the unit.

Taylor as a major general commanded the 101st when it landed in Normandy in 1944. The ambassador has resigned his post here and is leaving Vietnam Saturday.

U.S. and Vietnamese officials hope to make Cam Ranh an important military toehold on a stretch of coast which until now has been held mainly by the Viet Cong.

The 3,700 men will be deployed at this scenic harbor as an emergency reaction force for combat anywhere in the country and to provide security for 2,500 Army engineers constructing a logistics base here.

AP Radiophoto
FLAGS OF 1ST BRIGADE, 101ST AIRBORNE DIV., ARE DIPPED IN SALUTE AS TROOPS ARRIVE AT CAM RANH BAY.

The



Donald Lenc
5240 Windfall Rd.
Medina, OH 44256 8750



Screaming

Eagle

Vol. 1, No. 12

1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division

December 6, 1967



Defending the 'Tubes'

Exploding flares and shells light a parapet of A Btry., 2nd (Abn), 320th Arty. The redleg paratroopers repelled an NVA attack recently during Operation Wheeler. (Photo by Spec. 4 Dan Stroebel)

Artillerymen Fight Off NVA

By SP4 James Parker

CHU LAI — Using a siren to signal the beginning of an attack on a 101st Airborne artillery position 18 miles west of here recently, the NVA lost one of the most savage battles of Operation Wheeler.

Paratroopers of A Btry., 2nd Bn. (Abn), 320th Arty., were puzzled when they heard the sound of a faint siren drifting through the fog shrouded night. Seconds later mortar shells rained on their position. In the light of the exploding shells, artillerymen could see the attacking enemy.

Spec. 4 John H. Wallace, Tulsa, Okla., was sitting in the Fire Direction Center (FDC) bunker, drinking a cup of hot chocolate and monitoring the radio net when the attack began.

"All of a sudden an explosion tore out the bunker wall and destroyed the radio," Wallace recalled. "I grabbed my rifle and started running for the 3rd Section parapets. Outside the whole area was lit up like day and NVA appeared to be everywhere."

Spec. 5 Willie S. Pruitt, Millington, Tenn., remained in the FDC. An enemy attempted to lift the blackout curtain covering the bunker door. Pruitt blasted him with a burst from his M-16 rifle. The insurgent's grenade exploded in the doorway wounding Pruitt slightly.

FDC Hit

The bunker which served as living quarters for FDC per-

sonnel took a direct hit from an incoming mortar round. One artilleryman was killed; two were wounded. Spec. 4 Richard W. Oyas, San Diego, crawled out of the bunker and dashed for the battery command post (CP). Oyas yelled: "The NVA are all around."

Battery commander, Capt. Craig H. Mandeville, Chickasha, Okla., fired a hand flare which clearly illuminated the battery position. First Sgt. Henry J. Zangrilli, Fayetteville, N.C.,

heaved two grenades in succession into the advancing enemy and spoiled their attack.

Suddenly an explosion rocked the back side of the command post bunker. Mandeville yelled: "Range correct! Let's get the hell out of here."

The captain and his small group began fighting their way to the firing battery parapets. "Grenades were popping like the 4th of July," said Mandeville.

While the attack continued on

XO, CO Rally Men

CHU LAI—Ka-who-o-o-m!
Lt. Wayne P. Kabasko bolted upright from his sleep in the bunker located on a mountain top west of here.

Ka-who-o-o-m!
It was 3:20 a.m.

"Here we go," thought the executive officer of A Btry.

Kabasko dashed from his bunker and saw paratrooper artillerymen leaping to their howitzers.

"It was like day," he said. "Flares filled the sky. I could see our men running to their positions and NVA running through the area throwing grenades."

Kabasko ran to the forward gun section, organized the men and began placing direct fire on the attacking enemy. Leaving the crew in action, the officer made his way to the 5th section and found the crew wounded.

Kabasko directed others to the section, organized their fires and aided in treating the wounded.

Battery commander Capt. Craig Mandeville ran to the 6th section where he found the howitzer jammed. All the men of the section had been wounded by grenades and mortars.

Mandeville cleared and placed direct fire on the enemy in spite of wounds he suffered.

While Mandeville rallied the wounded, Kabasko ran to aid the 1st section. As he dodged and darted across the hill he sustained fragmentation wounds. He picked up a wounded trooper and carried him to the aid station.

Racing back to the section, Kabasko was knocked to the ground repeatedly by grenade and mortar explosions, yet he continued to rally the men.

the FDC and CP, the ammunition section crews were fighting for their lives. An NVA carrying a satchel charge ran toward the huge ammunition storage area. A paratrooper cut him down.

Rallies Troops

At the 1st Section parapet, Staff Sgt. Webster Anderson, Winnsboro, S.C., rallied the crew and guided them thru a hail of grenades. Two mortar rounds exploded at Anderson's feet. He crawled to the protective cover of the parapets. Then, an enemy grenade fell near one of Anderson's wounded men. The sergeant grabbed the grenade and attempted to throw it out. The grenade exploded in his hand. Anderson shook his head, shrugged off the wound and continued to rally his forces.

Lt. Wayne P. Kabasko, battery executive officer from Missoula, Mont., dashed to the forward gun section and began placing direct fire on the enemy. Other crews manned their weapons and succeeded in driving off the attackers.

For two hours, the artillerymen of A Btry. engaged the enemy with every available weapon—howitzers, rifles, pistols, grenades—and sometimes hand-to-hand.

The siren which triggered the attack sounded again and the battered enemy withdrew. His attempt to destroy the battery and its ammunition dump failed.

As dawn broke, seven NVA bodies were sprawled on the artillery hill and blood trails, like red spokes, marked the enemy's withdrawal.

Wheeler Climbs To 902

CHU LAI — Operation Wheeler claimed 902 enemy dead in eight weeks of fighting 18 miles west of here as the Screaming Eagles maintained the momentum of their attack into areas controlled by the Viet Cong and NVA since 1954. Elements of the 2nd NVA Division have been pressed continually by the brigade since the first combat assault Sept. 11.

Seventeen enemy were killed in contact Nov. 6 to push enemy losses over the 900 mark. Three paratroopers sustained minor wounds in the day's action.

Five of the 17 kills were scored by B Co., 1st Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf., commanded by Capt. Edgar F. Burch, Boulder, Colo.

Paratroopers of A Co., 2nd Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf., added four kills and the Hawk Plat., led by Lt. John McKnight, Toccoa, Ga., accounted for two more as his reconnaissance element surprised the pair bathing in a stream.

Operation Wheeler, the brigade's sixth sweep in I Corps, became the largest combat action for the Screaming Eagles since arriving in Vietnam July 29, 1965.

Previously, Operation Hawthorne with 531 enemy dead was the largest 101st action.

The largest single action of the operation occurred Oct. 8 when paratroopers of A Co., 2nd Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf., killed 60 NVA in a pitched battle fought during a driving monsoon storm.

Wheeler not only inflicted heavy losses on the enemy in battle, but also denied him large stores of food. Thirty-two tons of polished rice and five tons of salt were extracted during a four day period. Translated into significance to the enemy, the loss was enough rice to feed a regiment for one month and enough salt to sustain that regiment for a year.

In addition to destroying the enemy on the battlefield, the Screaming Eagles conducted an intensified civic action program which included medical treatment for 8,497 persons during the eight week record period.

Slug Hits Rucksack

CHU LAI—Paratroopers of the 101st Airborne generally agree 50-pounds of equipment and supplies on their backs is a pain. Pfc. Joseph Hauser, Whitney, Pa., says life sometimes is a fully-loaded rucksack.

Hauser's platoon from A Co., 2nd Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf., was conducting search and destroy through a village west of here when a burst of sniper fire sent everyone diving for cover.

"A round hit my rucksack," said Hauser. "It felt like someone slugged me in the back with a sledge hammer."

A combat medic, Spec. 5 Lee C. Pugh, Haines City, Fla., crawled to Hauser's side. "Where are you hit?" Pugh asked, examining the torn rucksack.

Pugh removed the pack and searched for the wound. He couldn't find a scratch.

The sniper's bullet had passed through an M-16 magazine, shattered a can of fruit and lodged between two belts of machine gun ammunition Hauser carried.

Hauser shook his head: "Why did it have to hit my fruit? Why couldn't it have been ham and lima beans?"

Why Not Talk to the Folks at Home?

ANYPLACE, Vietnam — Screaming Eagles may have little time, but they can make a telephone call home from the forward area. With the Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) station that's always with the forward elements, calls can be made to the United States.

"Our primary purpose is to enhance morale," explains Lt. John L. Wilson, Washington, Iowa, officer-in-charge of the MARS station. Two operators handle all Stateside calls: Specs. 4 Richard D. Smith, Sarver, Pa., and Mark N. Nicolette, Rio Vista, Calif.

"We welcome requests for phone calls to the States," said Smith. "That's what the MARS station is for."

Let's assume you want to call home. First, call STRIKE 40 and tell the operator you wish to make a MARS call. Give the operator the name of the person with whom you wish to speak, the area code, city and

state. The operator will book your call with Smith and Nicolette. When your call gets through, you will be notified when to come to the MARS station.

"All phone calls are collect," said Smith. "Our calls can go through MARS stations in Alaska and Hawaii but 80 per cent go through California. The person being called pays the toll from California, Alaska or Hawaii—not from Vietnam."

"When a person gets his party he is permitted to talk for three minutes," added Nicolette. "Emergency calls may last longer."

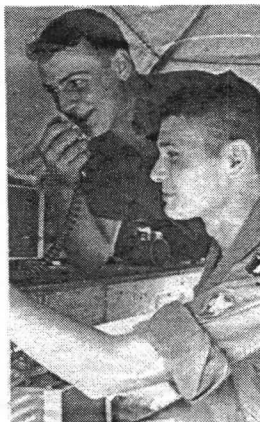
With Christmas not far away, Smith and Nicolette welcome troopers to book their calls now.

