

*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

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101st Airborne Division

Volume 13, Number 4

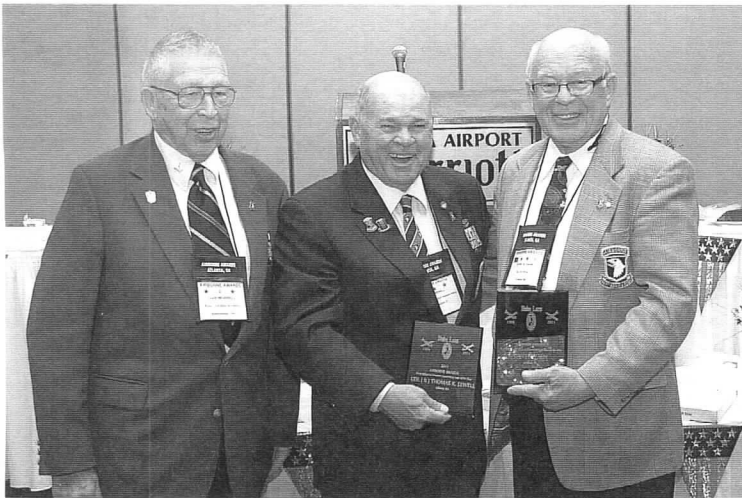
October 2011

\$6.25

# **The ALWAYS FIRST Brigade**



A. P. Rollis



At the 34th Annual Static Line Airborne Awards Festival in Atlanta, Georgia, (L to R) MAJ(R) Ivan Worrell, INFO OFF 5/66-5/67, **The First Screaming Eagles in Viet Nam** Editor; COL (R) Thomas K. Sewell, 2/327 A & B 1/68-1/69, President of the 101st Airborne Division Association the 101 Association MAN OF THE YEAR and Terry R. Zahn, SPT BN HQ ELT 7/65-5/66, First Brigade (S) 101st Airborne Division MAN OF THE YEAR pose for a photo following the awards ceremony.

The 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division Association, in Lexington, Kentucky, is history. The election for Association President was held and Richard A. Pack is the new President. I have offered my support to him.

Attendance by THE ALWAYS FIRST BRIGADE veterans at the reunion was impressive. I saw many of our veterans at the 327 Dinner and know that in the 2/502 and 3/506 they were well represented.

One highlight of the reunion was being able to spend a few days visiting with my granddaughter, Sarah McNamara, who helped with registration and also assisted our official photographer, Robert Bureson, with the paperwork for portrait taking. Sarah is an Army Brat and enjoys accompanying me to reunions.

I will have a limited number of pictures from the reunion in this issue but plan to continue to publish reunion pictures in future magazines.

It appears that the First Brigade (S) will not have a stand-alone reunion in 2012. The First Brigade will have a dinner

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).

at the beginning of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division Association Reunion in Nashville, Tennessee. See page 24 for details.

The Snowbird Reunion for 2012 will have a decidedly different look. The place has changed to Tampa, Florida. The dates have changed from the traditional first weekend in February to February 16<sup>th</sup> through the 18<sup>th</sup>. The Double Tree Westshore Hotel in Tampa was the site for the 2005 Association Reunion sponsored by The Florida Gulf Coast Chapter.

The Brigade and the Division has been responsible for considerable activity this year. At the Static Line Awards Festival a team from the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division briefed the veterans attending on the state of the present division and some history to the most recent deployment to Afghanistan. The C Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 327<sup>th</sup> Infantry reunion, in June near Crossville, was very well attended. The Change of Command for the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade Combat Team was spectacular at the division parade field. And the First Brigade Memorial Service and Distinguished Member of the Regiment (DMOR) Ceremony was very impressive. I plan to have more on the DMOR recipients from the 327, 502 and 506 in the January magazine.

The \*asterisk is going to become active. I have never let the fact that a veteran in a picture or a story is not a subscriber to the magazine make a difference in my using the material. That policy will not change. I do intend to begin placing an \*asterisk in front of the name of those who do not subscribe to the magazine. Armed with this information, friends can copy stories and pictures and send to those who do not see what is published about them or a friend can subscribe for them or urge them to subscribe. Subscribers are very important to me because they finance the production, printing and mailing of each issue. Many loyal subscribers, some from the first issue, are responsible for more than a dozen years of quarterly news and history about THE ALWAYS FIRST BRIGADE when we were a separate unit.

Please note that all renewals received by September 6<sup>th</sup> are included in this magazine. The renewals that came after September 6<sup>th</sup> will be acknowledged in the January issue.

Many orders for back issues and memorabilia arrive with incorrect payment amounts for the items ordered and postage. Your order can be filled more expeditiously if the correct payment, for the item or items and postage, is forwarded with the original order. See page 34 for the order form.

The cover art for this issue was sent by George Fallon, 2/327 HHC 1/67-1/68





## James A. Gardner ex-'65

7 Feb 1943–7 Feb 1966 ■ Killed in Action at My Canh, Vietnam  
Interred in Fairview Cemetery, Dyersburg, TN



*James Alton Gardner* was born in Dyersburg, TN, on 7 Feb 1943. He was recruited as a football player for West Point by Coach Tony Bullotta along with a number of other promising talents from Tennessee, Georgia and the Carolinas. He played plebe football as an undersized interior lineman/fullback and was most notable for his humor, red hair and speed.

Jim attended Dyersburg High School in Dyersburg, TN, where he was a star athlete, in the 4-H, and sometimes a prankster. Janie Putnam, Jim's 4-H advisor, recalls a time when rounding up the energetic boys after swimming in a lake, he observed Jim staying with his friend Bert, who had limited swimming ability. Jim accompanied the young boy safely to shore, and Janie believes that, but for Jim's action, his friend would not have been able to return safely. It was a good thing Jim stayed with Bert, because he returned the favor some time later by introducing Jim to his first cousin, Joella, the girl Jim eventually married.

His contact with the Class of '65 started at Messick High School in Memphis, TN, where he met Eddy Dye while dating his sweetheart, Joella Garner. Jim took his entrance exam for West Point at Ft. Campbell, KY, with John Pickler and John McCullough in the spring of 1960 and started his short cadet career in 2nd New Cadet Company in the same squad as Bob Dougherty. Eddy Dye remembers the march to Camp Buckner at the end

of Beast, where he and Jim swam out to the big rock in Lake Frederick and talked about personal feelings.

After Beast Barracks, Jim was assigned to A-2, where he roomed with Jerry Lipsit, who remembers him as being a really dedicated cadet but lonesome for his sweetheart Joella. Jim left the Academy before the end of Plebe year but didn't give up his dedication to the Army.

In 1964, Jim joined OCS Class 4-64, 52nd Company (OC), Fifth Student Battalion, Ft. Benning, GA, where he excelled in sports and military aptitude. He "maxed" the PT test twice and was an excellent marksman with the M-14. He was a star on the intramural flag 4-64 football team (football at OCS was anything but "flag" with the Benning games being just short of semi-pro), justifying the talent Coach Bullotta saw in him five years before.

During the OCS days, Jim's room was across the hall from Jack Easton, who recalls the lonely weekends when they both were tied to the barracks for some minor infraction. They would trade or exchange "how sad I am" stories as they shined boots or immersed themselves in Infantry memorization, such as the range of the .50 cal machine gun, etc. They traveled together to Auburn, AL, in Jim's brand new red Triumph TR6, with the top always down, on the weekends after they had turned "OCS Blue." After OCS, Jim and Jack were Ranger buddies throughout the entire training cycle and stick buddies through jump school. Jim always was conscious of the fact that he was commissioned a year ahead of his West Point class.

After airborne training, Jim joined the 101st Airborne Division, assigned to the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry, in Vietnam. Jim participated in Operation Gibraltar and shortly thereafter organized and was the first commander of the 1-327

Infantry's elite Tiger Force. He led the Tiger Force with skill and without fear or concern for his personal safety, while always concerned for the safety and well-being of his paratroopers. On his 23rd birthday, 7 Feb 1966, Jim distinguished himself in combat, earning the Medal of Honor while leading his Tiger Force near My Canh. Jim's platoon sergeant, Phill Belden, wrapped Jim's body in a poncho liner and then wrapped himself in one next to him and watched over his friend and leader all night until the medevacs were able to land in the morning. Jack Easton was not surprised to hear Jim distinguished himself, as he considered Jim one of the most "gung-ho" OCS candidates on record.

Jim is in good company. Two other OCS classmates, 1LT Joseph X. Grand (posthumous) and 1LT Ronald E. Ray, and one West Point classmate, CPT Paul Bucha, also were awarded the Medal of Honor.

Jim was inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame on 29 Jun 2006 during a ceremony at Ft. Benning, GA, and his Medal of Honor was donated to the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) on 14 Aug 2009. It is displayed in the Headquarters Atrium Hall of Heroes. A bowling center at Ft. Campbell, an athletic field at Ft. Benning, the National Guard Armory in Dyersburg, and a primary conference room at the Pentagon are fittingly named after James Alton Gardner.

James Alton Gardner is survived by his widow, Joella Gardner McManus of Huntsville, AL; his sister, Lynda Gardner-Park; and a niece, Kimberly Pruitt. Kimberly never knew her uncle, Jim Gardner, though she read about him and heard stories from her grandmother. Kimberly, this is dedicated to you and all the others who never knew the people who touched their lives through their dedication to their family, friends and the nation.

Be thou at peace.

*Ivan: The attached obit of Jim Gardner appeared in the July 2011 "Taps" an adjunct to "The Assembly" the USMA quarterly magazine.  
Patrick H. Graves, Jr., 1/327 B 7/65*



Major General John F. Campbell, Commanding General of the 101st Airborne Division and Fort Campbell, passes on the 1st Brigade Combat Team guidon to COL Joseph P. McGee, signifying him as the new Brigade Commander, during the Brigade Change of Command Ceremony Friday, July 22nd, 2011, at the Division Parade Field.

**Colonel Joseph P. McGee Takes Command of 1st BCT**

From: *The Fort Campbell Courier*

by SGT Jon Heinrich, 1st Brigade Combat Team

The 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, held a Change of Command Ceremony Friday, July 22nd, 2011, at the Division Parade Field.

Colonel Joseph P. McGee assumed command from COL Andrew P. Poppas, who spent more than two years as the Commander of the Bastogne Brigade.

“I acknowledge that I am assuming command today,” said McGee, “largely due to the efforts of soldiers who are either in this formation, or have stood in the ranks of the Bastogne Brigade in the last few years.”

“Today, I pledge to you my complete dedication to the accomplishment of this mission,” he added. “I expect the same from each and every one of you. Bastogne!”

Poppas spoke highly of McGee, acknowledging that he will be able to continue where he left off in taking care of the brigade’s soldiers and families.

“As you can tell I cherish and love this formation and the soldiers who are a part of it,” said Poppas. “Leaving is extremely difficult. What softens the blow is Colonel McGee is taking command of this brigade. He is a man who I have the utmost respect for. I trust him, I admire him, I would serve for him on any day. So it’s easy to hand it over to someone who’s a personal friend and a professional.”

**Bastogne Brigade Awards Two Silver Star Medals**

From: *The Fort Campbell Courier*

by Sergeant 1st Class Paula Taylor, 1st Brigade Combat Team

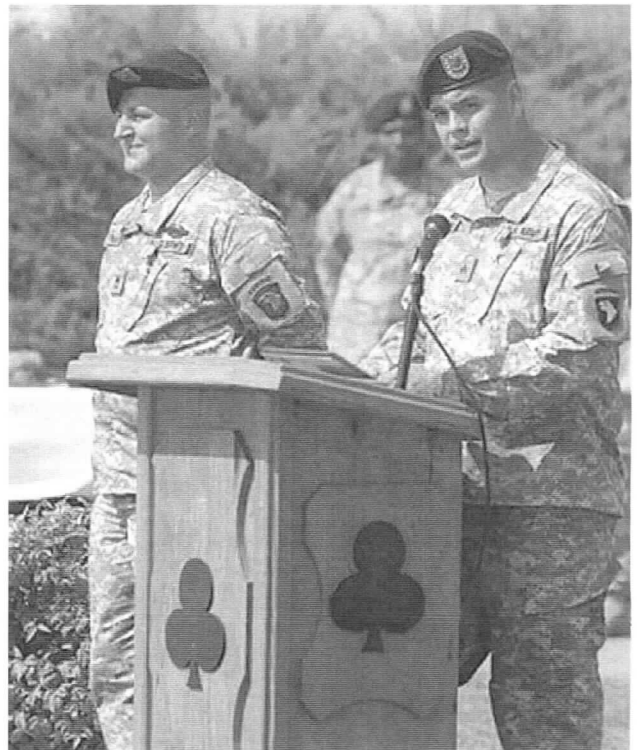
Two Silver Star Medals were awarded to soldiers of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, behind their headquarters building Tuesday.

One of the awardees, Sergeant Rocky Bloom, was presented the medal for valorous achievement while serving as a team leader for 3rd Platoon, Company A, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom XI.

According to his citation, “Bloom demonstrated the highest standard of performance and valor, saving the lives of several soldiers by leaving cover on multiple occasions, securing an Afghan National Army machine gun and suppressing the enemy, preventing them from overrunning the platoon’s position during an operation in the Watapur Valley, Kunar Province, Afghanistan.”

The other awardee, Staff Sergeant Sean Outman, infantryman, who was also a team leader for 3rd Platoon, Co. A, 1-327th Infantry Battalion received the award for saving the lives of several soldiers by leaving cover to secure the medic and bring him to the casualty collection point during the same operation.

Major General John Campbell, Commander of the 101st Airborne Division and Fort Campbell, presented the awards



Sergeant Rocky Bloom addresses the guests and soldiers after being awarded the Silver Star Medal Tuesday, along with infantryman Staff Sergeant Sean Outman. Both are assigned to Company A, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division and both received the medal for their actions during a mission in the Watapur Valley, Kunar Province, Afghanistan, Nov. 14, 2010. Photo by Sgt. Jon Heinrich | 1st BCT



along with Colonel J.P. McGee, Commander, 1st BCT and Command Sergeant Major Scott Schroeder, top enlisted advisor, 101st Airborne Division.

“If they could do anything to bring back their five brothers that were lost that day on the 14th of November in the Watapur Valley, they would absolutely trade that Silver Star in for that,” said Campbell. “It was supposed to be about a 72-hour operation and on the third day, late in the afternoon, that platoon became surrounded by over 100 insurgents and they had the high ground – small arms, [rocket-propelled grenades], machine gun fire – and they weathered the storm.”

“Both of these two noncommissioned officers were shot and both were medically evacuated. Their courage, their loyalty to their brothers-in-arms, their actions on that day, displayed selfless service.”

### 1st BCT Honors Fallen Heroes

From: *The Fort Campbell Courier*

by Sgt. Jon Heinrich, 1st Brigade Combat Team

The Bastogne soldiers of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, formed up on the open field behind their headquarters building, while Gold Star family members waited patiently for the ceremony to begin Tuesday.

