

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



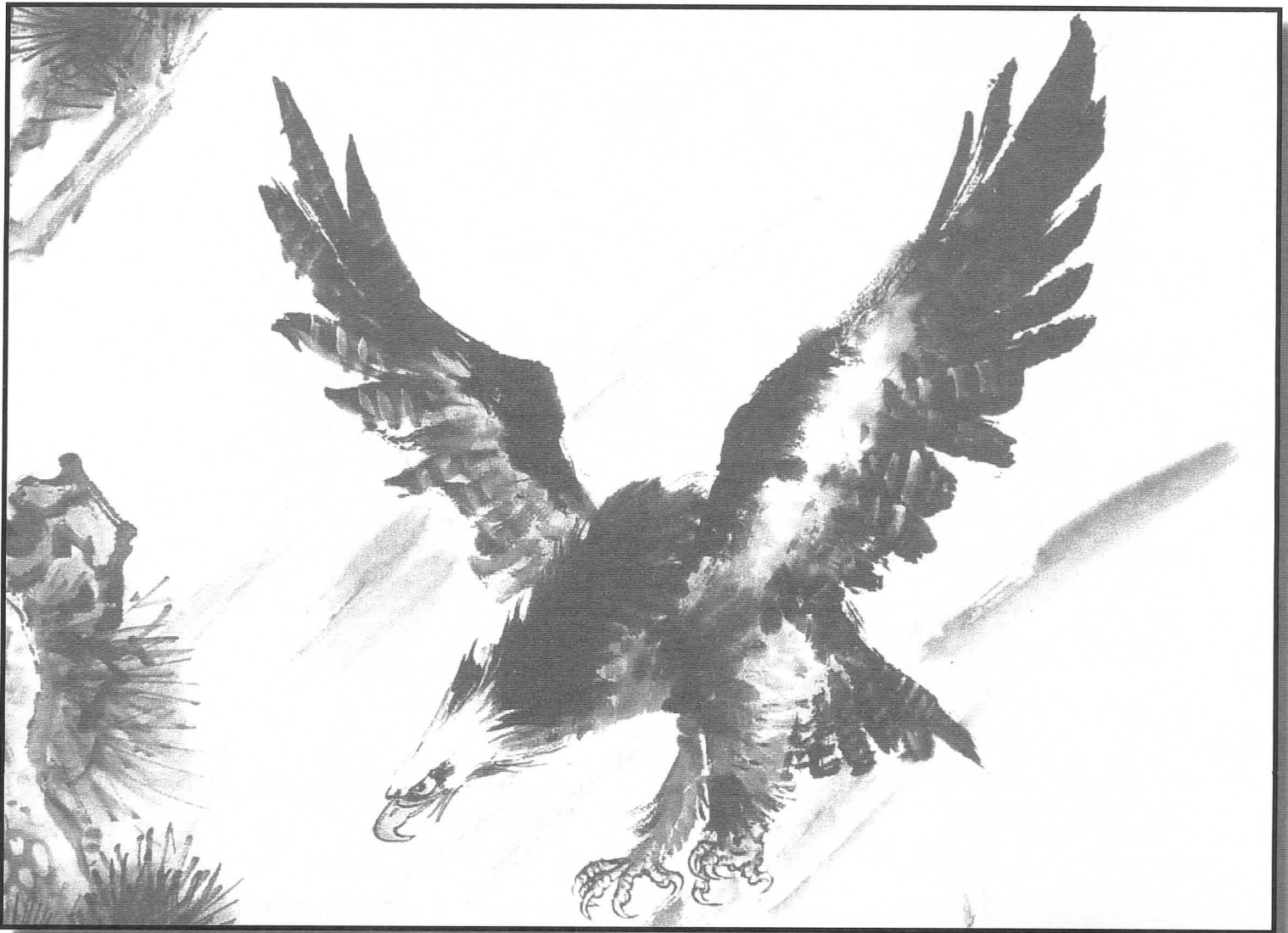
101st Airborne Division

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The ALWAYS FIRST Brigade



SCREAMING EAGLE



MAJ(R) Ivan Worrell, INFO OFF 5/66-5/67, your editor and publisher outside the hospitality room at the 101st Airborne Division Association Snowbird meeting in Orlando, Florida, in early February. Note the heavy jacket worn to ward off the heat.

Many First Brigade veterans have called to ask about future reunions. My only answer must be that I have not been informed of plans by anyone who is contemplating hosting a reunion nor do I know anything about any mechanism being worked on to meld the First Brigade (S) into a future 101st Airborne Division Association Reunion. STAY TUNED!

I attended the Snowbird Reunion in Orlando, Florida, and found sunny Florida to be mostly cloudy, cool and windy. Probably the wrong time of year. Attendance for Snowbird was very good and the Sunshine State Chapter of the 101st Airborne Division Association, with the leadership of Alton E. "Tony" Mabb, Jr., 2/502 E RECON 10/70-8/71, everything was well planned and executed, even though Tony was working with a healing broken leg. A number of members of the Florida Gulf Coast Chapter were also volunteers for meeting functions.

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).



A number of renewals arrived after the deadline and after the lists had been sent to be made up for publication. All those who were late (after March 4th) will be recognized in the July magazine.

Memorial Day will be observed on the last weekend of May. Please check the 101st Airborne Division Association magazine and/or web page for particulars on the observance in Washington hosted by the National Capital Chapter of the association. The chapter always makes this a meaningful tribute to the Screaming Eagles who have soared.

I could use some help with subscribers who have not renewed. Renewals have fallen off in the past year. This trend has not reached a serious state yet, but as most of you know the magazine cannot survive without a good subscriber base. Ask your fellow First Brigade (S) veterans to become subscribers to keep up with what has happened and what is planned for the brigade and to help to keep the magazine viable.

Your contributions of stories and pictures has great importance in making the magazine relevant for more of our subscribers. I thank those who have *and will look for material to submit* and ask those of you who have material of historical value about our Viet Nam service to share.

Because of the possibility of future First Brigade (S) reunions being a part of the 101st Airborne Division Association reunions, I would like to urge all who are not members of the association to join up. Contact information is on page 36. 🐞

Original LRRP

Ivan - found this at www.lcompanyranger.com that I thought you might find interesting.

+ TIM SWAIN, HHC S-2 65

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By Pass "Doc" Meza

A short course on the formation of the LRRPs for 1965. Ron Bourne and I were there, we did not read about it, as proven, the first totally all American LRRP Operational Patrol was run by the members of the 1st Brigade (Separate), 101st Airborne Division. I know that other elements seemed to want to claim this title but the truth of the matter is that Gen. Westmoreland's favorite "Fire Brigade" was the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. He commanded the Division and was very instrumental in the formation of the RECONDO School at Ft. Campbell.

This was his brainchild for the LRRP inception in Vietnam and placed his career in jeopardy by authorizing the formation of the LRRPs concept into action. When the 1st Brigade ran its first missions, Gen Westmoreland was there at Phang Rang to welcome the patrols in and made the statement to that effect. Had the LRRP concept not worked, the Washingtonian Bureaucrats would have had a field day crucifying him!

Additionally, our training came from Project Delta, B-52, 5th Special Forces Group (ABN), who provided cadre for the initial training however when they discovered that most of the "Original LRRPs" were Ex-Special Forces, Ranger Course and RECONDO School (Ft. Campbell) graduates, they acted in an advisor and consultant capacity. B-52 was fielding LRRPs since June of 1965 but they were mixed patrols manned by SF Troops, Nungs/Cambodian and Montagnards. This Team B-52 was commanded by LtCol. Charles "Charging" Beckwith who I had served with in the 7th SF Gp (ABN) back at Ft. Bragg. Our teams were set up to mirror a Split Special Forces A-team and to operate very much in the same manner.

The 1st Air Cavalry came in after the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division as we secured An Khe for them until they assumed responsibility for their TAOR from us. There were many visitors from the 173rd, 1st Air Cavalry, 4th Infantry Division, 25th Infantry Division and 1st Infantry Division to observe the 1st Brigade's LRRPs training and operational techniques at Phang Rang. They were there to observe, learn and to take back to their respective units the knowledge that they obtained from the 1st Brigade's LRRPs. It was not by accident that they were there to observe and to learn but directives from the MACV/USARV HQS from Gen Westmoreland directing them to do it. Why, because the successes of the 1st Brigade

LRRP's was known throughout the country. All of the unit representatives that visited the 1st Brigade LRRPs told this to Lt. Stephenson and to several members of the 1st Brigade LRRPs. The other units had several documented evidence of total LRRP teams being lost or annihilated due to being poorly trained or not having the experienced corps of NCO to lead the teams. I am not trying to discount anyone's participation or services to their country but this can be substantiated through research or even talking to Lt. Stephenson or any surviving members of the 1st Brigade's S-2 Staff or Brigade Command Headquarters.

The truth of the matter is that the other units failed to use experienced and battle tested NCOs to lead their patrols. In some instances, the men selected were the ones that the line units did not want so they got rid of them. The true professionalism of the 1st Brigade's LRRPs can be and is documented by the fact that during our first year of operations, we only lost one man friendly KIA and no other LRRP unit of that time frame can claim that same professionalism. We operated in the same areas that other supposedly LRRP units operated in and we came away unscathed. In doing research for my book, I have a lot of documentation that can back up this claim. For if we were not as successful, why would others come a calling to learn from us. We became the Show Case for the Brigade because of our professionalism, and dedication and we even turned around and supported the 5th SF Gp (ABN) with LRRP Operations at their request. Noticed that I said at their request, they could have asked for anyone



L-R Doc Kraft, Harvey Bieber, Paul Dufresne, ?, Larry Christian (Team Leader). Picture taken in September 1967 at Da Nang while training with Marine Battalion Recon. Photo by Reynel Martinez, LRRP 12/66-6/68, from the LRRP web site [web site sent by Tim Swain at top of story]. Martinez is the author of the book *SIX SILENT MEN*.

but they asked for the 1st Brigade's LRRPs. So this is our testament to the men of the "Original LRRPs" and a claim that I don't make lightly. Not because I am one of them but because the 1st Brigade LRRPs were truly elite and did prove during their tenure. Our young men that followed in our foot steps continued to uphold this fine tradition but as the evolution in missions occurred they were subjected to varying missions that at times they were not equipped to perform thus placing them in Harm's Way more so than they should have been. Even though they performed admirably but they were at times misused by the higher authorities without thought to their well beings.

Again, please don't misunderstand me, I applaud all LRRP/LRP/RANGERS for their services to our country! The abuse and neglect that all of us were subjected to and the hatred encountered upon our return from a disenchanting American Public for the prolonged involvement in Vietnam. History has a way of bringing to light the truth and it shall as to the 1st Brigade's LRRPs were second only to the B-52, Project Delta LRRPs. We were the first totally All-American field maneuver element to do so and that is a fact.

From Carlisle Barracks

(Center of Military History)

The platoon's mission is that of penetrating enemy territory for route, point, and area surveillance. The concept of operation is to employ small reconnaissance teams within the battalion's area of operations or a future area of operation being contemplated by the Brigade. A team is usually employed for a period of five days, but will vary according to the current tactical situation. The platoon was originally organized by 2/Lt Joel S. Stevenson and Platoon Sergeant Philip R. Chassion in August 1965, under the MTOE 57-42F. At this time the personnel were recruited and outfitted with both weapons and material. September 1965 saw a training program initiated and the first team was tactically employed in October, 1965. Since October 1965, the platoon has been employed in all the Brigade's tactical operations. The original LRRP personnel were Lt. Stevenson, PSgt Chassion, SFC Guy Tomlinson, Sgt Donovan Pruitt, Sgt David Skau, and SFC Larry Forrest as Platoon Leader, Platoon Sergeant, and Team Leaders respectively. May 1966 saw 1/Lt Robert Deason assume command until July. On 14 August 1/Lt Robert L. Friedrich OF100676 accepted the command. The platoon sergeants for 1966 were SFC Billy C. Eury, RA24989581, SSG Tommy R. Russell, RA18376513, and MSG Fransisco Acevedo, RA50101448. The platoon's organization consisted of one officer and 34 enlisted men, which was further organized into a platoon headquarters section and four reconnaissance teams. The headquarters section consisted of platoon leader, Platoon Sergeant, Operation Sergeant and assistant, communication chief and assistant, plus a light truck driver. The reconnaissance team's organization consisted of a team leader, two reconnaissance scouts, two scouts with additional communication duties, and two scouts also doubling as the team's medics. The communications system was composed of one each AN/GRC 46 and two each PRC/25 radios in the headquarters sections. Each team was equipped with an AN/PRC-74 and two each AN/PRC-25 radios. These radios gave the platoon internal communications among the teams while one

or all of the teams were employed in the field. Each team was also able to maintain communications with the platoon headquarters. Throughout the year the teams were inserted into their area of operation by either heliborne assault, ground infiltration, or amphibious means. The teams were also qualified and capable of executing an airborne insertion. To increase the effectiveness of this platoon a new concept has been formulated by Captain Friedrich (promoted 17 November 1966), and is planned to become operational the first quarter of 1967. Basically, the teams would be reorganized into a section concept of organization and will have two scouts who will be sniper trained and equipped. These two scouts will be added to present team organization. Two RTO's will also be an addition to each team. Thus, the present six-man teams will become a ten-man section. This section would still be employed under the same tactical concept as the present team. A more significant change will occur in the headquarters section which will consist of the addition of an operation officer, communication repairman, two each of RTO's and one armorer. One RTO would also be assigned the additional duty as the light truck driver. The concept of operation and methods of insertion will remain the same. However, the platoon would increase its capabilities to patrol and recon a larger area and also to engage small enemy forces or targets of opportunity. The new concept will increase the platoon's strength to two officers, and fifty-nine (59) enlisted men. As a result of enemy engagement throughout 1966, the platoon members received one Silver Star, 29 Bronze Stars for Valor, four Army Commendations for Valor, 10 Purple Hearts, and 25 Air Medals. (The awards and decorations section contains the names of the individuals who received the Bronze Stars with "V" and the Silver Star).