Priority to Troops

"We try to give special priority to the line troops," said Smith. "They don't often get in from the field. When they do, we try to expedite their calls home."

Sometimes troopers place their calls and wait at the

MARS station. Nicolette says this is a good idea if the trooper has the time to wait. "We can probably get his call through in



Spec. 4 Smith (seated) helps Spec. 4 Daryl H. Grabow, Twin Brook, S.D., place a MARS call.

a couple of hours," he said.

When a MARS call is made, the parties use radio procedure by saying 'over' when they have finished and expect a response from the other person. A typical phone call goes something like this:

"Hello folks, this is Tom. I want you to know I'm thinking about you on your anniversary. Over."

"Hi Tommy. This is Dad. We appreciate your calling. We look forward to your letters. You should write more often. Over."

"Sometimes the parties forget to say 'over' and there are moments of silence in the call, but they catch on quick," says Smith.

"If a person wants to call on a certain day, like a birthday, we would like to know about it a couple of days in advance so we can be sure and get the call through," Nicolette said.

Hawaii R&R

"The MARS call is a tremendous help for the troops to co-

ordinate their Hawaii R&R with their wives," added Smith. "And, although there is no privacy in the MARS call because it is radio relay, it does give the trooper a chance to hear the voices of his family."

Screaming Eagles are asked to hold their calls to twice a month. MARS calls can be placed to Okinawa as well as the States. Smith and Nicolette operate the station 18 hours a day.

"We hope to get new equipment so we can operate longer and handle more calls," said Wilson. "With another set we could take twice as many calls."

There are times when the MARS station is idle because it doesn't have a request for a phone call to the States. Smith and Nicolette would like to keep busy and help the morale of the men.

As the saying goes: A phone call is the next best thing to being there and MARS is ready to serve you.

Beans to Bulldozers

This Team Moves 'Mountains'

CHU LAI — Imagine a flight of 108 fully-loaded C-123 airplanes and you have an idea of the supplies used by paratroopers of the 101st Airborne during seven weeks of Operation Wheeler fighting. What is more astounding is that a handful of men who work under the title of Movement Control have handled every ton.

Everything the brigade gets from mail to mosquito repellent is lifted, loaded and unloaded by the support battalion's Movement Control Team.

Lt. Joseph Arlauskas, New York City, is officer-in-charge of movement operations in the brigade's forward area—wherever that happens to be. He and a five man staff wait, watch and worry over everything from beans to bullets.

"We work closely with the Army Traffic Management Agency and the Air Force aerial support squadrons," said Arlauskas. "Once the goods reach the runway we mark the priorities and the Air Force takes it from there. Air Force cooperation with the 101st is outstanding."

Four members of Movement Control are riggers. They're the familiar "red caps" of the brigade, members of the Aerial Equipment Support Platoon. They perform the myriad tasks of preparing men and material for movement by air.

At the airport here, they transfer combat essential equipment from C-123 and C-130 aircraft to helipads where riggers prepare sling loads and ready the cargo for Chinook helicopter transport to the Forward Supply Point (FSP) at Tien Phuoc.

Maximum Support

"During the monsoon storm caused by Typhoon Carla, we spent a day and night rigging loads," recalled Sgt. William E. Matthews, Jr., Richmond, Va. "The combat troops were in a tight situation and needed ammunition. They got it. Our mission is maximum support."

The section also moves supplies by land and sea. According to Arlauskas, sea transportation

is less timely. "If the entire ship is filled with materials destined for the 101st, there is no problem," he said. "Partial loads, however, can mean long delays in loading and unloading. Also weather and tides can delay a shipment."

Vehicle convoys are the carriers of overland shipping. "It's slower than air freight and subject to ambush, but it allows more room for air movement of combat essentials," Arlauskas said. "Why fly a truck when you can fill it with equipment

and drive it," he said.

"Weather is a big concern of Movement Control. Monsoon storms, typhoon wind and floods can really hurt a unit that continually moves like ours does," said Arlauskas.

Weather and work do not dampen the enthusiasm of the men who keep men and munitions moving.

"Keeping the cargo moving to the troops is a good feeling," said Matthews. "We know its importance."



Pinup

Pfc. George H. Tucker, Tifton, Ga., catches up on the news by reading the Stars & Stripes during a lull in Operation Wheeler fighting. Tucker, a member of Hqs. Co.'s Security Platoon, seems to be finding the news in fine shape. (Photo by Spec. 4 Ben Croxton)

The Screaming Eagle

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Preparing Another Load

Riggers and movement control personnel work to keep men and materials moving and the 'Nomads of Vietnam' supplied with combat essentials. (Photo by Spec. 5 William P. Singley)



Checking Source of Sniper Fire

Paratroopers of A Co., 2nd Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf., drop to the ground as enemy snipers open fire during Operation Wheeler. After eight weeks of fighting, Wheeler had resulted in more than 900 enemy killed. (Photo by Pfc. Robert Mosey)

Combined Arms Effort Kills 13 Enemy

By Pfc. Robert Mosey
 CHU LAI—The combined firepower of infantry, artillery and gunships scored 13 enemy kills and destroyed a VC bastion west of here during Operation Wheeler.

The action began with Pfc. William Saldana, Yuma, Ariz., moving as pointman for a platoon of paratroopers from A Co., 2nd Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf., through heavy fog which shrouded the muddy valley floor.

Cautiously Saldana felt and probed his way along a trail which followed a high bamboo fence surrounding a small hamlet still in slumber.

Saldana stopped. "Pass the work back I've come to a gap

in the fence," he whispered to the man behind him. "There's a rice paddy on the other side."

Lt. Roderick Tillman, Mobile, Ala., received the message and checked his map. "Cross it," he ordered. "Let's hope we make it to the other side before the fog lifts."

Saldana slipped through the opening and strained to see through the fog as he searched for a paddy dike that would lead them across.

"I finally found one," he said. "But I couldn't see where it led because the fog was so thick."

The platoon followed Saldana in close file to avoid becoming separated in the mist.

Sun Breaks Through
 Less than half way across the wide paddy, the sun rose and

burned off the fog, exposing the column of paratroopers as they reached a small stream.

Automatic weapons fire shattered the stillness and the paratroopers dived for protection behind a rice paddy dike.

"The fire came from a small hut complex to our front," said Pfc. Charlie Jones, Chesapeake, Va. "A moment later they opened up with everything they had."

Three men from the 4th Plat. were wounded in the initial burst of enemy fire.

Tillman called for gunships and moments later the "Muskets" of the 176th Aviation Co. radioed for smoke to mark the forward and rear elements of the paratrooper force.

Rockets 'swooshed' into the enemy position and angry red tracers from the flying arsenal

laced the hostile area. Enemy occupied huts exploded in balls of fire as the rockets found their mark.

A gunship pilot radioed Spec. 4 Dean Beaupre, Fremont, Calif: "The enemy has fortified bunkers facing the paddy. Recommend your elements attack from the rear."

Redlegs Provide Cover
 Beaupre notified Tillman who requested artillery smoke to conceal the platoon's move. Moments later the howitzers of C Btry., 2nd Bn. (Abn), 320th Arty. blanketed the enemy position with a curtain of smoke.

The enemy continued to fire as the paratroopers advanced to a treeline on the right flank.

"Charlie" knew we were somewhere," said Beaupre. "The smoke kept him guessing." Once in the treeline, Beaupre

radioed the artillery battery to cease fire. The helicopter gunships orbited the area and waited as the smoke cleared.

Tillman attacked. "We took them by surprise," he said.

The enemy firing stopped and paratroopers combed the area for enemy and weapons. One VC was crouched in his hole—dead. Bullet riddled bodies of enemy snipers were discovered hanging in the branches of tall trees around the bunkers, their weapons scattered on the ground below.

The gunships had done a good job.

An engineer destroyed the bunkers with explosives. Then the paratroopers of Tillman's platoon picked up six enemy weapons and disappeared into the jungle.

Excitement Finds 'Bored' Sergeant

CHU LAI — What began as an afternoon of boredom turned into a nightmare of death and danger for a 101st Airborne paratrooper during Operation Wheeler west of here.

Plat. Sgt. Robert E. Jones, Colorado Springs, Colo., transferred recently from B Co. of the 2nd Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf., to become battalion operations sergeant.

"One afternoon I was sitting around doing nothing," he said. "To be honest, I was bored. The battalion commander asked if I wanted to accompany him on his command chopper to B Co. and watch their re-supply. Since B Co. was my old outfit, I jumped at the chance."

While the chopper was en route, B Co. began receiving sporadic sniper fire. No one gave much attention to the harassment and the command helicopter landed.

"I walked over to Lt. Orvold (Ted Orvold, Atlanta), and started getting caught up on the news in my old platoon," Jones continued. "Suddenly, two mortar rounds fell outside our perimeter. A second later a third round fell inside our perimeter and struck a trooper

on the head not ten feet away from me."

The mortar shell killed the paratrooper instantly and fatally wounded another. Jones was unscathed.

Ammunition carried by the trooper who received the full impact of the shell began to explode from the fire of his burning clothes and equipment.

Jones leaped to the fallen trooper's body and began clawing at the ammunition as it exploded.

"I tried to throw it away as fast as I could," he said. "Seven men were wounded by the exploding ammo."

Jones sustained burns of the hands and minor fragmentation wounds of the back as he stripped the bandolier and belted munitions from the burning clothing.

He then joined others in aiding the wounded while waiting for the medevac chopper.

"When the 'Dust-Off' arrived, sniper fire was so heavy they couldn't land," said Jones. "Finally, a 'bird' got in and took the wounded out."

Reflecting on the afternoon, the veteran soldier said: "I'll never complain about being bored again."