Everyone knew what they were about to witness, yet despite the sadness in their hearts, the look in their eyes showed they were proud to be a part of what was to come – the unveiling of a memorial stone, honoring the 55 service members who lost their lives in support of Operation Enduring Freedom XI.

According to the brigade’s history, the service members were each assigned to Task Force Bastogne and based in some of the most dangerous provinces in Afghanistan, to include the border with Pakistan. They carried out many missions that severely degraded the insurgent’s ability to plan and carry out violent activities, while building the capacity of the local Afghan government.

“On the monument, which we unveil today, are the names of 55 soldiers whose love for freedom led them to Afghanistan,” said Staff Sergeant Tiffany V. Bjorklund, the Mistress of Ceremonies. “They will never be forgotten.”

The monument was unveiled by the Commander of the 1st BCT Colonel J.P. McGee and his senior enlisted advisor, Command Sergeant Major Kevin Benson, as each of the engraved names were read aloud by Bjorklund.



Colonel J.P. McGee, Commander of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division and his top enlisted advisor, Command Sergeant Major Kevin Benson, unveil a new unit memorial stone Tuesday. The stone, which lists the names of the 55 service members who lost their lives in support of Operation Enduring Freedom XI, sits behind the headquarters building at the memorial area. Photo by Sgt. Jon Heinrich | 1st BCT

“The loss of these soldiers is felt by each one of us,” said McGee, who served during Operation Iraqi Freedom VIII-IX as the Commander of the 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st BCT and is no stranger to the Bastogne Brigade. “All of us will miss something – all of us will carry a piece of them with us forever; they will not be forgotten.”

Some soldiers expressed their appreciation for the stone monument and said it gave them peace.

“The monument is awesome,” said Specialist Terry C. Crews, Jr., a supply specialist with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st BCT. “It gives the soldiers an opportunity to reflect on those who have given the sacrifice, side-by-side.”

The monument is meant to not only symbolize commitment and diligence, but to allow a visual memory of what the unit has lost.

“We intended for this design to match the previous two deployments,” explained Major David P. David, Brigade Information Operations Officer and Project Officer for Bastogne Day. “My part today was putting all this together.”

Gold Star family members who had traveled from various locations throughout the U.S. to be at the ceremony, were given private time after the ceremony to see the stone up close and touch the name of their fallen hero.

“It’s great to see the names of all the fallen on the memorial,” said Patrick T. Cox, brother of deceased Sergeant Nathan W. Cox. “It helps those that come after realize those that have come before. I am very proud.”



+ CHAP(COL-R) FRED "MAX" WALL, JR., 2/327 4/67-8/67, 445 Franklin St., Apt 28, Athens, GA 30606-3086, (706) 353-7482 with his subscription renewal wrote: I hope all is well with you. Thanks, for all your hard work and dedication to soldiers.

*Editor's Note: At the C Company, 1st Battalion 327th reunion in Crossville (see page 13) James R. Van Lone, 1/327 C 3/64-7/66, and I were talking about the original Cold Steel Cobra sign in front of the C Company barracks at Fort Campbell. Jim believed he had a picture of him with the sign. The subject changed to Viet Nam where I said I had arrived when the Forward Brigade Headquarters was at Cheo Reo and that Dan Rather, from CBS was there with Captain Paul Apfel, the Brigade Information Officer, covering the crash of a CH 47 Chinook helicopter that occurred on May 4, 1966, killing all aboard. One of those who died in the crash was Chaplain (MAJ) William J. Barragy. Although I was responsible for the follow up on this story, I recall very little about which units the men were from, the home unit of the helicopter and other details. When I arrived the Brigade Forward Headquarters and the Battalion at Cheo Reo were preparing to move to Dak To where a major engagement would begin in a few days.*

+ JAMES R. VAN LONE, 1/327 C 3/64-7/66, 1917 - 60th St., Kenosha, WI 53140-3840, (262) 652-8975 sent the following two pictures.



*This CH 47 Chinook is the one that crashed, killing all 21 aboard, including, Chaplain (MAJ) William J. Barragy, after transporting us to the airfield near the Cambodian border.*



*The picture of the three of us, (L to R) Louis "Toby" Brussard, Cletus "Chief" Ninham and me, James R. Van Lone, 1/327 C 3/64-7/66, was taken just before we were sent out to secure the downed chopper.*

+ LTC(R) BILLY R. ROBBINS, 1/327 ABU 11/62-8/66, P. O. Box 1327, Sharpsburg, NC 27878-1327, (252) 382-2300 (cell) sent the following.

On 12 August 2011, during the "Week of the Eagles" at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, Billy R. Robbins and 11 other veteran paratroopers of the legendary ABU Company, 1st Battalion, 327th Airborne Infantry, 101st Airborne Division presented a 55 year-old ABU Company photo album to current ISG Curtis S. Ballance, ABU Company, 1st Battalion 327th Infantry, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).



*Left to right: Gerald C. "Horny" Hornbeck; Charlie "Tuna" Lostaunau; Milton McQueeney; Billy R. Robbins; Frank Trzebuckowski; David E. Snyder; John L. "Dynamite" Hughes; Maxey M. Myers; Raymond T. "Rocky" Ryan; Eddie Pissott; Blair A. "T-Bird" Funderburk and George L. Shevlin (ABU Commander Aug - Dec 1965 - South Viet Nam).*



*Left to right: John L. "Dynamite" Hughes; Billy R. Robbins; Geraldo Rivera; Frank Trzebuckowski (kneeling); Charlie "Tuna" Lostaunau; Raymond T. "Rocky" Ryan; Gerald C. "Horny" Hornbeck; Milton McQueeney and David Snyder.*

+ SFC(R) SANTANA CARNERO, 1/327 HHQ TF 11/65-7/67, 303 S. Teresa, Monahans, TX 79756-7111, work (915) 586-3671 home (915) 943-8142 sent the following.

We had a Tiger Force reunion in Branson, Missouri. There were Tigers from four different generations as we used to say every time we would rebuild either from battle losses or DEROs.

I was very happy and really enjoyed seeing some of the old Tigers. While we were there we received the news that Little Ski (Gary L.

Kornatowski) had passed away.

Anyway we had a few beers and told a few combat stories. Hope everybody there enjoyed it as much as I did. Some of the Tigers from my generation, I had not seen since I departed Viet Nam in '67. Some I had seen at the reunion in Fort Worth.

I think that we are planning another reunion next year. I hope I can make it and hope to see more Tigers there.



Wheel Chairs: Robert Diaz and Harold Fisher.

Front row: Richard Hise, Santana Carnero, Ellen Heaney, Leo Heaney, Tom Rosales, Lily Rosales, Dan Clint, Teresa Clint, Yun-Cha Soucy, and Jean Soucy.

Back row: Karen Hise, Cindy Raysor, Brigette Trout, Manuela Carnero, Harold Trout, Steve Merrill, Ken Webb, James Raysor, Tom Agerton and Linda Webb.

+ = Current Subscriber

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Many of the Lexington reunion pictures in this issue were taken by Robert Burleson. Check his website for all the pictures he took at the reunion.

## OBITUARIES



### James "Jimmy" B. Auld, Jr.

James "Jimmy" B. Auld of Whippany, New Jersey, passed away on Tuesday, March 1, 2011, in Morristown after a long illness. He was 70 years old. Born and raised in Morristown, Jimmy lived in Whippany for almost 50 years. Jimmy worked as an accountant for Mepco in Morristown for many years, until he retired in 2001. He attended Notre Dame of Mount Carmel Church in Cedar Knolls. Jimmy proudly served his country in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War.

Jimmy is survived by his sister, Lynn Belcastro of Kenvil and his nieces, Debbie and Trish. His mother, Helen Auld, predeceased him in 2006. Jimmy was a caring man that will truly be missed by his family and friends.

A Mass of Christian Burial for Jimmy was held on March 4, 2011, at Notre Dame of Mount Carmel Church. Entombment followed at Holy Rood Mausoleum, Morris Township. Donations in memory of Jimmy can be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

Condolences may be sent to Lynn Belcastro, 3 Old Timbers Ct., Kenvil, NJ 07847-2599.

### Garylee Joseph Kornatowski, Sr. 1/327 HHC T.F. 6/66-10/67

Mr. Garylee Joseph Kornatowski, Sr., 63, passed away Friday, July 8th, 2011, at his home in Algood, Tennessee.

Mr. Kornatowski was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, on January 2, 1948, the son of the late Henry John Kornatowski and Christine Carol (Cadiero) Kornatowski. He served in the U.S. Army in the Vietnam War with the First Brigade (S) 101st Airborne Division 1/327, Tiger Force. He received the Parachute Badge, Vietnam Campaign Medal, National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart and Combat Infantry Badge.

### Manuel E. Staffiero 2/327 A 2/66-2/67

Funeral services were held Monday, September 12, 2011, for Manny, the oldest of 15 brothers and sisters who passed away after a long illness with cancer. The services were held at Avondale Colorado Sacred Heart Catholic Church. They included High Mass, Communion and Interment.

Robert R. Lettmann, 2/327 A 4/66-3/67, who served with Manny in Viet Nam was there representing his fellow troopers from the 101st. A wreath was presented to Gerri his longtime loving wife with condolences from his friends.

The men of the 101st who served with him have never forgotten Manny and his deeds on the battlefield, always there, always able and dependable.

When times were bleak, Manny rose to the occasion, pulling out wounded under weathering superior weapons and mortar fire. Manny never hesitated, time and time again over several days, he stayed at it till all were secured... and like a true American hero never thought of his deeds as heroic, but we who were there with him know and we few will remember for he was with us and always will be our brother... God Bless You Manny.

Sent by R. Patrick Noonan, 2/327 A 10/65-10/66



# A Trooper Found

From: TOM QUINN, 2/327 C 67-68  
1030 E. Yale Ave., Fresno, CA 93704  
(209) 221-7642  
[erwinquinn@yahoo.com](mailto:erwinquinn@yahoo.com)

To: + THEODORE PENTON, 2/327 C 10/67-2/69  
PO Box 244, Pearl River, LA 70452  
(985) 768-1240  
[weasel101st@hotmail.com](mailto:weasel101st@hotmail.com)

Subject: 3rd Platoon - March 21, 1968  
Date: Wed, 14 Jun 2006 15:15:37 -0700 (PDT)

Dear Theodore Penton,

My name is Tom Quinn. I was "Doc Quinn" with the 3rd Platoon, 2/327th, 101st. I believe you were "The Weasel," the platoon M-60 gunner as of March 1968.

I was wounded March 21, 1968. Six 3rd Herders were killed, including our Lt., Charles Lovedahl.

I found your e-mail on the 101st, 327th Website.

I'm pretty sure you're the right Weasel. Please let me know. I would like to ask a few questions regarding what happened to some of the people with our platoon and find out how your life has been.

Sincerely, Tom Quinn, Fresno, CA

Airborne Brothers,

Thanks to Ron Aubuchon, (Ronald K. Aubuchon, 2/327 C 67-68) I got Hippie's name; Jay Timbrell. I located him in Sonora, California. For those who don't know California geography, Sonora is a small town in the foothills of the mighty Sierra Mountain range, slightly north of the midpoint of the state. This last Friday (July 1st, 2011) Jay and I had

a very enjoyable several hours lunch in Modesto, a Central Valley farming town about equal distance between my place in Fresno and Jay's in Sonora.

Jay is the blondish fellow kneeling behind the unit flag from the late '67 photo of the 3rd Platoon (below). He joined the 101st and the 3rd Herd in the summer of 1967 and started on the operation just before Chu Lai. I last saw him on March 21, 1968, standing next to Carl Frank as they were both being medivaced from the A Shau Valley.

At the time, March 21st, Jay was the more seriously wounded of the two, with a bullet that entered his left shoulder near his neck. Some of the AK bullet chipped his spine and then zigzagged down his back before lodging by his waist.

Someone, probably Doc Webb had given Jay a shot of morphine, and he was incoherent as I readied him for medivac. Incoherent, but, amazingly, still his usual, joking, chipper self in a babbling sort of way. What Jay found surprising in my account of his medivac, which he doesn't remember, was that he was standing at all.

Carl Frank, at the time, told me Jay had gotten some of the snipers that day with his M-60. Evidently SGT Stewart, the nominal platoon leader after the early death that day of Crazy Horse Lovedahl (LT Charles R. Lovedahl, A, C, and HHC 2/327 11/67-3/68), ceded authority of Jay's squad to Jay even though Stewart was with Jay's squad at the time. Jay was pulling back someone severely wounded when he got the AK round.

At the time Jay was wounded, he had recently returned from an R&R -- all the way to the States and told us that while driving in LA, Steve McQueen pulled up next to him.

When Jay got back from R&R in LA he had serious eye problems and dizzy spells and wasn't even supposed to be with us per an Army doctor's orders. He wanted to see his friends and so wound up on the A Shau operation. He was going to medivac the 21st of March whether there was action or not. Carl Stitely, Crazy Horse Lovedahl, were also very short and set to leave the line that day or within a few days.

While I could tell that Jay was wounded seriously, I did not know how seriously until we met Friday. He's got a 100%



disability and is lucky to be able to walk. Spinal nerve damage causes Jay's right foot to shuffle unless he pays attention.

Jay's recovery was long and hard. He was paralyzed at times during the process. One thing that hasn't changed: he's still got the full head of hair you see in the photo. And he's got his sense of humor that made him the platoon comedian of the 3rd Herd.

Jay has his own light-concrete business in Sonora -- a specialized concrete that requires some exotic chemistry that Jay learned in Canada.

Please extend Jay a Welcome.

Regarding the platoon photo, I was sure that Jay was the blondish-fellow standing in front of Ron Aubuchon (he's sporting the Mohawk standing in the back line), partially blocking Ron's head. I thought the guy who is Jay was maybe Bulldog (Frank M. Drummond, 2/327 C 5/67-12/68). Jay straightened me out. So who is the blond fellow in front of Ron?

My guess is that he's one of the five guys not wounded or killed in the A Shau on March 21st, and he'd been In-country about 10 months.

Doc Quinn (Tom Quinn, 2/327 C 67-68)

On Sun, 7/3/11, Ted Penton (Theodore Penton, 2/327 C 10/67-2/69) <weasel101st@hotmail.com> wrote: Just got off the phone with Jay Timbrell (Hippie). He was in 3rd Platoon June 67 to March 68. Thanks Tom Quinn for locating Jay.

Date: Fri, 16 Jun 2006 11:40:30 -0700  
From: TOM QUINN, 2/327 C 67-68

Subject: RE: 3rd Platoon - March 21, 1968  
To: + THEODORE PENTON, 2/327 C 10/67-2/69

Dear Ted and all those with Charlie Company,

This exchange of e-mail has been my first contact with anyone with the 3rd Platoon since I was at the 249th Hospital in Japan in 1968. As I know you understand, it evokes strong feelings. I will call Ted tomorrow if that's okay with you. If this e-mail doesn't go out to everyone on your e-mail list, I welcome you to pass it on.