Key personnel of the original 1st Brigade LRRPs

- Platoon Leader LT Stephenson
- Platoon Sergeant SFC Chassion
- Team Leaders
- SSG Pruitt
- SSG Skau
- SFC Tomlinson
- SSG Forrest
- Communication Sergeant
- SSG Bourne

Editor's Note: This was sent by Tim Swain, HHC S-2 65. If you know where to contact Pass "Doc" Meza or Ron Bourne please contact me.

LLRP names in data base:

- Ronald L. Bourne
- HHC LRRP 7/65-6/66
- Joel Stephenson
- unit & dates ?
- Reynel Martinez
- LRRP 12/66-6/68

+ PATRICK H. GRAVES JR., 1/327 B 7/65, 200 Clinton Ave. W, Ste 900, Huntsville, AL 35801, (256) 517-5100 sent the following -- Ivan, you may have this. It is COL Timothy's message to those of us on the Eltinge on 7-29-65. I got the original from CPT Pinson, Bde S-1 and later returned it to BG Timothy and a copy to the Pratt Museum.



Col James S. Timothy
Commanding

Troopers of the 1st Brigade Task Force

Welcome to Viet Nam! Speaking for all members of the Advance Party and the Rear Detachment, I can assure you that we are damned glad to see you.

COL Rogers has informed me in terms of high praise concerning your outstanding conduct while aboard the ship. In particular, your cooperation among the various units of the Task Force and with the ship's compliment, your discipline and your high esprit de corps. My congratulations for each of you.

COL Rogers informs that you have become experts in cleaning ladder wells, heads and compartments. I assure you that you will not find these jobs at least where you are going.

Men, you are here as guests of the Vietnamese



government to assist in clearing out the Communist VCs. We're going to assist in this mission and go home. I expect you to treat our Vietnamese allies -- their soldiers, their civilian officials and their civilians with courtesy and respect.

You must respect their property and their livestock just as you do with our fellow Americans at home.

We are moving into a quiet sector. Nonetheless, all means at my disposal have been taken to protect us during the debarkation period and until our artillery and mortars are in position and registered. We have the support of a company of the 1st BN 18th Inf 1st Division and their artillery. We have armed HUIBs, TAC AIR and there's a US destroyer off shore to give us Naval gunfire support.

Men, due to your late arrival and the distances you must move by truck and foot to your assembly areas, I will not risk any troops closing into your assembly areas after dusk. Therefore, only a few troops -- perhaps a battalion -- will debark tonight.

Tomorrow we'll close the Brigade into our assembly areas in a smooth, unhurried and secure fashion.

Welcoming you today are two former commanders of the division -- GEN Westmoreland who is our Commanding General here in Viet Nam and the American Ambassador to Viet Nam, General Maxwell D. Taylor who led the division throughout World War II from the parachute assault into Normandy to the capture of Hitler's redoubt at Berchtesgaden.

Men, I want to express my confidence that you men will carry on the traditions of the World War II troopers of the "Screaming Eagles." I am sure that GEN Taylor, GEN Westmoreland and GEN Powell and the rest of the division at Campbell, along with your families will be proud of the Brigade Task Force in carrying out the mission which lies before us.

Welcome! Good luck, God -- Speed and Happy Hunting!

J. S. Timothy
COL Inf
Commanding

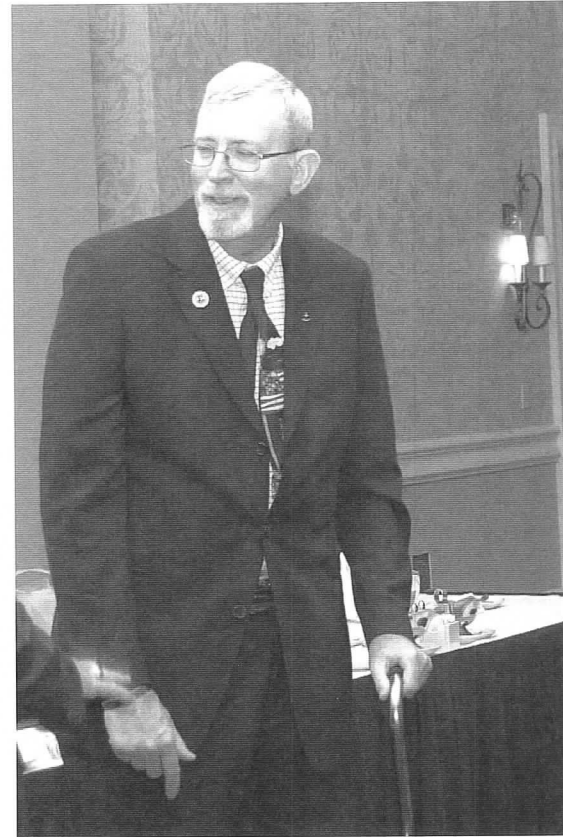


SNOWBIRD REUNION

Hosted by the Sunshine State Chapter
101st Airborne Division Association



Reunion planner Karin Lindsay registers Roger J. Morris, 1/327 C 9/67, at the Snowbird Reunion.



Alton E. "Tony" Mabb, Jr., 2/502 E RECON 10/70-8/71, Snowbird Reunion Chairman.



Both (L to R) CSM(R) Joseph M. Bossi, 2/327 HHC 6/66-7/67, and Petra Wensted-Pulles represent THE SCREAMING EAGLES OF WWII FOUNDATION. The foundation plans Operation Torch trips to the Dutch battlefields to promote better understanding of the 101st Airborne role in freedom for the Dutch. Joe Bossi is a board member and U.S. contact for the foundation, Petra addressed the reunion at the Saturday banquet.



(L to R) Robert C. Hudson, 2/327 C & HHC 6/65-7/66, and Charles E. Payne, 2/327 HHC & BDE HHC 12/65-11/66, assume the position on the skid of a "huey" at the Vietnam War National Museum on Saturday of the 101st Airborne Division Snowbird Reunion. (Photo sent by Bob Hudson).



Lunch outside the Hospitality Room at the Snowbird Reunion.

(L to R) Willie W. Snow, 2/502 HHC 4/66-4/67, and CSM(R) Peter Bacerra, 2/327 HQ 5/66-5/67, before the Saturday banquet.



(L to R) LTC(R) Richard C. Schonberger, 2/327 HHC 7/66-7/67, COL(R) Lawrence A. Redmond, 2/327 A 5/67-2/68, and his wife Mary, at the Saturday banquet.

Between The Rock And a Bouncing Betty!

By Bill Carpenter, Tiger Force HHC 1/327 66-67

It has often been said that combat is sometimes long periods of boredom, followed by moments of sheer terror – such is the following story. The time was February of 1967. We were being commanded by the excellent leadership of then 1st LT Gary Forbes.

As with many of the Tigers' missions, we were operating in the mountains near Phan Thiet. An Air Force spook plane, EW (Electronic Warfare) plane, had caused our mission. While flying over one of the mountains, the plane had picked up NVA radio traffic. The location of the radio traffic had been called into Brigade S-2, who in turn gave the mission, of finding the NVA radio site, to the Tigers.

As usual when we received the OP order, it was early morning and we were in a valley. This meant we had to climb the mountain in search of the radio site. To say the mountain was steep is an understatement. It was heavy bamboo and triple canopy jungle.

We had been re-supplied with ammo, food, etc., the day before. Our rucksacks were weighing around 75 to 100 pounds. It had rained during the night, which made the climb a real bitch. We would go forward a step and slide back three.

I was following my mentor, Steve "Hardrock" Hoult (1/327 HHC TF 9/66-9/67) of Danville, Illinois (now Jacksonville, NC). When someone would come to the Tigers, the team leaders would put the new guy with someone who had more experience, to show the new man the "tricks of the trade."

Steve was humping a PRC-25 radio, which made the climb even harder for him. The mountain was so steep, we were using the bamboo to pull ourselves up the mountain, and also we would take turns pulling the man behind you up the mountain. After a couple of hours, we reached the top. However after reaching the top, there were no NVA, no radio site – nothing. We then were ordered to return to the valley. After much complaining, and many words directed to the Air

Force, that cannot be put into print, we returned to the valley.

It was much easier going down than coming up, but the humid air and 100 degree temperature, were an ass kicker.

After reaching the valley and taking a chow break, we were again ordered to climb the mountain. Again the Air Force had done another fly over and was certain the NVA radio was on the top.

On this trip up we split up into teams, hoping to cover more ground and to find the radio. We then discovered we had the wrong map sheets. We had old French maps, which did not have the coordinates we were looking for. Steve Hoult and myself were with the team commanded by SSG Perry, a fine soldier. Steve always did and still has a great but often sick sense of humor.

SSG Perry started calling for artillery spotter rounds to keep in contact with the other teams. We would hear the rounds go over us but were never able to spot one detonating, due to our wrong maps. I'm not sure how many rounds were fired, but "Hardrock" Hoult's comment to SSG Perry was, "the NVA will think the whole Brigade is coming, keep the spotter rounds coming." By SSG Perry's look, I don't think he was amused.

Once again after much huffing and puffing, we reached the top. The teams split up and started patrolling the entire mountaintop area. The Air Force had been correct; we started finding an NVA Base Camp. "Hardrock" Hoult and myself had found a large supply bunker. It was like going into a supply room at Fort Bragg. There were bamboo shelves with uniforms, packs, hammocks, etc.

Perhaps Steve's thought had not been a joke – the NVA had fled. If they had known, what a small force we were, they probably would have stayed and the Tigers would have had a very bad day. In addition to the supply bunker, there was a mess hall, latrines – everything to support a lot of troops.

While we were searching, Steve received a call on the radio. One of the other teams had located the radio equipment. Our team was ordered to proceed to this area of the base camp to provide security.



Some of the items found were truly amazing. There were three large loud speakers, not hand held types, but large speakers that would be placed on a pole. The type you would see at a football game here in America. Personnel from S-2 were put on a Chinook CH-47 chopper to come and retrieve the booty. Yes, they did not climb the mountain as we had done two times. In addition to the radio equipment we found a full size refrigerator, not the office type, but the type in your kitchen – and to think we were complaining about humping full rucksacks.

After securing all that S-2 wanted, we prepared to leave the camp. We would put air strikes on it when we were a safe distance away, to destroy any future use of the camp to the enemy. After the air strike, we were ordered by Brigade to remain on the mountaintop, as there was a well used enemy trail. We moved several hundred meters away and found a R.O.N. (Remain over Night) site.

One of the teams would conduct an ambush on the trail, while the remainder of Tigers would observe the trail from all directions.

As I stated, Steve “Hardrock” Hoult was humping a PRC-25 radio. We would fall back about 100 meters and off to the side of the trail, we would booby trap the trail with trip grenades and also place a claymore mine should the enemy return and hit us from this direction.

As usual just before dark it had rained very hard and we were wet and cold. Steve had a poncho that he would wrap the radio in to try and keep it dry. We found a spot approximately twenty meters off of the trail that let us observe movement in our direction. We placed the poncho on the ground in an attempt to try and keep a little dry. We wrapped up in our poncho liners to keep warm. One of us would pull guard for two hours, while the other tried to sleep.

When it started to get daylight, we began to get ready for the day’s move with a cup of C-Ration coffee. We then started to pack our rucksacks. While doing so, Steve was complaining about the damn rock that had dug into our backs all night. When Steve would guard I sometimes ended up on the rock also, as the ground was uneven.

Before picking up the poncho Steve said a few choice words and kicked the rock. When he picked up the

poncho the color had drained from his face. He did not move. He calmly told me don’t move. I did not know if the enemy had seen us or perhaps a king cobra, as we had seen several in the area.

I was on extreme alert, trying to figure out the source of his panic. The look in “Hardrock’s” eyes said it all. He whispered to me, “don’t move an inch,” and pointed at the ground. I’m sure I also had the same look of panic, after I observed what Steve was pointing to. What we thought had been a rock, under the poncho was a Bouncing Betty Mine.

The detonating prongs of the mine were clearly sticking out of the ground. For those who may not know what a Bouncing Betty is -- it is a mine that looks like a large tomato juice can. It has two charges, when stepped on, it propels the mine approximately two feet out of the ground. At this point the main charge detonates spewing several hundred ball bearings in a 360-degree pattern.