Treatment in the Field

The face of Capt. Bradford Mutchler, Paducah, Ky., (center) mirrors the tension of paratroopers as they comfort an injured helicopter pilot. Mutchler, who recently completed his tour in Vietnam, was the surgeon for the 1st Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Art Campbell)



Water Run

Pfc. Robert Nixon, Greenspring, W. Va., leads the way as he and Pfc. Carlton Moore, Pittsfield, Mass., carry canteens of water to their platoon of A Co., 2nd Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf.

(Photo by Pfc. Robert Mosey)

New to Platoon

Two Troopers Show Courage During NVA Mortar Barrage

CHU LAI—An NVA mortar barrage provided a baptism of fire for two paratroopers new to the 101st Airborne near here recently and they came through like hardened veterans.

Lt. Thomas J. Lowrie, Sturgeon Bay, Wis., and Pfc. Roger Benson, Parrish, Ala., joined A Co. of the 1st Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf., during Operation Wheeler.

A few days after their arrival, they were moving with the 2nd Plat. when the men approached a hut complex. Two NVA ran across an open paddy to a woodline. Lowrie's platoon decided they were decoys, ignored them and continued to move toward the huts.

Sniper fire forced the Americans to drop their packs so they could move faster.

"We were really moving out," said squad leader Sgt. Leon Hicks, Houston, "Benson was right behind me."

"As we hustled toward the huts, something popped 200-yards ahead," recalled Lowrie. "I didn't know what it was until I heard the explosion. The enemy had a mortar inside a

hut and were shelling the men behind us."

Want Mortar

Lowrie radioed Capt. Peter Mitchell, Levittown, N.Y., the company commander, that he was pushing on, hoping to capture the mortar.

Hicks' squad attacked, but the men were too late to get the weapon. They captured the ammunition, destroyed it and moved out to rejoin the company.

As the squad moved through a Vietnamese cemetery they were attacked by enemy mortars.

"We took the best cover we could," said the officer. He and radio operator Pfc. Carlos L. Garcia, Caquas, P.R., radioed for artillery support. The rest of the squad were ordered to run for a treeline.

When Benson leaped to his feet, he caught a glimpse of two enemy in spider holes to the right of Lowrie and Garcia.

"I'll get 'em," said the new trooper, charging across the cemetery toward the hiding enemy. Spec. 4 Jimmy L. Wilson, Jeffersonville, Ga., followed him.

Benson Scores
"I told him to get down," said Wilson. "Benson didn't flinch. He blasted the first one as he raised up and both of us nailed the second."

The two men picked up two enemy weapons and started back to their squad. Benson was trying to take the bayonet off the enemy rifle when a mortar exploded nearby.

Benson fell. Wilson cared for him until the squad arrived and carried the wounded trooper to the company's position.

"He was really excited about his first battle," said Lowrie. "He didn't ask for anything though he lay under a poncho all night waiting for the weather to clear."

As Benson was evacuated, Wilson handed him the captured bayonet. Pfc. Ray C. Ward, Chicago, commented: "Benson had the right attitude from the beginning. He wanted to learn and he wasn't scared. He took it in stride."

The squad had high praise for their new platoon leader, too. "He was right there," said one. "He was leading all the way," added another.

Babies Popular in Any War

CHU LAI—The gurgle of an infant sounds the same in any language and touched the hearts of paratroopers in the 101st Airborne during Operation Wheeler west of here.

Staff Sgt. Arthur Jones, Wilmington, N.C., was leading elements of C Co., 2nd Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf., toward a cluster of huts adjacent to a jungle clearing when he heard the sound.

"I knew it was a baby right away," said Jones. "I've got six kids of my own."

Realizing it could be a VC trap, Jones moved his forces with caution. Reaching the hut they found a mother and five children, one of them a chubby,

gurgling boy of about six months.

"We radioed back the report and were told to set up a perimeter and spend the night," Jones recalled.

The paratroopers set up their defensive positions, insuring the mother and her children protection also.

"Several of the boys decided they wanted to share their food with the family, especially the baby boy," said Jones. "Then someone asked what could a baby eat from a box of C-rations?"

"How about beefsteak with juices?" asked Spec. 4 Dave Gray, Richmond, Calif.

"Babies don't eat stuff like

that," answered another. "They eat mushy food like chicken and noodles." Jones solved the problem by deciding the mother would feed the infant.

The paratroopers didn't get much sleep that night. "I kept hearing movement in the brush," said Pfc. Randal B. Mundel, Los Angeles. "Everytime I'd check out the sounds I'd find some guy with a can of C-rations trying to convince the mother to let him feed the baby."

At daybreak, Jones moved his paratroopers out, but not before they stopped in to take another look at the drowsy, Vietnamese baby.

Tunnel Found Below Ambush

CHU LAI—An ambush manned by paratroopers of the 101st Airborne failed near here recently because the Americans were perched on top of the enemy.

A Co. of the 2nd Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf., set up an ambush along a well-worn trail leading up the side of a hill. A security element was checking the am-

bush position for vulnerable spots when Pfc. Michael A. Gerdine, Omaha, discovered a tunnel.

"I crawled in with a flashlight in one hand and pistol in the other," he said. "The tunnel appeared empty, but tracks on the floor indicated recent use."

Gerdine searched the tunnel floor and discovered what appeared to be a trap-door. "I looked through the crack around the door and saw a pair of knees," said Gerdine.

Plat. Sgt. Nichie G. Alonzo, Columbus, Ga., joined Gerdine and lifted the door. A VC nurse covered in the small opening. Under questioning by the ARVN interpreter accompanying the paratroopers, she said four Viet Cong were hiding in the tunnel.

Spec. 4 Robert W. Ferguson, Wagoner, Okla., joined the search. "I no sooner entered when I looked to my left and saw the VC," said Ferguson. "One of them reached for his pistol belt. I fired three quick shots and withdrew."

Alonzo heaved in a grenade, killing two. The remaining enemy seemed to have disappeared.

Ferguson found another entrance to the complex and was fired on.

Pfc. Richard A. Luttrell, Springfield, Ill., entered the tunnel and worked his way toward the stubborn enemy. "I spotted the VC and motioned them to follow me out," said Luttrell. "They started to go the opposite direction. My pistol changed their mind and they came out."

Further interrogation of the nurse and two wounded males revealed one of the enemy dead was the Viet Cong Province secretary.

Life Saved By Rations

CHU LAI—Pfc. Richard Biggs, Vallejo, Calif., never will complain about C-rations. They saved his life during Operation Wheeler west of here.

Biggs, a radio telephone operator (RTO) with A Co. of the 2nd Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf., was directing gunships as they provided cover for resupply helicopters.

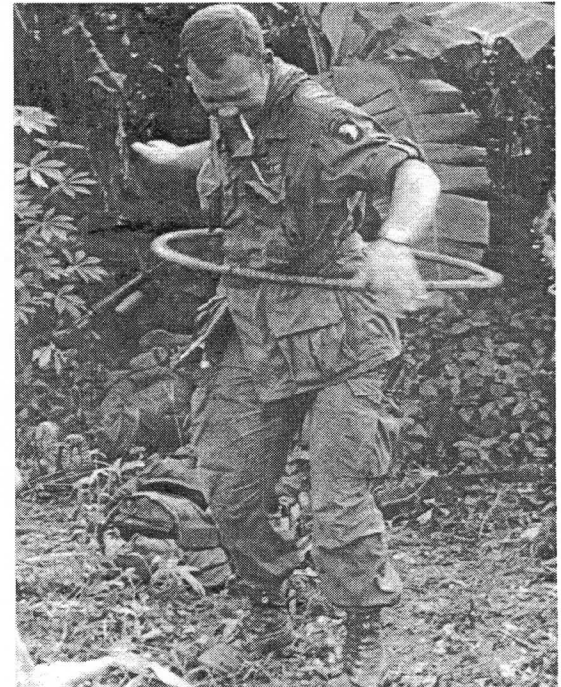
"We were being resupplied and receiving sniper fire at the same time," said Staff Sgt. John Jurinsky, Worcester, Mass.

"Biggs didn't realize he was standing in the path of one of the resupply choppers. He had his back to it."

Jurinsky yelled, but the warning was drowned in the roar of the helicopters.

"I knew I'd never reach him in time," the acting platoon sergeant said.

Quickly, he grabbed a case of C-rations and hurled it 15 feet, knocking Biggs down as the helicopter's tail rotor blade cut the air where the young paratrooper once stood.



'Go To It, Sarge!'

An old basket hoop was too much temptation for Staff Sgt. Jesse W. Taylor, Fort Meyers, Fla. As the picture shows—the squad leader with C Co. of the 1st Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf., still knew how to twirl the hula hoop. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Art Campbell)

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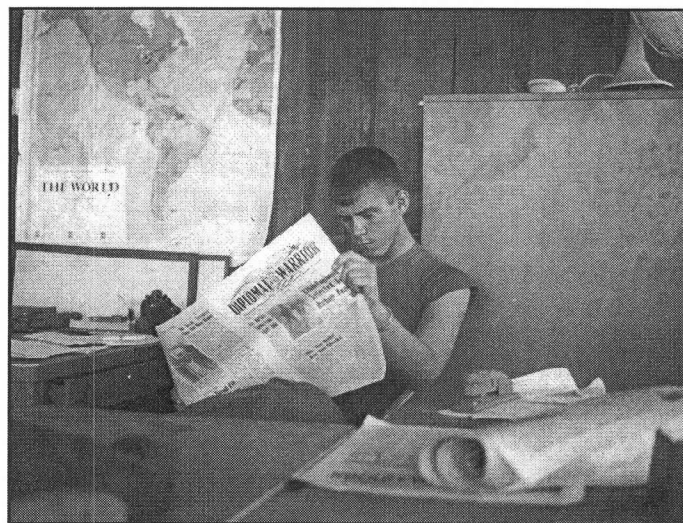


C-130 Crash Lands at Tan Son Nhut

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Dear Ivan: There are a few more of these. I'll send them along. ABC filmed the Tan Son Nhut part and Rey Martinez wrote the whole thing up in his book. John.