I arrived In-country, Phan Rang, with a medics MOS in Oct or Nov 1967. The action then was in Chu Lai, but I wasn't sent there. I joined the 3rd Platoon in Phan Thiet in either late Nov or Dec 1967. I was replacing the medic, who I never met, who stepped on a punji stake and got medivaced. The platoon, for a week or 10 days, pulled an easy gig of guarding some communication relay gizmo and doing light patrolling. I remember a daily Huey bringing in coffee and doughnuts; a lot of talk, good weather.

Early memories include joining "Bulldog" Drummond, the RTO (who also e-mailed me) for morning coffee and what he called "Bull Jive." I got to know Rudi Sanchez, who eventually became RTO and was killed 3/21. We became best friends, and, as absurd as it sounds now ("oh foolish youth!") talked, the night before he was killed, of signing up

for some point-man-school in Malaya and re-upping together for another six (6) months or so In-country.

Bulldog reminded me that he was made the Company Captain's RTO -- I remember missing him -- he was one of those guys who help "glue" a platoon together. I was also amazed at his easy mastery of RTO-talkies. When I had to do it, I was all-rocks in-the-mouth.

I also got an e-mail from Chapman Burgess, who I don't have a specific memory of, but if he was part of Stitely's team, I would have known him. From my perspective, Stitely was the soul of the 3rd Herd, wise-cracking, courageous, experienced -- and young. I was 20 then, I think Stitely was 19 or just turned 20. Does anyone remember that he was leaving the field for good within days of his death? Crazy Horse was leaving the field too, to work at the Screaming Eagle. As I remember, Madrigal, Ebert, Turnbull, were all in their final three (3)-five (5) months In-country.

After Phan Thiet, then Song Be, then Tet '68 and back to the airbase outside Saigon, then Nha Be, south of Saigon, where C Company lost nearly a whole platoon. I am still haunted by the 12 dead soldiers lined up on the ground with ponchos over them. Then up to I Corps and Hue, etc, and finally, A Shau Valley. I remember Charging Charlie Beckwith telling us how proud he was that we were going to be the first unit into A Shau in a long time and that there were "a lot" of NVAs there and they were hungry and demoralized. Someone cracked to me, "That's what they always say -- They're hungry and demoralized."

A very funny fellow, nicknamed "Lucky," with another platoon, was a new point man (another platoon) and one of the first days in A Shau, an NVA jumped out in front of Lucky, Wild West style, and Lucky was the lucky one -- got the fellow in the head.

I have strong memories of "The Weasel." He was almost washed away in a beautiful, but raging river we were crossing. My strongest memory, however, is from 3/21. I was out in a little clearing trying to patch up Madrigal, shot in the chest. Ebert was 10 feet ahead, face down, motionless. Ebert was point for a left-flanking move by the 3rd after the ambush was sprung on us (the night of 3/20, I remember hearing a heavy machine gun going off in what I thought was NVA hands -- the next morning we walked down hill straight toward the sound -- I've wondered why we went straight for the sound of enemy guns, seemed like we were asking to be ambushed -- maybe my memory is faulty). Doc Webb and I were working on Doc Roberts -- think it was a bullet in the chest -- trying to find a vein to put in albumin. Lovedahl was killed almost immediately when he took over the M-60 post of the lead platoon that morning -- Doc Roberts' Platoon I believe.

After Doc Roberts, I make it down the line to Madrigal and Ebert. "The Weasel" ran out beside me and sprayed the trees with his M-60. I remember the brass shells ejecting onto me while I worked on Madrigal -- I laughed, thought it was funny. I have always believed that I lived because of "The Weasel's" courage. Screams were going up around us. Stitely was killed, Turnbull was badly wounded and he was the next person I got to. He was writhing and unconscious. It took a while to find where he was wounded -- a small hole in his nose. It was then that what I've always understood to be a Chicom grenade, went off, killing Madrigal and wounding me.



I carried Turnbull back to the LZ with the help of an M-79 gunner whose name I don't remember. There he died. Word came that Rudi Sanchez had a leg blown off and died. Lt. Calloway and an M-60 gunner, as I was told, were trying to recover Madrigal and Ebert. Calloway was killed and the gunner got several bullet holes in his legs.

I got on one of the last medivac's before sunset. After ER surgery on my leg, I was carried out to watch a movie -- a bloody spaghetti Western -- A Fist Full of Dollars. I had myself carried back in -- you might say I wasn't in the mood for something like that.

I was expected to return to the field within a couple weeks. By my count there were 23 3rd Herders in A Shau on 3/21. Six killed and 13 wounded was my count. I heard that there was some fierce action in succeeding days, recovering Madrigal and Ebert, and that "The Weasel" played a courageous role in recovering them.

Within a few weeks of 3/21, my leg got worse. I was sent to Japan for surgery and turned out the shrapnel grazed my femoral artery causing the artery to bulge and cut off my motor-nerve. To this day I have only partial use of my left-quadricpe muscles.

I was hired by the 249th Hospital, Asaka, Japan, to work in their Physical Therapy Ward. Did that for nearly a year and then out in March 1969. I tried to return to college (I'd done one year before volunteering for the draft in 1966) in Sherman, Texas, where my parents and brothers lived, but was in personal turmoil. A joke for me became that it was easier to survive Vietnam than survive the states. It was a difficult time, as I suspect some of you had in your own ways. I, who, in Vietnam, had to have it explained to me what a "joint" was, became a drug addict -- Darvon, of all the lousy drugs to become addicted to.

Three years of addiction, an unsuccessful stay at the Waco Veterans Hospital in summer 1971, and drove to California at the end of '71 for a program called Synanon. It worked. In 1978 I began working as a private investigator and paralegal. Married and divorced with one, lovely daughter, who now teaches 3rd grade in San Diego. Re-married in 1995, a wonderful woman named Catherine. I now work full time as a private investigator under my own license. Live in Fresno, but mostly work in the San Francisco Bay Area for some good attorneys. I do mostly criminal defense, especially death penalty work, and civil rights cases concerning the state prisons -- especially shooting deaths -- on behalf of inmates and their families. I've achieved minor fame for my prison work: did a video documentary, "Maximum Security University," about the shootings at Corcoran Prison and was given a grant to research the state prison system.

So life is good, health is good. I drink too much but not out of control. I often express a kind of prayer that my life, which I have been so fortunate to possess, does not dishonor the six young men who died on 3/21. In gloomier moments I have wished to be with them. I was In-country six (6) months. Four (4) months of that with the 3rd Herd. The most vivid six (6) months of my life. I thank you with all my heart for your kind and welcoming responses to me. I hope I can attend a reunion.

Finally, a question -- does anyone know what happened to our Platoon Sgt as of 3/21? Sgt Stewart was his name. He, "The Weasel," and the other 3rd Herd survivors visited me at the ER Hospital on 3/22. I liked him a lot and have long wanted to get in touch.

Thank you for your warm welcome to me,

Tom Quinn

Ted Penton <weasel101st@hotmail.com> wrote:  
God Is Good. Welcome home brother. I have talked to peanut the medic Emerson. I am leaving for reunion next week with a lot of C Co people. Call me 985-768-1240. I have been in contact with all these people above with your reply. Ted

RE: JAY "HIPPIE" TIMBRELL  
jt@lightconcrete.com  
To: Ivan Worrell

Hi Ivan,

Man; can not believe what has happened in last couple of months with Tom getting a hold of me. What was even stranger, I had in storage for 40 years a box with letters, a map of the area, a watch, and just about everything else returned or got back from Nam. Sometime late May or June of this year found the box, opened it and I was looking at the picture of 3rd Herd and was thinking who was who and brought back memories of days trying to remember, questioning and everything else. Then a month goes by and I get call from Doc Quinn.

I went on R&R to Japan so the story about me seeing McQueen and going to the states was not me. I did live and grew up in Hollywood so maybe that is where it came from? But it was Japan where the start of the injuries to my eyes started.

The flight to Japan I could have gone home since the plane I was on was not a military flight out but a commercial airline and refueled in Japan. Either the pilot or some Brass stood up and said we will be here just stopping for fueling or something and then jokingly said anyone want to get off. Of course I stood up, got my green duffel bag and started to head towards the door. As I approached "whoever" said, "Hey, I was just kidding," with all the guys laughing or something. I told him, No I have orders and then showed them to him -- Japan R&R. In fact I still have the papers or orders. He looked at it and then said to the effect that 'Hey you want to go home, I will forget what I see and you can go home if you want.' I said I probably would not come back and they would get me for AWOL. I stretched out as many days as I could before getting back In-country [Nam].

Being out of the country those ? days (since I have the orders can figure it out) missed Hue's action. But remember Beckwith before I left, maybe a week or two before and he came out asking for recruits for special mission. I asked him what was ratio for getting back; I recall he said one (1) out of five (5) and I was looking or all of us one (1) out of 10 which were better odds of survival. I said, No I am happy where I am with being the 3rd so, no thanks.



True, I had orders not to go out but wanted to see the guys one more time and managed to get a chopper out to the unit. Knew of the resupply that next day or couple of days so was going to be in and out -- no hassle.

Right, looks like everything changed for all of us on that day March 21 but what now am surprised to hear was Beckwith actions with us. So any stories on this. Would be great for me to hear on this end. Which is all new to me.

Recall the night before [still light out] when we heard the NVA or whoever shooting off couple rounds of heavy stuff and seeing/discussion with new officer reviewed what it could be. Obvious ambush. So we were going to check it out in the morning. Hearing it, where it came from and looking at the map we decided not to walk up the trail and come up to their right if I recall. Guess someone, which will ask to get more accurate account. Myers I guess.

Anyway just wanted to touch base with you and will be e-mailing the other guys next couple of days. I am in Thailand and have been here for a month, relaxing and traveling [rented a car] a couple of places I haven't been before and then off to Shanghai for ten days. I will be back in US Sept 7th and will get a hold of you. I do have skype so if you use it, free call.

+ WILLIAM L. CARPENTER, 1/327 HHC TF 12/66-12/67, 1041 CR. #14, Rayland, OH 43943, (740) 859-4447 sent the following article.

## A Salute to Butch

The following article is about a brother warrior I had the pleasure of serving with while a member of the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division in Viet Nam.

His name was Clyde K. Kobbeman or to all of us in the Tiger Force, he was simply "Butch." To those who may not know the Tigers were the Recon Platoon, of HHC 1<sup>st</sup> BN 327<sup>th</sup> Abn Inf, 1<sup>st</sup> Bde 101<sup>st</sup> Abn Div. The 1/327<sup>th</sup> motto was "Above the Rest," and to that "Butch" was most surely above the rest of most of the Tigers.

Only those who have had the honor of being a warrior in combat can truly understand the brotherhood that exists between each other, forty-five years after the fact when you depend on each other for your very survival. There is no time; it is as though it happened today.

"Butch" and I served in the Tigers together in 1967. "Butch" from Sept 66 to Sept of 67, myself from Dec 66 to Dec of 67.

"Butch" was one of my mentors as we were mostly on the same team. He would teach me what I needed to know to stay alive. The jungle with the enemy, booby traps, mines, snakes and a host of other things were very unforgiving. One mistake and you were often dead!

I had grown up in the hill and farm country of eastern Ohio, where Ohio, West Virginia and Pennsylvania all border. I spent most of my life prior to Viet Nam roaming the hills in search of small game, also running a trap line, walking miles through the deep

And just one more thing -- learned my process of light concrete in California and not Canada. I was living in Canada at the time then moved to Sonora 15 years ago.

Funny thing I was also looking for what the hell happened March 21, 1968, and not or nothing about it on the Internet but guess that will all change.

Good to hear from you and will get back next year to see the guys. Other thing I talked to Penton and he said everything changed with our black brothers when Martin Luther King died. So any info what happened would appreciate info on anything.

Jay 'Hippie' Timbrell

Being out of the country you might have gotten either message or no answer from cell #. That will all change when I get back Sept 7th. \$5.00 a minute does not work with AT&T. Well it does, that is the charge for roaming half around the world. Skype does it for \$0.02 with video to call but if other person has it on their laptop or computer free call as well with video.

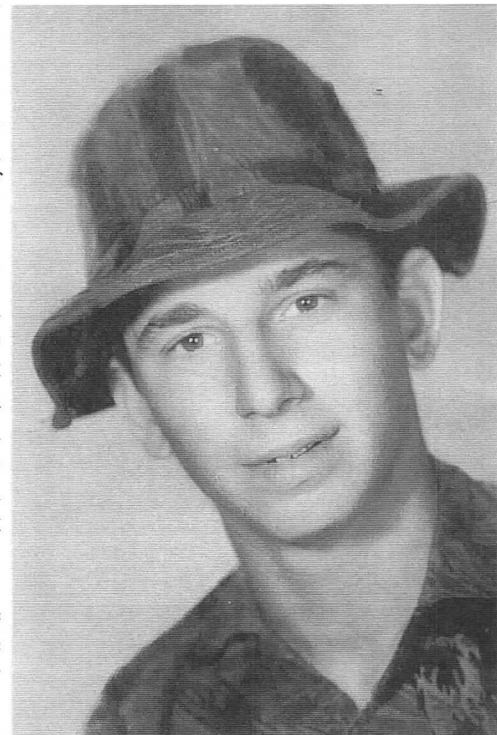
So in review, it was Japan and not Los Angeles and going home and the concrete learned in California and not Canada.

snow before and after school hunting and checking the traps. Many of my childhood meals were wild game.

"Butch" had grown up on the plains near Lincoln, Kansas. We shared a lot in regards to our up bringing -- hunting, shooting, etc. I thought I knew it all. However, "Butch" was one of the best Recon men in the woods and was the best point man I ever knew. He was able to hear and see things that eluded the remainder of the patrol.

I was with "Butch" several times when we should have been killed, but emerged without a scratch. One day in August of 1967, we were being inserted by a chopper west of Chu Lai.

I was to take the point once on the LZ. I had only gone about 25 meters when I held up the patrol. As I have stated, I grew up hunting, as did "Butch." Another super field soldier, Sgt Leo Heaney, from Jim Thorpe, PA, was leading us.



Clyde K. (Butch) Kobbeman

I pointed out why I had held up the patrol. When you hunt you learn to spot changes in vegetation color, or dirt around the entrance to a hole. We were going down a trail, when I spotted the NVA fighting holes approximately 200 meters away.

The NVA opened fire but were too far away. They had three AK-47s but none of their rounds were even close. The NVA only fired about a magazine each and withdrew. We attempted to flank the enemy, as we observed which way they withdrew.

It was August and prime monsoon weather. It soon began a downpour and as usual we were soaked. "Butch" along with Sgt Alan Budda Logan, and I'm not sure who else, had gone to the left and soon came to a hootch. It was pouring rain but "Butch" could hear the NVA talking inside.

The other members of the patrol surrounded the hootch. While "Butch," with the cunning and strength of a real tiger, approached the hootch entrance. When "Butch" burst through, the NVA were caught by complete surprise. They were brewing tea and had their weapons leaning against the wall, big mistake! As they went for their weapons, "Butch" was already on the trigger -- end result three NVA KIA, two AKs and one SKs captured.

