

The First

Screaming

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



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Eagles
in Viet Nam

1st Brigade (Separate) Viet Nam



101st Airborne Division

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The ALWAYS FIRST Brigade



SCREAMING EAGLE

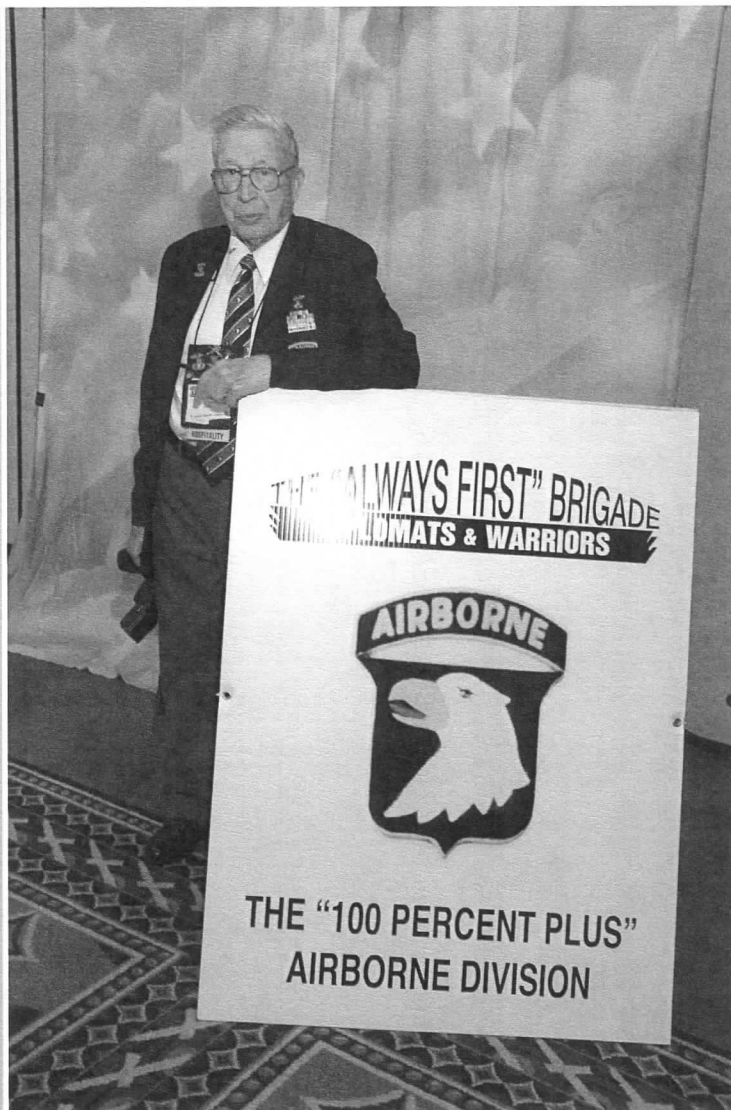
For this issue I ran out of magazine before I ran out of material I feel should be published. The January 2013 issue will have the remains of three articles I was not able to finish in this issue. I will start the First Brigade (S) Dinner, the 327th Infantry Regiment Dinner and the 101st Airborne Division Association Reunion pictures and stories now and defer the entire 1st BCT, 327th Infantry Regiment, Distinguished Member of the Regiment story until January. My quest for 2/502 material has been unsuccessful so I would be grateful to any Strike Force veterans who have, and will share, material about the Widow Makers dinner and other 2/502 stories and pictures. This has been an activity packed quarter so I hope to catch up with a good mix of recent and Viet Nam history soon. For those of you who served in supporting units be assured that I am always looking for material about all outfits assigned or attached to the First Brigade (S) 101st Airborne Division during the 26 months we were a separate Brigade. I do get a number of questions about why I have not had coverage of some supporting units and my only answer can be "Send it to me, I cannot make it up."

This is my first printed announcement about the 50th Anniversary Celebration for the First Brigade (S) to be held the week of July 27, 2015, (the 29th is on Wednesday) and sponsored by THE FIRST SCREAMING EAGLES IN VIET NAM Magazine. Stay tuned for place, dates and schedule.

I received a letter from a subscriber who is also a frequent contributor saying he was sure I had many reunion (First Brigade (S) Dinner, 502nd Dinner, 327th Dinner and 101st Airborne Division Association Reunion) pictures from those who attended and said he would send some with First Brigade (S) veterans in them. I have received none to date (September 24th, 2012) but hope springs eternal, that I will have a number of pictures not taken by Robert Bureson, Sarah McNamara and Ivan Worrell for the January 2013 issue. I have very few pictures from the 327th Dinner and none from the

This magazine is produced by and for veterans of the ALWAYS FIRST BRIGADE who served in the brigade from July 1965 through January 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).



Ivan Worrell, INFO OFF 5/66 - 5/67, editor and publisher of this magazine poses with a replica of the First Brigade welcome sign that had a place in front of Brigade Headquarters Forward in Viet Nam.

502nd Dinner. Deadline is December 1, 2012. Start those pictures and identification material coming.

I am studying the proposition of increasing the annual subscription price to \$30.00. My costs continue to escalate and the costs of some issues require my personal cash infusion. I believe most subscribers would accept the escalation in subscription price but I fear that some may not accept the increase well and drop out. I plan to study this problem for a few more weeks and make an announcement in the January 2013 issue.

Cover photo received from Dr. Michael McKee, a member of the National Capital Chapter, 101st Airborne Division Association.



1965 - The Battle of Anh Ninh


The Battle of Anh Ninh by Peter S. Griffin

Since the end of the war in Viet Nam I have heard, literally, hundreds of times that the first large battle between “two major units” where helicopters were employed was the Battle of the Ia Drang Valley. It is true that this battle, involving the First Cavalry Division depicted in the movie, “We Were Soldiers” was the first large battle involving an American unit and units of the North Vietnamese Army. Still, the fact remains that the very first large battle between two major units, employing helicopters was actually fought by the First Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division and the 95th Battalion, 2nd Viet Cong Regiment, a main force unit. The battle occurred near the village of An Ninh #1 and was officially designated “Operation Gibraltar.”

The Battle of the Ia Drang started on November 14, 1965. I remember the date clearly as that day was my 19th birthday. The battle at An Ninh began nearly two months earlier on September 18, 1965. Ironically, this savage battle evolved while the Screaming Eagles protected the First Cavalry Division, ensuring their safe arrival in South Vietnam.

At that time, our First Brigade Assistant Intelligence Officer was Captain Thomas Taylor. His father was General (Ret) Maxwell D. Taylor, the immediate past U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of South Vietnam. Captain Taylor later took over as the CO of “B” Company, 2/502 Infantry and led his unit gallantly in several operations. His official report after the battle lists 226 Viet Cong killed in action. He believed a like number of enemy soldiers received serious wounds and most probably, died later. Our casualties were also high, with scores killed and wounded. This was definitely no small action. My recollections of this battle are as follows: Intelligence reported a battalion sized enemy force operating in an area near the village of An Ninh #1. Assigned the mission of searching out and destroying this threat, part of our force, consisting of, or about, twenty-six helicopters, heavily laden with men and arms, swooped down on a predetermined landing zone (LZ). Unknown to us, in the tree line adjacent to the LZ, was the enemy base camp. The enemy permitted the first lift to land without opposition. The second was not so fortunate. All hell broke loose! The enemy opened up with a roar from the tree lines. Other VC were lying on their backs on the LZ, their guns blazing. It was a dry rice paddy with tall grass, which hid them from view. Aircraft started falling from the sky.

There was a command vehicle parked near my



This Battle of Anh Ninh (sometimes spelled An Ninh and An Ninh 1) Personal History is Chapter 11 from my book *When You Hear The Bugle Call*. The first half of the book is about my time in the Army and Alpha Company, 2/502nd and the other half is about dealing with Combat Stress issues after discharge from the military. The link to my book's page is <http://www.angelfire.com/nc2/vietnamvet/newbook.html>.