Crash-landing of C-130 with brigade personnel on board that happened when we went to Bao Loc (Jan - Feb 66 - 67?). The Major of Engineers who was with us has photos - he gave a set to everyone who was on it. I don't know if I can find mine. Rey Martinez described it perfectly in his book. I didn't know at the time that when we bellied in at Saigon there was foliage hanging from the aircraft. That's how close we came to the trees when the pilot powered us off the ground after a very bad landing. Take care of yourself. John



John Yeager, Jr., 2/502 C 11/66-9/67 performing his extra duty as PIO for the 2/502.

The C-130 From Six Silent Men



The discoloration on the foam on the C-130 is jet fuel.



On 29 January, the Lurps were given a warning order to prepare for a mission scheduled for 1 February. As part of Operation GATLING I, the 1st Brigade was moving to a new area of operation in Lam Dong Province and would be doing a multibattalion infantry operation. Two teams were to be provided by the LRRP detachment for the purpose of monitoring the enemy's withdrawal, or reinforcement, into the area of operation. The 1st Brigade would shuttle in infantry battalions by C-130 airplanes into a remote airstrip outside Bao-loc. The airstrip had recently been extended and PSP (perforated steel platform) matted for this operation. The infantry companies would offload the aircraft, then board CH-47 Chinooks and Huey slicks to be ferried into their LZs. The first plane into the newly extended airstrip would contain the two LRRP teams; the detachment commander, Captain Friedrich; and the communications sergeant, Sergeant First Class Lambert. Also, aboard the C-130 was a skeleton crew from the S-2/S-3 (TOC) - under the command of Capt William

Carpenter* - with their equipment in a deuce-and-a-half truck, and there was also a filled water trailer with a jeep and trailer. Upon landing, the Lurp teams would board slicks to be inserted. The two teams picked by Captain Friedrich were those of Sfc. Ron Pitts and S.Sgt. John Dietrich, I was junior RTO on Pitts's team.

As usual, the "hurry up and wait" regime was in full effect. We got to the Phan-rang airstrip around 0500 hours and waited around for the aircrew to arrive. Fully packed for a six-day mission and having gotten up very early, Pappy Webb, Danny Williams, Derby Jones, and I sat on the runway with our packs up against the tires of the C-130, trying to catch a few extra minutes of sleep. Just as the eastern horizon was starting to lighten, the aircrew arrived. The pilot, a lieutenant colonel, woke us up as he kicked the tires to check them during his preflight. Danny Williams asked the light bird if he had ever gotten a flat tire on a C-130, an interesting question asked half in jest. The pilot answered no.

The crew chief lowered the rear ramp, and we boarded, looking for a place to sit. Because of the truck and gear in the aircraft, the pickings were slim. I found the jeep's driver's seat unoccupied, and I promptly claimed it. I fell asleep as we were taking off.

I awoke in midair as I was violently thrown out of the jeep then landed on my back. On my way out of the jeep, I hit the steering wheel with my thighs, bruising them. The interior of the aircraft was filled with red dust, and I could smell and see hydraulic fluid everywhere. I was starting to get on my knees when a figure stumbled out of the red dust cloud, completely covered with red dirt and hydraulic fluid, so that his eyes looked as huge as saucer cups. I thought, "My god, that's Derby, and he looks scared! We must be dead!"

I was getting up, but was flattened again as the aircraft bounced back down hard on the runway. I crawled to the side of the aircraft, pulled myself up, and looked through a small porthole to see that we were flying barely above trees, the props just chewing the shit out of their tops. I dropped down, trying to find a place to secure myself, because I thought we were crashing. It was a sickening feeling because I couldn't react in any way to help my situation.

*Captain Carpenter, our boss from S-2, had an interesting background. He was the famous Lonesome End when he was playing football for West Point. He made a name for himself in sports and also as an infantry company commander under Lt. Col. Hank "Gunfighter" Emerson's 2/502 Infantry Battalion, 1/101st Airborne.

During the Battle of Tou Morong, Charlie Company, 2/502, was inserted on the morning of 9 June 1966 to act as a blocking force ahead of the 1/327, which was sweeping in the direction of Charlie Company. As Charlie Company moved up a small rise, Carpenter's forward platoon leader radioed him and informed him that they could hear Vietnamese voices two hundred meters ahead of him, down in a small streambed. His platoon leader asked Carpenter if he wanted to set up the blocking force or go hunting Charlie. He replied, "Let's hunt Charlie!" Unknown to Carpenter, he was biting the tail of a terrible beast. They had bit into the 24th North Vietnamese Regiment. Charlie Company was swarmed and nearly overrun. At the height of the action, Carpenter made a very controversial decision to call napalm onto his own position. It broke the back of the North Vietnamese attack and bought time for Charlie Company to disengage from the enemy. It rang bells clear back into the U.S. In the army, it was much discussed and debated whether such an action was noble or foolish. For his actions, his battalion commander, Lt. Col. Hank Emerson, put Captain Carpenter in for the Medal of Honor, which was downgraded to a Distinguished Service Cross.

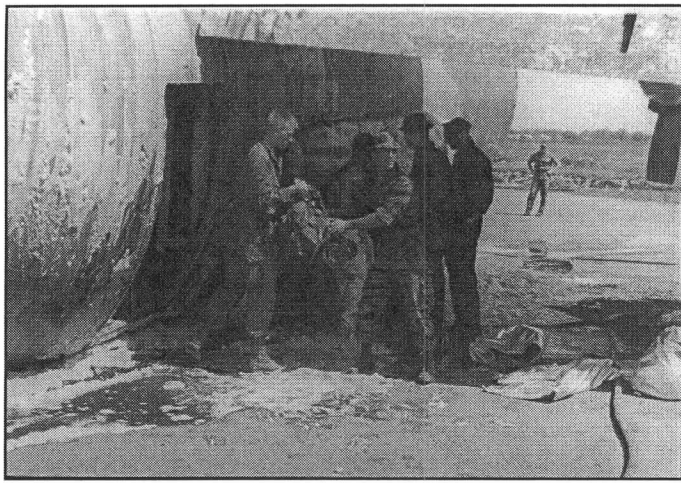


C-130 bellied in at Tan Son Nhut Airfield near Saigon after aborting landing at Bao Loc.

"I thought we had taken a rocket through the plane," Derby Jones says. "I lurched my way toward the front of the plane, and saw Marty trying to get off the floor of the aircraft. We both looked out a window and saw that the plane was plowing through the tops of the trees with the props, just chewing through the trees. I figured our shit was *weak!*"

The aircraft eventually got airborne, and my fear turned instantly to elation as I knew I had survived another close call. Everyone was cheering, till someone said, "What the hell you guys cheering for? Take a look at this!"

Whoever had yelled was on the port side, and I was on the starboard side. I walked toward the rear of the aircraft and looked into the wheel well. A monster tire had punched up through the metal, and was half inside the aircraft. Where the rear tire had been was a twisted wheel strut. Sergeant First Class Lambert was visibly shaken because he had been resting against that wheel well and had moved just prior to landing. The crew chief climbed up into the cockpit, then came back. He put on a safety leash, opened the doors of the aircraft, and leaned out, checking the damage. There was a brief conference in the cockpit and then another brief conference with Captain Friedrich and Captain Carpenter. I was wondering how many chutes the plane was carrying.



John Yeager, Jr., 2/502 C 11/66-9/67 at left. His trousers are in good condition despite the scare.

Mine weren't the only such thoughts. There was muttering and an under current of rebellion as we watched the two officers and the crew chief don air force parachutes; there were only six parachutes in the aircraft. Realization of what the men were thinking suddenly dawned on Captain Carpenter's face, and when he smiled, it broke the tension. The crew chief-said, "Listen up, men! We got an aircraft with damaged wheels; the port-side tires are gone or useless. On the starboard side, the rear one is turned sideways, and we have one good one. We have to throw everything out of the aircraft that might explode - the extra diesel cans for the deuce-and-a-half truck and the gas cans for the jeep. We have to chain the truck back up because we broke the front chains when we hit the first time. Anything that is loose has to be thrown out. We have to rig the aircraft because we'll be flying south to Tan-son Nhut to do a crash landing on a foamed runway. And no, *no one* is going to be jumping out of this aircraft!"

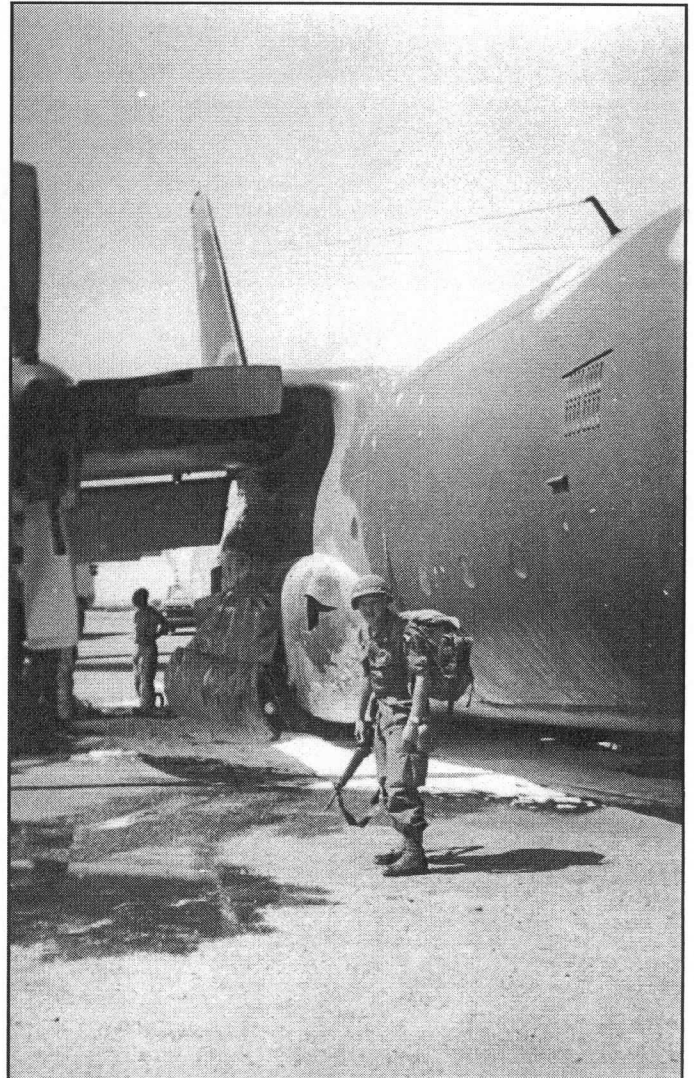
That brought a few chuckles.