The proper way to handle a situation like this is very time consuming. You are supposed to get on your knees, take a bayonet and gently probe the ground an inch at a time.

I made a very quick decision. I looked very close at the detonator on the mine and it appeared to be very rusty -- I was thinking left over from the French. I told Steve to stay exactly in my tracks if I made it to the trail. Steve likes to joke to this day, that I set a speed record running for the trail.

After making the trail, we then had to retrieve our own booby traps. I’m still not sure how we controlled our shaking to put the pins back in our own grenades.

Oh well, just another boring day in the Tigers.

In future articles I will include photos of other Tigers. Also I will do a story on myself and “Hardrock” Hoult’s “Return to Bloody Duc Pho in 2000.”

Bill Carpenter, Tiger Force 66-67, Recon, Ambush, Commando Raid, best damn unit in the entire Brigade. “Above the Rest.”

A review of the two-volume book ABOVE THE REST by LTC(R) Billy R. Robbins, 1/327 ABU 11/62-8/66, was scheduled to be printed in this issue of THE FIRST SCREAMING EAGLES IN VIET NAM. Because the reviewer had not finished both books the review will be in the July issue.

Ex-reporter films Vietnam documentary

By A.J. McWhorter

POSTED: 01:30 a.m. HST, Feb 13, 2011

Former KHON reporter Pete Pepper has a gripping new documentary, "Killing Memories," about five Vietnam War veterans who revisit the battlefields they fought on and the men they fought against. The 85-minute film was written, produced and directed by Pepper.

Pepper was born in Santa Cruz, Calif., and at age 17 he joined the Army during the Vietnam War era of the 1960s.

He attended officer candidates school and volunteered for duty in Vietnam, arriving there in August 1966 with the 101st Airborne.

He spent 18 months in Vietnam and eight years in the Army, climbing to the rank of captain. After graduating from the University of Hawaii in 1971 with a bachelor's degree in creative communication, Pepper visited Bob Sevey and Bob Basso, news directors at KGMB and KHON, respectively. Basso suggested he try radio first, and Pepper landed a news job with KCCN, working with Doug Mossman and Krash Kealoha.

"They were both very generous with their time and helped me master Hawaiian pronunciation, among other radio skills," Pepper said.

Although he enjoyed working in radio, Pepper still had his sights set on a job in television. Basso ended up hiring him as a news writer in 1972 for the 6 and 10 p.m. KHON newscasts. The former news director remembers Pepper as "a spit-and-polish professional who took the time to learn his craft and worked assiduously to perfect it. ... (I) never gave him an assignment he didn't complete with creativity and depth. ..."

"He had the rare ability to subjugate his ego and make the story the star. He turned out to be a premier reporter right out of the box," Basso said.

Pepper worked with BJ Sams, Les Keiter, Ray Lovell, Scott Shirai, John Stromquist and Barbara Tanabe as

part of the KHON Eyewitness news team. He covered Honolulu politics, crime and other beats during the Burns-Ariyoshi era.

"Bob Basso was instrumental in getting me into TV, mentoring me in writing for broadcast and also pointing me in the direction of my first job at KCCN. I kept bugging him for a job. He had me rewrite 90 (United Press International wire) stories, and he finally brought me on as a part-time writer and after a couple of months he offered me an on-air job as a reporter," Pepper said.

His many highlights while in Honolulu include interviewing then-presidential candidate Jimmy Carter, the Kukui Plaza scandal, Aloha Stadium construction and the Hokule'a's maiden voyage.

In 1976 Pepper left the islands and ended up working for news stations in Los Angeles and San Diego. Some of his news colleagues include notable broadcasters Pat O'Brien, Brent Musburger and Connie Chung. While in Los Angeles, Pepper served as San Fernando Valley bureau chief for KNXT (now KCBS) as well as the CNN Los Angeles bureau. In 1984 he moved to Northern California to live closer to his son, and worked as an anchorman at KNTV in San Jose.













KILLING MEMORIES

A film about war and making peace.

What is the personal cost of war? Soldiers fight for us, and do not comprehend that their memories will affect them the rest of their lives. And as citizens of a country making them fight, do we really understand that human cost? Can these memories of killing ever be erased?

All these questions and more serve as the backbone of *Killing Memories*, a feature-length documentary that follows five American war veterans who served together in Vietnam 40 years ago as they reunite to tour battlefields, meet former enemies, and confront the ghosts of their past. Though the film is focused on overcoming the wounds of the past, it resonates loudly in the present, as America continues fighting wars and sending her children into battle.

The five men who go about killing memories are:

Rich Luttrell Terry Wren Tom Donhke Benito Garcia Pete Pepper

More info: To learn more about the film or speak with the filmmaker, Pete Pepper, check the website at: killingmemories.net or contact Pete at petepepper@aol.com.

He left the news business in 1988 to form his own company, Pepper Communications, working with educational institutions in the Silicon Valley, eventually selling the business in 1996.

In 2004, when his wife committed suicide with Pepper's gun from Vietnam, his former Army comrades reached out, helping him through this dark period of his life. To help repay them for their loyalty and support, Pepper decided to travel with his men back to Vietnam to help them with their own haunted past.

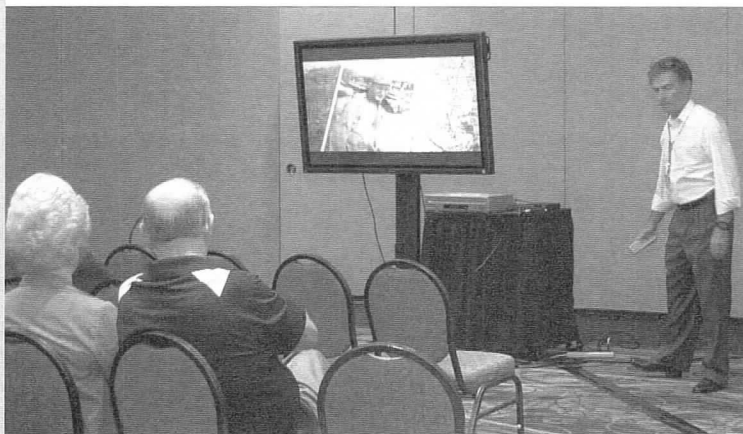
"Killing Memories" is being showcased as part of the Santa Barbara International Film Festival this month and in his hometown of San Luis Obispo as part of the 17th International Film Festival in March.

"I'm most proud of the fact that Vietnam veterans who've seen it say that it has helped them immensely. A few have said that they got more out of watching it than all the (post-traumatic stress disorder) counseling they've gone through over the years. I think the guys who went on the trip with me got a lot out of it, and it made us closer than ever," said Pepper.

He has visited the islands in recent years, including

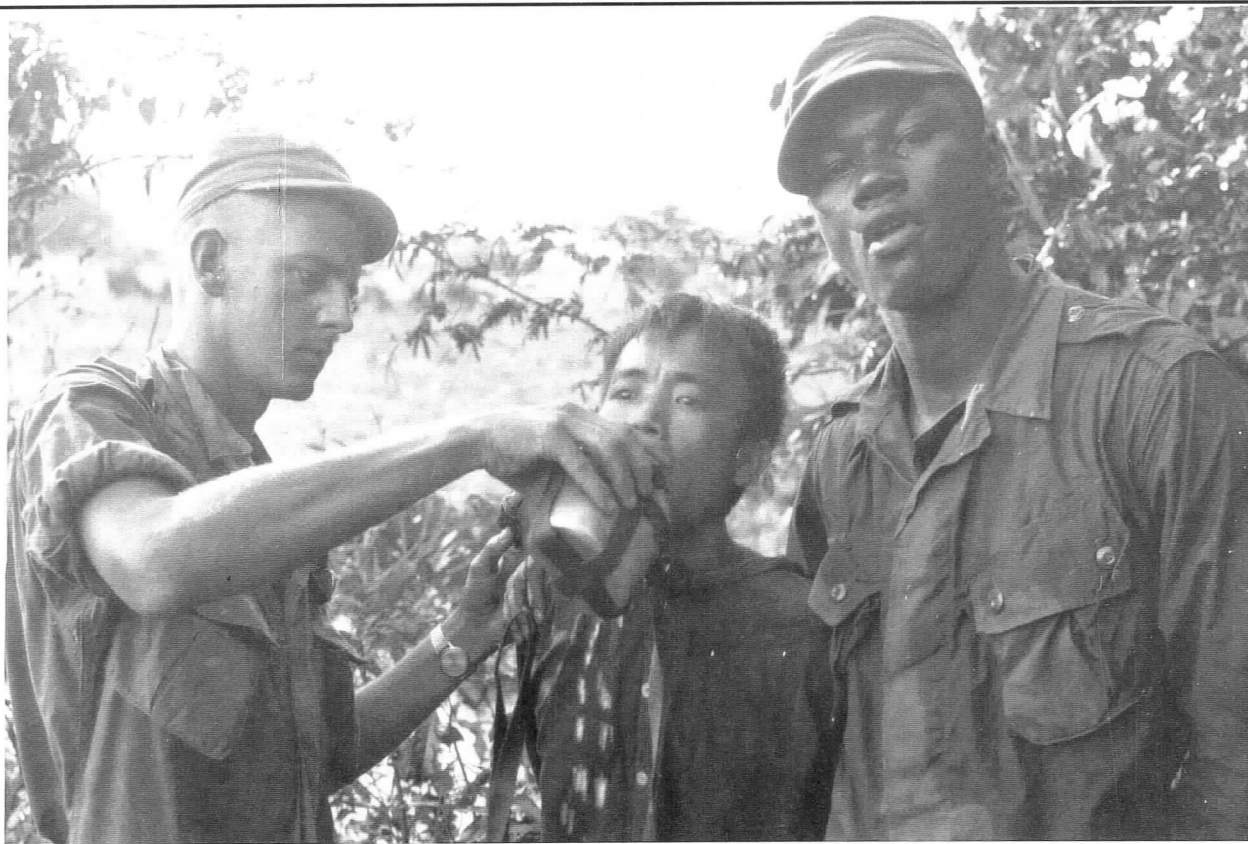
to attend his son's wedding in 2008, and has never forgotten his time spent here. "Hawaii will always have a special place in my heart," Pepper said.

A.J. McWhorter, a collector of film and videotape cataloging Hawaii's TV history, has worked as a producer, writer and researcher for local and national media. His column runs on the second Sunday of each month. E-mail him at flashback@hawaii.rr.com.



Pete Pepper, 2/327 A 8/66-3/68, introduces his movie KILLING MEMORIES at the First Brigade (S) Reunion in Omaha, Nebraska.

CC-33839
Sp4 Clarence
Baker (New Hope,
Ala.), Long Range
Reconnaissance
Team, 1st Brigade,
101st Airborne
Division, gives a
captured Viet Cong
suspect a drink
of water from a
canteen. The Viet
Cong was captured
near Tuy Hoa
during "Operation
Harrison", a search
and destroy mission
against the Viet
Cong.
27 Feb 1966, Photo
by Sp4 C. Robert
C. Lafoon, USA
Special Phot Det,
Pacific



From the CPT(R) Charles "Jim" Apodaca, 2/502 B 5/66-4/67 collection.

VC Leads U.S. Troops to Hospital

CHU LAI, Vietnam (IO) — A discontented Viet Cong surrendered to paratroopers of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne, 18 miles west of here and led them to an NVA hospital complex resulting in the capture of 12 patients.

The insurgent presented a 'Chieu Hoi' pass and told of poor morale and dissatisfaction among enemy troops. Further questioning revealed he was a cook at the hospital. He then led B Co. of the 2nd Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf., to the complex atop a jungle-covered mountain.

Found were an operating room with tables, fresh pools of blood on the dirt floors and piles of new and used bandages. Communist Chinese and Russian medical supplies were found.

The complex consisted of 10 large huts with underground tunnels. Eight of the structures were hospital wards capable of quartering 20 persons each. One served as the operating room, another as the dining hall. Bloodstained sheets lay crumpled on the operating room floor. Blood trails led from the tables to the jungle.

Sgt. Frederick Davenport, Buffalo, N.Y., led a platoon in search of other enemy wounded.

"We were about 60 yards from the hospital when we heard something moving in a bush," Davenport said. "We found six enemy wounded trying to crawl away."

The paratroopers carried the wounded back to one of the

wards where a medic treated and prepared them for evacuation to the 2nd Surgical Hospital here.

The six enemy had been wounded by artillery and Air Force jets in contacts a week earlier.

Subsequent questioning identified one as a supply sergeant from the 1st Bn., 21st NGA Regt. The others were members of the 2nd Bn., 1st Viet Cong Regt., detailed for food production teams for the 2nd NVA Div.

The next day patrols were dispatched again. One NVA gave up to paratroopers and broadcasted-surrender appeals to his comrades.

"Our squad was moving down a well-used trail when a khaki-clad NVA crawled towards us

from the bushes," said Pfc. James Hall, Waco, Tex.

Sgt. Dean Dinh Hoan, an Army of Vietnam interpreter, was sent to the area to question the enemy soldier.