Peter S. Griffin,
2/502 A 9/64-6/66

chalk line with the volume of its radio turned on high. As I was waiting for the choppers to return, I could hear the battle raging. I could hear gunfire, explosions and the voices of enemy soldiers in the background. Our battalion executive officer, Major Herbert Dexter, stated they had “the tiger by the tail” as he and his men engaged the enemy. After a short while, the Major started calling for re-enforcements. He desperately shouted, “The tiger has us by the tail, if we don’t get more men and ammunition in here soon we will all be dead! I repeat... we will all be dead!”

As my lift waited for the returning choppers we could actually see some of them spiraling down to the earth as they were blasted from the skies. The airhead was not that far away from our assembly area. As the chaos reigned, most, if not all, of the waiting paratroopers had the overpowering need to urinate. My nerves did not spare me of this necessity either and I joined the others in relieving myself. I never saw this behavior before or after this operation. It must have been a result of nervous anticipation and the impending threat of possible death or serious injury.

The helicopters still flying limped back to the staging area riddled with bullet holes, bearing many dead and wounded soldiers. Dead door gunners were slumped over their machineguns. We removed the casualties from the aircraft and boarded for the third lift. We flew to the LZ but were repulsed by heavy ground fire. The troopers on the ground were completely surrounded and fighting for their lives. All four Company Commanders in my battalion ended up either killed or wounded. My Company Commander, Captain Gerard Landry, received a leg wound while our lift was trying to get into the airhead. The Major, commanding the troops on the LZ, died fighting.

After this attempt, all of our helicopters were either shot down or disabled. We had none that were fit

to transport us. As hastily as possible, choppers were “borrowed” from the First Cavalry and an alternate LZ, not so hot, was chosen to receive us. After securing this position, we advanced toward the surrounded airhead, several clicks (kilometers) away. Next to me, a radiotelephone operator’s (RTO) grenade launcher (M-79) snagged a bush and discharged. The grenade did not travel far enough or make the required revolutions to explode. However, it struck a soldier’s face with great force. The projectile broke the soldier’s jaw, knocking out several of his teeth. The wounded man bled profusely and suffered great pain. Medics bandaged him under the chin, around both sides of his face and knotted on the top of his head to hold his jaw closed and administered morphine, but it was not enough to stop his agony. Night settled in, black as pitch, I could not see my hand in front of my face. There was no way we could evacuate our casualty. He had to move with the rest of us. It was an urgent situation and we could not stop for the night. I could hear him moaning and groaning throughout the long and anxious night. Everyone felt terrible that we could not do anything more to help him.

Heavy fighting continued as the enemy started to withdraw. We killed or captured several of these VC as they ran into us as we made our approach. At dawn, we linked up with the surrounded troops.

We pushed on, entering the LZ, and I saw two dead enemy soldiers lying on their backs with gaping holes in their chests. The tall grass was standing up through the gory holes. They looked like waxed mannequins lying there. Perhaps, in my unconscious mind I was trying to dehumanize them in order that I might be able to kill others like them. It was a sight I will never forget.

Enemy fire still poured in at an alarming rate. I came to a stream and there was an M-16 rifle lying alongside the water. It had a first sergeant’s name, Bodine, of Co. B, 2/502nd, if I remember correctly, written on it but no one was in the immediate area. There was a bullet hole through the stock. I found Top and told him what I discovered. He ordered me to get in the creek and search for the man’s body, but all I found was his helmet. I learned later that he had been medivaced because of his wound but he was going to be okay.

We reinforced the hard fought soldiers manning the perimeter. We started policing up the dead on the LZ. We stacked enemy bodies in a large pile, in preparation for mass burial, I presumed. Sniper fire was still incoming and we had to be extremely careful.

We lined the dead Americans in a long row. They represented every race... death offered no discrimination. Their jaws were hanging open and flies

were going in their mouths and coming out their nostrils. We tried covering the bodies with ponchos but the wind kept blowing them off and the insects kept feeding.

In Vietnam, the communists did not honor the Geneva accords. Medivacs started coming in to evacuate the dead and wounded. An enemy soldier, high in a tree, fired a grenade launcher at the helicopters although they were clearly marked with a red cross. One of our men shot him dead, and the VC fell to the ground. We assaulted the base camp inside the tree line and killed several more enemy soldiers. Ordered to go through their packs and other belongings to look for documents, I found that these people were much like us. They carried shaving gear, food, ammo, photos of loved ones, personal mail, cigarettes, religious items, goodies and so on. I looked at the pictures of their girlfriends, parents, wives, and children. It saddened me when I realized these soldiers too, had loved ones who missed them and many hearts would now be broken forever. I also thought of our dead and wounded, and how tragic this event was to everyone involved. I realized the enemy also thought that they were doing what they believed to be right by fighting us. I was brought back to reality when one of our men was severely wounded moving an enemy body that the VC booby-trapped before they fled!

We also found documents of military value. We found a classroom with charts and training guides explaining how to attack the Americans arriving on a landing zone by helicopter. They had actually trained and rehearsed for such an event on this very ground and adjacent LZ!

My sympathies further eroded when I realized they “rigged” the captured American grenades they left behind to kill us. They knew we would be low on supplies and ammo and might use what we found. They replaced the standard four-second delay fuses from fragmentation grenades with those of smoke grenades by snipping them down to the size of “frag” fuses, which changed the delay time to zero! They would explode as soon as someone released the handle, maiming or killing the user! How very cunning these people were!

Our cadre called in air strikes and the jets blasted and napalmed all avenues of escape the enemy might try to use. It was an awesome spectacle! I imagined what it would be like to be in the midst of that holocaust. It seemed impossible for any living thing to survive; it appeared to be certain death by incineration!

Before night fell, we set up perimeters around the several downed helicopters. By this time, we were extremely low on food and ammunition. All through the



dark, eerie night Smokey the Bear, a C-130 Hercules aircraft dropped flares that permitted us to see. The enemy probed our lines several times and we exchanged fire with them. A large crane type helicopter flew in and its crew connected a large cable to one of the disabled choppers and lifted it into the air. The crippled chopper dangled precariously beneath the larger airship as they extracted it from the contested area.

The next morning we cleared the area, pushing the remaining enemy far from the battlefield. We spent another night at the battle site. During this period, the CH-54 "Skycrane" helicopter recovered all the downed airships. The enemy, if there were any remaining nearby, offered no resistance. It was a nervous time, nevertheless.

After daylight, we were re-supplied with food and ammo and we ate ravenously as we walked out of the area. As we pursued the fleeing enemy, I could not help but wonder if eating was going to be a waste of the food. It was the first time I experienced a sense of foreshortened future. My unconscious mind was telling me I might die before this day ended, so what was the sense in having a full belly? We searched the surrounding area without making significant contact with the fleeing Viet Cong.

"Operation Gibraltar," as designated, thus concluded. This action was truly the first major battle of the war involving a large enemy force and a major American unit, utilizing helicopters. The 2/502nd Infantry Battalion earned the Presidential Unit Citation for their courageous performance.

After things quieted down, the survivors of the battle related many "war stories" of the fierce fighting that occurred as they were surrounded. One such "story" was that of a NVA advisor, a sergeant, who was standing directly in front of a tree, guiding his Viet Cong counterparts in their attack. One of our troopers shot him with his M16 rifle. The NVA sergeant took six rounds in the chest that blew a large hole in his upper torso. He slumped against the tree as his body slowly slid down to the ground. The enemy sergeant ended up in a sitting position, leaning back on the tree, very much dead. A second later the corpse stood up, walked a few steps and then, finally, fell for the last time!

I heard the story of one of our grenadiers who fired his M79 grenade launcher at three VC who were charging him from across an open, dry rice paddy. The trooper fired his "thumper" and caught the center soldier in the chest, a direct hit. There was a puff of smoke and all three enemy soldiers simply disappeared!