Everyone got to work securing equipment. We Lurps went through our gear, and handed all the grenades and blasting caps to Captain Friedrich and Captain Carpenter to throw out of the aircraft. The major from S-3 had broken his leg because he had been standing up when we slammed down the first time, and the team medic, Sgt. Danny Williams, was working on him. Meanwhile, one of the sergeants who had gotten on top of the two-and-a-half ton truck to throw equipment down, tossed a rucksack or bundle that landed on the poor guy's leg, causing him to scream.

CWO Gary Sauer, a helicopter pilot from the 101st aviation section, had ferried his Huey slick in from Phan-rang the previous day and was on the ground waiting for us to land. His and another aircraft were to insert the two Lurp teams when they landed. Sauer had once been an enlisted combat-ready crewman on an air force SAC B-52, in the days when you could still serve on B-52s as a noncommissioned officer. He decided to do some flying in helicopters and transferred into the Instant Army Aviator Program that the army offered in those days. He was discharged from the air force, had a little holy water sprinkled on himself, then was sworn into the army

as a W-2. He went through training and went to Vietnam in December 1966.

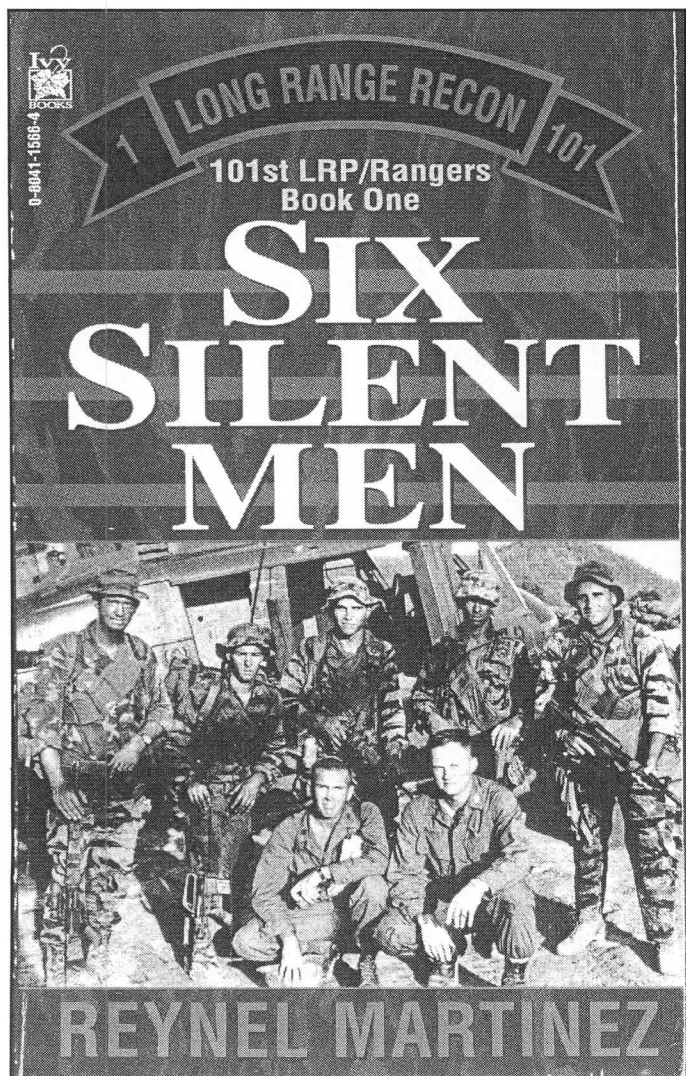
He was sitting in his aircraft, reading a book and waiting for the first planeload to come in. "I heard it over the radio, or someone mentioned that an aircraft was inbound," he recalls. "Being a former crew member of a B-52 crew, I naturally looked up to see the aircraft on final approach. My aircraft was situated about one hundred yards off the runway, with a temporary radio communications tent set up about one hundred yards farther down the runway on my side. The runway had just been extended and blacktopped with PSP-matted overruns and built-up berms on each end. There was a depression in the runway about four hundred yards from the beginning. I watched the aircraft touch down, and a huge cloud of red dust flew out, with the rear tire flying back under the aircraft, going through the rear stabilizing aileron, ripping through it, flying in the air, and bouncing down the runway, chasing the C-130. The pilot had straddled the berm with his two sets of tires, and the aircraft's landing gear just couldn't take the shock. They started coming apart, buckling the aircraft as he was landing. I thought, 'I'm going to be a witness to a



Sergeant William L. Hutcherson, 326th Engineers, A Company, (Deceased) beside C-130 bellied in at Tan Son Nhut Airfield near Saigon.

very nasty crash.' The aircraft bounced straight in the air, just clearing the depression in the runway, and while aloft the pilot pulled full power and started clawing his way back in the air. It was going to be close. My attention was divided between the plane and the tire that was rebounding down the runway, heading my way. I started getting worried that it was going to hit my aircraft, then realized it was going to miss me. It went right in front of my slick and headed toward the aircraft control center, going right through the tent, tearing it down. People poured out of it; miraculously no one got hurt. The aircraft plowed through the trees at the end of the runway and finally got airborne. I couldn't believe the aircraft made it backup, but that was a testimony to the durability of the C-130 Hercules."

We squared the plane down as best as we could. The crew chief gave us the run-by on what would be happening on the landing. We popped all the escape hatches on the aircraft, two in the ceiling and both doorways, as we flew about one hundred miles south to Tan-son Nhut, and then stayed in the air to use up the fuel in the wing tanks. We spread four straps across the rear ramp of the aircraft and strapped all nineteen of us to the ramp. This was the part I didn't like at all. My feet were right where the ramp met the floor of the aircraft, and the two-and-a-half-ton truck bumper was at my chest level, about two feet away. I just knew we would be crushed by that truck.



We flew into the landing approach, and the pilot shut his engines down. When the doors on a C-130 are open, the engine sound and that of the wind coming in are extremely loud, but when the pilot killed his engines, all we could hear was the wind rushing in through the doors and top escape hatches. Just before the tires met the pavement, the pilot turned on some alarm bells that shot our nerves right up through the escape hatches. The left-front side tire of the aircraft touched down first, and when the weight of the aircraft settled down, it sheared off the rear tire, which was turned sideways. I believe that pilot did the best flying of his life that day because it seemed that he had to get rid of the left side tires in order to let the belly settle down on the runway. Otherwise, it would pitch him over to his right, and a wing would grab. The front wheel strut gave, shoving the front tire right into the wheel well, allowing the whole belly of the airplane to make contact with the runway. An instantaneous sheet of flame, the kind you get when using a metal grinding wheel real heavily, instantly filled the whole doorway. We started plowing foam, and I began to appreciate its use in crashes. As we slid down the runway, the left wing started dipping, the aircraft yawed to the left, and the tail came to the right. We slewed off the left side of the runway, slipping off one runway onto another, by then sliding backward. Now our speed was being reduced dramatically, and

"No way in hell you could survive 'out there' with six men. You couldn't live thirty minutes 'out there' with only six men."



In 1965 nearly four hundred men were interviewed and only thirty-two selected for the infant LRRP Detachment of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. Old-timers called it the suicide unit. Whether

conducting prisoner snatches, search and destroy missions, or hunting for the enemy's secret base camps, LRRPs depended on one another 110 percent. One false step, one small mistake by one man could mean sudden death for all.

Author Reynel Martinez, himself a 101st LRRP Detachment veteran, takes us into the lives and battles of the extraordinary men for whom the brotherhood of war was and is an ever-present reality: the courage, the sacrifice, the sense of loss when one of your own dies. In the hills, valleys, and triple-canopy jungles, the ambushes, firefights, and copter crashes, LRRPs were among the best and bravest to fight in Vietnam.

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I started to worry, about the aircraft flipping over. We were supposed to stay strapped in until the aircraft was completely stopped, but we cut some of the straps, and I remember jumping out while the aircraft was still sliding. It hadn't completely stopped, but I didn't have any problem getting away from the aircraft, which was smoking and looking pretty much the worse for wear.

After the normal hanging around, amazed that the C-130 really survived the landing, we were trucked to a local hanger where we dropped our rucks and LBE. The hanger was packed with airtight aluminum coffins, the kind used for transporting the dead back to the States. We were then taken to an air force mess hall, which was a real treat. I hadn't seen such good chow in quite a while. They even had real milk, and I must have drunk a gallon. With our faded tiger fatigues, lack of rank insignia and our high-speed look, we caused quite a stir with the flyboys. After lunch we went back to our rucksacks and watched one of the forklift drivers spill a pallet of four coffins on the hangar's cement floor. I don't believe they were occupied, but for some reason, the incident really disturbed all of us.