The remainder of the team being led by Leo Heaney scored also. I believe it was Leo who bagged a trail watcher with a Mauser. Other members were myself, Mike Allums, Craig Johnson and "Hardrock" Steve Hoult.

As I have stated before, it was as though "Butch" had a sixth sense when it came to danger.

After these contacts, we knew the NVA would be looking for us so it was very important to find a good RON, "Remain Overnight Position."

We selected a wide well used trail that the NVA were using. We could observe this trail unseen and a good escape route should we make contact with the enemy. As I said prior, this was prime monsoon season and the rain was coming in torrents. Around midnight, Mike Allums, Craig Johnson and myself were watching the trail. A bright flash of lightning happened approximately 25 meters in front of us on the trail. Three NVA were planting mines. We quietly talked it over and decided that with the next flash of lightning we would engage the NVA.

When the lighting came, Craig Johnson put an M-79 HE round into the middle of this group. Mike Allums and myself threw an M-26 frag grenade to make sure we got them all.

We knew we had to find another position, and soon. "Butch" took the point with myself as slack man.

We had only gone about 50 meters when "Butch" threw his hand up for the patrol to freeze. Lightning had flashed and in that brief moment "Butch" had seen the prongs from a bouncing Betty sticking up. I asked him afterwards how he knew, but he had no answer. I still wonder 45 years later.

I would often ask myself, after "Butch" completed his tour and returned to Ft. Bragg what would "Butch" do? "Butch" would only be at Ft. Bragg a short time. He would return to Viet Nam with the 3rd Bde of the 82nd ABN DIV during TET of 68.

I kept in contact with "Butch" after his ETS. He attended college in Kansas, married and had a daughter, Meredith, whom he had so much love for. "Butch" also became a pilot and a businessman selling farm implement machinery. As the old Airborne saying goes, "Butch" was harder than woodpecker lips.

He along with other Tigers would be in my wedding – Steve Hoult, Best Man, "Butch" Kobbeman and Jim Cassidy, ushers.

It was a real Airborne wedding complete with "Blood on the Risers" being played.

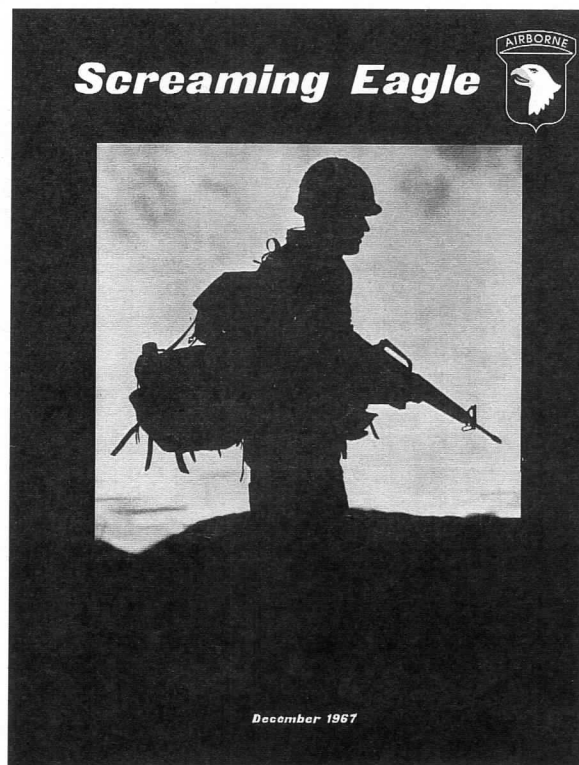
There is a tragic end to this story. A coward and a traitor killed "Butch" in 1990. He was a former Tiger and, at one time, a good soldier. All those in the Tigers know who this coward is. His name will never be spoken by me.

This is not the last I will write about "Butch." I have much more to say about "Butch" – his humor and many of the good times we had. Rest in peace my warrior brother. I often hear your voice and dream about you often. If not for your heroic courage, many members of the Tigers would not have survived their tours. "Butch," you truly were "Above the Rest."

Your old buddy Torch  
The Rock – Dangerous  
And all the other Tigers

Bill Carpenter – Tiger Force 66-67

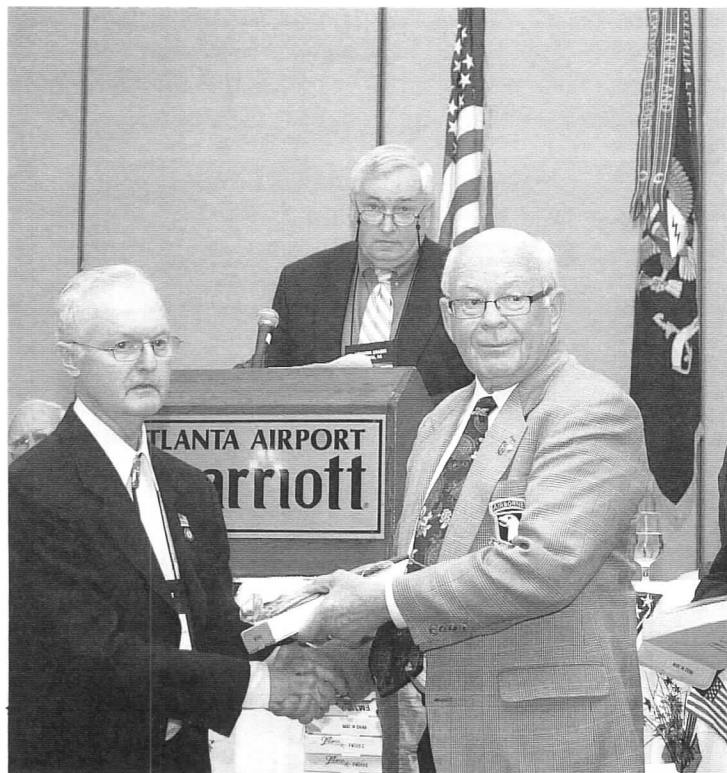
*Editor's Note: In the July 2011 issue in the article "Faster Than a Speeding M-79 Round" on page 6, Kobbeman's name was misspelled. His name was used the way I had it in the database.*



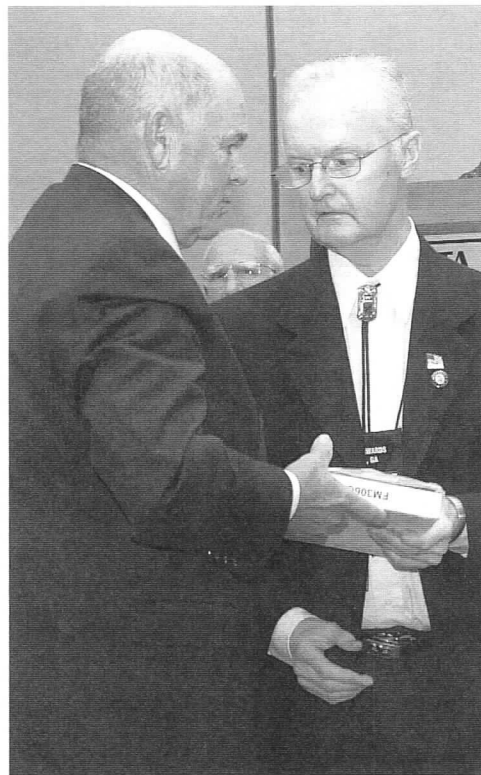
Reprint of the December 1967 issue of THE SCREAMING EAGLE magazine that covers First Brigade (S) history from July 1965 through December 1967. See page 34 for order form.



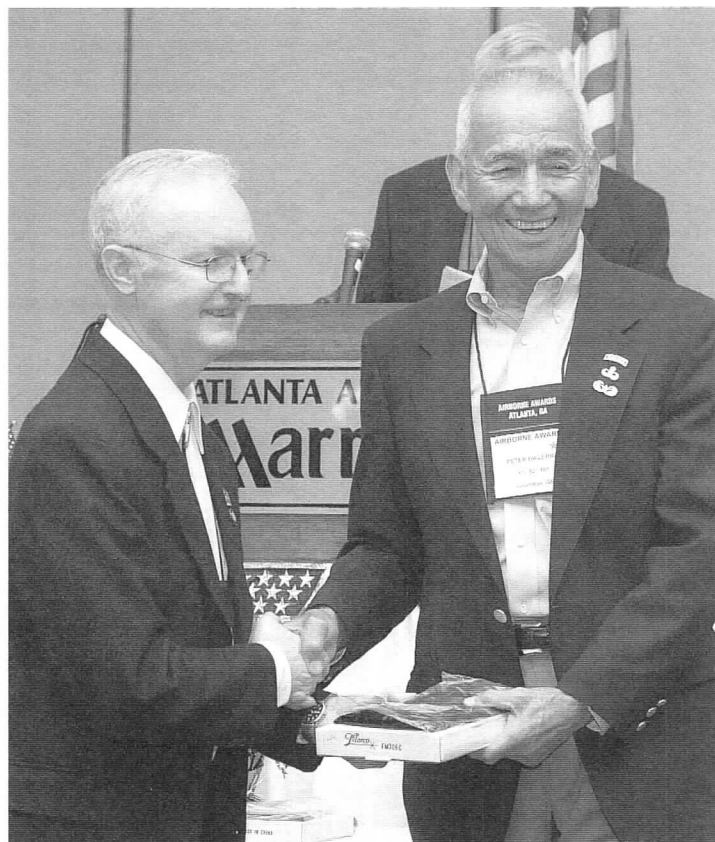
The 35th Annual STATIC LINE Airborne Awards Festival, April 6 – 9, 2011, in Atlanta, Georgia, was again sponsored by the Donald D. Lassen Atlanta All Airborne Chapter, 82nd Airborne Division Association. All awards were presented by Chapter Chairman Bob Timian.



Terry R. Zahn, SPT BN HQ ELT 7/65-5/66, First Brigade (S) 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division receives his Brigade MAN OF THE YEAR plaque from Bob Timian.



COL (R) Thomas K. Sewell, 2/327 A & B 1/68-1/69, Association President is presented the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division Association MAN OF THE YEAR award by Bob Timian.



The Ranger MAN OF THE YEAR plaque is presented to CSM(R) Peter Bacerra, 2/327 HQ 5/66-5/67, who stood in for the winner, Charles Craft. Bob Timian is the presenter.

# C Company, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry at Cobra Lake

The annual C Company, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry gathering at Cobra Lake, near Crossville, Tennessee, took place on June 24th – 25th, 2011. Our hostess and host, Angela and Kenneth F. Ihle, 1/327 C 7/65-7/66, along with numerous volunteers made the Cold Steel Cobra Reunion an exceptional two days. *Photos by Ivan Worrell*

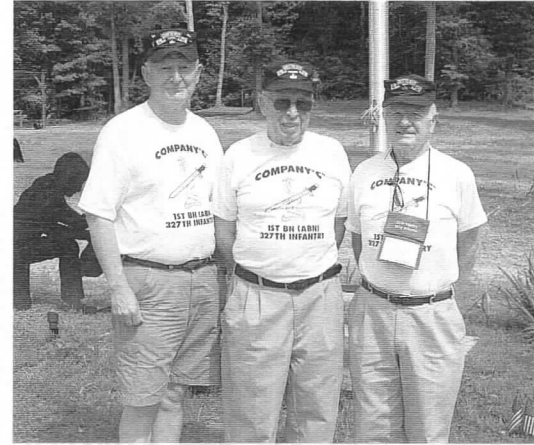
*Editor's Note: Watch for additional Cobra Lake Reunion pictures in future editions.*



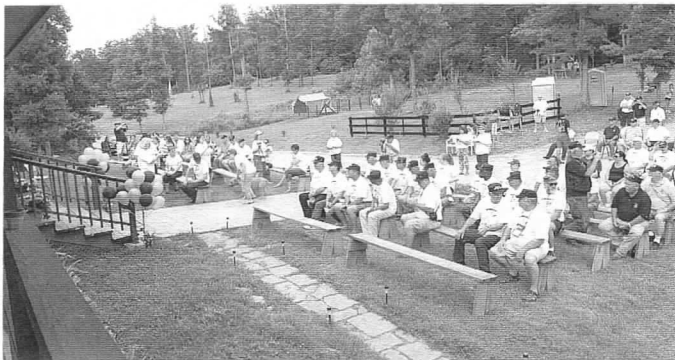
(L to R) Ken Ihle, 1/327 C 7/65-7/66, and David "Doc" Nelms, 1/327 HHC T.F. Med 10/66-10/67, greet new arrivals.



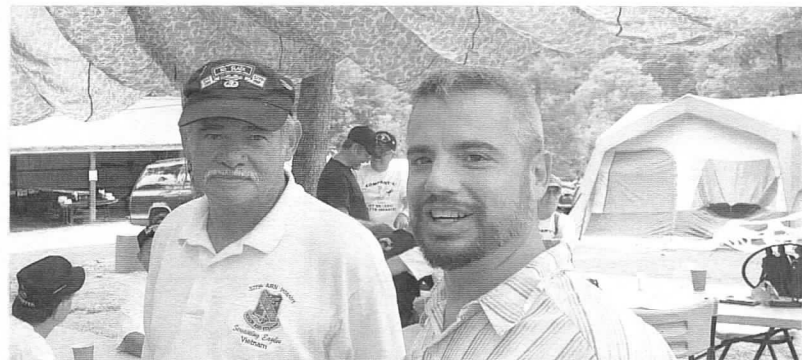
(L to R) Taking a short break from reunion duties are, C Company "First Skirt" Faye McDonald, widow of CSM(R) John R. "Russ" McDonald, 1/327 C 7/65-7/68 and the Reunion Hostess, Angie Ihle.



(L to R) Three former Commanders of C Company; COL(R) E. Wayne Dill, 1/327 A & C 3/66-3/67, CO in 1966; MAJ(R) Ivan Worrell, INFO OFF 5/66-5/67, CO in 1956 – 1957 and LTC (R) Allen C. De Graw, 1/327 C 7/64-7/66 ELT, CO 1964 – 1966, attended.



Attendance at the memorial service was outstanding.



Theodore Penton, 2/327 C 10/67-2/69, and his son, Theodore Penton, Jr., who served with the 82nd Airborne Division in the Desert Storm war.



A replica of the original Cold Steel Cobra T-Shirt was worn by most who attended.



The weather was relatively mild and lunch under the parachutes was a pleasant experience.

# Wedding story

Tuesday, September 6, 2011  
+ PETE PEPPER, 2/327 A 8/66-3/68  
1428 Nipomo St., San Luis Obispo, CA 93401  
707-217-8657  
petepepper@aol.com

Hi Ivan,

Here's the story about the wedding. I'm attaching some black and white pictures which might be useful, they're identified at the bottom of the email. Call me at 707-217-8657 if you need anything else.

Regards,  
Pete

## A Gathering Of Old Eagles

Earlier this year, some of the men of Alpha Company, 2d Battalion, 327th P.I.R. gathered in San Luis Obispo, California, for a special occasion, the wedding of one of their comrades.