There was another story about a grenadier who took cover with his squad behind a rice paddy dike. They were engaged in a firefight, shooting across a somewhat

clear area at enemy positions scattered along the tree line at the base of the hill where the main VC camp was located. There was a lull in the shooting and most of the squad was taking a breather as the grenadier kept watch. As he was scanning the field, he swore he saw a bush move and he told the other guys about it but they did not pay any attention to him. It wasn't long before he told them that he saw another bush move. This time one of the guys told him that he had been in the sun too long and it must have fried his brain! Needless-to-say, a short time later the grenadier shouted, "The fucking bush is moving!" This time he got the other guys attention and one of them told him, "If the Goddamn thing is moving... shoot it!" With that, the grenadier fired his M 79 and hit the bush square in the middle, which happened to conceal a gook that was trying to sneak up on them! Seeing that, the rest of the squad opened up, shooting every bush in sight! After things quieted down the squad went out and checked the bush that the M 79 gunner had shot initially. There lay a dead VC who had suffered a massive chest and abdomen wound. The force of the round had completely emptied his innards out, there was absolutely nothing left in the body cavity!

One soldier related that another paratrooper was rifle shot across the width of his stomach. The bullet opened him up with the precision of a surgeon's scalpel! Some of his intestines protruded and upon seeing this, the soldier immediately panicked. He ran wildly into the nearby bushes and his intestines snagged on the branches, pulling them out completely. The young man apparently died of shock and loss of blood. Had he been able to calm himself, he might have survived. I actually saw this man's body on the LZ. His was one of the bodies I tried to cover with a poncho that the wind kept blowing off.

There were stories of our troopers and Viet Cong soldiers caught in deadly firefights where neither side could see each other because of the tall, standing grass that obstructed their view. Both sides fired blindly at any sound or movement. Some actually winning their personal, deadly contest because their opponent "moaned and groaned" louder than they did as they wounded each other several times before inflicting the fatal wound!

Another story was that of a mysterious and lucky enemy "mobile" machinegun crew that rendered accurate and deadly fire into our surrounded troopers. The gun would move from location to location, as needed, by means of a water buffalo pulling the oxcart that it was mounted on! Somehow, the gun managed to survive the fight and was seen escaping the airhead as it slowly rolled away and melted into the surrounding jungle.

Still another story was that of one of our ARVN



advisors who experienced his first combat action at An Ninh. Someone claimed that the South Vietnamese soldier ran out of ammunition and pulled a submachine gun from the grasp of a dead Viet Cong. He immediately put the gun into action, firing several rounds at attacking enemy soldiers. When a lull in the fighting occurred, he relaxed the weapon from his firing stance. Only then did he discover that blood, gore, and brains covered the weapon from the deceased soldier who originally processed it! The advisor immediately “threw up” in horror and revulsion!

There were also stories of enemy machine gunners literally “chained” to trees, to fight to the death, to slow our advance and to protect the enemy main force retreating from the airhead!

Whether these “reports” were completely accurate or not, was irrelevant to me. I took them seriously, for the sake of personal survival for me, and the lives of my fellow soldiers. One thing I was quick to learn... anything was possible in the Nam!

I do know that my company and I pursued that phantom oxcart for three solid days. We followed the ruts it left in moist soil as it traversed the secluded jungle trails. Unfortunately, we never caught a single glimpse of it!

I remember listening to “Hanoi Hanna” a few days later on a transistor radio. She was telling her audience how the brave soldiers of the 95th Battalion, 2nd Viet Cong Regiment had annihilated the paratroopers of the First Brigade, 101st Airborne Division at An Ninh! There was no doubt the propaganda war had begun!

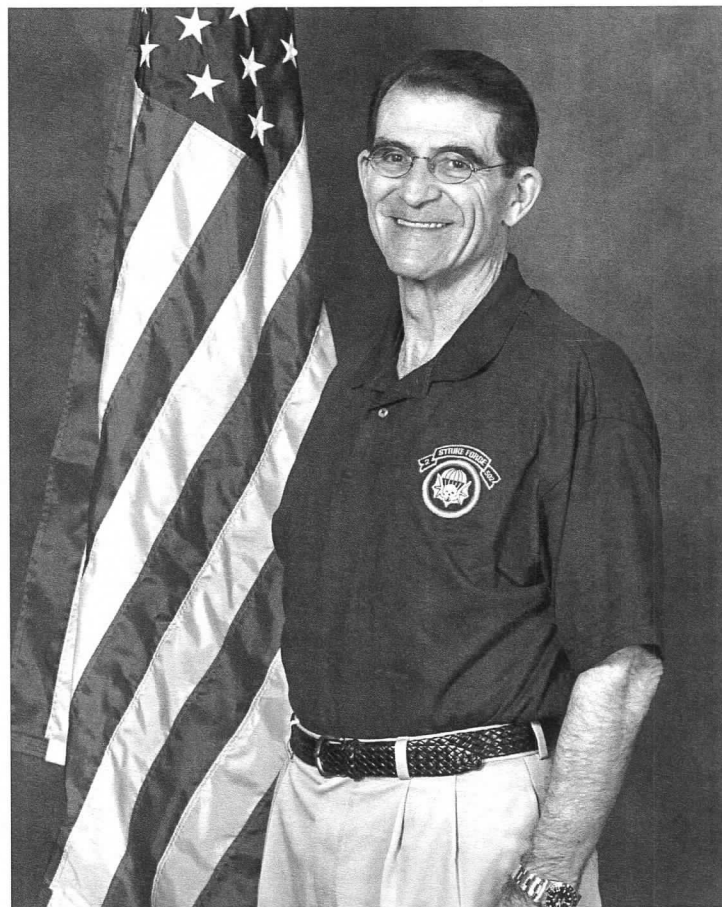
They evacuated Captain Landry for medical treatment, along with many other brave troopers. When the Captain returned from the hospital in Japan some two months later, he was re-assigned as the First Brigade Assistant S-3 and never returned as Company A’s Commander. I saw him briefly the following December as he rode by in a convoy and we managed to wave to one another. I did not see or hear from him again until thirty-five years later. In 2000, he sent me the following, very much cherished communication:

“Grif, there isn’t a day that goes by that I don’t think of my time in “A” Company, or that I don’t recall with great pride and enduring affection the selfless and gallant men, like you, who constituted - men who, in effect, really were - that superb organization. Superb, because it was made so by you, and by all the others - troopers, NCOs and officers - who served unflickingly, and whose professionalism, relentless determination, selfless devotion, unquestioning brotherhood and boundless courage were the every-day stuff and reality

of our existence.

Whenever I visit the Wall, I always make it a point to seek out the names of those who gave the rest of us - and their country - literally all they had to give: Vaczi, Youngbear, Skapinsky, Settlemire, Wallace, and so many others.... I grieve for them still - I always will - but underlying the pain and sorrow of their loss, I always feel another emotion as well, as I walk away from the Wall, something that is with me every day, as I go through all the routines of my life. That ‘something’ is pride...a sense of infinite, ineffable pride that lifts and buoys me, the pride that I was privileged to know, and to serve, with such men.... I wish I could thank them all...but I can begin by thanking you, personally and professionally, for standing tall, for your steadfastness, for the sacrifice of part of your youth (and perhaps part of your innocence as well...), for risking all...and for simply being there!

Warmest regards,
Gerry Landry.”



COL (R) Gerard Landry, 2/502 A 7/64-7/66

Captain Landry served gallantly with the Strike Force from July 1964 - July 1966. He retired as a Colonel (06), in December 1987, after 31 years, 1 month and 23 days of active commissioned service. His last duty tour was as

Garrison Commander, Presidio of Monterey, California. Captain Landry always led the way and set a courageous example for all of us to emulate. It was a great honor and privilege to serve under his command. I wish him and his lovely wife, Young-Lan, the best life has to offer.