We got another C-130, a silver one with no cammo paint, and flew back to Bao-loc, where we had started just four hours earlier. We landed at Bao-loc full of anxiety, and taxied over to

the unloading area. The crew chief dropped the ramp, and we were instantly blasted with red dust from a Chinook (CH-47) helicopter that was taking off. As we were walking to one side of the unloading area, the Chinook was about seventy feet in the air. It suddenly lost power, fell out of the sky, and rolled over. This runway was located on a plateau, and the drop off the side was not very far away. The helicopter rolled over a couple of times, down the side of the plateau, and came to a stop. We all ran over to help pull out the people, a load of line grunts going into the field, and they were not in very good shape. There were no deaths, but they were banged up pretty good.

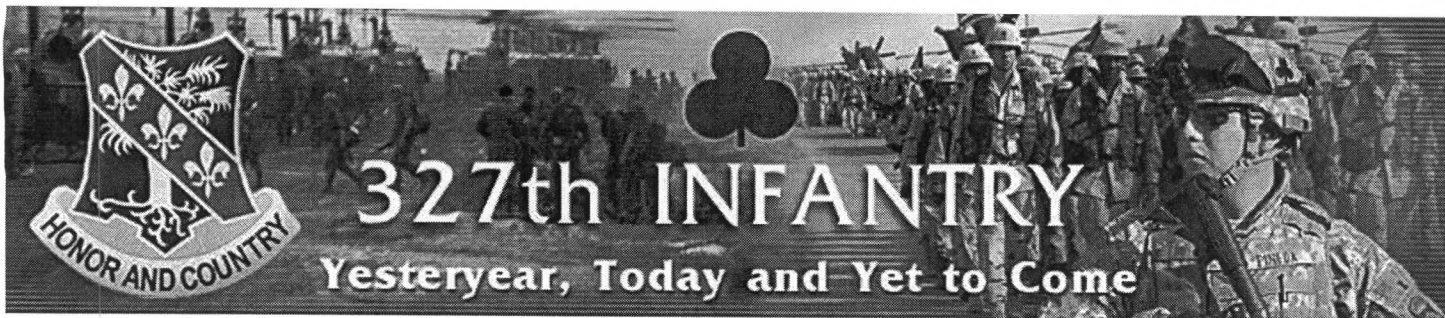
The mission had automatically scratched, and we were put on perimeter guard. We had to dig in a bunker. I was bunked up with Pat Kinser, and I did a dumb-ass thing. Somehow, we had gotten some insect spray in a pressurized can and I sprayed some big huge black ants. Well, I couldn't believe it - talk about stirring an ant nest. We spent the night outside the bunker.

Editor's Note: I am grateful to Reynel Martinez, LRRP 12/66-6/68, who gave his permission for publication of his story of the C-130 incident recorded in his book SIX SILENT MEN. His book is available in book stores and on line at the major book sellers.



(L to R) SGT Anthony E. "Tony" Bouchard, 1/327 HQ&HQ Tiger Force 4/66-11/66, Sam Bass Executive Secretary and Treasurer of the 101st Airborne Division Association and James D. "Jim" Agins, 326 MED D 7/66 - 2/67. The two First Brigade (S) 101st Airborne Division veterans presented the proceeds of a NY/NJ Chapter of the 101st Association raffle that enabled the chapter to send a \$1,600.00 donation to the Screaming Eagle Support Fund.





Story by
SGT. Rick Rzepka
1st BCT, 101st Airborne Division (AA)

Brigade Commander: 'Work to be done still'

TIKRIT, Iraq – Col. Michael S. McBride, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division commander, recently held a stateside press conference via satellite, Sept. 4. McBride addressed the Pentagon press corps in regards to the overall improvements in the Salah ad Din province, of which McBride's "Bastogne" brigade is responsible. McBride, whose soldiers have been deployed for 12 months, stressed that although the security situation in the province has dramatically improved and attacks have fallen, there is still a determined enemy here who must be pursued.

"We still have work to do," said McBride to Beltway reporters. "There's still an active enemy out there that we are pursuing and going after every day, and all indicators across the board, economic, governance and development of our Iraqi Security Forces is getting better," he said.

McBride acknowledged that while some of Iraq's Army brigades are able to operate autonomously, others continue to develop.

Since the "Bastogne" brigade assumed security of the northern province in October, 2007, Iraqi Army units in the region have conducted more than 130 combined operations, 40 of which were run independently.

Today, Iraqi soldiers are clearing the remote desert regions of the province of waning insurgent networks.

"Right now we have an Iraqi Army brigade in the eastern desert of this province near the border of Diyala. They've been out there now over 30 days in support of the government of Iraq's operation in the Diyala province. They have been totally self-sustaining. We haven't supported them logistically with anything. And they are continuing to operate and continuing to fight. That brigade could fight on its own today. They do not need us," said McBride.

While the IA brigades in the Salah ad Din province are each at different stages in their development, they each possess the willingness to fight Iraq's enemies, said McBride. Another critical component to Iraq's security successes has been the volunteers who call themselves the Sons of Iraq.

More than 7,000 SoI are spread throughout the province, manning checkpoints and securing their neighborhoods against

extremism. In recent weeks, concerns have been raised about the volunteer's role in safeguarding the streets of Iraq.

"No warrants have been issued for any of our Sons of Iraq," said McBride. "They understand and their leadership understands that they work in support of and subservient to their respective governments. So what I think we've done fairly well is partner them with either Iraqi police or Iraqi army, so they are working together, and their communities see them working together. But we haven't had those kind of challenges here. I think it's honestly the exact opposite," he said.

Some of the progress that has been made in the province has come from doing the opposite of what many would think is the obvious answer.

"We've taken kind of a counterintuitive approach," said McBride referring to opening up economic lines of communication in the region.

Since the brigade has eased congestion on a major highway known as route Tampa, improvised explosive device attacks have been down and Iraqi people feel safer, he said.

"The population is moving on those highways," said McBride. "Economic commerce is moving. I think it's helped the economy, and the people believe they're safe on those highways."

Typically, Coalition Forces would shut down stretches of roads like Tampa that are littered with IEDs to reduce the threat to both Coalition and Iraqi civilians but the 1st Brigade prefers the road less traveled.

"We'll take an IED hit every once in a while, and the MRAPs have helped us, we've got great protection, they don't effect us. And we're certainly not going to go back to where we were, to where we lock down highways and take the roadways away from the population," said McBride.

Since opening the economic lines, the brigade has seen the province make great strides. More than one million dollars of micro-loans has been given to small business owners, while business and factories continue to spur fiscal growth, said McBride.

As the "Bastogne" brigade looks to wrap up its third deployment to Iraq, McBride is certain that the pressure on Iraq's enemies will not end anytime soon.



Troopers Dig Up A 2-Ton Cannon

TUY HOA, Vietnam. (IO) — "Without a doubt," quipped 1st Lt. Louis R. Apuzzio, "this must be the largest crew served weapon captured in Vietnam."

But where did the two-ton cannon come from? How long had it lain under a canopy of jungle? Who fired it, and when—centuries ago?

There it was—a huge ancient cannon with 16-pound cannon balls.

Apuzzio, who comes from Elizabeth, N.J., and commands B Co., 2nd Bn., 327th Inf. of the 1st

Brigade, 101st Airborne Div., was leading a search-and-destroy operation near Tuy Hoa and ordered his men to clear firing lanes.

SP4 George O. Hazlewood, Louisburg, N.C., was hacking away at brush in front of his foxhole when his intrenching tool clanged sharply on something metal.

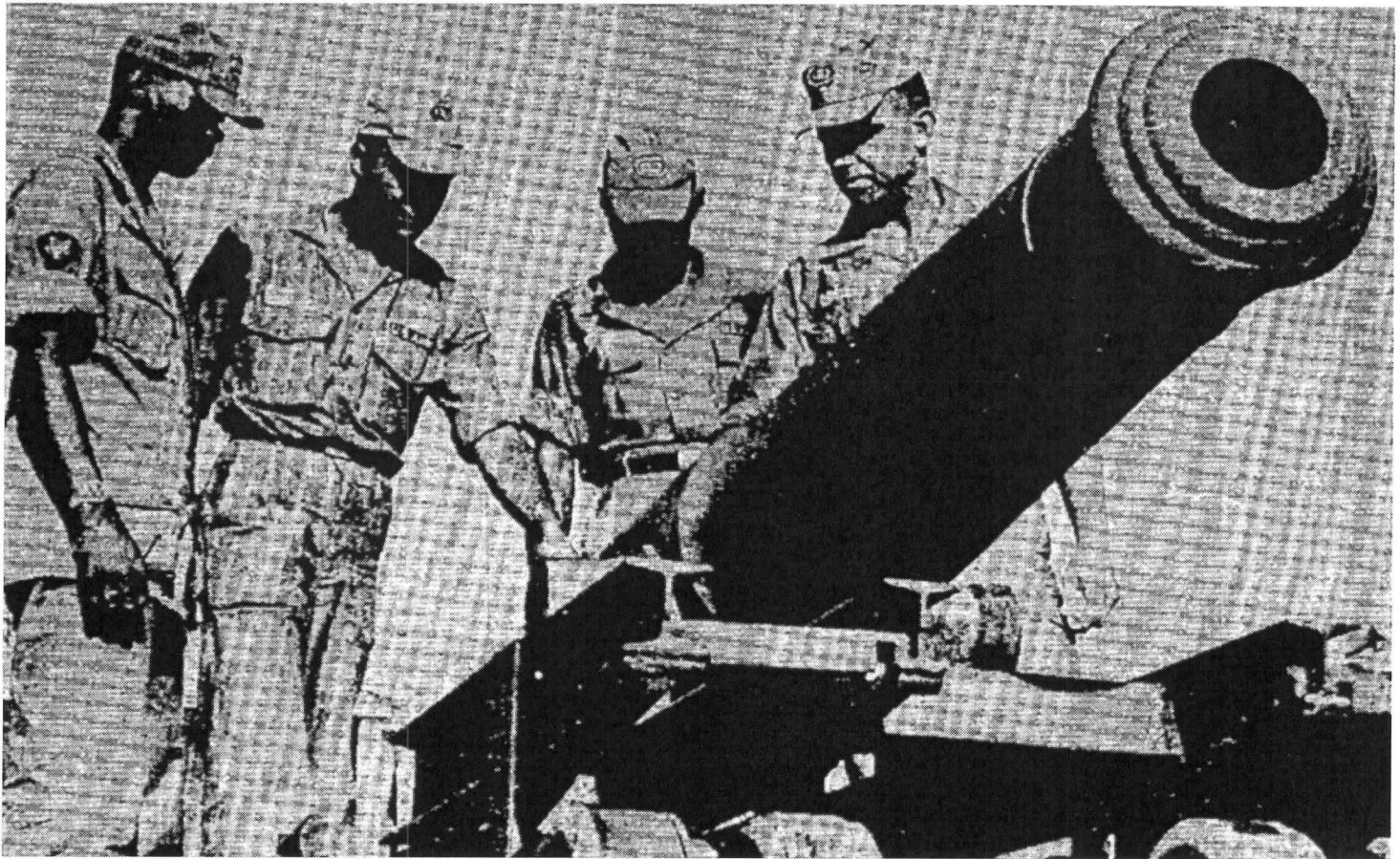
"At first I thought it was a bomb," related Hazlewood. "Finally we decided to very carefully dig up whatever it was. When we uncovered this cannon with the 16-pound ball ammunition, we just couldn't believe it."