Pete Pepper, who had served with A Company from August of 1966 until September of 1967, as Platoon Leader, Company Executive Officer and Company Commander, was getting married.

Pete had four "best men;" Terry Wren, Benito Garcia, Tom Dohnke and Rich Luttrell's wife, Carole, who stood in for Rich because Rich had died suddenly last year.

More than 200 people attended the ceremony and reception at the Mission De Tolosa in downtown San Luis Obispo. Among the First Brigade veterans were Tom Furgeson and Bill Rován, who had both been Pete's Company Commanders.

Other "Screaming Eagles" and Alpha Company vets included Rich Denne, Pete's RTO when he was a Platoon Leader, Forward Observer Dan Larned, Pat Noonan, Billy Weldon, LW Johnson, Rex Andrea, "Doc" Mihalic, and Joe Berry.

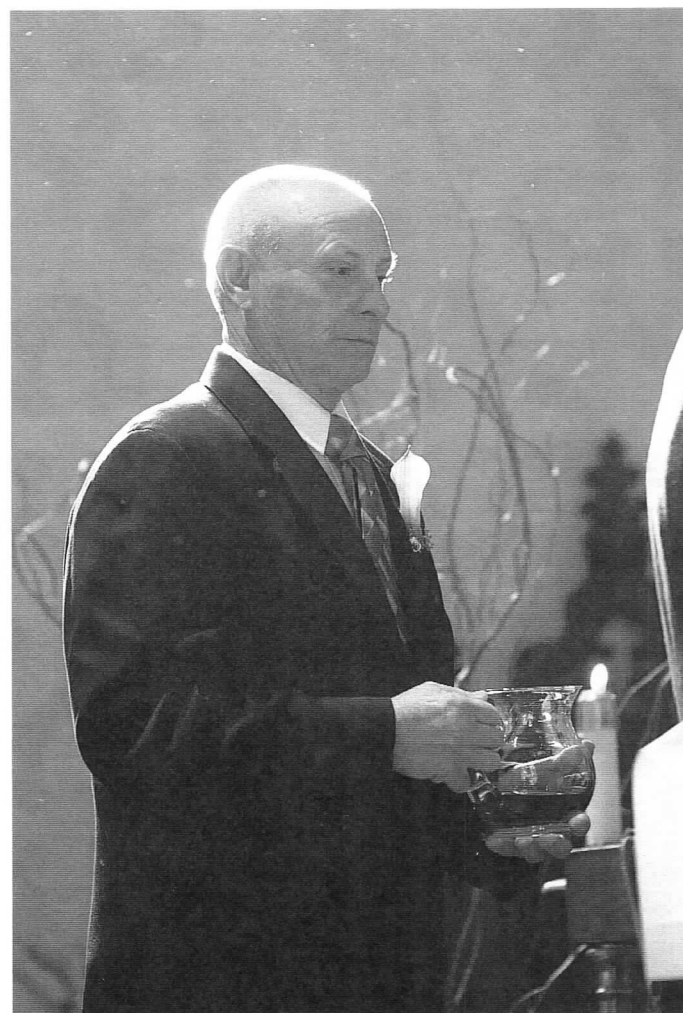
Pete isn't sure whose idea it was, (probably Benito's) but most of the men put on propeller hats for an impromptu honor guard so Pete and his bride could walk proudly to the reception.

For a honeymoon, Pete and his bride, Patty Moyer, traveled to Thailand, Laos and then Vietnam. They were joined in DaNang by Carole Luttrell and Bonnie Wren (Terry's wife), and they toured Vietnam together for ten days, visiting Hoi An, Hue and Hanoi, and meeting people who were part of Rich's heritage.

*Editor's Note: Those First Brigade (S) veterans who participated in the wedding are listed here, with the information from the magazine database, as they appear in the story. Pete Pepper, 2/327 A 8/66-3/68; Terry L. Wren, 2/327 A 4/67-2/68; Benito R. Garcia, Jr., 2/327 A 1/67-8/67; Thomas W. Dohnke, 2/327 A 7/67-5/68; Carole L. Luttrell, (Richard 2/327 A 3/67-3/68); LTC(R) Charles T. (Tom) Furgeson, 2/327 A & HHC 5/66-5/67; LTC(R) William (Bill) Rován, 2/327 HQ&A 6/66-5/67; Richard Denne, 2/327 A dates ??; COL(R) Dan Larned, 2/327 A 5/66-6/67; R. Patrick Noonan, 2/327 A 10/65-10/66; William F. (Billy) Weldon, 2/327 INF A 6/67-6/68; MAJ L. W. Johnson, AUS-Ret., 2/327 A 10/66-9/67; Rex A. Andrea, 2/327 A 8/66-8/67; Nick Mihalic, 2/327 HHQ 2/67-8/67 and Joe K. Berry, 2/327 A 12/67-8/69.*

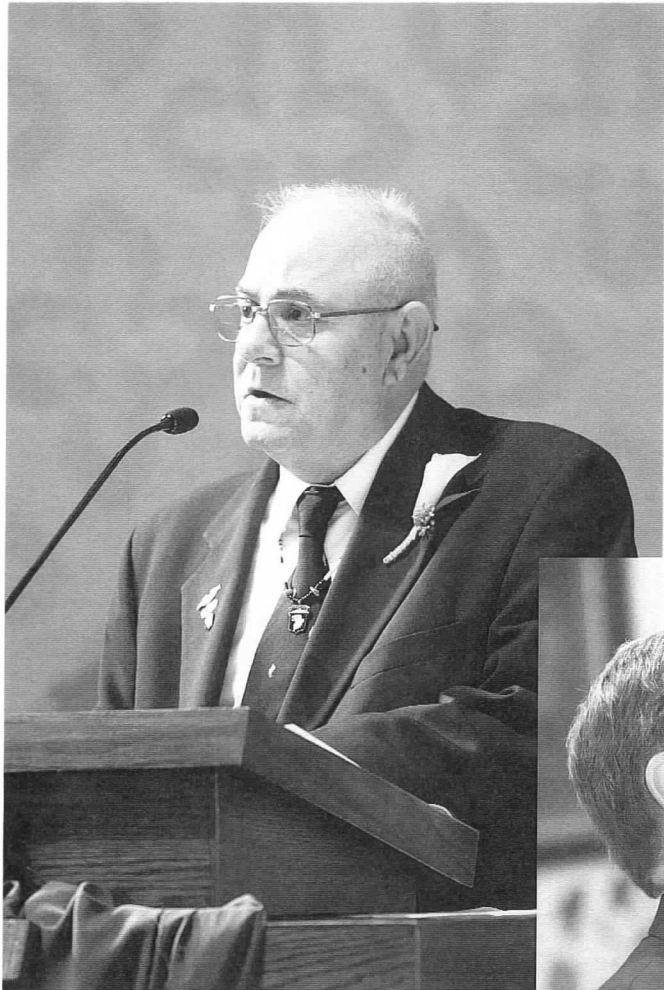


*Patty and Pete Pepper*

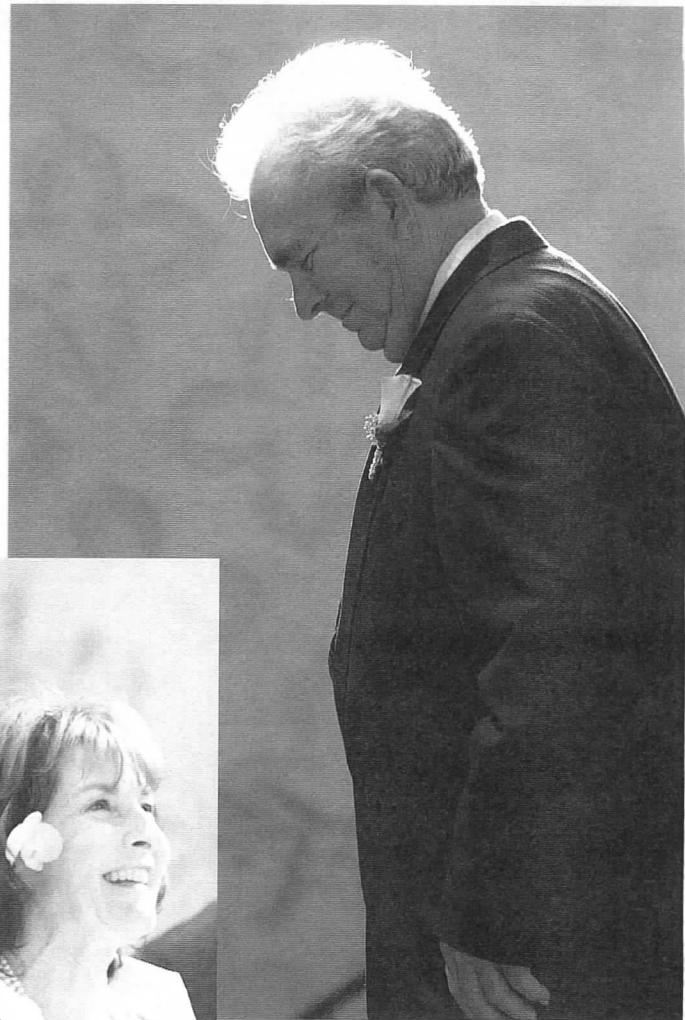


*A Best Man, Terry Wren*





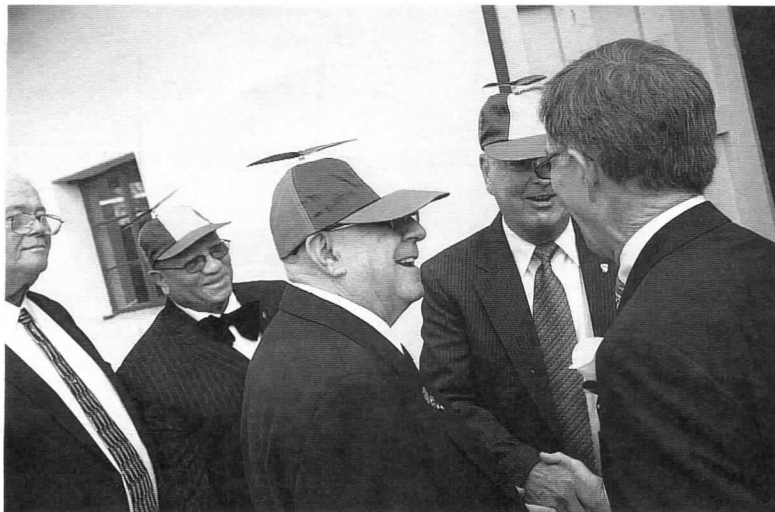
*A Best Man, Benito Garcia*



*A Best Man, Tom Dohnke*



*Pete and Patty after solemn part*



*Honor Guard uniform caps*



*Wedding Party Honor Guard*

# 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!"

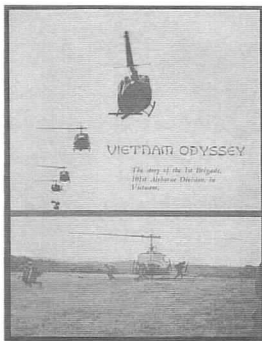
The SCRAPBOOK contains 105 8.5 x 11 inch pages and is three hole punched ready to be secured in a regular three ring notebook. Great care was taken to make copies that are true to the original.

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.

This copy of the *Diplomat and Warrior* was sent to me by CPT Barry Hana, HQ-PIO 3/67-3/68, as a copy from his unit newspaper collection which is bound in book. Readers will note that Barry made some notes on his copies of the paper. Those who are mentioned in the paper, who are in the First Brigade (S) database, are listed below.

### Front Page,

MEDIC WINS CMB, Doug Teeters\*, 1/327 Medic 2/67-1/68.  
 QUICK REACTION BY TIGER FORCE, Steve Hoult, 1/327 HHC T.F. 9/66-9/67.  
 Photograph, HITTING SNIPERS by Michael A. Willey, BRIGADE PIO 9/66-10/67. Michael also has a picture on page 3 titled WORKING AND RESTING.

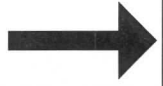
### Page 2,

NEW PROTESTANT CHAPLAIN, Chaplain (Col-R) Fred "Max" Wall, Jr., 2/327 4/67-8/67. Chaplain Wall has conducted the memorial service for two First Brigade (S) reunions.

### Page 3,

'WARRIORS OF THE WEEK' Dale N. Wagner, 2/17 CAV A TRP 5/66-6/67, who was the Troop Commander of the officer and PFC who were the 'Warriors of the Week.' CSM(R) Robert A. Young, HHC CSM 6/66-6/67 was the brigade's Sergeant Major.

\* Not a subscriber



**1st•BRIGADE**  
(SEPARATE)

**101st Airborne Division**  
**Viet Nam**  
**July 1965**  
**January 1968**



•"The Always First Brigade"•

The First Brigade (S) plastic car tag sells for \$5.00 and is shipped post paid. See order form on page 34.



Label quality sticker, four (4) inch diameter full color logo. Price is \$2.50 for four (4) labels postpaid. See order form on page 34.

## Medic Wins CMB Two Hours After Asgd To 1/327

**KHANH DUONG** — In the everyday conflict that is the war in Viet Nam it is not unusual for a new infantryman to win his Combat Infantryman Badge shortly after joining his unit. Nor is it uncommon for a new medic to gain the Combat Medical Badge within a short time.

But Private First Class Douglas C. Teeters, Mehama, Ore., a medic attached to Company B, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry, won his CMB in a mere two hours.

PFC Teeters got his first taste of combat after he was flown in by resupply helicopter to join Company B's 1st platoon in the field.

"I just laid down as the bullets flew by me," PFC Teeters said. "The point squad ran the VC off with no trouble, but it was close."

The newcomer to Viet Nam was surprised at the length of the encounter.

"I didn't know what to expect and all of a sudden it was happening, and was just as quickly finished."



**HITTING SNIPERS** — 1st Brigade military police escorts place immediate fire on a sniper during a recent supply convoy during Operation Summerall here. The "Screaming Eagle" MP Platoon provided escorts for supply convoys from the base camp here to Duc My. (US Army Photo by PFC M.A. Willey)

### RECORD TOTAL

## Nearly 6,000 Enemy Surrender Last Month Under Chieu Hoi

**SAIGON (MACV)** — An all-time record of 5,557 enemy soldiers returned to the Government of Viet Nam

during the month of March. This almost doubles the previous record set in February, when 2,917 chose to

turn themselves in under the Chieu Hoi (open arms) program. This program, directed at enemy strongholds, offers VC or North Vietnamese soldiers their own peaceful solution to the Viet Nam war.

Graphically illustrating the accelerating tempo of the program's effectiveness, the new figures show that 368 more men returned in March than in January and February combined, (with 5,189 of the enemy returning in those two months.)

During the week ending April 1, 1,000 enemy took advantage of the program. The Chieu Hoi camp in Region IV were kept busiest throughout the week, opening their arms to 365 returnees. Region III welcomed 349 of the former enemy into its camps. Region II and Region I took in 253 and 33 enemy soldiers respectively.