"He will show us where others are hiding," Hoan told Capt. Thomas Mercer, Flushing, Mich., the company commander.

Four more wounded enemy were pulled out of nearby spider holes.

The five enemy — three NVA and two VC — were carried back to the hospital where they were treated.

Next morning another NVA patient walked into the complex, his hands clasped behind his neck.

Pacific Stars & Stripes 7
Thursday, Dec. 21, 1967

Troopers Shun the Obvious

CHU LAI, Vietnam (IO) — The obvious way off the hill was down a cart trail and across a small bridge and a path through high elephant grass.

But paratroopers of the 101st Airborne know that doing the obvious can prove fatal. Lt. Thomas Kinane, Brooklyn, N.Y., told his squad leader to find a safe way down the hill.

Sgt. James W. Taylor, Fort Meyers, Fla., moved out parallel to the trail, and took advantage of the concealment afforded by trees and tall grass.

As the men of C Co., 1st Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf., neared the bottom of the hill, Taylor signaled them to halt. He motioned the platoon leader forward and pointed toward the end of the bridge.

Hiding in matted vines 75-yards away was a North Vietnamese soldier, his attention focused on the trail leading down the hill toward the bridge.

"It's a trail watcher," whispered Taylor. "It could be an ambush."

Kinane looked around and told Taylor to shoot.

The unsuspecting Communist collapsed with the crack of Taylor's rifle. Taylor and Pfc. Bernard McCabe, Springfield, Ill., darted across the bridge and grabbed the fallen enemy's AK 47.

"A second later, I heard the 'click' of a weapon being taken off 'safe'," said McCabe. "I yelled 'hit it' as loud as I could."

A burst of enemy bullets snapped over the two paratroopers as they dived for the protection of a small embankment.

The rest of the paratroopers in Taylor's squad heard the enemy fire and—hearing no fire returned—thought their buddies were dead. The squad members began firing M79 grenades into the enemy's position.

Taylor and McCabe were directly under the enemy weapons.

"Those grenades really came in close," Taylor recalled. "But they kept the enemy pinned down and prevented him from coming over the embankment to get us."

The American grenade attack silenced the Red fire and permitted the rest of the squad to maneuver to their pinned-down friends.

"Boy, that was too close," said McCabe as he retrieved two AK47's from the enemy position above them.

Pacific Stars & Stripes 23
Thursday, Dec. 14, 1967

Army Lauds AF For Smashing Dug-In Bunkers

CHU LAI (OI)—“The 500, 750, and 1,000-pound bombs that they can deliver are definitely taking care of the dug-in bunkers that our troops are facing out there,” said an Army officer recently as he described the role of U.S. Air Force combat aircraft in a critical battle 40 miles from Chu Lai.

Capt. Frank Rauch, 29, Sarasota, Fla., air operations officer for the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Div., was interviewed in the brigade's tactical operations center after elements of the brigade had surrounded a North Vietnamese regiment and a suspected division headquarters.

The captain stated that air strikes had played an important part in encircling the enemy, and noted that Air Force forward air controllers assigned to the brigade were “doing an excellent job of directing the air strikes.”

The Army was making use of everything that is available, including both Air Force and Marine aircraft in the battle, according to Rauch, who became air operations officer four months ago.

The air strikes, the officer commented, are “hitting right on the target.” Each strike, he pointed out, is controlled by the Army via troops in the field.

Pacific Stars & Stripes 7
Monday, Nov. 13, 1967

Unit Traps Reds With AF Help

CHU LAI, Vietnam (OI)—According to the aviation officer of the First Brigade of the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Div., air strike played an important part in the brigade's recent entrapment of a North Vietnamese regiment, 40 miles from Chu Lai.

“The Air Force and their air strikes . . . definitely have been of assistance to us,” said Major James R. Rafferty, 32, from Brooklyn, N.Y., noting that both pre-planned and immediate strikes were being flown against enemy targets at the direction of Army officials.

“Probably a dozen air strikes a day” were being carried out in the critical battle, Rafferty estimated.

“We know it hurt the enemy,” he said. “The big thing that the Air Force does for us is relieve the pressure from a given area where we have contact with the enemy.”

As the brigade's aviation officer, Rafferty coordinates air strikes, artillery barrages, and Army “gunship” helicopter assaults in major engagements with the enemy.

“Spookies (Air Force C47 flare ships) have done a very fine job for us,” he concluded.

Alert GI Saves Recon Team

PHAN RANG, Vietnam (IO) — The trooper lay half asleep. The sudden thud of an object dropping to the ground startled him.

“I've always been a light sleeper anyway,” said Spec. 4 William W. Mroch, LaCrosse, Wis. “But we were expecting contact that night.”

Mroch is a member of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Div.'s Long Range Recon Platoon. His LRRP team had finished a day of recon missions and settled on a hill for the night.

“One of the other units had made contact during the day,” said team leader S.Sgt. Ronald H. Weems, Chicago. “The enemy was supposed to be headed in our direction.”

Mroch crept towards the

sound which had awakened him. Advancing up the hill toward his position were a dozen enemy. He wasted no time in reporting to Weems, who alerted the other members of his team and outlined a plan of action.

Behind the concealment of a sparse woodland, the paratroopers waited until the enemy had come within 25 yards. On a signal from Weems the troopers blew Claymore mines and threw grenades. Four enemy fell. The time was 3 a.m.

“We could hear the bullets passing close to us,” said Wentworth. “I blew my Claymore, threw a grenade and didn't hear anything more from the VC except an occasional moan.”

Sgt. Edward D. Wenglarz, Whiting, Ind., had been sitting

near his rucksack, rifle in hand, when the fighting started.

A Chinese-Communist grenade landed only feet from him. Shrapnel and rocks struck his head.

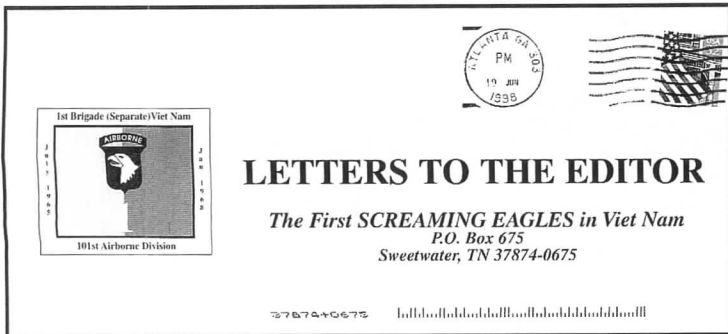
Spec. 4 Ernest S. Jones, Issaquah, Wash., the team medic, heard Wenglarz yell for help. Vaulting from his own position, Jones ran to Wenglarz and treated his wound.

For three more hours the enemy continued their assaults and probing actions against the small paratrooper force.

At dawn the paratroopers repulsed the final attack.

“As dawn broke a fire started by the enemy enveloped the hill,” Weems said. “We left quickly and didn't have time to count the enemy bodies.”

Pacific Stars & Stripes 23
Thursday, Jan. 18, 1968



E-MAIL

Sgt. "Snake" Johnson's Muddy Survival

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Hi Ivan, Just got the magazine and was present when the ABU NCO, unnamed in your reprint of the "Diplomat & Warrior" for 6 March 1966, recounting the return of an overnight MIA after the battle of My Phu, south west of Tuy Hoa. The trooper was SSG "Snake" Johnson. He was wounded and, as noted in the account, played dead while being searched and stripped of his gear. When he was hit, he fell into a wet paddy and drove his M-16 down into the mud and then laid on top of it. The gray and sticky mud was still clinging to Sgt. Johnson's clothes and skin when he limped into the perimeter of C 1/327 using an equally muddy M-16 for a cane. I was in Cold Steel Cobra at this time and we had moved into the area early in the morning of June 5 and took up positions before daylight prior to searching the remains of My Phu. SGT Thurman Riddick of Weapons Platoon (High Angle Hell) hollered out to the muddy vision which rose in front of us that foggy morning: "Snake, is that you." The drying clay smears were turning whiteish on the man's dark skin and he looked like a painted zombie or some other worldly being until he spoke: "They thought they got th' Snake, but they was wrong! I fooled 'em, it'll take more than them to kill the Snake!" We all started to laugh and looked on in amazement and awe. SGT Johnson had been wounded but his "Above the Rest" attitude stood out and provided us with a positive moment during a very dangerous time in a miserable place. Sp/4 Norman Buell, a medic from D 326 Med. Bn, PFC Phillip Clark, PFC James Cocchiara, PFC Richard Corson, PFC Stanley Dembroski, Sp/4 Reuben Garnett, Jr., 1st Lt. Harry Godwin, SSG Woodrow Ham, Sp/4 John Harden, PFC Harvey Jones, PFC Arnell Keyes, PFC Jack Lindsey, Sp/4 Alberto "Butch" Lucero, Sp/4 Diego Mercado, PFC Paul Parsons, Sp/4 James Scott, Sp/4 Roscoe Vick, PFC Charles "Dave" Wadsworth and Sp/4 Mike Young were all Killed in Action on a tough day to be an ABU. I'm sure some old ABUs will recall these guys. My Phu and Apr 4, 1966, along with 7 Feb at My Canh 2, June 19-23 at Troung Loung and Sept 17th and Hill 86, and other episodes I'm sure, were all hard days in the fields of Binh Dinh Province which absorbed a lot of blood in the spring of 1966. Go to Google Earth and type in "Tuy Hoa, Viet Nam" and you will get a great view of the region today. The villages have grown and prospered and there is now a new north-south National Highway that bisects the fields we all humped back and forth over between the sea and the mountains. Hill 51 is still there and I know many 1st Brigade guys spent time there cooling out between stints in the mountains which still rise in the west. The airstrip (Tuy North) no longer exists and the area where we camped has been developed.

Thanks for a great magazine.

Editor's Note: Thank you Dave for your addition and clarification to a story not told completely. I hope to hear from you often.

Beating Up on Col Hackworth (Hack) After His Death

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Ivan - I was in 'Nam 63-64 as an Infantry Advisor and went through 12 weeks of Jungle Warfare School at Fort Bragg and 12 weeks of Vietnamese Language School in California before leaving the States. I joined S-3, 1st Bde in Jul 64 - Jul 66 and helped then MAJ Hackworth in training the Brigade in guerrilla warfare, etc., and even published an English/Vietnamese street language booklet for all the troops. He and I went to 'Nam with the Advance Party, and our war started. The only problem I had with Hack was that if you went with him, he'd get you killed, and he nearly did. Hack was sincere, aggressive, and militarily intelligent. When he got a Battalion, I believe history shows that his Battalion's VC killed ratio was higher than any other Battalion in 'Nam. Sure, he made some tactical mistakes, but every Commander that I knew, or have read about did also, including Gen Westmoreland. My point is that in my opinion Hack was not a wannabe, he was a good military strategist and those (I know them) that keep verbally beating him up, after his death, which tells a lot about themselves, should keep their opinions to themselves. In my opinion, again, those people wouldn't make a pimple on Hack's butt.

GRADY M. JONES, SERGEANT MAJOR

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This Is My 1911

2011 is the 100th anniversary of one of John Moses Browning's most iconic handguns. AmericanRifleman.org (with 71 photos) is kicking off its year-long celebration of the 1911 with the "This Is My 1911" photo gallery to give our readers a place to share the stories of their 1911s. Upload a photo of your 1911 (please follow all firearm safety rules) and tell us why this is your 1911.



My \$35 Model 1911

In the early 1950's, as a teenager, I saw an ad in **The American Rifleman** for new war surplus Model 1911s selling for \$35. I purchased one. Mine is a Remington Rand model to which I added ivory grips (think General Patton). *Prior to going to Vietnam* with the 1st Brigade (Separate), 101st Airborne Division in July 1965, I qualified Expert with my 1911. In Vietnam, I used green tape to cover the grips so that my pistol would not stand out, and possibly even be considered a "trophy" by some VC. Now my 1911 continues to serve as my favorite family personal defense weapon. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to tell our story about this fine pistol.

Editor's Note: The material above was copied from the Internet. We thank Tim Swain, HHC S-2 65, for identifying the web site for us.

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

+ LTC(R) CARLOS J. MELENDEZ, HHC 66-67, 7034 Golf Pointe Circle, Tamarac, FL 33321, work (954) 267-2454, home (954) 726-2333 when renewing his subscription wrote:

Hello Ivan, Thanks for your efforts in keeping the spirit of our Brigade alive over the years!

Hope you're having a good holiday season. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Carlos
Airborne!

+ MAJ(R) BURRWOOD YOST, 2/502 C LRRP 12/65-7/67, 1012A Natures Walk Dr., Fernandina Bch, FL 32034, (904) 321-2475 wrote:

Noticed that my subscription is about to expire. Enclosed is a check for renewal. Hope all goes well. Take care and keep up the great work.