Department of the Army (DOA) policy, in Vietnam, required enlisted personnel to serve twelve months on the line, i.e. in a combat role. Officers, on the other hand, were required to serve six months in that capacity. I believe DOA implemented this standard to assure most of their officers gained combat experience, and to lessen the burdens of stress resulting from decision-making where lives were sometimes lost. Often, as new situations and demands arose, both key officers and enlisted men received new assignments to maximize the utilization and proficiency of all personnel. Shortly after Operation Gibraltar ended, several changes in our command structure occurred. Because of his wound, my Company Commander, Captain Landry, turned the reigns of "A" Company over to Captain Hank Lunde. Brig. Gen. Willard Pearson replaced Colonel Timothy as Brigade Commander. Lt. Col Henry E. Emerson took command of our battalion from Lt. Col. Smith, who won the Silver Star for gallantry in action in the battle just described. Lt. Col. Emerson was a tall, lanky man whose stature and demeanor seemed to naturally emit an aura of authority and respectability. He was an impressive figure indeed, and I, and all the other members of his new command were about to find out that he would live up to his radio call sign... "Gunfighter!" Life was about to get much harder for "Victor Charlie" and us!

This Personal History is a chapter from my book *When You Hear The Bugle Call*.

THE BATTLE OF ANH NINH, A Poem by Peter S. Griffin (from his book: Thoughts, Memories and Tears)

*In Vietnam, to save the day,
U.S. Paratroopers, went into harm's way....
One day in September, of sixty five,
Two deadly enemies, about to collide....*

*A beautiful morn, we did greet,
No sign of the enemy, we'd soon meet....
Hot chow, a very special treat,
So many troopers, be there time to eat...?*

*No, chow line too long, so many to feed,
Enough to bring, any enemy, to their knees....
A swarm of helicopters, then arrived,
Rapid deployment, guarantees surprise....*



*So many soldiers, have to fly by shifts,
On the third lift, assigned my niche....
After landing, "a walk in the sun,"
A thorough search, we'd soon be done....*

*The first landing, went unopposed,
Back they flew, for another load....
As they reached the LZ, not far away,
All hell broke loose, that fateful day....*

*We could observe the battle flare,
As they flew into the VC snare....
Command radios, their volume high,
Hearing the cries, of those, about to die....*

*Observing choppers fall from the sky,
"More men and ammo, or all would die" ...!
They reported, "VC lying on their backs,
AK's roaring in full attack." ...!*

*As crippled choppers, flew our way,
At the chalk lines, we did pray....
Riddled by bullets, they limped in,
Dead door gunners, our looks chagrin....*

*Off we flew, not knowing our fate,
Hoping our arrival, be not too late....
The LZ, much too hot to land,
A hail of fire, stifling our plan...!*

*All our choppers, now, unfit to fly,
Must reach the airhead, before all died...!
Our artillery, bogged down, out of range,
From our brothers, we felt estranged....*

*Fighter jets were then unleached,
High explosives and napalm, to close the breach....
Helicopters, on loan, we attained,
An alternate LZ, forced, we attained....*

*At the airhead, our soldiers fought like hell,
Attack, after attack, they repelled...!
The battle raging, both day and night,
Charlie losing, much of his might....*

*Hurt so badly, many VC ran away,
Escape and evasion, they'd fight, another day....
As we approached, many caught in our net,
An avenging force, they had met....*

Reaching the airhead, with much relief,
 Heroic soldiers, we did greet....
 They devastated the enemy, in their nest,
 Completely surrounded, they passed the test....

The enemy fired on our medivacs,
 Expert riflemen, silenced these attacks....
 Their battlefield, we then acquired,
 From a baptism of blood, our wounded retired....

Badly outnumbered, these troopers, held their own,
 An enemy battalion had possessed, that landing zone...!
 On that LZ, the enemy rehearsed,
 To transform each helicopter, into a hearse...!

Most of our officers, became casualties,
 Assumption of command, not a disability....
 Sergeants led them, in their plight,
 Turning defeat to victory, overnight....



For two days, we policed that battlefield,
 So much carnage and death, it was surreal....
 Fighting snipers, all that remained,
 Most of that battalion, left dead or lame....

I counted the enemy dead, in awe,
 Hardly believing, just what I saw....
 Flying into the jaws of death,
 These paratroopers, proven, among the best....

To the gallant troopers of that LZ,
 We salute you and your victory....
 Never has so few, fought like so many,
 You crippled a battalion of the enemy...!

Looking back, it's plain to see,
 Bravery is your legacy....
 THE BATTLE OF AN NINH, your victory,
 Your glorious, "Rendezvous With Destiny" ...!

The First Brigade CIB Awarded in the Vietnam War

+ BG(R) JOHN D. HOWARD, 1/327 A & TF 1/65-6/66
 2627 S. Kent Street, Arlington, VA 22202-2217
 work (703) 459-6083 home (703) 519-0656

Friday, August 17, 2012

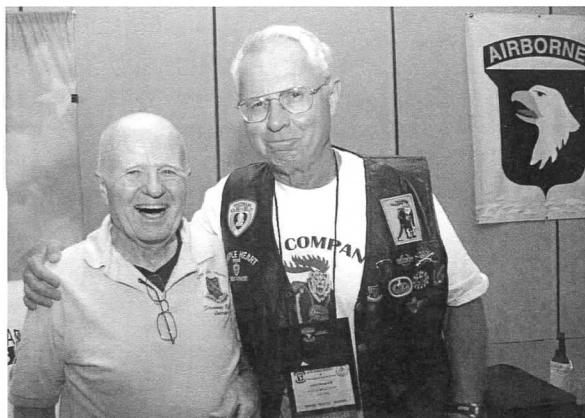
Dear Ivan:

We had a brief chat during the Nashville Reunion. After our talk, it prompted me to send you this email.

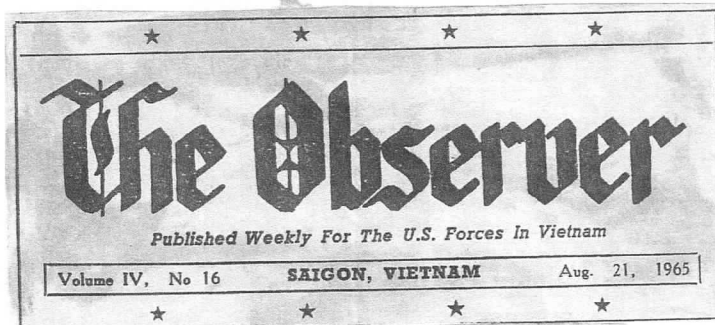
Prior to the 1st Brigade deploying from Fort Campbell, a liaison party was sent over to join other units that were already in Vietnam...primarily the 173rd Airborne Brigade and the USMC. One officer from each of the infantry battalions, the 2-320th FA and the provision support battalion were designed to go over in early June. Brigade HQ sent several officers too. I represented 1-327th Infantry. When the Brigade arrived on 29 July 1965, we were there. General Westmoreland pinned CIB's on those of us who had been over there since June. Because of how General Westmoreland made the awards, I received the first CIB. I did not think anything of it until the attached article was printed in one of the MACV newspapers in August 1965. Somehow, I saved that clipping.

It is the only time I've done anything "first" in my life.

Above the Rest,
 John Howard
 ABU, 1-327th Infantry



(L to R) LTC (R) Allen C. De Graw, 1/327 C 7/64 - 7/66
 ELT and BG(R) John D. Howard, 1/327 A & TF 1/65-6/66, at the First Brigade dinner. (Ivan pix)



COMUSMACV Pins Infantry Badges On Paratroopers

Cam Ranh Bay (CIB) — Gen. W. O. Westmoreland, Commanding General U.S. Military Assistance Command Vietnam, recently presented seven members of his former command, the 101st Airborne Division, with the first Combat Infantry Badges awarded to the division since World War II.

In ceremonies at Cam Ranh Bay, Gen. Westmoreland visited three battalions of the Division's 1st Brigade, and pinned the blue, silver-wreathed badges on six officers and one enlisted man. He complimented the troops on "... their lean and mean look..." and promised they would soon see action.

"I wanted a rugged, tough outfit," the general told the airborne group, "so I sent for the 101st, and I have definite plans for your employment."