A platoon spent two days moving the ponderous trophy to a spot where it could be picked up by an HU-1D (Huey) helicopter, which lifted it back to 2d Bn. headquarters at Tuy Hoa.

See Page 1
For More
Cannon
Pictures

All material from STARS
AND STRIPES PACIFIC was
sent by David P. Perrine,
2/502 HHC 5/67-10/67 of
Annandale, Virginia.

Pacific Stars & Stripes 7
Saturday, June 18, 1966



First Lt. Louis R. Apuzzio (right) and three of his men in B Co., 2nd Bn., 327th Inf., 1st Brigade of the 101st Airborne Div., examine the ancient two-ton cannon the outfit dug up while

on a search-and-destroy mission near Tuy Hoa. With Apuzzio are (left to right) SP4 Eurette R. L. Drayton, New York City; PFC Tyrone E. Miller, Blue Field, W.Va., and SP4 George D. Hazlewood, Louisburg, N.C. (USA)

Pistol Packin' Padre

By JOHN T. WHEELER

BEN CAT, South Viet Nam—He's a pistol-packing, grenade-toting chaplain, ministering to the Screaming Eagles in South Viet Nam's jungle war.

Capt. Curtis Bowers, 33, Lancaster, Pa., looks the part of the fighting minister he has been dubbed by the men of the 1st Battalion of the 327th Infantry. The battalion is one of three in the Screaming Eagles, the 101st Airborne Brigade, stationed in Viet Nam.

His face is a mixture of choirboy innocence and the ruggedness of a battle-hardened paratroop company commander.

So far the Church of Nazarene minister has accompanied the battalion on every major operation in Viet Nam as well as tagging along on many company and platoon-size actions.

The 45-caliber pistol and fragmentation grenade hung on his pistol belt?

"I don't want to be a drag when the going is hot and heavy. I ought to be able to earn my own keep with these men. But I would only use these things in self-defense—my job is to save souls and not to take lives."

So far, the chaplain says, he hasn't had to use either grenade or pistol.

Although most of them don't, chaplains carrying arms in Viet Nam represent a reality in a war where a peaceful-seeming bit of jungle or rubber plantation can erupt in bloody hand-to-hand fighting without warning.

Like other officers, Chaplain Bowers turns his collar under in the field so his rank cannot be spotted by a sniper.

During a recent operation eight miles northwest of here, Chaplain Bowers was touring the perimeter chatting with the troops when the vicious snapping of Viet Cong automatic weapons filled the air around his head.



CHAPLAIN CURTIS BOWERS (LEFT) AND SOLDIER

He hit the dirt behind a tree and moments later continued his rounds.

Bowers, whose wife, Doris, and their three children live in Lexington, Ky., says the job of helping the men of his battalion meet the realities of war is the most challenging he could imagine.

"When we first came, the men's biggest worry was whether a Christian could kill and still be a good Christian. Most have settled this for themselves now.

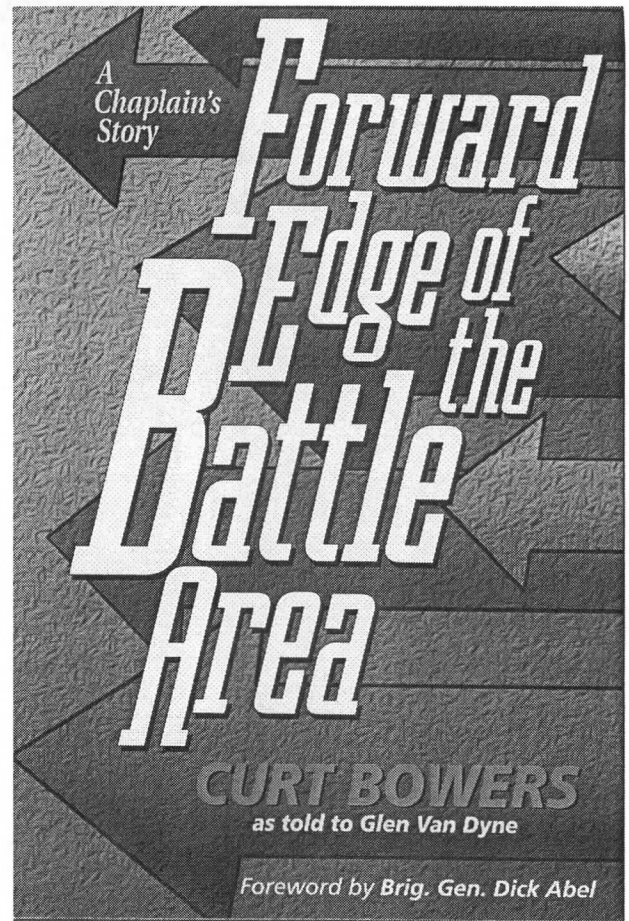
"Lately they are worried about their families if they get that telegram Defense Department notification of next of kin in case of death or wound."

After the initial rounds of sniper fire by the Viet Cong following the heliborne assault, the operation became a job of routine and mostly uneventful sweeping the area.

"You know, I'm glad it was a cold unopposed landing today. I prayed it wouldn't be a bad day for the battalion or the families."

Forward Edge of the Battle Area

A few copies of the book FORWARD EDGE OF THE BATTLE AREA by Chaplain (COL-R) Curtis R. Bowers, 1/327 HQ 7/65-6/66 are left from the reunion. Price is \$10.00 + \$2.00 shipping. See page 34 for order form.



FIRST BRIGADE SCRAPBOOK

The FIRST BRIGADE, 101st Airborne Division SCRAPBOOK was compiled by Department of the Army "For Fighting Men too Busy to Keep Their Own!"

The SCRAPBOOK contains 105 8.5 x 11 inch pages and is three

hole punched ready to be secured in a regular three ring notebook. Great care was taken to make copies that are true to the original.

Cost is \$15.00 per copy postpaid. See the order form on page 34.

'Give Me a Refill So I Can Fight,' Says Bleeding GI

WITH THE 101ST AIRBORNE DIV., Vietnam (10)—"Give me a couple quarts of blood and I'll be ready to go again!" a wounded patrol leader whispered shortly after his eight-man patrol beat off the fifth Viet Cong assault in 24 hours.

Barely able to see or speak because of loss of blood, the patrol leader continued to command his men. Unable to even lift his arms, he called in artillery on the Viet Cong surrounding the besieged squad, adjusting the fire by listening to the direction and loudness of the detonating rounds.

He demanded that he be left behind while his men moved to safety, which they refused. When told that they would carry him 800 yards to where they could be picked up by helicopter, he said, "Hell, I can walk that far!"

The patrol leader is Sgt. Gene Hawthorne, of Lupton, Ariz. The squad was from Company "A" of the Army's 2d Bn. 502d Inf., 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Div.

Leaving at dusk, the patrol moved 5,000 yards from their camp, swam a river—their clothing and equipment towed in a boat—crossed through jungle, rice paddies, rubber plantations and carefully skirted all villages in their path.

They were in position by daybreak, when, according to Sgt. Robert E. Drake, of Clarksville, Tenn., "About 9 o'clock one little VC rat walked right into the middle of where we were concealed. Before we could do anything, he was off like a bullet. The jungle undergrowth was thick and we could see nothing, but we could hear them moving all around us. The pattern was the same each time they attacked us.

"They would spring up out of the bushes, yelling and screaming, and shooting as they came. We would cut down 6 or 8 of them and then they would fall back. With our weapons firing fully automatic we put out a lot of lead, and I think they had no idea how many of us there

weren't so lucky. One of the assault without a scrape.

"The second go 'round we weren't so so lucky. One of the men was hit in the tail, although he kept right on going and fought well right up to the end of the mess. We had moved after the second. We were hit a third time and came through clean. As we moved for the third time, one of the men triggered a booby trap, killing himself and wounding Sgt. Hawthorne in both arms.

"The booby trap going off gave away our position, and minutes later we were hit again. We cut down several before they withdrew, while none of our men were wounded in the attack. They didn't hit us again until about nine the next morning. Sgt. Hawthorne had lost a lot of blood during the night.

When the attack came, although he was in great pain and could see only a few feet in front of him, he put out a deadly volume of fire. He would collapse, regain consciousness, and fire again. It was then that he pinpointed our position on the map for the artillery, and adjusted the fire by listening to the bursts.

"Everyone stayed calm and cool because of the way Sgt. Hawthorne acted. He just wouldn't give up. He's a real leader."