The record number for March, brings the 1967 total of returnees to 10,746. For the same three-month period in 1966, there were 5,521 returnees.

Since launching the Chieu Hoi program in 1963, the government welcomed 58,970 returnees.

Seconds in combat are as precious as air to a drowning man. Those brief moments of time that vanish no sooner than they arrive often mean the difference between life and death in combat.

Two paratroopers of the 1st Brigade had the clock ticking on their side recently during Operation Summerall.

Private First Class Jimmy G. Ward, Sweeny, Tex., and Private First Class Maurice S. Hoult, Danville, Ill., were leading the Tiger Force, the reconnaissance platoon of the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry, uphill along an overgrown jungle trail.

PFC Ward saw sandalled feet coming toward him. He and Hoult dropped to the ground and waited those valuable seconds until the wearers of the sandals appeared. They were North Vietnamese regulars.

The two Tigers opened fire, dropping the first two NVA. The rest of the enemy fled.

In seconds two enemy were dead and two weapons captured. It could have been different if the clock had been working on NVA time.

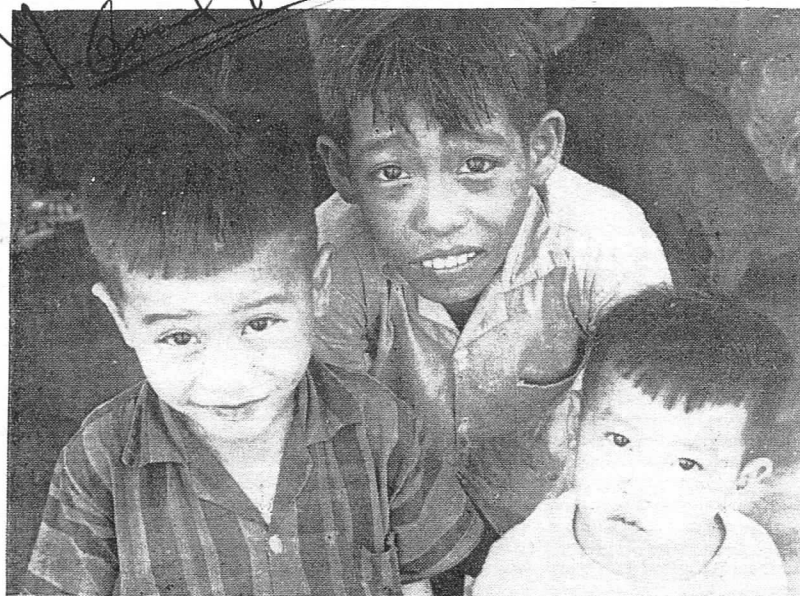
The clock never stops running.

## Spt Bn Conducts Parachute Jumps

**PHAN RANG (Spt Bn 10)**  
The "Screaming Eagles" of the Support Battalion executed limited cargo and personnel parachute drops from a C-47 aircraft near here.

The purpose of the operation was to provide special training for the air equipment supply platoon responsible for packing, rigging and dropping of all air-drop equipment within the brigade.

Additional parachute drops involving the Support Battalion are to be scheduled to keep assigned personnel proficient in parachute drop procedure.



**SHY-INQUISITIVE-BEWILDERED** — Like children anywhere in the world when meeting a stranger these Central Highland youngsters register a variety of wonderment. The stranger is a paratrooper of the 1st Brigade. It's the first time they met a "Screaming Eagle." (US Army Photo by SP4 John Yeager)



**BOMBERS HONOR "SCREAMING EAGLES"** — Major Willard E. Fanklin, Roy, Utah, presents a plaque from his 8th Tactical Bomber Squadron to Brigadier General S.H. Matheson, brigade commander. The B-57 bomber squadron based at Phan Rang has been flying close-support missions for the "Screaming Eagles" for the past six months and currently in Operation Summerall here, 197 miles northeast of Saigon. (US Army Photo by 1LT Arthur D. Barnett).

2d Bn, 327th Inf.

# New Protestant Chaplain Assigned To 'No Slack' Bn

**KHANH DUONG (2/327 10)** — Captain Fred M. Wall is the new Protestant chaplain for the 2d Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry.

The dynamic young chaplain gave his first sermon to the "No Slack" troopers at the battalion's tactical command post where he met the sky troopers and Battalion Commander Lieutenant Colonel Donald E. (Thunderball) Rosenblum.

Although new to the battalion, Chaplain Wall has been in Viet Nam for eight months serving as Protestant chaplain for the 563rd Med-

ical Clearing Company. The 26-year-old native of Athens, Ga., received his college education at the University of Georgia and Emory College in Atlanta. When asked of his first impressions of the "No Slack" Battalion and its men, Chaplain Wall said he was "very impressed with the moral and spiritual dedication of the troopers and their hospitality towards me. I want all the men to know I am their chaplain anytime and anywhere."

Chaplain Wall is replacing Chaplain Richard L. Heim who has ended his tour in Viet Nam.

## 'A Day In Viet Nam'

# No Picnic Searching For Viet Cong In Rugged Mountains And Jungles

by SP4 William Singley  
**KHANH DUONG**—Early morning.

The jungle, cool before the sun steams above the surrounding mountains, wakens with the buzzing of insects.

In the dense brush on a hilltop the members of a rifle company, paratroopers of the 1st Brigade stir from their poncho liners, grumbling.

Someone shouts, "Good morning Viet Nam!" Another, "Thirty-one days!"

Rations are heated, gear is packed, communications and weapons are rechecked; the men, their soiled fatigues

damp from the mist, move out.

Another day in Viet Nam begins.

Mission for the day? The same as every day. Find Victor Charlie. Where ever he is, find him, capture or kill him, take his rice and weapon, keep him running.

All morning the company moves waist-deep through a wide stream at the base of a towering, fertile mountain coldly named Hill 808. From below it is beautiful, reflecting the sun from its green cloak, perfect covering for the watching eyes of the enemy. Someone wonders aloud what everyone is thinking. "Damn, I feel like

someone's watchin' me."

The men lunch where the mountain pours its water into a stream. Drenched with sweat some strip to the waist and plunge their heads in o' the cool, rushing water. Others prepare a quick meal. Some sleep. All rest.

That afternoon they are going up the mountain.

"Put it on!" commands the Negro first lieutenant, made darker and leaner from the continuous days of search and destroy.

"We ain't goin' up there I hope," comments one trooper.

They go.

Again the backs strain beneath the straps as they follow the falling stream, cautious on the loose rocks. Boulders block the way. Maches are used to hack through the jungle. Thorns tear the men's clothing. Under the green cloak it's not so beautiful.

As they climb the water runs faster and louder. The mountain grows steeper, footing more hazardous. Uniforms stay dark from sweat.

No sign of the enemy. Several times men fall. One wrenches his knee. He climbs, leaning on his buddy.

Halfway up the men have to return to the jungle. Stopping their climb is a 200-

foot waterfall, splashing through the rock and foliage like a majestic fountain from an invisible source. Few notice it as they cut a trail in the thick growth. One sees the knees and feet of the soldier climbing ahead of him, a few feet to either side of the new trail.

All the time the stream in its haste is heard.

Dry mouths are grateful water is available.

The first break is given. Those with dry cigarettes smoke. Others simply sit and wonder if there is a top to the mountain. Three paratroopers play cards. For seven months they have been playing cards on every break they get. The dealer is a young man from Baton Rouge, La. He has 20 days left. This is his last mission.

A sergeant from Clarksville, Tenn., keeps the winnings recorded in a battered notebook. The third man is from Pismo Beach, Calif. He has been losing since he joined the game. There was a fourth, now he watches. The game broke him months ago.

Again they move. Back to the stream, the rocks that scrape and jar, the swarming insects. Slowly they progress upward, pushing as fast as the terrain allows. For security they must reach the

top by dusk.

Still no trace of the enemy. A rifle clatters on the rocks as a man slips. Hands are bleeding from the sharp jungle brush. Toward the center of the mountain they push, leaving the stream behind. They have to boost and pull each other up. Dirt cakes their wet clothes. Roots and trees are the rungs of their ladder to the top.

A grenadier from Baltimore, Md. tells a radio operator from Columbus, Ohio how glad he will be to walk on level ground again. When he gets home he will "jump off that 'seven-oh-quick' and kiss the runway."

The sun is gone, the pace increases. The final fifty yards takes less than 20 minutes. They made it. Exhausted, wet, sore, all of them made it.

Defenses are set up. The weary men clear sleeping space, unroll their poncho liners. It's too dark to cook food. Few bother with cold rations. Rest for their tired bodies is all they want.

The card players curse the darkness and try to sleep in their wet clothes.

No enemy today except the land.

Tomorrow will be the same, and the next day, until Victor Charlie is found.

Another day in Viet Nam has ended.

## DIPLOMAT and WARRIOR

The DIPLOMAT and WARRIOR is an authorized weekly publication of and for the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division APO San Francisco 96347. It is printed in Saigon, RVN by Dong-Nam-A.

The opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense or any of the Service Departments. The Service News Departments, Armed Forces News Bureau, and Army News and Photo Features augment local news.

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*WORKING AND RESTING* are done simultaneously on the way up the hill. A position is checked. A weapon cleaned. Radio contact held. All necessary for jungle survival. (US Army Photo by PFC M.A. Willey)

## 'Warriors Of The Week' Get A Welcome Respite

**KHANH DUONG**—The 1st Brigade recognizes its outstanding combat leaders. The reward? A case of beer, sheets to sleep on and a \$25 savings bond.

Each week two "Screaming Eagles"—an officer and an enlisted man—are selected as "Warriors of the Week." For outstanding combat performance the two veterans are given a respite from the field on clean sheets at brigade headquarters.

A tour of the brigade command post allows them to see operations at a higher level. The brigade commander, Brigadier General S.H. Matheson, poses with the warriors, and the picture and a letter are sent to their parents. Each receives a case of beer or soft drinks and

the enlisted man also receives the savings bond.

The selection begins in the brigade's operation section. Those units which participated in the most intensive action the previous week are chosen by the brigade executive officer. The chosen unit's commander selects the two "Warriors of the Week."

Two recent recipients are First Lieutenant John P. McIlwain, Logansport, Ind., and Private First Class Alan P. Pini, Warren, Mich. Both are members of Troop A, 17th Cavalry, Bronze Star Medal winners, and under continuous sniper fire during a convoy from Tuy Hoa to Phan Thiet.

Their commanding officer, Captain Dale N. Wagner,

Rene, Nev., said choosing the men is difficult. "The decision is tough," he said. "Each man in the outfit does so much more than his job requires."

Those picked spend a day at the brigade command post. The officer accompanies the commanding general and the enlisted man stays at the side of the brigade's sergeant major, Robert A. Young, Green City, Mo.

Lieutenant McIlwain enjoyed being chosen. "It was a good experience to see how the command staff functions," he said. "And it's a definite morale booster."

PFC Pini agreed. He learned a lot from his tour with the sergeant major. And he enjoyed those clean sheets.

## LRRP's Kill 14 NVA; Almost Half Of Opn

by SP4 William P. Singley

**KHANH DUONG**—For a unit that isn't supposed to engage with the enemy, the Long Range Reconnaissance Platoon of the 1st Brigade, compiled a remarkable record during the first three weeks of Operation Summerall. The members of the LRRP's accounted for nearly 50 per cent of the enemy killed—14 of 29—without losing a man.

The mission of the LRRP's is to probe suspected enemy areas, watch trails for Viet Cong movements and capture prisoners.

These tasks can be accomplished with minimum risk of detection because of the size of a reconnaissance team. LRRP's travel in six-man teams: a team leader, two scouts, a medic and two radio-telephone operators. Each can perform the other's task.

Training and teamwork are important. Communications between the LRRP's are hand signals and mouth-to-ear whispers. They sleep in a circle, an arm's length apart. Four radio contacts are made daily. It two are missed an aircraft is dispatched to investigate—reconnaissance men are tough to replace.

Recently, a team chasing a single VC split into two-man sections to encircle the enemy. Sergeant Jimmy L. Cody, Cocoa, Fla., and Specialist 5 Virgil D. Palk, Waverly, Tenn., followed his trail and unexpectedly walked into a VC base camp.

Thinking it only a small camp, Cody and Palk charged, firing their automatic rifles. The astonished and bewildered enemy reacted too late. In the confusion the two paratroopers got away.

"Everyone was running around," said Specialist Palk. "A woman pushed me out of the way to get by."

The next day the LRRP's guided an infantry platoon back to the site and learned they had leaped into a Viet Cong province headquarters,

capable of supporting more than 100 people. A detainee taken by the platoon confirmed nine killed for the two-man army.

LRRP action is not always on the ground. Specialist 5 Len Abate, Camden, N.J., was riding in a helicopter on a visual reconnaissance mission when he and the pilot spotted 15 enemy soldiers crossing a field. As they circled low and fired they noticed one of the black-clad figures was a girl. They landed and picked her up. She turned out to be a VC nurse. One detainee—two more enemy dead for the LRRP's.

Alertness can mean life in the jungle. Specialist 4 Patrick Kinser, Logan, W. Va., was leading a team when he spotted VC only 20 yards ahead on the same trail. The enemy saw them too, but the LRRP's were too fast. The team fired killing two VC. In the fight Kinser's weapon was shot from his hands. A bullet had drilled into his barrel.

Master Sergeant Lloyd L. Smith, Fayetteville, N.C., the platoon sergeant, explains its fighting success: "Our target are ones of opportunity because of our element of surprise. If Charlie sees us we zap him. We have to."

Young Staff Sergeant John A. Dietrich, Baltimore, Md., who spent a year with the LRRP's sums up the feelings of the men in the unit:

"We're closer than brothers. We know what the other guy can do. No one complains. We're a small unit and prefer to fight that way."

### 'Now, Looky Here Pardner'

## 'White Hat' Heroes Kill 'Black Hat' Villains

by SP4 William P. Singley

**KHANH DUONG**— "There ain't room for both us 'round here," said the white-hatted western hero to the villain in black.

The same scene is being played on the jungle trails in Viet Nam where the 1st Brigade conducts Operation Summerall here.

There's no room for both the paratroopers and the Viet Cong, so the VC avoid

men like quick-on-the-draw Specialist 4 Patrick Kinser, Logan, W. Va.

Specialist Kinser is point man for a six-man team of the Long Range Reconnaissance Platoon (LRRP) and recently had a chance to put his speedy draw into action. As his team maneuvered through thick brush, Kinser spotted Charlie coming the other way. Charlie saw him at the same time, but the 23-year-old paratrooper was

too fast. On his signal, the six-man team hit the dirt and fired, Kinser getting in the first shot. After the first volley, two VC were dead.

"After I emptied my magazine, I rolled over and tried to reload," said Specialist Kinser. "As I put my rifle up to jam in another magazine, my M-16 flew out of my hands." He retrieved his weapon a few feet away. An enemy bullet had penetrated the barrel.