+ COL(R) MARVIN ROSENSTEIN, 2/327 HHC 5/66-7/67, 2104 Chinaberry Cr, Harker Heights, TX 76548, work (254) 289-7276 home (254) 698-6675 along with his subscription renewal wrote:

Thanks for all you're doing for the "Nomads of Viet Nam" legacy. May you and yours have a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

+ VICTOR A. THOMPSON, 2/502 A 2/67-8/67, 2404 N.W. Osage Circle, Riverside, MO 64150, (816) 804-1277 sent the following: Below is a list of names of members of 3rd Platoon, Co. A, 2/502 as shown in a photo sent by Bill Miller to the DIPLOMAT and WARRIOR and published in Vol 2, #2 of April 1999. This photo was taken in Phan Rang the early part of 1967. Terry Frazier who is also in this picture supplied the names.



Front row left to right: Joe Williams, Sgt Brenner, Floyd, Borst, Lt Petram, Sgt Adams, Sgt Williams, Bill Miller, Mark Newman, Haney. Second row: Wilson, Schroeder, Soper, Fry, Cravatta, Guerero, Mckee, Blackerby, Terry Frazier, Automatic Rhoton, Sgt Bowie, Clarke. Last row: Sgt Hagen, C.S. Moore, Dave Parrack, Dutch, Tex. Lawson, Doc Sneed, Vic Thompson, McCarthy, Stewart, Milan.

I hope this information helps fill in some of the empty spaces.

Vic Thompson
A 2/502 3rd Platoon

+ DONALD R. LENC, 2/320 FA HHB 6/67-6/68, 5240 Windfall Rd., Medina, OH 44256-8750, work (216) 276-0977, home (330) 722-1879 wrote:

Sign me up for another year. Had a great time in Omaha and look forward to the next one wherever it may be. If I make the Division Reunion in August – you got my vote. Keep up the good work and thanks to everyone who made the Omaha reunion another great one.

Editor's Note: The "you got my vote" above refers to the fact that I am now campaigning to become the next President of the 101st Airborne Division Association. The election will be in August at the Association Reunion in Lexington, Kentucky.

+ LT GEN(R) D.E. ROSENBLUM, 2/327 HQ CO 6/66-6/67, 32 E. Bull St., Savannah, GA 31401-3337, work (912) 233-6717, home (912) 658-6718 along with his subscription renewal wrote:

Great issue. Really sorry I couldn't make the reunion. Looking forward to the news about the Brigade.

Best to you and since I'm a member of the Division Association, I'll vote for you.

Rosie



+ = Current Subscriber



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1st Brigade (S) CHALLENGE COIN

This challenge coin is a beautiful example of taking a great design and having skilled artists produce a coin that any unit would be proud of. Designed by Roger M. John [1/327 C 7/67-12/68] for the 9th Biennial 1st Brigade (S) Reunion in Phoenix, Arizona in September of 2004, it is appropriate for any use or time because it is not identified with that reunion.



[Actual 1 1/2 inch size]

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.

VIETNAM ODYSSEY, The First Year is available for ALWAYS FIRST BRIGADE veterans.

The story of the first year of action of the 1st Brigade in Vietnam is filled with photos of brigade activities written accounts of all operations, drawings by brigade artists, statistics and other interesting personal and unit material.

The book was edited by 1LT Charles J. Apodaca. The writing and layout was done by SGT Robert F. Barry with sketches and art by SGT Robert Finney and PFC Raymond Brown. Photographs were by SGT Bernardo Mangaboyat, SP4 Richard Houghton, SP4 Oddvar Breiland and SGT Jack Baird. PFC Robert B. Gray furnished special mechanical assistance. Frank Faulkner and Steven Van Meter, who served with the brigade for the first six months

in Viet Nam, provided many of the photographs.

VIETNAM ODYSSEY is a 108 page 8.5 by 11 inch format, soft cover, with four pages of color photos. The layout is excellent, the photos, sketch art and text were produced by members of the 1st Brigade who were part of the history that is recorded. The manuscript was completed in Viet Nam and sent to the 101st Airborne Division Association for publication.

This third printing of VIETNAM ODYSSEY is now in short supply and will probably never be printed, in quantity, again.

If you wish to obtain a copy of VIETNAM ODYSSEY, postpaid, send a check for \$15.00 to: The First Screaming Eagles in Viet Nam, P.O. Box 675, Sweetwater, TN 37874.

First Brigade veterans, in the magazine data base, who are mentioned in the February 20, 1967 issue of **The Diplomat and Warrior** that is printed in the centerfold.

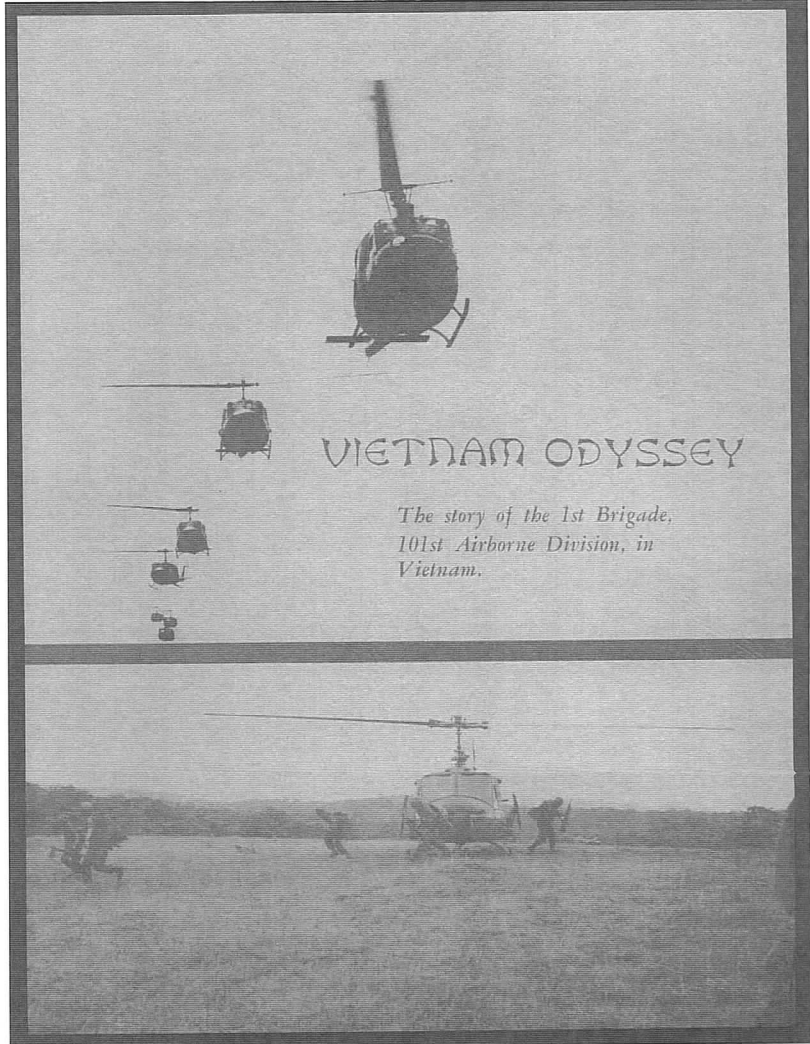
Page one "Troopers-Choppers Foil VC Ambush"
Dale N. Wagner, 2/17 CAV A TRP 5/66-6/67

Page three "Strike Force Co. A Finds 24 Hooches – 57 Tons Rice"
Rondal W. Dockery, 2/502 A 3/66-8/67

Editor's Note: I wrote the Diplomat and Warrior story on page three and seem to have spelled Rondal W. Dockery's name incorrectly.



This four (4) inch diameter round decal is manufactured so that it may be used both inside and outside. The patch is full color. Price is \$2.50 each postpaid.



Horror Camp Liberated By 502d

Story P. 3

Troopers-Choppers Foil VC Ambush

By Capt. John Hensley

PHAN RANG—Paratroopers of the Brigade and pilots from the 10th Aviation Battalion teamed up on Highway 1 south of Phan Rang recently to break up an ambush of the Brigade's Cavalry Troop by the Viet Cong.

Troop A, 17th Cavalry, commanded by Captain Dale Wagner, was on a road clearing operation south of the 1st Brigade base camp when they were ambushed by an enemy force using mines, mortars, and automatic weapons. The troop immediately put their machine guns and 106 recoilless rifles into action while the "Eagle Flight," a platoon of the cavalry troop overhead, began searching for the mortar positions.

A twenty year old veteran of six months in Viet Nam, PFC Terry Schoning was one of the 106 vehicle commanders. Says Schoning, "We were supporting the vehicles ahead and I was so busy loading and firing the weapon that I didn't know we were being fired on until one of the guys yelled at me. Right behind us bullets were biting all over the place."

Schoning adds, "We couldn't go forward because one of the jeeps was hit. The road was narrow and the terrain was too bad to go around." The young PFC also fired twenty magazines of M-16 ammunition at the Viet Cong along with the 106 rounds.

Captain Charles S. Simerly was the "Eagle Flight" leader

overhead with two choppers loaded with troops and two gunships. "We all flew over the ambush site," says Cpt. Simerly. "The gunships fired and then the troops leaned out the door firing. My crew chief then spotted the mortar positions on a hillside and we went after them. We flew over the gun positions firing right down into them until the gunships, the door-guns, and the troops were all out of ammo."

On the ground Cpt. Wagner had led his troop out of the "kill zone" and regrouped them. When he found that a wounded man was not accounted for he led part of the troop back in while the remainder covered his charge. He spotted two Viet Cong and yelled at his men to duck while he killed both with his M-16.

The wounded man was recovered and the remaining Viet Cong quickly left the area. Says Cpt. Simerly, of Cpt. Wagner's actions, "What that guy did really took some guts."

But that's all part of the war for 101st paratroopers and the pilots of the 10th Aviation Battalion that fly them — a lot of guts.

The First Brigade
DIPLOMAT AND WARRIOR
 Published Weekly For The 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division
 VOL. I, No. 38 VIETNAM FEB. 20, 1967



Horror camp victims await helicopters. Scout dog added in finding camp. (Photo by 101st IO)

Cav. Machine Gunner Gets Hot Hands—Gives VC Bad Time

By Cpt. John Hensley

PHAN RANG — Being a machine gunner in "A" Troop, 17th Cavalry, one of the combat units of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, can cause a person to get his hands burned—ask PFC Alan P. Pini.

During an enemy ambush south of Phan Rang on Highway 1, Pini was returning fire with his M-60 machine gun toward the Viet Cong positions. After firing over 2,000 rounds he noticed the barrel of his weapon was so hot it was starting to melt. In order to continue the firing with only the slightest pause, he grabbed the red-hot barrel bare-handed and took it off. He snapped in a new barrel and immediately continued firing until the whole weapon became too hot to hold any longer.

It was then he noticed a wounded man lying in the open behind him. He dashed from his cover into the enemy fire and pulled the wounded man

to where a medic was treating another trooper.

Pini then ran back to the radio on his jeep to call for a medical evacuation helicopter. He then saw that his squad leader had been wounded and immediately administered first aid to him and pulled him to safety.

When the fierce fire fight had subdued, Pini was once again at his machine gun ready for "Charlie." The same hand that he had so severely burned was also hit by shrapnel on the other side.

Pini may have gotten his hand burned, but because of his actions and others like him, the enemy gets burned everday.



PHAN THIEU—A 60 millimeter mortar crew from the "C" Company, 2nd Battalion, 502nd (Airborne) Infantry gets set to fire a round on Operation Galing II near Phan Thiet. (U.S. Army, Photo by SP/4 Johnny Jackson)

EDITORIAL

Unshakable Devotion

Abraham Lincoln was a very unlikely choice to become President of the United States, particularly at a time when the Nation was torn with civil strife.

For, with the exception of a single term in Congress, he assumed the duties of President an untried public figure.

His lack of family position, affluence and formal education caused ambassadors and influential people to ridicule his awkward, homely ways. Even the leaders of his own party felt he was unequal to the task that lay before him.

Yet Lincoln amazed them all.



"With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right..." ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Firmly grasping the reins of government, he took unprecedented steps to fulfill his oath of office to "preserve, protect, and defend the government."

His dedication to a course of action that would accomplish that end could not be swayed. His integrity could not be shaken; his sense of justice could not be corrupted; his compassion and mercy were steadfast.

His fondest hope was for the terrible conflict to come to an end and the Nation to be reunited.

In a time of crises that had no precedent in our history Lincoln stood firm in the face of almost insurmountable odds to guide the Nation to peace.

This man of humble birth, proved to be one of our greatest Presidents. (AFNB)

Chieu Hoi Program Takes Giant Step Up

SAIGON (MACV)—The Chieu Hoi program was a notable success in 1966, a year of many successes in the war against the Viet Cong. More than 20,000 VC or VC sympathizers returned to the Government of Vietnam during the year.

That is nearly twice the number that came in during 1965.

The total number of VC to join the Vietnamese government since the Chieu Hoi program began in 1965 has risen to more than 47,000.

Some of the most significant results of the program are not reflected in statistics. For instance, Chieu Hoi officials consider the surrender of North Vietnamese Lt. Col. Le Xuan Chuyen the outstanding single result of the 1966 program.