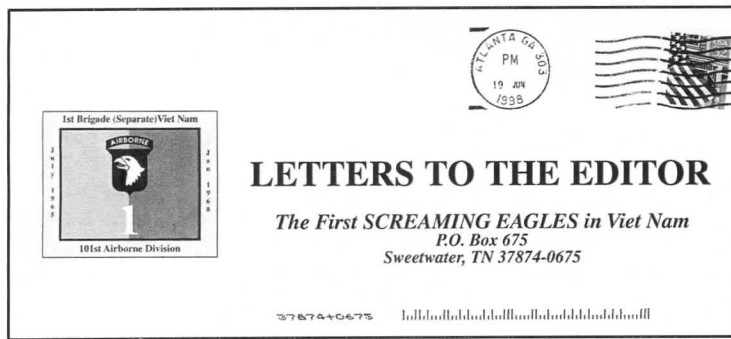
The unit, now stationed on the west shore of Cam Ranh Bay 200 miles north-

east of Saigon, is presently employed in a holding role to prevent Viet Cong infiltration into this vital supply port.

Gen. Westmoreland was greeted at the Screaming Eagle's airstrip by an honor guard from Company A, 1st Bn., 327th Airborne, and trooped the line. He stopped and talked to several members of the company, then drove to 1st Battalion headquarters, where the first Combat Infantry Badge was awarded to Lt. John D. Howard.

Other recipients of the top infantry award were Capt's Henrik O. Lunde, and Terrence McClain, Lt's Phillip W. Mock, Walter Hess and Joel S. Stephenson, and SSgt. Frederic Leenhoute.

All the men receiving the awards were members of the 101st advance party who came under fire while serving as observers with the 173rd Airborne Brigade during offensive operations against the Viet Cong.



E-MAIL

+ LTC(R) WILLIAM KARL BERGMAN
2/17 CAV A&B 6/67-6/68
US Army Garrison BRUSSELS
PSC 79 Box 264, APO, AE 09714-0264
Work 011-322-708-8870, Home 011 32 496593870
wkbergman@gmail.com

Fri, Jul 6, 2012

Ivan,
You intended to worry us with your intro in the last issue? ... "my ability to publish it..."?
Drive on, trooper! You're doing great, but if you need a hand, ask whomever may be nearby. [Great for me to suggest, from Europe] The occasional pix of you show me a man who's still standing tall and looking good, so keep it up and I don't mean viagra.

Kudos on that extract from the Sr Off Debrief Program. Yes, keep it coming. Everything I saw [as a Lt. Plt Ldr] that Matheson did was for the good of the troops and the Brigade.

I see only one mention of A Trp 2/17 in those pages so far, but I recall all of the operations' names from "my time" in the 1/101. A Troop was in there too, but sometimes not in the direct fighting, but supporting. With more than applause for our friends the crunchies. Jim Harding (now MG ret) had me move out from a nice and safe perimeter near Tam Ky and lay the three mortars in battery and provide very responsive fire support. Our tiny perimeter was held by, you can guess, three mortar crews. Fortunately the most serious enemy penetration we had was a visit by a huge krait. Along that note, I'm glad to see renewals from SIX A TROOP vets. Pretty good number from the tiny unit that claims the first enemy kill since 1945.

Another item - one of our Donut Dollies sent a bunch of photos from her time with the First Brigade. Interested? As long as I get them back some time. Some of our lads may know names, or recognize themselves.

All the way!
WB
A&B 6/67 etc

Friday, July 6, 2012
Ivan,
Another note.
You need help with the website. The last issue on the home page is #53, OCT 11.
Over here [Belgium, 14,000 US graves] for our Memorial Day

association AOMDA, we have convinced some clever young people to help out with the e-magic stuff. Of course here we could tell them, "if it wasn't for these US guys coming over, you'd be speaking German." But, you live in a pretty patriotic part of the US. Take care of yourself.
WB

Editor's Note: William, thank you for the note! I plan to keep on keeping on for a long time. I would be interested in the pictures and will scan and return them promptly.

* PETER S. GRIFFIN, 2/502 A 9/64-6/66
800 Mineral Springs Road, Madison, NC 27025-8126
home (336) 427-5567
grifslair@embarqmail.com

From *Peter S. Griffin, 2/502 A 9/64-6/66, who is the author of **Thoughts Memories and Tears**, a collection of his poems. He is also the author of **"When You Hear The Bugle Call,"** subtitled **Battling PTSD and the Unraveling of the American Conscience.**

LITTLE KNOWN FACT: The Battle of An Ninh - The 1st Brigade of the 101st Airborne in Sept 65 was the 1st USA/VC & NVA major helicopter battle in Vietnam. The 101 fought a Viet Cong (VC) Main Force Battalion led by NVA Cadre. We had all 30 of our choppers shot down or rendered unfit for flight by enemy ground fire at the extremely hot landing zone (LZ). This LZ was where the communist forces of Hanoi practiced to attack American helicopters attempting to land their troops. We gave them a live fire rehearsal! Nearly all of our Officers were either wounded or killed in action. Our NCOs led the fight to a hard fought victory.

The 1st Cav fought the first helicopter battle against a well-trained NVA unit with the VC in reserve (just the opposite of the An Ninh fight). This 1st Cav battle started on November 14, 1965 (2 months after An Ninh) in the Ia Drang Valley. The 1st Cav fought like hell and deserve immense recognition, which they received in valor medals and this poignant film, starring Mel Gibson. Ironically, the 101st mission during An Ninh was to protect the 1st Cav's arrival in Vietnam. The 101st bought them the time they needed to prepare for the Ia Drang fight. Please "Google" Operation Gibraltar and read of the bravery and sacrifice of these very courageous 101st paratroopers. They laid down their lives for their brothers of the 1st Cavalry and have received little or no recognition for this intense fight. (The 502nd Infantry of the 101st won a Presidential Unit Citation for the An Ninh fight.) I salute the courageous men of both the 1st Cavalry and 101st Airborne in their gallant quest for the freedom of the South Vietnamese people. HOOAH! Well done, warriors, well done, indeed! A Note from The Virtual Wall — *On 18 September 1965 the recently arrived 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division launched Operation GIBRALTAR, an air assault aimed at VC and North Vietnamese units headquartered at An Ninh, a tiny village located about 28 kilometers east-northeast of the Brigade's base at An Khe. Major Dexter, the Battalion Operations Officer, was one of the men killed in the assault; a summary of the action and a list of the US servicemen who died as a result of it can be found on The Virtual Wall's "Battle of An Ninh" page. See story beginning on page one.*

Saturday, July 14, 2012

+ **ROBERT H. KEPRTA**, 1/327 C & HHQ 6/67-7/68

P. O. Box 236, Lane City, TX 77453-0236

Work (409) 532-6318 home (409) 532-8478

basicbob101@netzero.net

Ivan,

I was in C Company for a brief time (1/327) and then HHQ working the TOC on Firebases Bastogne, Birmingham and Virgil. There was one other in there somewhere but can't remember name or sequence. I had open heart surgery in 2001 followed by a stroke which took a toll on my memory.

I am sending a series of photos (attached) of a weapons cache discovered by A Company of the 2/327. To the best of my memory they were closer to our FB so the weapons were transported to us. I took a number of slides and due to the age and deterioration they are not the best. Managed to copy them to my computer and enhance as much as possible. Most of the troopers pictured are 2/327 guys, don't know any names. To the best of my recollection the three officers in one picture (center picture on right) I can identify as the following: the officer facing directly into the camera is a major and is most likely the XO of 2/327. The other two officers I think I can identify as the following: the one facing right in the near foreground is the Lt Col who took over after Lt. Col. Gerald Morse...don't know his name but radio call name was "Copperhead," the other officer is the CO of 2/327 and I remember someone saying he caught a 12.7 in the gut and lived to tell about it. This may help identification of those particular officers, especially if someone from the 2/327 can view the pictures at the reunion or in the magazine if you deem them worthy of printing in an upcoming issue. I am ready to stand corrected on the information provided as I do have memory problems due to the stroke.