The rest of the team hit the VC with grenades and small arms fire then cleared out since they had no idea what size force they were fighting.

An air strike was called in and then the LRRP's returned. They found discarded packs, rice and the original two dead Viet Cong. The enemy again had fled.

Sergeant Derby F. Jones, Ukiah, Calif., who was right

behind Specialist Kinser said they threw everything at the Charlies, but if it wasn't for Kinser's quick reactions the result might have been reversed.

"He's got ears like a rabbit and eyes like a hawk," said Sergeant Jones.

A helicopter delivered a new weapon to specialist Kinser and the LRRP's went stalking the bad guys in black once again.

## Range Of 40-150 Miles

# 'TROPO'— Field Tested Here; No Need For Relay Sites

by 2LT Barry Hana

**KHANH DUONG**—Tropospheric Scatter Communications. Quite a mouthfull for communication laymen, but it's the coming thing in Viet Nam.

"Trope" is a new form of radio communication being tested for tactical use by U.S. forces in Viet Nam. The system is in operation between major communication centers such as Pleiku, Nha Trang, Cam Ranh and Saigon, but now it's being tested in the field.

The 1st Brigade engaged here in Operation Summerall is host to the experiment of the 544th and 545th Signal Detachments. The "Screaming Eagles" are the only troops in Viet Nam being supported by mobile "Trope."

The new system takes its name from the manner in which it sends signals—into the troposphere, one to six miles above the earth. Its greater range of 40 to 150 miles in a tactical situation, elimination of intermediate tactical relay sites, fewer personnel requirements and higher quality transmission are distinct advantages over the current Very High Frequency (VHF) system. Rather

than have a string of tactical line-of-sight relays as with VHF, "Trope" shoots its signals up and over obstacles such as mountains where they intersect with signals of the receiver in another location.

With no tactical relay sites there is no danger of the Viet Cong destroying a link in the communications network. With a more technically advanced enemy with equipment, alternate battle frequencies in the Super Frequency Range (4400 to 5000 megacycles) would be used. By the time the enemy adjusted to frequency, "Trope" would switch to another.

"Trope" provides 24 voice channels, a rapid, multi-channel capability. One voice channel can be replaced by 16 teletype channels, providing a capability of 23 voice channels and 16 teletype channels. However, only seven voice channels are operational at Khanh Duong and VHF is being employed as well as experimental "Trope."

VHF is quicker to set up and easier to operate than the more secure, higher quality "Trope" but continued experimentation and training promises a bright future for the new system.

The 544th and 545th Signal Detachments form a "Trope Contingency Team" (TCT) in support of the brigade's communications between Khanh Duong and Pleiku. Pleiku has permanent "Trope" links with Ban Me Thuot and Ban Me Thuot with Nha Trang. Thus the brigade could be linked to Nha Trang without using tactical VHF relay sites.

The Army is planning a Southeast Asia Signal School near Bien Hoa to train personnel in communications. "Trope" training is to have equal status as one of three training divisions with Ultra Frequency (UHF) and VHF. Currently there is no Army military occupation (MOS) for the new "Trope" system. Normal microwave technicians who have had three weeks of "Trope" training are adapting to the new system as they operate it.

Major Raymond E. Largen, Arvada, Colo., brigade signal officer, would like to maintain "Trope" with the mobile "Screaming Eagles" whenever the tactical situation permits.

"The 1st Brigade is constantly on the move, often into areas where multiple relays must be employed to provide wire and teletype circuits," said Major Largen. "The Trope" system eliminates the requirements for these relays, provides greater distance than VHF and greatly enhances the voice of the command."

First Lieutenant Sheldon Finman, Tampa, Fla., commander of the TCT, sees "Trope" playing a major role in tactical communications in the future.

"The Trope contingency Team is the forerunner of tactical 'Trope' communications in Viet Nam," said Lieutenant Finman. "The multi-channel, long range system of communications meant fewer relay sites, less casualties, less maintenance and support and therefore less cost to the taxpayers."

Gary Tanous, Vancouver, Wash., civilian technical representative for TCT, agrees.

"In the two and a half years I have been associated with tropospheric scatter equipment," said Tanous, "many improvements and new developments have been

made. 'Trope' is fast becoming the most sophisticated communication system the military has, providing qua-

lity equaled only by telephone communication systems back in the United States."



**ADJUSTING HORIZON ANGLE** — Members of the 544th Signal Detachment and the 1st Brigade adjust the horizon angle of the mobile Tropospheric Scatter Communications system being tested here. The "Screaming Eagles" are the only unit being supported by mobile "Trope" which sends its signals into the troposphere where they are picked up by a receiver. (US Army Photo by PFC Daniel)



**EXPLAINING "TROPE"** — Pointing out the advantages of Tropospheric Scatter Communications, First Lieutenant Sheldon Finman, Tampa, Fla. (second left), and Major Raymond E. Largen, Arvada, Colo., (second right), brief two visitors from the 73rd Signal Battalion. Lieutenant Finman's 544th Signal Detachment is operating in support of the brigade providing the "Trope" in Viet Nam. (US Army Photo by PFC Daniel)

## THE BUDDY SYSTEM



A paratrooper of the 1st Brigade gives his "buddy" a helping hand up the slippery bank during a stream crossing while searching for the enemy during Operation Summerall. (US Army Photo)

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SPT BN HQ ELT 7/65-5/66 - 4/12  
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Omaha, NE 68116-5123

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Memphis, TN 38109-6734

C. C. Wright \$  
2/502 B 63-2/66 - 7/12  
721 Crawford St.  
Belding, MI 48809-1215

### Address Corrections

June 2, 2011  
through September 6, 2011

LTC(R) Bliss W. "Zeke" Wilder  
2/502 HQ&HQ 3/64-10/65 - 4/12  
4611 Husky Dr.  
Bellingham, WA 98226

Ben Willis  
unit & dates ? - 4/12  
2112 Spring Creek Lane  
Atlanta, GA 30350

LTG(R) Robert "Greyhound" Yerks  
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152 Wildcat Drive  
Richmond, KY 40475-8879

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Marilyn Wilkes  
Associate - 4/12  
1025 Valley Road  
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James A. Wilson  
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2538 Alder Glen Dr.  
Lodi, CA 95242-4601

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2/320 FA HQ 5/65-2/66 - 4/12  
49 King St.  
Hatfield, MA 01038

Jay Molyneaux  
2/327 HHC HAWK RECON 3/67-4/68 - 10/11  
1630 SW 28th Ave.  
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2 North East Street  
Green City, MO 63545-1024

Henry I. Willey  
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408 Silver Pine Lane  
Tamworth, NH 03886

Henry I. Willey  
2/502 A 1/67-1/68 - 4/12  
408 Silver Pine Lane  
Tamworth, NH 03886

## FIRST BRIGADE (S) 13th BIENNIAL REUNION DINNER

2012 Reunion notice, Saturday, September 10, 2011 10:08 AM  
From: "Richard Schonberger" <richard\_58@verizon.net>  
To: "Ivan Worrell" <firstbrigades101magazine@yahoo.com>  
Cc: "WALTER JACKSON" <thejackson511@msn.com>,  
A327NoSlack@aol.com

Hi Ivan, Walt asked me to pass along his input on the 2012 reunion since he's currently in transition and transit without a computer or printer. He should be back in Boise next week where I'm sure he will be checking in. Hopefully his input answers the mail for now, but if you have questions please contact Larry [Redmond] or me since Walt will be out of contact. Dick

### 13th First Brigade Reunion 14-18 August 2012

Make your plans to attend the 13th First Brigade reunion to be held in Nashville and Ft Campbell from 14-18 August 2012. It will coincide with the Division's Week of the Eagles that will celebrate the return of the entire Division from Afghanistan that also marks the 70th Anniversary of our world-famous division's activation in 1942. The 101st Airborne Division Association will also be conducting its 67th annual reunion that will allow 1st Brigade troopers who are members, as well as those who are not, to participate in the diverse activities that will provide maximum interaction with the gallant generation of active duty Screaming Eagles who have added so much to the annals of our proud history.

The week will begin on Tuesday, 14 August, with a casual Nashville Southern Buffet for 1st Brigade attendees at the reunion hotel with an appropriate program honoring our Brigade's performance in Viet Nam. A hospitality suite for all reunion attendees will open on Tuesday and be open throughout the week.

Regimental dinners will be conducted at the reunion hotel on

Wednesday, 15 August and tours of Nashville and vicinity will be offered during the day. It is anticipated that we will have significant participation from the AD troops at these dinners.

Thursday, 16 August will represent "maximum effort" for Week of the Eagles as reunion attendees will be transported to Ft Campbell for a full day of activities including a division review featuring the vets and active troopers, unit open houses and Distinguished Member of the Regiment ceremonies and a memorial ceremony at the Division Monument at the new division headquarters.

Friday, 17 August feature the annual memorial dinner where we honor all troopers from all conflicts who paid the ultimate price in defense of our nation. The day will begin with an association membership meeting and breakfast. Again, the hospitality room will be open throughout the week.

An optional extension is offered to those who might be interested, where a block of seating has been requested for those Screaming Eagles who want to hit the Grand Old Opry on Saturday, 18 August.

The Marriot Nashville Airport Hotel will be the center of action during the reunion. Information on reservations, registration, activities and pricing will be provided in future editions of this magazine and in **The Screaming Eagle** magazine. Here's a chance to get together with your buddies for a unique week while getting up close and personal with those young tigers that have so excellently carried on the proud traditions of our division for the past eight years. Hope to see you in Nashville!

POC: Walt Jackson 208 340-5740 (cell). Dinner reservations for the Nashville Southern Buffet on 14 August 2012 are \$35. Please mail your request (with check) for the number of meals desired to: Walt Jackson, 743 Wickham Fen Way, Boise, ID 83709-0169.

# 101st Airborne Division Association 66th Annual Reunion



WELCOME



LTG(R) John E. Miller, 2/327 B 5/67-2/68, and his wife Joan at the 327th Unit Dinner.



These five officers of Company A 3rd Battalion, 506th Airborne Infantry are (L to R) 2LT Joe R. Alexander, 2LT \*Len Liebler, CPT \*Tom Gaffney, 2LT \*John Harrison and 2LT \*Jim Schlaw. The Lexington reunion was the first time since Viet Nam they have all been together. All four Second Lieutenants were wounded and three of four of their platoon sergeants were KIA. They signed into the 3rd Battalion, 506th when it was activated at Fort Campbell and served together from May 1967 until Feb 1968.



Terry L. Wren, 2/327 A 4/67-2/68, at the 327 Dinner raffle table with a really BIG eagle.

## 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.



See order form on page 34



(L to R) \*Ronald J. Jones, 2/327 A 11/67-11/68, and Dave Walz, 2/327 A 6/67-6/68, at the 2011 reunion. Dave provided the following information about Ron. "He provided entertainment at the reunion. We were in the same A Company 2/327 Inf in Vietnam together. He was in Tom Sewell's (Thomas K. Sewell, 2/327 A & B 1/68-1/69) platoon when Tom was Platoon Leader. Tom and Ron were instrumental in getting our platoon out of a tight jam when we were surrounded May 20 of 68."



This white ceramic 11 ounce mug has the First Brigade (S) logo on two sides.

\$13.00 + \$4.95 shipping through the U.S. Postal Service a total of \$17.95.

See order form on Page 34.



LTC(R) Robert (Bob) Crosby, 2/327 C & HHC 3/67-3/68, and his wife Margaret at the 327th Dinner.



(L to R) Sarah McNamara, granddaughter of MAJ(R) Ivan Worrell, INFO OFF 5/66-5/67, and Arline Field wife of Douglas N. Field, 2/327 B 4/66-12/67, chat at the Memorial Dinner.



Debbie and Larry Frazier made a real contribution with their memorabilia sales at the reunion.



The parachute team, with a DZ next to the hotel, drew a big crowd.



The parachute team displayed a unique maneuver with two skydivers landing together.



Roy P. Blevins, 1/327 C&TF 12/67-1/69, and his wife Arleta at the 327 Dinner.



Terry R. Zahn, SPT BN HQ ELT 7/65-5/66, who was the host for the 2010 First Brigade (S) Reunion in Omaha, Nebraska, poses with a picture showing the Paratrooper Statue, in Omaha, as it will look after some modifications.



MAJ(R) Walter W. Jackson, 1/327 C 7/67-6/68, and his wife Barbara at the 327th Regimental Dinner at the 101st Association Reunion in Lexington, Kentucky, in August 2011. (See page 24)

# OBSERVATIONS OF A PLATOON LEADER

## PART II OF III PARTS

Captain Patrick H. Graves, USA  
Former Platoon Leader in Vietnam

UNITS IN South Vietnam find themselves having to set a night perimeter defense more often than any other single action or tactic. The successful conduct of the defense at night must depend upon strong and thorough planning, and while unit SOPs may simplify and hasten the initial planning and construction of the defensive area, certain points seem worthy of additional mention.

Terrain plays a decisive role in the success of any defense. But in finding the best terrain for defense at night, the limitations on observation imposed by the darkness and dense undergrowth often require a unit to select terrain which would be unsuitable for a daylight defense. Too, except on bright moonlit nights, the defense must rely to a large extent on listening posts to detect an enemy's approach. And in dense jungle undergrowth, fields of fire must be cut for individual and crew-served weapons, as well as sufficient overhead and frontal clearance to allow grenades to be used.

In clear areas, the defense can take a different form. Positions can be farther apart to take advantage of the greater visual observation. In open areas bounded by a woodline, the perimeter is usually entrenched out of grenade range from it, and the woodline itself should be booby trapped with trip flares and noise-making devices.

In the flat, rice paddy areas, the best defensive position may be a small village, for it will probably be built on mounds above the surrounding paddies and

can afford the defender excellent fields of fire and observation in all directions. Too, the dikes can provide some protection for the Infantryman firing from a prone position.

The terrain in and around defensive positions should be properly cleared, particularly when the perimeter includes huts and tunnels. If any inhabitants are within the perimeter, they should be closely guarded.

Once the terrain has been selected for the night defense, the perimeter can be positioned. The distance between positions should depend on the terrain, observation, the size of the defending unit, and the enemy's capabilities. We have a tendency to make the perimeter too large, thereby decreasing our security.

Each position should be occupied by at least two men, so that one man can be on alert at all times. If the situation allows, three and four man positions can be dug to provide additional security and more time for each man to rest.

Foxholes are dug so that all men can sleep below the level of the ground. If ponchos or tents are erected for sleeping at the perimeter positions and are not properly camouflaged, they can compromise the fighting positions. One way to eliminate the possible compromise is to erect the sleeping tents at a distance from the fighting positions; then, a tug on communication wire or string tied to the sleeping men can alert the off-duty soldiers for their watch. In this manner, the individual



Each foxhole should be occupied by at least two men

on duty does not have to leave his fighting position until he has been relieved. Remember—no movement should be permitted inside the perimeter once darkness falls.

Observation and listening posts must not be neglected. As in earlier wars, these early warning systems apply in Vietnam.