Colonel Chuyen, a veteran of 20 years' service to the communists, had taken part in 50 major battles, received 35 citations and was deputy chief of staff of the VC 5th Division when he

voluntarily came over to the government of Vietnam.

"The intelligence value alone has already saved many lives," one official said of Colonel Chuyen's return.

Some of the largest returnee movements result directly from military operations. During the coordinated Operations IRVING, MAENG HO 6 and DAI BANG 800 in Binh Dinh Province last fall, about 1,600 VC rallied to the government.

Operations in nearby Phu Yen Province soon afterward brought in another 500. This January's Operation CEDAR FALLS in the Iron Triangle also brought a large number of returnees (figures are not yet complete).

Rear Guard Pays Off

By PFC Dan Stroebel

PHAN RANG — An alert Brigade paratrooper, Private First Class Rodney J. Evans, Company C, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry, scored one on "Charlie" recently during Operation Farragut near the brigade's base camp.

While on a search and destroy mission Evans' platoon had stopped on a trail and a squad sized patrol had been sent out on a reconnaissance mission. Acting as rear security for the platoon, Evans was observing in the direction which the patrol had gone. When the paratrooper heard movement on the trail, he assumed it was the patrol but decided to move forward from his position to make certain. It was a move that proved worthwhile as he saw it was not the patrol but three Viet Cong coming down the trail. Firing from a crouch Evans saw one VC go down and another falter as they turned to flee. Evans moved forward carefully to check the body and found the VC dead.

Search of the body revealed several documents including a detailed sketch of the military installation in the Phan Rang area.



ITALIAN STYLE—Film star Martha Hyer enjoys one of the many fine beaches in southern Italy during the filming of her latest picture there.

President Seeks GI Bill For Vietnam Conflict Vets

President Johnson has proposed to Congress "The Vietnam Conflict Servicemen and Veterans Act of 1967," which would increase educational allowances, pensions and government insurance.

The President said that members of the Armed Forces are fighting today and "it is essential that we convey to them—and to all Americans—our full recognition and gratitude for their service in Vietnam and in other troubled areas of the world."

The President made the following proposals:

— That single Vietnam veterans receive a \$130 monthly subsistence allowance when using education benefits instead of the current \$100. That married veterans continue to receive \$150 with 10 monthly added for the second child and each additional child.

— Provision that any education time used to complete high school would not be charged against college eligibility earned, as is the case now.

— A 5.4 percent increase in the pensions of 1.4 million veterans, widows and dependents, effective July 1.

— An increase in the current \$10,000 government life insurance maximum to a minimum \$12,000, "with higher amounts scaled to the pay of the serviceman—up to a maximum of \$30,000."

— Full wartime disability rates, including a \$1,600 automobile grant to veterans with special disabilities.

The Fighting 101

By 1/Lt Ronald Dameron
Capt. Stephen Jackson

I know a group of fighting men,
they're part of the 101.

Known to all as Screaming Eagles,
and they carry a long black gun.

Screaming Eagles Airborne Soldiers,
from the fighting 101

They've travelled here they've travelled there,
they fight both nite and day.

They're called the Diplomats and Warriors,
don't get in their way.

Screaming Eagles Airborne Soldiers,
from the fighting 101.

Their mottos read

"Above the Rest,
Strike Force, Second to None,
Willing and Able, Always first,
Can do!" That's the 101.

Screaming Eagles Airborne Soldiers,
from the fighting 101.

DIPLOMAT and WARRIOR

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- CG Brig. Gen. S.H. Matheson
- IO Maj. Ivan G. Worrell
- OIC 1st Lt. Arthur Barnett
- EDITOR Sgt. Bob Barry

16 Prisoners Freed From Medieval Stocks

VC Camp Commander Killed In Fire Fight

By Maj. I. G. Worrell

PHAN THIET— The Viet Cong have lost another of their horror camps. Sixteen former Viet Cong prisoner-slaves are now free to return to their homes and families thanks to paratroopers of the Brigade.

The "Screaming Eagles" discovered the camp in the mountains north of Phan Thiet. While moving to a landing zone for extraction from the area they had been operating in, Company "B," of the 2nd Battalion, 502nd (Airborne) Infantry, heard laughing near the trail they were traveling.

The squad that went to investigate was fired on as they neared the area (where they later found over 15 buildings). In the fire fight that ensued, the Viet Cong lieutenant, who was camp commander, and one of his guards were killed.

Twelve of the 75 prisoners being held were found in the camp. These had been locked in medieval stocks, with their legs and necks tight in the primitive devices that were carved from logs. One was so emaciated, he could not walk and another was shot in the toe. Both were pulled through the jungle canopy

by a medical evacuation (Medevac) helicopter and taken to the 101st forward command post for treatment. The rest walked to a landing zone that had been the paratroopers original destination.

Before they reached the landing zone, four more former prisoners had found their way to the paratroopers.

After being flown to the command post of the 1st Brigade and being treated by the paratrooper doctors and medics, the Vietnamese, who were now free after from four months to two years as prisoners and slaves of the Viet Cong, were taken to the Province Hospital at Phan Thiet for further treatment and observation.

A short stroll to an LZ turned out to be the most important walk ever taken by the "Screaming Eagles" for sixteen Vietnamese citizens, some of them former soldiers.



Former prisoners of the Viet Cong wait on the landing zone to be lifted to freedom after being liberated. (US Army Photo by 101-10)



A doctor and medics of the Brigade treat a Vietnamese prisoner held in medieval stocks. (US Army Photo by 1/1LT Arthur D. Barnett)



The prison camp from which the prisoners were freed was found in the dense jungle covered mountains north of Phan Thiet. (US Army Photo by 101-10)

Strike Force Co. A Finds 24 Hooches—157 Tons Rice

PHAN THIET, VIET NAM— A squad of paratroopers from the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division was responsible for capturing 157 tons of Viet Cong rice hidden in the jungle covered mountains north of Phan Thiet.

The Third Squad, Weapons Platoon, Company "A", 2nd Battalion, 502nd (Airborne)— Infantry was searching a forest covered hill when the point man found a storage house, on stilts, about eight feet wide, ten feet long and five feet high, full of rice. The hut appeared to be the only one in the area. After reporting the find, Sergeant Rondal W. Dockey had his squad continue the search up the mountain.

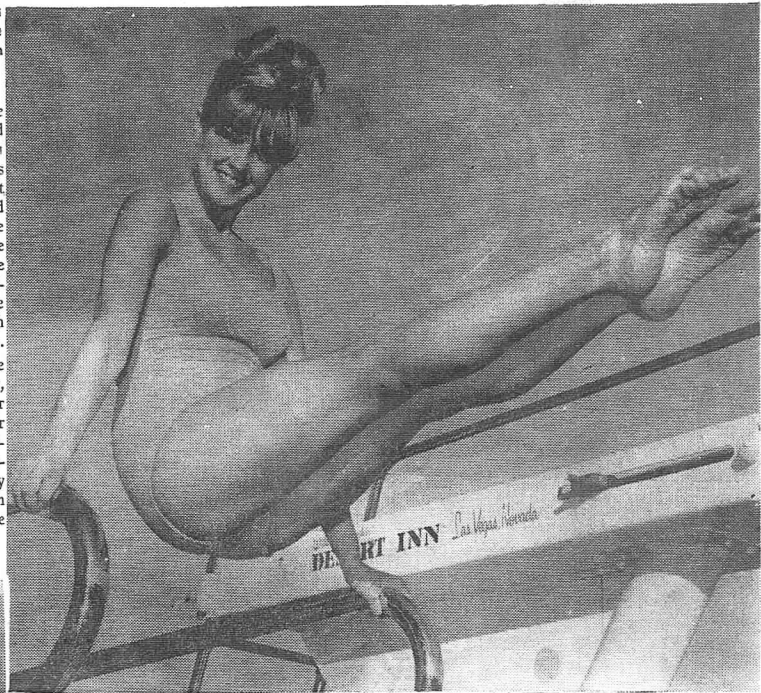
Private First Class Thomas C. Putnam the point man, said the first hut looked like a decoy but a thorough search revealed 24 storehouses which were estimated to contain 157 tons of rice, plus stores of salt, tobacco, potatoes and many jugs of

rice wine.

When the report of the capture of the rice reached the tactical command post Captain James T. Collins contacted local government authorities at Bao Loc and arranged for Popular Force soldiers to be flown to the site the next day to evacuate rice to be used in the highland province that must be supplied by shipments from other parts of the country.

Captain Collins, from the 41st Civil Affairs Company, accompanied the Popular Force soldiers and their advisor to the area and coordinated the extraction operation which freed Company "A" to move on through the area in search of the Viet Cong.

READY—EXERCISE



PHAN THIET— Part of a 157 ton Viet Cong rice cache, captured by paratroopers is put into sacks by Popular Force soldiers assisted by Chaplain (Major) Francis Kovacic. The storehouse shown is one of 24 found by a squad from the 2nd Battalion, 502nd (Airborne) Infantry.

(US) Army Photo 101-10)

Want To Fly

ARMY WARRANT OFFICER Flight Training will be open to high school graduates. Headquarters, Continental Army Command, Ft. Monroe, Va. has announced. All qualified men will receive orientation describing prerequisites and advantages for aviation warrant officers.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Answer to Previous Puzzle

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1-Neckpieces | 1-Acid |
| 5-High cards | 2-Bone |
| 9-Head | 3-Indonesian tribesman |
| 11-Begins | 4-Places |
| 13-Latin conjunction | 5-The sweetsop |
| 14-Studio | 6-Vehicle |
| 16-Exclamation | 7-Teutonic deity |
| 17-Unit of Siamese currency | 8-Declared |
| 19-Sows | 9-Shakespearean king |
| 20-Music: as written | 10-Wants |
| 21-Harvest | 11-Move sidewise |
| 23-Pigeon pea | 12-Edible fish |
| 24-Imitated | 15-Meadow |
| 25-Vexes | 18-Clothesmakers |
| 27-Was mistaken | 20-Racer |
| 29-Sign of zodiac | 22-Beg |
| 30-Exist | 24-Tapestry |
| 31-Grants use of | 26-Last age |
| 33-Window curtain | 28-Cheer |
| 35-Fat of swine | 31-Second of two |
| 36-Man's nickname | 32-Glisten |
| 38-Having its own nature | 33-Rain and hail |
| 40-Possessive pronoun | 34-Omits in pronunciation |
| 41-Leased | 35-Roster |
| 43-Inlet | |
| 44-Saint (abbr.) | |
| 45-Lamp | |
| 47-Roman gods | |
| 48-Cylindrical | |
| 50-Seesaw | |
| 52-Soaks | |
| 53-Spider's traps | |



Would You Believe



TAX FREE \$\$\$

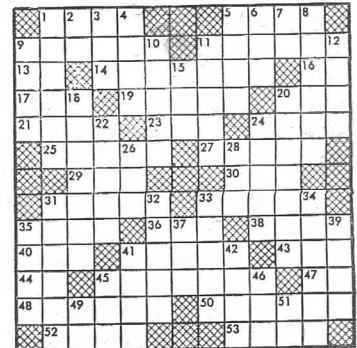
SAIGON (MACV)—All pay and allowances earned by enlisted men and warrant officers while serving in the combat zone (Vietnam and adjacent waters extending roughly 100 miles to sea) are excluded from Federal taxation; that is, they are non-taxable.

The exclusion includes not only base pay, but other kinds of normally taxable pays and allowances.

The W-2 form for enlisted personnel and warrant officers should show as taxable income only that pay received prior to arrival in Vietnam.

Officers are granted a \$500 per month exclusion on taxable income while serving in the combat zone. The following types of pay are taxable: base pay, hostile fire pay, and special pays such as flight pay, hazardous duty pay, and special pay received by physicians and dentists.

An officer's W-2 form shows the amount of pay which is taxable. However, if he wishes to check this, and it is always wise, he should compute his total taxable pay and then exclude \$500 for each month in a combat zone. Income tax is owed on the balance.



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MEET IN VIETNAM — Two Victoria cousins, Spec. 4.C. Robert Resendez, (left) with the 101st Airborne, and Pfc. Manuel Resendez, with the Army artillery, met recently in Vietnam — the first time they had seen each other since leaving Victoria. Both are expected home this weekend. Manuel is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas R. Resendez of 1006 E. Park St. Robert is the husband of Mrs. Mary Resendez of 2610 E. Port St. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Apolonio Resendez, reside in Houston.

101st Gets Rifle Group

PHAN RANG, (101st ABN-IO)— A reinforced rifle company has been added to the 101st Airborne Division at the base camp here. Company E Provisional was added to the Support Battalion and the Replacement Detachment was reorganized.

“Probably the biggest advantage to this reorganization,” said Brig. Gen. Willard Pearson, commander of the 101st, “is cutting down on the number of personnel in the rear detachments, thereby giving us the equivalent of an additional reinforced rifle company in the foxholes to fight the enemy.”

The Replacement Company will now handle all personnel movements, including leave and R and R.

Paratrooper Scholarship

TUY HOA, Vietnam (IO)—A scholarship established at the University of Southern California by the parents of a late paratrooper will make it possible for veterans of the 101st Airborne Div. to seek an education in international relations.