I have lots of other photos (transferred from slides) mostly of the last three or four firebases ending in Virgil. I will mail them to you on a disc as the number would take quite a bit of memory, especially if they are not zipped. Please feel free to use them at your will or not.

Thanks,
SSG Robert Keppta
Co. C & HHQ June 67-June 68

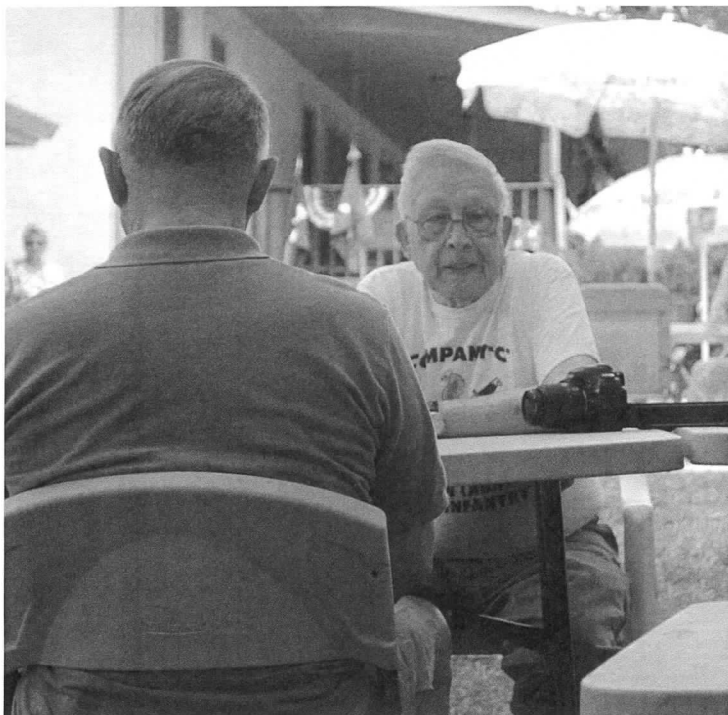
Editor's Note: Bob, I have the pictures, have them unzipped and ready to use as many as possible in the October magazine. Thank you for your support and I look forward to more pictures. I hope those reading this can help with identification.



Wednesday, July 4, 2012
+ **CLAUDE A. FRISBIE**, 1/327 A 7/66-2/68
175 Springton Rd., Glenmoore, PA 19343-1106
work (610) 363-0200 home (610) 942-3769
cfriz@bellatlantic.net

Ivan, great seeing you again in Crossville. Since no one photographs the photographer, here's one of you (oh yea, and a couple of other good looking' old men).

Thanks, Friz



Editor's Note: The other old men are on the Cobra Lake page.

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

+ **CAROLINE FAZ**, Family (Frank Florez, Jr. 1/327 Inf C 7/65-10/65), 6510 Brint Rd., Apt 308, Sylvania, OH 43560-3116, (419) 882-1569, when renewing her subscription early wrote: I love THE FIRST SCREAMING EAGLES IN VIET NAM. The magazine is so interesting that I read it twice.

Doing a good job in all the information that everyone writes about themselves.

Editor's Note: Frank Florez, Jr. was her brother who served in VN 1965 and was a paratrooper for 101 ABN DIV.

+ **PETER T. RAMIREZ**, 2/320 ARTY B BTRY 7/65-7/66, 1771 Smoketree Drive, El Centro, CA 92243-4130, (760) 353-0659 wrote: Enclosed is a check for \$50, please renew my subscription and also please send a copy of VIETNAM ODYSSEY to my good friend Frank Esquerra.

That was a nice article on Sgt. Esiquio Martinez in the April 2012 issue, page 30.

I met Sgt. Martinez when I reported to the 101st in July 1964. We were both assigned to Battery 'B,' 321st Artillery Battalion. He was head of the communications unit. He explained to me what the three gold stars on his master parachutist wings stood for. This photo of Sgt. Martinez was taken in 1964. Great guy!

Keep up the good work.



+ **RONALD J. GALLANT**, 1/327 C 9/66-8/67, 5312 Yaupon Holly Dr., Cocoa, FL 32927-3427, (321) 639-9435 along with his subscription renewal wrote: Ivan and all that make 'Always First' – Thank you for all you do.

+ **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 wrote: Thanks, Ivan for all you do for us, when renewing his subscription.

+ **YEN TRAN**, 2/502 A&B SUPPORT 7/65-3/68, 3801 Magnolia St., Irvine, CA 92606-2140, (949) 857-1531 along with his early subscription renewal wrote: Enclosed you will find my check for renewal of the quarterly. In the April quarterly I got to see the photos of my Battalion CO, Col. Dietrich (2/502). When I left the 101st in 1968 he took over the CO of the 1st Bde. He was well over 50 then and began his career as an enlisted man. I remember he did not smoke regular cigarettes. He rolled tobacco in provided paper for himself. His nickname (call sign) was "Gunslinger."

+ **MICHAEL E. SCHAUB**, 2/502 C 7/68-11/68, 515 Valley Drive, P.O. Box 1796, Crestline, CA 92325-1796 wrote: Thanks for all your fine work with the 1st Bde (Separate). I just missed being with the 1st Separate, arrived In Country Christmas Eve 1967 with the 101st/501st Signal Brigade, but volunteered in June 1968 for Infantry and was assigned to the 2/502 Charlie Company. Some of the Separate guys were still In Country. Left Viet Nam Thanksgiving 1968.

+ **EARL R. MOWER**, 2/327 A, HQ MEDIC 7/65-7/66, 1226 Hunter Ln., Perkiomenville, PA 18074-9445, (215) 234-8515 along with his subscription renewal wrote: Major, sorry if late – not Airborne style, a little extra. Keep up the good work – we need you.

+ = **Current Subscriber**

* = **Not a Subscriber**

OBITUARIES



1SG(R) Eugene T. Dean
326 ENGR A 7/66-7/67
January 5, 1933 – July 25, 2012



First Sergeant (Retired) Eugene T. (Dino) Dean, age 79 of Clarksville, TN, passed away on Wednesday, July 25, 2012, at Gateway Medical Center.

He was born on January 5, 1933, to the late Henry T. and Leona Dean of Elkton, VA. He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Carroll Dean; daughter, Linda Wine; and his loving wife of 56 years, Jean Dean.

Survivors include two sons, Michael Dean and James (Jimmy) Dean of Clarksville, TN; a sister, Wanda Beckham of Magee, MS; and two grandsons, James T. Wine, Jr. of Vale, CO and Jeremy L. Wine of Syracuse, IN.

He served two tours of duty in Vietnam, one with the First Brigade 101st Airborne Division and one with the 173rd Airborne Brigade. He had a total of 24 years of military service. He was a member of Bethel Presbyterian Church, the 101st Airborne Division Association, the WK&T Chapter, DAV, the VFW Post 11160 and the 173rd Airborne Brigade Association.

No services are planned, remains are to be cremated and placed with his loving wife in the memorial wall at the Kentucky Veterans Cemetery-West in Hopkinsville, KY.

Arrangements entrusted to Neal-Tarpley-Parchman Funeral Home, 1510 Madison Street, Clarksville, TN 37040; (931) 645-6488. Online condolences may be made at www.neal-tarpley.com.

Harvey P. Appleman, President of the WK&T Chapter, sent the following in the August 2012 WK&T Chapter newsletter. This will be a hard job replacing 1SG(R) Eugene Dean (Dino) who passed away July 25, 2012. Most of you know he wrote the newsletter for years. As your President, I will be writing it for my term.

Dino was a great friend. He fought the good fight and finished the race in life to support all mankind and our great WK&T Chapter and 101st Airborne Division; in fact for years this support was his life. We shall not forget Dino was an Engineer Infantryman. You

were not in his presence long before he let you know in his tenacity delivery he was an Engineer.