Two more men were killed in the last attack before the Viet Cong were finally forced to retreat. Soon afterwards, the besieged patrol was reached by a platoon of their comrades, marking the end of the 39 hour ordeal.

As Sgt. Hawthorne was being carried aboard the helicopter that would evacuate him, he remarked, "I'm going in for a refill, and I'll be back."

Pacific Stars & Stripes 7
Tuesday, January 11, 1966

GI Lauds Officer Hero

By JOI RAY MAHON

S&S Staff Writer

NHA TRANG, Vietnam— "If he doesn't get the Medal of Honor, I don't know who should," PFC George Imes said from his hospital bed.

Imes was speaking of a major who led a platoon charge up a hill during the 101st Airborne paratroopers' decisive victory over the Viet Cong near An Khe this month.

"The major was leading the way with just a .45 in his hand. Heavy machine gun fire from the hill hit him and he fell, but he got up and continued on until he was hit again and killed," Imes said.

"The 3d Platoon of B Co., who were following him, apparently got mad when they saw what happened to the major. They charged the hill, screaming all the way up, and forced the Viet Cong to retreat," he said.

Imes, of Philadelphia, is in the 8th Field Hospital here, recovering from a minor shrapnel wound received during the weekend encounter.

He was among relief troops who went into the area Sunday to assist the outnumbered paratroopers in the fighting.

Imes said many paratroopers back at the loading zone "began to cry" when reports of the fighting came in.

"The guys were crying because they wanted to get in there and help. One of our cooks did get in. He took off and was able to hitch a ride by helicopter."

In the bed next to Imes was SP4 Roy Hoffman, 20, of Punxsutawney, Pa., one of the first paratrooper casualties in the battle.

He was elated over his unit's performance against the Viet Cong. "They said we were only living on the reputation earned by the 101st during World War II. We proved to them we weren't," Hoffman said.

"Up until that time our morale was pretty low. We hadn't had any action. Anywhere we seemed to go the Viet Cong had just left. Now our morale is sky high."

Hoffman is leaving in two weeks for Valley Forge Hospital, Pa. A machine gun bullet shattered a bone in his leg.

Imes hopes to be back with his unit in a few weeks.

Pacific Stars & Stripes 7
Friday, October 1, 1965

Airborne Platoon Is On Its Own

AN KHE, Vietnam (10) — As the whup, whup of a UH1B helicopter grows louder, a yellow smoke grenade explodes in a small clearing and Screaming Eagles of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Div. move swiftly into their security positions as the Huey flies in with its vital cargo of water and rations.

The first person to reach the chopper was 2d Lt. John Olyphant, San Francisco, platoon leader of the 1st Platoon, B Co., 1/327th Inf. He is greeted by members of the crew as they toss out the valuable cargo. After a few quick words the pilot lifts off.

This is the only physical contact the paratroopers of the Always First Platoon have with the outside world. From their lonely outpost in the jungle-like terrain of the Vietnam central highlands near An Khe, the 40 troopers under the leadership of the acting platoon sergeant, follow Olyphant in daily search-and-destroy patrols in their sector of the area to be cleared of all Viet Cong.

When not patrolling, the troopers are improving their defensive positions and living conditions. SP4 Robert Mangola, a 3.5 rocket gunner, who is a native of Guam, has provided the platoon with various native fruits, such as the papaya, yam, banana, orange and wild grape. He has also constructed thatched huts and made eating utensils.

The daily routine of this high spirited group of men, goes something like this: everyone up at 5 a.m., eat chow and prepare for the day's patrol, and at first light, off into the jungle for the day. After eight hours of patrolling thick and almost impenetrable underbrush, the tired troopers return to their base camp.

These men are part of the 1st Bn., 327th Inf., commanded by Lt. Col. Joseph Roger.

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Wednesday, Nov. 3, 1965—V



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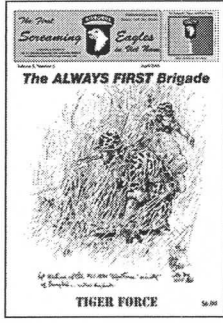
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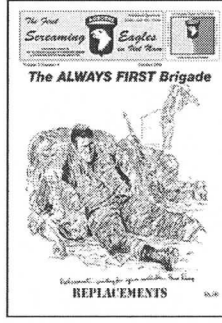
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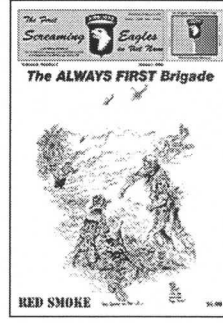
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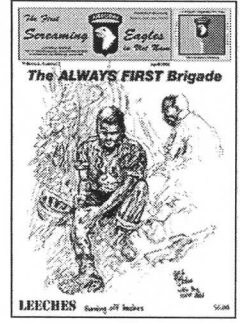
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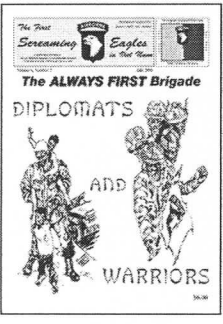
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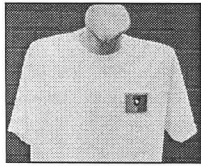


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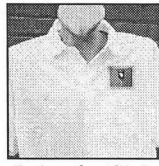


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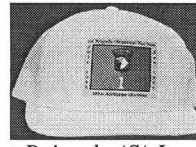
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Issue #42



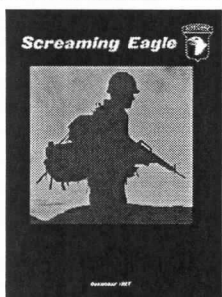
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[Actual 1 1/2 inch size]

The 1 1/2 inch diameter coin is crafted in vivid colors, has a beveled edge and is coated with a clear acrylic to preserve the coin's surface. (It is unfortunate that it cannot be shown here in color.) Cost is \$10.00 per coin, postpaid. See page 34 for order form.

THE FIRST SCREAMING EAGLES IN VIET NAM

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Editor
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THE AIRBORNE QUARTERLY

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320th Airborne FA Association

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Following is a very brief synopsis of the material published in the October 2008 issue of The FIRST SCREAMING EAGLES in Viet Nam. Many thanks to each of you who contributed material to make this issue possible.

TUY HOAPAGE 1
Pictures from the Tuy Hoa headquarters of the First Brigade along with the head for the next story starting on page two.

HOW THEY SAW USPAGES 2 – 7
Reproduction of a translation of an enemy After Action Report. The quality is marginal in places but the content of an enemy view of an action with the First Brigade is very interesting.

BACK TO VIET NAMPAGES 8 – 10
A great account and pictures by Bob Hudson of his return to Viet Nam and the places he visited to compare with the way they looked when he served with the First Brigade.

LETTERS TO THE EDITORPAGES 11 – 14
This section contains letters sent by e-mail and by the U. S. Postal Service. The messages from the website have been dropped because the web site is little used. Most of the mail is from subscribers. The editor welcomes mail from all who have an interest in the brigade.

OBITUARYPAGE 14
This is a follow up obituary about Harry Buckley. The notice of his death was in the April 2008 issue.

NOTICEPAGE 14
The notice of an increase in subscription price is short. See also the inside front for more explanation.

2/17th CAVPAGE 15
Picture of 3rd Platoon, A Troop, 2/17th CAV articles from the PACIFIC STARS AND STRIPES about the unit. Some of the material had to be reduced to fit. Get out the magnifying glass.

BRIGADE ARRIVESPAGE 16
PACIFIC STARS AND STRIPES story and picture of the arrival of the brigade in July 1965.

THE SCREAMING EAGLEPAGES 17 – 20
The December 6, 1967, issue of the weekly unit newspaper features some of the subscribers.

SUBSCRIBERS' LISTPAGES 21 – 23
This list records new subscribers, renewing subscribers, bad addresses and address corrections. If you can help with a good address for those listed in the bad address column please write or email the correct information.

C-130 CRASH LANDSPAGES 23 – 27
A great story of a C-130 that aborted a landing, did some tree trimming and crash landed in Saigon. Thanks for story from Reynel Martinez and pictures from John Yeager.

FIRST BRIGADE IN IRAQPAGE 28
Material sent by the Public Affairs Office of the brigade in the war zone.

CANNON RECOVEREDPAGE 29
PACIFIC STARS AND STRIPES story about the cannon recovered and placed in the headquarters area at Tuy Hoa. Same cannon as shown on page one.

PISTOL PACKING PADREPAGE 30
This has been used before and was repeated to highlight the sale of his book FORWARD EDGE OF THE BATTLE AREA.

STARS AND STRIPES STORIESPAGE 32
Assorted stories from the PACIFIC STARS AND STRIPES.

ITEMS FOR SALEPAGES 33 – 35
Items of First Brigade memorabilia, books and back issues of the magazine are shown with an order form included on page 34.



FIRST RENEWAL NOTICE FOR October 2008 EXPIRATIONS

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Please check the label on the back cover of this magazine. If the date on the right of the first line is 10/08 this is your last magazine until you renew your subscription. Subscription renewal (\$20.00 for one (1) year), now, will assure that you do not miss an issue of this chronicle of the history of the ALWAYS FIRST BRIGADE in Viet Nam. The date shown indicates the date of the final magazine you will receive with your current subscription. Please complete changes only. Your address label is on the other side of this form. For overseas postage add \$20.00 per year.

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CHU LAI, Vietnam--MISSION ACCOMPLISHED. Their eyes focused on the body of a fallen paratrooper, Lt. Clyde B. Herrington, Millins, S.C., radios a situation report to his company during Operation Benton. The Screaming Eagle brigade killed 61 enemy the first day of the operation. At right is radio-telephone operator Spec. 4 Jimmy F. Brown, St. Louis. (USA Photo by Staff Sgt. Art Campbell)

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