Explosives and warning devices can be employed quite fruitfully in the night defense. Claymore mines, trip flares and noise makers should be positioned after dark, if possible. A word of caution: Trip flares are difficult to rig when the pressure-tension device is used, and squad leaders should supervise their use. The pressure device, which is activated when the safety release is tripped, is most commonly used.

A unit is vulnerable during the positioning of the perimeter, so extra security should be provided until the unit's defensive position has been fairly well completed. At each position, one man works while the other stands guard; the automatic weapons are kept manned and ready to fire; and the leaders must make certain that no one is loafing on the job. It may seem unnecessary to tell small unit leaders to check each position before and after the perimeter is formed, but the failure to do so may mean the difference between success and failure later on that evening. The individual soldier finds little interest in his position or fields of fire if his leader shows no interest in them. A leader's presence can do much to influence a situation by adding a sense of urgency to an otherwise routine assignment.

Planned fires, to include illumination fires, should be planned along avenues of approach into the peri-

meter and on dangerous flanks. Proper communications are also vital, with parent and subordinate units, with supporting units, with outposts, and with each fighting position. Visual and noise signals can be effectively employed if radios and telephones fail to work.

In the defense, the individual soldier must know what and when to engage, and with what weapons. He must overcome any fear of the darkness, for darkness can be his friend if properly used. The soldier, for example, who engages a noise at other than close range will seldom destroy an enemy; his firing only compromises his position. He should wait until he can properly identify the noise and can be assured of a kill once he opens fire.

Illumination can be of tremendous help; but, here again, many leaders call for illumination support before the situation has fully developed. Illuminating an area can alert the enemy to the fact that he has been detected and may provide him with the opportunity, at the same time, to locate the friendly defensive perimeter. Contact should be made before illumination is used.

Explosives, of course, can play an important role in the conduct of the night defense. Claymores and hand grenades can overcome the difficulty of pinpointing a target, since their effects cover a wide area, and they will not compromise the friendly perimeter as muzzle flashes from rifles and automatic weapons are apt to do. Rifle fire is not too effective at night, and the M16 should be fired only in three-round bursts. Machine guns and M79s can be effective because of their high rate of fire and the explosive effects of the grenades.

One innovation which can be found among many

US units in South Vietnam is the habit of holding a "Stand To." This simply means that all personnel are kept on the alert during certain critical hours of the day. During stand to, troops are required to be at their fighting positions with weapons and equipment at the ready. Light and noise discipline is enforced and no movement exists within the perimeter. Stand down is gradual and disciplined to avoid alerting the enemy.

Australian Army units in South Vietnam, before and after stand to, send clearing patrols out and around their defensive perimeter to locate any hidden enemy and to check on possible movement during the night. Other units follow the procedure of spraying the entire area around the perimeter with all weapons; this is not effective, for a prone enemy can avoid detection, while valuable ammunition is expended and the extent of the defensive perimeter can be compromised.

The enemy soldier in Vietnam is a skillful defensive fighter, but there are definite differences in the capabilities and staying power of the main force Viet Cong, North Vietnamese Army, and local force Viet Cong units. Usually only the first two named are supplied with good equipment and weapons; but all of the enemy units can be counted on to fight well from prepared positions.

An enemy controlled, defended village will usually have its defensive system constructed to avoid aerial detection; a camouflaged trench system will tie together prepared foxholes, gun emplacements, bunkers and avenues of escape. The entrances into the village will be blocked with felled trees, thorny brush and barbed

wire. Roads and trails will be pocked with holes and trenches or blocked by waist-high poles. Bridges may be completely demolished, or they may have a single span missing with the approaches blocked by large pits. Trails inside the village will contain staggered one-man holes every five meters; these will have overhead cover, and are designed to provide protection from aerial fires and artillery bombardment. Road and trails may also be mined or may contain mantraps, such as punji sticks, which are used to deny entrance to the village on avenues other than the obvious avenues of approach.

Just west of the Iron Triangle, near Ben Cat, I saw what has been described as one of the most elaborate tunnel and trench systems yet encountered in the war in South Vietnam. The extent of these defenses demonstrates the high degree of patience possessed by the enemy and the large human reservoir of labor at his disposal.

Each hut in the villages in the area contained an underground bunker large enough to accommodate all the occupants of the hut. The entrance to the bunker could be under a bed, or on the outside of the hut; more often, other concealed entrances led to bunkers which contained caches of arms, ammunition and equipment. Each system of tunnels had an escape exit at a distance from the entrance and in a concealed position.

The surrounding jungle contained large underground rooms, with ventilation holes opening onto the surface of the ground. Tables, beds and even wells were discovered in underground passages three levels deep. Two machine gun bunkers, dug into well concealed

Small unit leaders often fail to use their organic fire support





positions, commanded excellent fields of fire across an open field.

A gully cut the side of the otherwise flat area near the woodland leaving a small mound exposed where the gully divided. One bunker was concealed at the edge of the woodland and was connected with a second position some five meters away. This second position had been built into the small mound, with firing slits—too small to allow a grenade in—cut into three sides of the mound.

Effective? An Australian platoon did not discover the positions until the enemy fired on individuals walking between the two positions. Although only light friendly casualties resulted, the advance of the company was delayed for over an hour; in the meantime, the enemy escaped through the network of tunnels.

During a search and clear operation, tunnels and bunkers should be searched if this is at all possible. Great care should be taken, though, because booby traps, hiding enemy, and narrow passages can make a tunnel a death trap. Smoke and tear gas are effective agents to drive the enemy above ground; dogs, too, have proven effective. When a tunnel search has ended, all entrances and junctions should be blown by a demolitions team.

#### **caution**

In terrain where open areas are scarce, the enemy makes it a practice to deny any open area for use as a landing zone. He will use punji stakes three feet high or tree stumps cut at chest level as antihelicopter devices. In areas where the enemy is active, probable landing zones will be defended from a trench system which frequently encircles the entire area. From fortifications built into the system, the enemy can direct fire upon the descending helicopters, and until he is driven away, he can give you a hot time.

Caution is most important when dismounting on all landing zones, and our experiences have proved that the first lift in an airmobile assault must secure the terrain adjacent to the LZ before the second lift touches down.

The enemy also has made extensive use of mantraps of various types, difficult to detect and which produce numerous casualties among our forces. A number of mantraps are used, but the pit is the one most frequently met. These pits, often a cubic yard in size, contain punji sticks protruding two feet from the bottom. Along the sides are shorter sticks canted toward the bottom of the pit. Over the hole, a loosely woven bamboo mat is placed, on which large leaves provide a base for a dirt covering. When there are no US or government forces in the area, the Viet Cong place a heavy woven mat of thumb-size poles over the trap to allow villages and cattle to walk over it. This mat is removed when danger appears.

It is extraordinary how well concealed these mantraps are, and even the most expert observation often cannot detect their presence. One clue is the dirt taken from the hole—it may have been thrown to the roadside nearby, or it may have been scattered over the road. When mantraps are suspected, it is best to stay off the roads and trails; otherwise, the point man should use a probing stick, or movement should be made to the side of the road with each man walking in the same path.

#### **booby traps**

The punji stick is a very simple but dangerous device. Made from bamboo cut down to the desired length, sharpened and burned on the tip for hardness, it is often dipped in dung or human waste to accelerate infection. It is usually placed in the mantrap pits, and is used in large numbers to defend the approaches to a village or camp. They are difficult to see, especially at night, and can easily penetrate a foot or leg. Shin guards of the type used in softball and soccer have proven to be effective countermeasures.

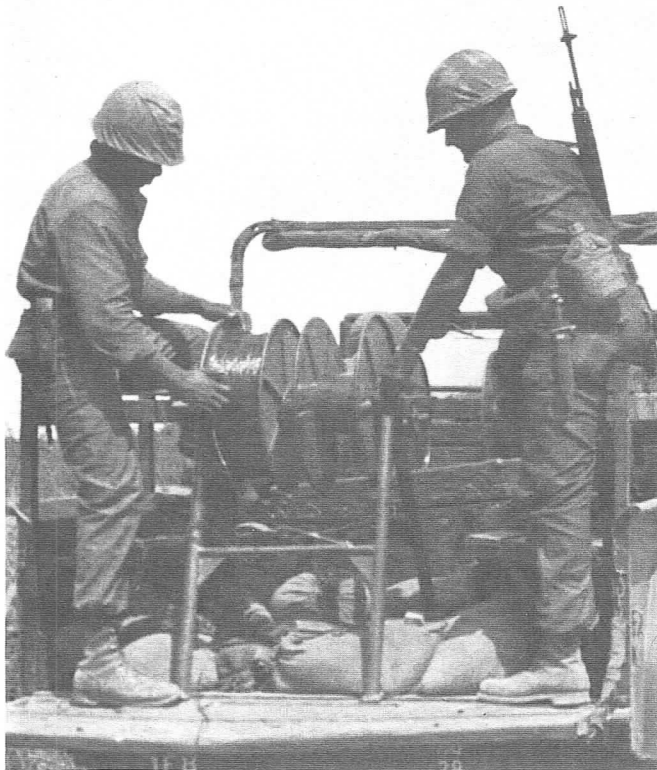
Of course, the enemy uses a large number of booby traps, from the most unsophisticated types—spears, or other pointed objects given velocity by a bent tree or counterweight—to the most sophisticated kinds. A common explosive booby trap is the grenade activated by a trip wire, the latter being either a vine, transparent fishing line or wire. These can be detected if the individual is careful in his movements and observations.

Enemy booby traps vary in size, shape and purpose. Many approximate the old Mark II fragmentation grenade, with its segmented casing. Another resembles the white smoke grenade, but is smaller. Two types of explosives have a heavy tar paper cover; both are cylindrical, one some three inches in diameter and eight inches long, the other five by twelve inches. Concussion booby traps have been plentiful in certain areas.

Enemy mines consist of bombs, artillery and mortar rounds detonated electrically. Usually the mines are buried under a road, on the shoulder of a road or in a filled crater. In order for the mine to be exploded at the proper time, the enemy must be in a position to see his target. A paddy dike or trail running perpendicular to a main roadway, or a tree by the roadside, will often contain his position.

Vehicles of a convoy must maintain an interval of between 50 to 100 meters, and drivers should be instructed to increase the speed of their vehicles when passing any likely mine site along a dangerous route. Putting sand bags on the vehicle beds and having the troops sit in the center facing out can help reduce casualties from a mine blast.

If a vehicle should be hit by a mine, every effort should be made to keep the other vehicles in the convoy



Communication lines are essential for a good defense

moving. A small number of individuals may be left to secure the damaged vehicle and to evacuate any casualties. Of course, the area on both sides of the road should be covered with fire, with the heaviest concentrations placed on likely or suspected enemy locations.

The Infantry commander in Vietnam can expect to be furnished the greatest possible fire support. In combat, small unit leaders must realize that they have a certain amount of organic fire support and should make the greatest use of that support. Unfortunately, many small unit leaders consider the capability of the 81mm mortars found in the rifle companies to be less than good. They hold much the same opinion about the 4.2-inch mortars organic to the battalion. But if the mortar crews have been properly trained and motivated, and if they are accepted as full members of the fighting team, the mortars can be of invaluable assistance. The 81mm mortar, for example, can be displaced over long distances by foot soldiers with not too much difficulty. This makes organic fire support immediately available to the small unit leader.

Mortar crews from march order should be capable of placing a round on target within two minutes. To do this, mortar squad leaders should commit to memory the charge numbers and elevations for ranges less than 600 meters.

Units may choose to use the 81mm mortar forward observer's radio as a second radio with each rifle

platoon. Fire missions then can be given over the company command net, either by the platoon leader or by the forward observer who is with the platoon leader. It is desirable that the FOs be used to give fire missions, for this frees the platoon leader for other tasks.

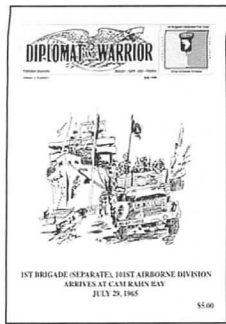
No better fire support exists than that provided by our artillery units. A number of different types of artillery rounds and fuzes are used, with each usually being used for a specific purpose. The high explosive round with a point detonating fuze finds the greatest use. To penetrate a heavy jungle canopy or to attack bunker and trench systems, the HE round with a delay fuze is employed. The variable time fuze should be used sparingly, and is best employed in flat, open terrain. For safety purposes, VT fuzes are not used—except in emergencies—for fire support closer than 200 meters to friendly troops.

The white phosphorous round is good for starting fires, and its demoralizing effect is excellent. Too, the round can be used for putting down a smoke screen and for observing fires in areas of heavy vegetation.

Illumination rounds are adjusted vertically as well as in range and deflection. The corrections are given in 50 meter increments by UP and DOWN displacements, thus giving the best illumination at the proper altitude. Wind direction should be taken into consideration to compensate for any drift.

Because the maps used in Vietnam are not completely accurate, some care must be used when calling for mortar and artillery support. Giving coordinates several hundred meters behind the target for the initial round can provide a safety margin. Too, the use of smoke as the first round may give the same results. Calling and adjusting fire support properly and rapidly is a must in any situation. Therefore, the individual soldier as well as the small unit leaders must know how to carry out a fire mission.

To use air support properly, good communications are necessary. This is especially true for helicopter fire support since no forward air controller is usually provided. But good communication alone is not the key. A complete understanding between the man on the ground and the man in the aircraft is probably the most important aspect of aerial fire support. The ground soldier, using what means have been made available, must be able to mark not only the target he wants the aircraft to attack, he must also be able to show his own positions to the man in the aircraft. Upstairs, the aviator then takes over the responsibility for delivering accurate fire to support the ground operations while keeping his fires away from the friendly lines. If mutual understanding exists, aerial fire support can be a most effective tool in the hands of the ground commander. ■



**Issue #1**



**Issue #2**



**Issue #3**



**Issue #4**



**Issue #5**



**Issue #6**



**Issue #7**



**Issue #8**



**Issue #9**



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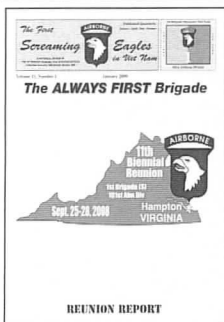
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is published quarterly by Worrell Publications, Post Office Box 675, 117½ North Main Street, Sweetwater, Tennessee 37874-0675, as a service to veterans who served in the 1st Brigade (Separate), 101st Airborne Division from July 1965 through April 1968 and is mailed Standard Presort postage paid under Postal Permit No. 210, Sweetwater, Tennessee 37874.

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Material to be published in the  
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**The First SCREAMING EAGLES in Viet Nam**  
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CHU LAI, Vietnam--TUNNEL TROPHY. Tunnel rat, Pfc. Steven Woodson, San Diego, finds the darndest things as he searches enemy tunnels during Operation Benton. His helmeted buddy is Pfc. Tim Carey, Los Angeles. The pair are members of C Co., 1st Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf., 101st Airborne. (USA Photo by Staff Sgt. Art Campbell)

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