Dino was a Godly man; he attended my church, Bethel Cumberland Presbyterian at Sango, Clarksville, TN. He enjoyed the congregation and they all loved him. For Dino our departed Brother: Henceforth there is laid up for him a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award him. All who knew him will miss him.

William Bates Hambright, Jr.
27th ARTY 5th BN A BTRY 1/66-12/66
December 11, 1941 - July 7, 2012

William (Bill) Bates Hambright, Jr., passed away on July 7, 2012, at a hospital in Kingsport, TN, after a brief battle with lung cancer. He is survived by his sister, Jan Hambright Brown (Larry), his nieces Wendy Brown Sherlock (Joel), Bonnie Brown Leicht (Bruce), Julie Brown Nelson (Stewart) and four great nieces and nephews, Sophie Irene Leicht, Rabun Bates Leicht, Eliza Rose Leicht and Stewart Carson Nelson, Jr.

He graduated from Decatur High School in Atlanta and Clemson University where he was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity and the Army ROTC program. After graduation from Clemson with a degree in Industrial Management, he served as an Army artillery officer in Vietnam in 1964. After his military service, he worked with Tennessee Eastman Chemical Company for over 30 years until his retirement. He enjoyed photography, gardening, wood working and the companionship of a wonderful group of friends.

Graveside services were held at 10:00 am, Tuesday July 17 at Riverside Cemetery in Macon, Georgia, with Hart's Mortuary and Crematory in charge of arrangements.

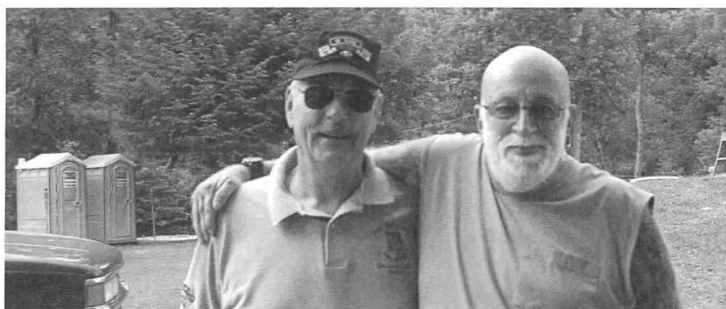
FIRST BRIGADE (S) CHALLENGE COIN

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

Cobra Lake 2012



Joe Bernstein, 2/327 C 6/67-11/67, (R) wrote: Ivan, I meant to mention this when you took the photo of Ken Kesinger (Kenneth L. Kesinger, 2/327 C 6/67-6/68 [L]) and me at the reunion. In October 1967 I was hit in the arm, chest and leg by automatic weapons fire. Ken came out and dragged my body back to cover and was shot in the leg in the process. We rode the resupply ship back to the hospital together. This reunion is the first time I've seen Ken since October 1967 so it was for both of us a very special reunion.



LTC(R) Allen C. De Graw, 1/327 C 7/64-7/66 ELT, (Company Commander of C Company 1/327, "Cold Steel Cobra" when the First Brigade deployed to Viet Nam) conducting the annual meeting. Cobra Lake reunion host and hostess Kenneth F. Ihle, 1/327 C 7/65-7/66, and his wife Angie, are on the right.



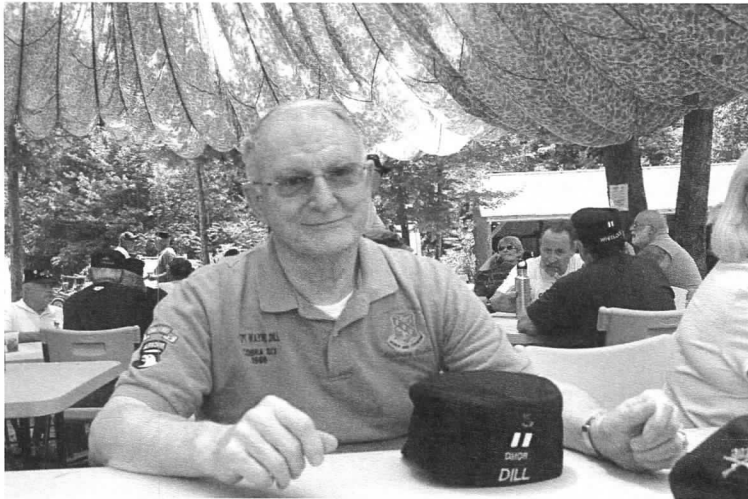
A stained glass replica of the 101st Airborne Division patch displayed in the garage.



*Roderick C. Wolfe, Sr., 1/327 C 3/64-7/66, and his wife Frieda in the Ihle's garage that afforded shade.



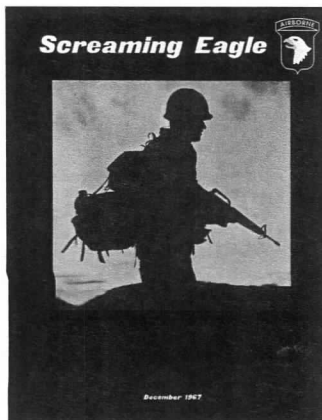
Standing (L to R) Jesse W. Myers, Jr., 2/327 C 6/67-6/68; Richard J. "Rich" Walsh, 2/327 C 6/67-6/68; #Larry Cota; *Sal Melendez, 2/327 HHQ Medic 7/67-6/68; Kenneth L. Kesinger, 2/327 C 6/67-6/68 and Joe Bernstein, 2/327 C 6/67-11/67. Kneeling (L to R) *Richard R. Bathurst, 2/327 C 67-68; Frank M. "Bulldog" Drummond, 2/327 C 5/67-12/68 and Theodore Penton, 2/327 C 10/67-2/69. All from Charlie Company 2nd Battalion 327th Airborne Infantry. **Editor's Note: Thanks to Bulldog Drummond for identification help. * = not a subscriber and # = not in my database.**



COL(R) E. Wayne Dill, 1/327 A & C 3/66-3/67, served as Company Commander of C Company 1/327 in Viet Nam.



Claude A. Frisbie (R), 1/327 A 7/66-2/68, sent this picture with COL(R) Lawrence A. Redmond (L), 2/327 A 5/67-2/68.



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



This four (4) inch diameter round decal is manufactured so that it may be used both inside and outside. The patch is full color. Price is \$2.50 each postpaid. See order form on page 34.

327th Dinner At The 101st Airborne Division Association Reunion



Bruce R. Frederick, 1/327 A 11/68-3/70, One Year Association Governor and our host for the 327th Dinner, outlines the program. (Ivan pix)



(L to R) Mary Redmond, wife of COL (R) Lawrence A. Redmond, 2/327 A 5/67 - 2/68, Colonel J.P. McGee, Commanding Officer, 1st Brigade Combat Team, Margaret Crosby and her husband LTC (R) Robert (Bob) Crosby, 2/327 C & HHC 3/67 - 3/68, find time for conversation before the 327th Dinner. (Ivan pix)



Colonel J.P. McGee, Commanding Officer, 1st Brigade Combat Team, is the featured dinner speaker for the 327th Infantry Regiment Dinner. His subject was the state of the BASTOGNE BRIGADE, formally known as THE ALWAYS FIRST BRIGADE. (Ivan pix)



LTC (R) William (Bill) Rován, 2/327 HQ & A 6/66 - 5/67, and his daughter Dr. Janice Shieh (Ivan pix)



COL (R) Thomas K. Sewell, 2/327 A & B 1/68-1/69, and his wife Lois. Tom is a past president of the 101st Airborne Division Association. (Ivan pix)