The Michael R. Young Memorial Scholarship, in memory of the fallen “Screaming Eagle,” is a \$1,500 annual tuition grant and will be made available in September, 1967.

In a letter to Brig. Gen. Willard Pearson, commanding general of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Div., Young’s parents said they established the fund “as a memorial to Michael’s love of his comrades in arms and for his unit.”

The 24-year-old native of Newport Beach, Cal., was killed while on a combat operation last March with B Co., 1st Bn., 327th Inf.

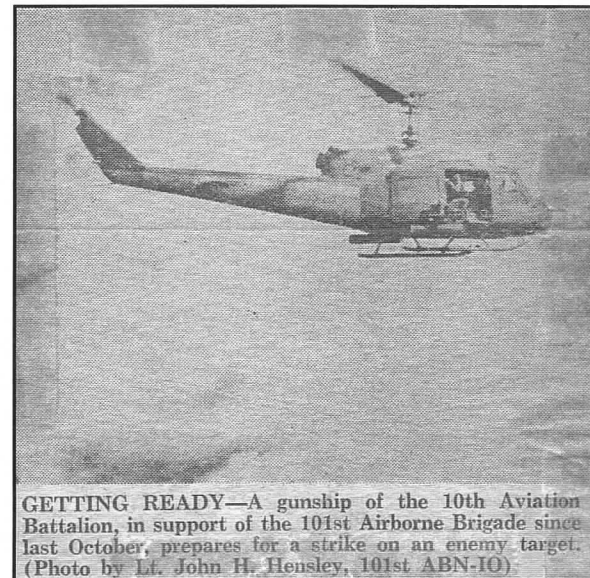
Applicants must meet the requirements for college entrance, plus the added stipulation that they study in the field of international relations. The four-year scholarship can be used for either graduate or undergraduate work.

Any person interested in the scholarship should write to the director of student aid at the university.



Copter Plays Cowboy

A roundup helicopter style is accomplished by a UH-1D Huey with a prize cow slung beneath. Over forty Viet Cong cattle and several horses captured by paratroopers of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Div. were loaded in this manner and sent to local Montagnard villages north of Tuy Hoa on Operation John Paul Jones. (USA Photo by SP4 Richard Lloyd)



GETTING READY—A gunship of the 10th Aviation Battalion, in support of the 101st Airborne Brigade since last October, prepares for a strike on an enemy target. (Photo by Lt. John H. Hensley, 101st ABN-IO)

101st Abn. Recondo Has Luck With Him

TUY HOA, (101st ABN-IO)— War has many stories. Some are common, some unusual. Some defy explanation, and such is PFC Billy Ware's story.

The 101st Airborne Division paratrooper was on operations with his unit, the Recondo Platoon, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry when, on one occasion, he and five others were detailed to make a water run to a nearby stream.

Instead of traveling together, they fanned out and would meet at the stream. Ware was not far along his trail when he rounded a bend and met a North Vietnamese Regular face to face.

"Charlie was just standing there, ready to fire from the hip with his AK-47," Ware said. "I stopped and we just stood there looking at each other, no more than ten meters apart. I could see his eyes blink a couple of times."

"We just stood there looking at each other for I don't know how long. It could of been five or ten seconds. It was like neither of us knew what to do. I know all kinds of things ran through my mind."

Ware reacted first. He dropped to the ground, clicking off the safety on the M79 grenade launcher he was carrying, and shot. The enemy fell, his body

ripped by the shotgun shell that is also fired by the M79.

Ware's fellow Recondos were by his side in seconds, finding him still on the ground staring at the body.

"I just felt weak afterwards," he said. "I kept asking myself . . . how come he didn't shoot . . . ?"

Gen. Matheson Leads 'Eagles'

PHAN RANG, Vietnam (UPI) — Brig. Gen. Salve H. Matheson assumed command of America's "Screaming Eagles" at their Phan Rang base camp, 140 miles northeast of Saigon.

Matheson, 46, replaced Brig. Gen. Willard Pearson, of Clairton, Pa.

The 1st brigade of the 101st Airborne has established an outstanding record in Vietnam. The unit has fought in 17 operations, accounting for 4,800 communist dead.



101ST AIRBORNE TROOPERS LAND IN RICE PADDY—Members of the 327th Infantry, 101st Airborne Division, race for cover after being landed in a flooded rice paddy during Operation Geronimo I. The action occurred near Tuy Hoa. (Photo by Sp4 Jerome N. McCavitt, 69th SIG BN)



CANDY DAY—South Vietnamese entertainers and local wives pass out candy to members of the 2nd Bn., 502nd Inf. "Recondo" force as the ladies toured the 1st Bde., 101st Abn. Div. on International Assistance Day. (Photo by Sp4 Robert Lloyd, 101st ABN-IO)

Thanks To The Americans

TUY HOA, (101st ABN-IO) — Twenty-two local Vietnamese officials stood in front of the formation of American paratroopers to present them with tokens of appreciation for "bravely fighting and driving the communists from our hamlets."

The officials were from the villages of the vast Tuy Hoa rice bowl and the paratroopers were the 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry.

As their token of "thanks" on International Assistance Day the

proud villagers presented Battalion Executive Officer, Maj. John Gilboux with local items including coconuts, candy, and paintings.

In a letter of gratitude read before the troopers the people of Phu Yen province stated "We sincerely extend to the officers

and enlisted men of the allied armies our deepest gratitude and admiration and we pledge to stand beside and combine with the allied armies to offer an example of annihilating the Communist, with the aim of bringing peace back to our country, and to prevent world war."



BOMB AND SEARCH—Members of the 1st Bde., 101st Abn. Div. carefully move through a bomb-blasted bamboo thicket after Air Force B-52s pelted the area north of Dak To. (Photo by Sp4 Richard Houghton, 101st ABN-IO)

Old French Fort Used By 101st Abn.

TUY HOA, (101st ABN-IO)—Atop a mountain overlooking Vung Ro Bay in one direction and the Tuy Hoa valley in the other stands an old abandoned French fort only now the fort is filled with paratroopers of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division.

The fort guards the Vung Ro Pass along Highway One and protects the construction work presently taking place in the bay below by an engineer task force.

Working together in the area the paratroopers are securing the highway and bay while the engineers repair bridges, build new roads, and construct a harbor facility.

A part of Operation John Paul Jones, the bay project was initiated

to allow supplies to be shipped into the sheltered bay when the monsoon tides do not allow LSTs and other craft to land on the beach here. Upon completion of the project supplies will unload in the bay and be trucked from there.

The engineer task force contains Company A, 39th Engineer Battalion; the 497th Port Construction Company; and the 497th Diving Section. The group is now installing an underwater and overland pipe line, LST landing ramps, and a 7700-foot road to connect with Highway One.

The scenic bay once served as a Viet Cong port for supplies from the north, but now two ships lay on the bottom of the bay sunk by U.S. aircraft.

The Damn Thing Was Alive Buddy

PHAN RANG, (101st ABN-IO)—“It must have been about two o’clock in the morning when I felt something cold crawling across my cheek,” said PFC Jimmie Waldron. “I grabbed it and held it up toward the light—immediately I threw the damn thing down.”

The 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division trooper didn’t know it at the time but his bedfellow had been a deadly bamboo viper.

Waldron, a clerk in casualty reporting feels sure his own section would have been doing paperwork on him if the viper had not been cold and sluggish.

The Virginia clerk woke up his buddies, or rather they woke up when he gave a yell, and they captured the reptile which is now in a jar as their section mascot.

“It didn’t really scare me until we caught it and I found out it was a bamboo viper,” stated the four month veteran of Vietnam. “But one thing’s for sure—I tuck in my mosquito net every night now.”

(5) To repel a close-in attack.

(6) When ambushing an enemy force.

j. Ambush Techniques: Although our use of the ambush tactic has proved very successful in inflicting casualties on the VC, there have been occasions when a single error on the part of an individual or leader in the ambush patrol has meant the difference between success and failure in the ambush mission. Some of these common errors are listed below. Avoid them.

(1) Poor discipline: Coughing, talking, shifting about, clattering equipment, etc.

(2) Springing the ambush too early, or with a poor signal.

(3) Lack of sufficient fire power along the entire ambush position.

(4) Failure to pursue by fire when the VC jump into the underbrush opposite the ambush.

(5) Failure to quickly exploit and search the area for casualties and dead.

(6) Failure to properly employ Claymore mines, or failure to use Claymore mines when available.

(7) Failure to provide for fire support, and/or illumination. Selection of the ambush site, though important, is only the first step in the development of a well-organized ambush. Proper planning, rehearsal, supervision, and execution are necessary for success. A pocket card listing the essential elements of good ambush techniques should be developed by leaders and used in the planning of ambush patrols.

k. Village Searches: Many if not most, of our operations involve searching of villages. Some of the basic techniques which have met with a measure of success are:

(1) On entering the village:

(a) Always provide a covering force.

(b) Avoid being canalized into a single direction by fences, hedges, punji pits, etc. It is usually preferable to go through or over a fence, rather than to use the gate(s) and entrance(s).

(c) Try to persuade local villagers to accompany you. They will avoid booby traps and VC fields of fire.

(d) If villagers flee at your presence, it is a good indication of the presence of a VC force.

- (2) In the villages, booby traps are usually found:
 - (a) On or near gates and entrances.
 - (b) Anywhere where normal work does not take place; next to trails, in grave yards, near shrines, etc.,
 - (c) At entrances to concealed tunnels.
 - (d) In and amongst rubbish.
- (3) When searching, pay particular attention to:
 - (a) Rafters.
 - (b) Thatched roofs.
 - (c) Rice bags.
 - (d) Hay stacks.
 - (e) Dung piles.
 - (f) Wells.
 - (g) Animal pens and enclosures.

e. Pursuit by fire: After beating off a VC probe or attack, you must continue to apply controlled fires over the battle area. The VC will attempt to use any lull to their advantage, i.e., to recover dead, wounded, and weapons. Continued small arms, automatic weapons and supporting harassing fires should saturate the battlefield along likely routes of withdrawal to inflict the maximum number of casualties as the VC attempt to police the battlefield or withdraw.

m. Defense Through Offensive Actions: In the course of operations, the frequent use of company and battalion size actions effectively dominates large areas and denies the enemy any opportunity to operate therein without being detected and destroyed. Frequent changes of base locations, a diversity of offensive operations and prompt, aggressive reaction with "Hawk Flights" can keep the enemy off balance to such an extent that no coordinated attacks are possible.

n. Avoid Setting Patterns: Constantly analyse your operations and movements to insure you are not developing a pattern. The VC will use great patience in studying your movements, methods and techniques in order to exploit any weakness they may discover, and are quick to detect any pattern or regularity in your activity. By always taking such basic steps as not using the same route twice on patrol, not relieving outposts on a fixed schedule, not resupplying at the same time each day, etc., the VC can be kept guessing and their ability to strike effectively can be greatly reduced.

o. Night Halts: During extended operations, unless the specific

mission at hand dictates otherwise, it is a good idea to stop before dark in order to establish a good, all around, coordinated defense. You must always assume the possibility that the VC have detected your presence and are capable of offensive action against your unit or position. By stopping before dark you can locate your unit or patrol base on good defensible terrain, plan your defensive fires to the best possible advantage, and avoid the confusion and uncertainty of establishing the defense without visual reference to the terrain.

p. Police of the Battlefield: The VC have repeatedly shown by their own determined efforts, even in the face of heavy fire, the importance that they attach to police of the battle area. Their purpose is primarily to deny us the knowledge of the number of casualties they have suffered, and to salvage weapons and ammunition for future use. It is just as important for our troops and leaders to insure that the battle area is policed, but for different reasons. The VC have proven to be extremely ingenious and resourceful in using discarded and seemingly useless items of equipment and supply to fabricate weapons, mines, and booby traps to be used against friendly forces. Empty cartridge cases can be re-worked, reloaded, and used again; used flashlight and radio batteries can generate enough power to detonate mines; packing containers can be used to fashion booby traps; even C-ration cans are useful to the VC and are frequently found as components in simple trip-wire hand grenade traps. It is foolish to expend men, equipment and materiel in operations aimed at depriving the VC of their supplies, if these same forces, by carelessness and lack of attention, resupply the VC with useful items for the conduct of their operations. Completely destroy or carry away all unnecessary or expended equipment; leave nothing for the VC to find and use. Here is what General Giap Commander of the Viet Minh Forces, that defeated the French said in his memoirs: "The sole source of supply could only be the battlefield - to take the materiel away from the enemy to turn it against him. While carrying on the aggression against Vietnam, the French Expeditionary Corps fulfilled another task; it became, unwillingly, supplier of the Vietnam Peoples' Army (Viet Minh) with French and even US arms."

q. Security During Movement: Never move without providing for security to the front, flanks and rear. Again, give the VC credit for having detected your presence; their familiarity with the terrain allows them the capability of moving ahead and to the flanks of your unit to establish ambushes. All around security can, and does, prevent the VC from achieving the surprise and advantage they seek to gain by using these tactics. Don't neglect rear security; a favorite VC trick is to allow a unit to pass completely and then fire into their backs.

r. Succession of Command: Succession of command must be established for every unit regardless of size. The succession of command, once established must be known by every member of a specific unit.

s. Movement on Multiple Axes: Movement along multiple routes and on multiple axes is usually safer, and produces better results than movement on a single route. Use of multiple routes provides better coverage of the area being traversed and can prevent an ambush by the VC. The routes selected should be such that any unit or column is within supporting distance of other unit(s) or column(s).

t. Maintaining Enemy Contact: Because of the usual VC tactic of withdrawing and refusing to engage a superior force, a large part of our operational effort is devoted to locating and fixing them. Once contact is gained, strenuous efforts must be made to maintain that contact, and to pursue the VC until they can be destroyed. Leaders at all levels must be prepared to take advantage of any opportunity to inflict casualties on the enemy. Use must be made of all available fire support means to canalize and kill the enemy; fires should be applied on all likely routes of withdrawal or reinforcement, and vigorous pursuit using flanking forces, patrols and "Hawk Flights" must be launched as soon as the VC attempt to disengage and break contact.

u. Convoy Security: The VC have attained a high degree of proficiency in ambush techniques. They have shown themselves capable of conducting successful ambushes against convoys in almost any area. But these ambushes can, and have been prevented or defeated by the careful application of protection and security measures such as those listed in the convoy checklist below. These principles must be conscientiously applied on all convoy operations.

- (1) Have a single overall commander for the convoy.
- (2) Provide for air cover.
- (3) Plan supporting fires along the entire route.
- (4) Use mounted or dismounted security forces in a "leap frog" pattern to secure all, or the most critical parts of the route.
- (5) Plan to have an alert or reaction force ready to assist if required.
- (6) Do not publish movement times and dates until the last possible moment.
- (7) Develop and rehearse immediate action drills.
- (8) Check weapons and communications before moving out.
- (9) Coordinate with all agencies, area forces, and commands through which the convoy will move.
- (10) Insure effective communications throughout the convoy, to higher headquarters, and to supporting units at all times.
- (11) Avoid identifying command and control vehicles.
- (12) Lead out with heaviest vehicles.
- (13) In trucks, face troops outward to permit immediate return of fire if attacked; leave the tail gate open.
- (14) Sand bag the cabs and troop compartments of all vehicles.

(15) Maintain proper interval at all times.

(16) If fired on: Immediately return fire at maximum rate, throw as many white phosphorus grenades as possible in the direction of the ambush, attempt to drive out of the killing zone, call for supporting air and artillery fire, attack the ambush as quickly as possible.

(19) Do not relax at any time. The VC allow portions of preceding convoys or even complete convoys to pass unmolested in order to gain complete surprise on your convoy.

v. Digging In: The best possible passive defense against mortar and grenade fragments is properly constructed, deep fighting and/or sleeping positions. At every overnight halt, and in every squad or platoon base, work must begin immediately on foxholes, trenches and sleeping positions. These must be constructed, as a matter of Brigade policy, so that all personnel are completely below ground or parapet level when sleeping; fighting positions must be deep enough to afford protection against direct small arms fire for a standing man.

w. Size of Patrol: A combat patrol sent out on a jungle operation should consist of a minimum of 10 men. The patrol must have the capability to sustain itself for at least 24 hours and must possess the ability to request and adjust artillery fires and tactical air strikes.

x. Marking Friendly Positions: In order to obtain accurate and effective tactical air support it is necessary that the Forward Air Controller (FAC) and pilots of the strike aircraft be able to locate and identify the supporting friendly unit. VS-17 panels have been used effectively for this purpose by attaching them to the backs of troops. This technique allows the FAC to see exactly where the troops are, and enables him to direct air strikes with greater assurance, accuracy, and safety.

y. Adjusting Artillery by Sound: Because visibility in heavily jungled areas is often restricted to only a few meters (or even a few feet), it may be impossible to adjust artillery visually. Rather than do without the fire support the artillery can provide, you can adjust the fires by sound. The fire commands remain the same; the only difference in fact, is that your adjustments will have to be estimated, based on the sound of the detonating rounds. Obviously, the accuracy of such fires is bound to be inferior to that achieved by the normal method of adjustment and consequently greater care must be exercised in order to prevent casualties to friendly troops. However, the normal dispersion of a battery volley covers an areas sufficiently large that you can still disorganize, confuse and inflict casualties even if your estimate, correction, and adjustment are considerably off. You may find yourself in a position where this method of adjustment is the only one you can use; don't neglect it.

z. Lightening the Load: Cross country travel in the jungle of Vietnam is slow and difficult at best. As your own experiences will soon prove, the vegetation is often so thick that rates of march of 500 meters to 1 kilometer per hour are common. Under these circumstances, anything that can be done to lighten the collective load of the unit and the

individual soldier is worthy of consideration by the small unit leader. Two such measures are discussed below.

(1) Carrying the 81mm mortar - Consideration should be given to carrying only one of the company's 81mm mortars on operations, particularly where difficult or densely jungled terrain is to be traversed. One mortar can still provide a very effective base of fire, and the reduction in weight achieved by carrying only one can be used to good advantage by using the extra crew members to carry additional mortar ammunition.

(2) The weight factor of C-ration meals is prohibitive when units are required to carry 3 to 5 days rations during sustained ground operations. To supplement the C-ration meal, rice and powdered soup may be used. The rice and soup weight factor is less than one-third of a pound per day, which reduces the three-day ration weight factor by five pounds. Use of this C-ration supplement results in a significant reduction in the individual load, and permits sustained operations of up to five days without resupply.

aa. Carrying of Linked Ammunition: Troops have been observed carrying 7.62mm linked ammunition in "Pancho Villa" fashion, looped across the chest. Linked ammunition carried in this fashion is subjected to the deteriorating effects of mud and dirt, and is very susceptible to damage by catching on limbs, vines, etc., while moving through heavy brush. In short, anyone carrying ammunition this way is inviting a malfunction. This cannot be tolerated in a combat zone, where lives depend on the proper functioning of the M-60 machine gun. Commanders and leaders must personally insure that linked ammunition is carried only in the containers provided.

3. Communications:

a. Radio Operators: Units in Vietnam rely almost exclusively on radio communications during combat operations. To avoid confusion and delay, and in order to insure that orders and reports are transmitted clearly and quickly, highly trained radio operators are essential. Transmissions must be brief, and maximum use must be made of "point of origin" system and brevity codes. Operators should be highly motivated and imbued with a sense of responsibility and an awareness of the importance of their contribution to the successful accomplishment of any mission. Good communications are the life blood of any operation.

b. Communications with Small Patrols: Patrols operating in VC controlled areas often run the risk of detection or compromise when required to transmit situation reports, locations and other information to their control headquarters. This is particularly true at night when the sound of a voice can carry for considerable distances. One solution that has been used is to develop a series of signals made by depressing the push-to-talk switch on the radio handset. The best method is one in which transmissions sent to the patrol are framed in terms that can be answered with a simple "yes" or "no". For example, breaking the squelch once can mean "yes", twice "no", and three times "I do not understand," or "say again." If such a system is used, insure that it is well understood by all concerned before employing it on an actual operation.

MATERIEL READINESS

1. Drivers:

- a. Perform 1st echelon maintenance daily. Be sure to:
 - (1) Inspect air cleaners (oil bath type) weekly and service as required.
 - (2) Clean air cleaners (dry type) weekly. Care is needed to avoid damage to the element.
 - (3) Lubricate your vehicle in accordance with the lubrication order.
 - (4) Check water level of batteries daily. In this climate water will evaporate rapidly.
 - (5) Check your prop shaft bolts and be sure they are tight.
- b. Never drive your vehicles into water over the axle. Excess water will cause damage to the bearings.
- c. Avoid unnecessary movement of your vehicle.
- d. Always use four wheel drive when operating your vehicle in sandy soil.
- e. Avoid excessive clutch wear; don't ride the clutch.
- f. Never permit your vehicle to become overloaded.
- g. Never speed shift. The proper gear must be used in relation to the speed of the vehicle as indicated on the transmission diagram plate on your vehicle dash.

2. Generator Operators:

- a. Protect your generators from rain, blowing sand, and grenade or mortar fragments; however, insure they are operated with sufficient air space to prevent overheating.
- b. Operate your generator with OE-50 weight oil.
- c. Change oil after 15 hours of operation (after 10 hours for 2.5 KW generators).
- d. Be sure your generator is properly grounded.
- e. Perform 1st echelon maintenance daily.

3. Artillerymen: Insure that oil or light coat of grease is maintained on exposed bearing surfaces except where weapon is perma-lubed.

4. Radio Operators:

a. Insure that all seals are in good condition and that all radio covers are securely in place and in good condition. If possible remove the radio from the case to air dry any moisture after a heavy rain.

b. The plastic bag container in which AN/PRC-25 batteries are packed can be used as moisture seals and to protect the handset from rain and moisture.

c. Insure that rubber boots on push-to-talk switches are in good condition.

d. Insure that the cellophane covering the receiver and transmitter elements of your handsets are intact and in good condition. Permit your handset to air dry as long as possible if it gets wet.

5. All Troopers:

a. Keep your weapon clean at all times.

b. Keep your weapon well coated with oil. Do not wipe water from weapons - let your weapon air dry.

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Cobra Company Reunion

C Company 1/327 will meet at Cobra Lake June 24th and 25th, 2011. ABOVE THE REST hosts for the reunion are Kenneth F. Ihle, 1/327 C 7/65-7/66, and his wife Angie, 402 Old Grapevine Road, Crossville, TN 38572-1250. For more information call them at (423) 881-4346.

The Comfort Inn Suites, 2581 E.1st Street, 1-40 Exit 322, 931-707-8638 has 35 rooms blocked and held for 101st Airborne until June 5. Reduced rate will be available beginning June 23 for early arrivals.



Kenneth F. Ihle, 1/327 C 7/65-7/66, and his wife Angie at a previous Cold Steel Cobra Reunion.



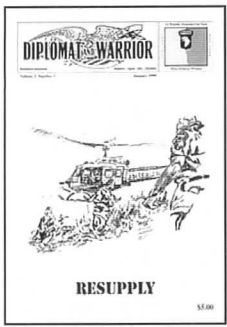
The 1st Brigade (S) plastic auto tag is not new but it has been improved. It now can be ordered with magnets on the back so it can be attached to any ferrous metal surface. Regular tag without magnets \$5.00. Improvement costs \$3.00 - total price \$8.00.



Issue #1



Issue #2



Issue #3



Issue #4



Issue #5



Issue #6



Issue #7



Issue #8



Issue #9



Issue #10



Issue #11



Issue #12



Issue #13



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Issue #16



Issue #17



Issue #18



Issue #19



Issue #20



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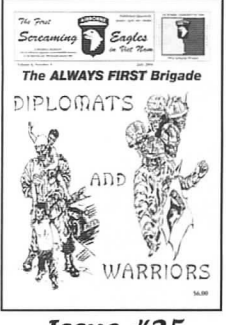
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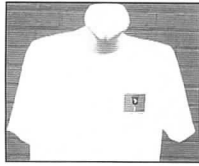


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Issue #30

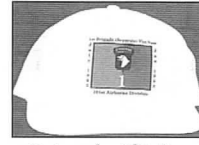
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T Shirt Full Color



1st Brigade (S) Logo
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1st Brigade (S) Logo Cap
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Issue #39



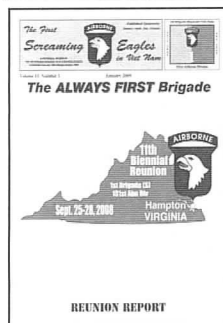
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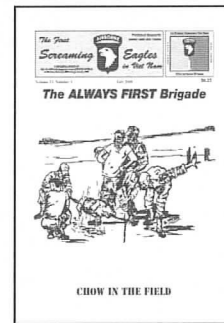
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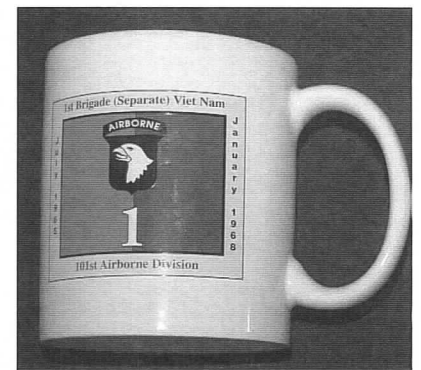
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First Brigade (S) Mug

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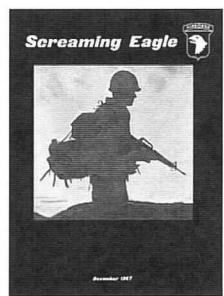
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CHU LAI, Vietnam—SUNDAY MASS. Chaplain (Capt.) Roland R. Torer, Cleveland, Ohio, conducts mass near the base camp of the 101st Airborne. Other chaplains also conduct services for paratroopers of all faiths. (USA Photo by Staff Sgt. Art Campbell)

From the COL(R) Gerry Morse, 1/327 C.O. 7/67-7/68, scrapbook.