WATCH FOR THE STORY AND PICTURES OF THE 327TH

DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE REGIMENT CEREMONY IN THE JANUARY MAGAZINE

WELCOME 101ST AIRBORNE REUNION



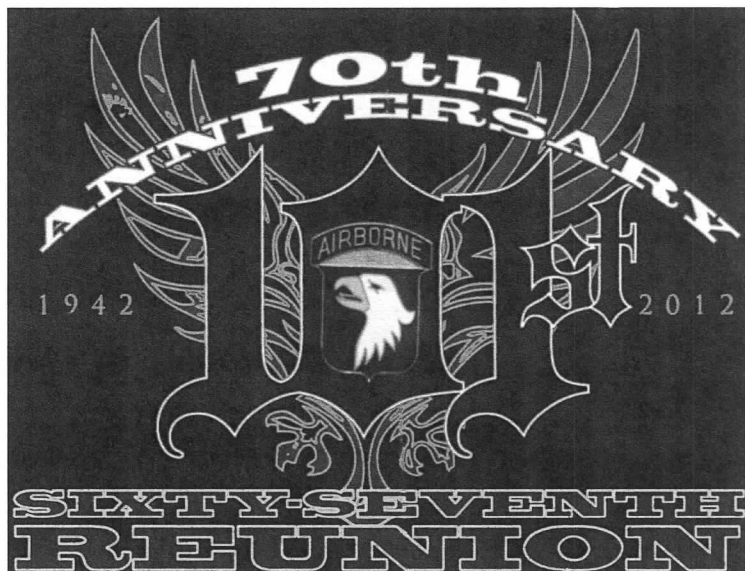
One of a series of toasts at the beginning of the Memorial Dinner. (Ivan pix)



This display depicting most of the wars the 101st Airborne Division has seen combat in was a great property for the Memorial Service and display in the hospitality room. (Ivan pix)



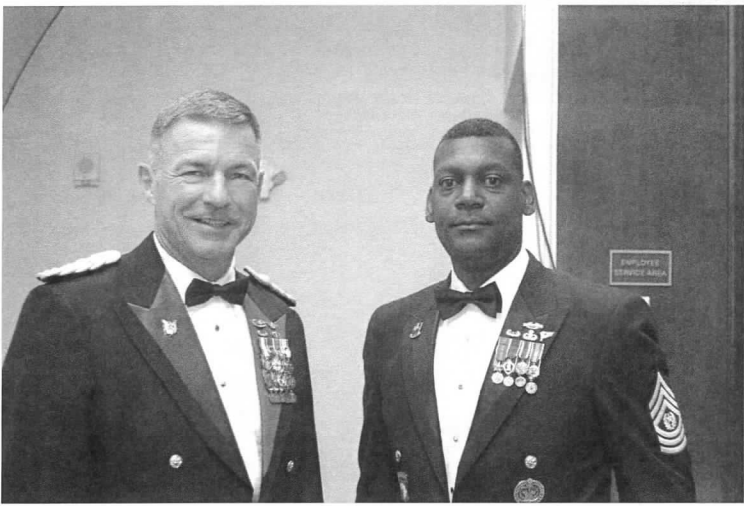
Roy P. Blevins, 1/327 C & TF 12/67-1/69, and his wife Arleta at the Memorial Dinner. (Sarah McNamara pix)



The reunion hospitality room was well stocked, well managed and a superior asset to those who attended the reunion. (Ivan pix)



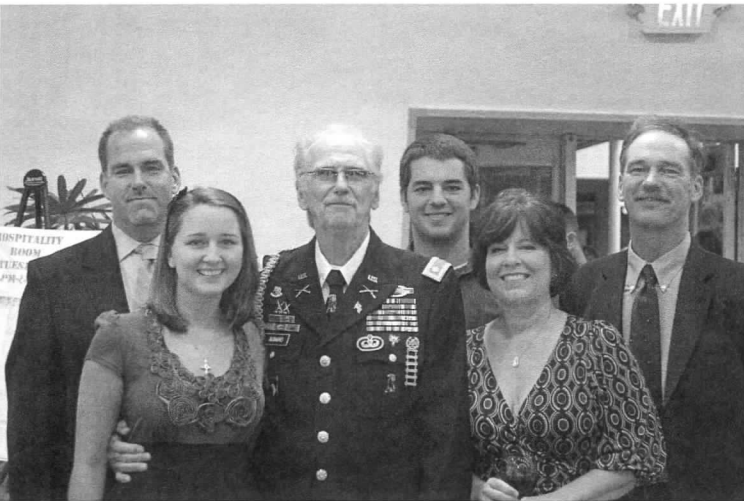
Captain (R) Charles "Jim" Apodaca, 2/502 B 5/66-4/67, and his wife Joyce, preparing for a great meal. Jim is the editor of VIETNAM ODYSSEY The story of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam in 1965 - 1966 and has been the source for much of the art and other material used in the magazine over the past 13 years. (Sarah McNamara pix)



Major General James C. McConville, Commanding General, 101st Airborne Division, (Air Assault) and Fort Campbell, Kentucky, and 101st Airborne Division Command Sergeant Major Alonzo Smith were honored guests. General McConville was the guest speaker and gave the audience an update on the state of the Division. (Sarah McNamara pix)



The Prisoner of War – Missing in Action table at the Memorial Dinner helped those attending to remember those who have been prevented from attending. (Sarah McNamara pix)



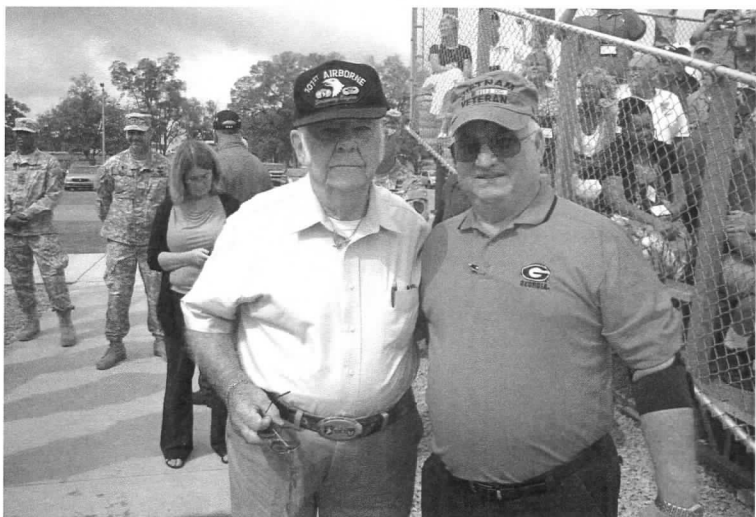
LTC (R) Billy R. Robbins, 1/327 ABU 11/62-9/67, made the reunion a family affair. They are (L to R) Michael Robbins, Sara Robbins, Billy R. Robbins, Shelby Robbins, Suzanne Robbins and Scotty Robbins. (Sarah McNamara pix)



Terry R. Zahn, SPT BN HQ ELT 7/65-5/66, and Sarah McNamara, granddaughter of your editor and publisher. Terry is an Association Board Member, President of the Midwest Chapter and many times Reunion Chairman. (Ivan pix)



Mrs. LaVerne Malinen mother of Dale Wayrynen who earned the Medal of Honor for service with B Company 2/502 and Dale's brother John P. Wayrynen. (Sarah McNamara pix)



Grady M. Jones, HHC S-3 7/64-7/66, and his son Ricky Jones wait for the "old timers" to fall in prior to leading the parade at Fort Campbell. Ricky is a veteran of the U. S. Air Force. (Ivan pix)

WATCH FOR MORE 101ST REUNION PICTURES IN THE JANUARY 2013 MAGAZINE

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.



This edition of *The Screaming Eagle* was sent to me by CPT Barry Hana, HQ-PIO 3/67-3/68. It was processed using a copy from his unit newspaper collection which is bound in book form. Those mentioned in this paper, who are in the First Brigade (S) database, are listed below.

Front page:

Col. Collins Commands 1st Brigade, Matheson Speaks to Troops and CO Honors Sgt. Lee, BG(R) John W. Collins, III, DCO 7-12/67 CO 12/67-7/68. *LRRPS Capture Rocket*, *Reynel Martinez, LRRP 12/66-6/68.

Page 2,

Prayer... photo by *Jerald W. "Jerry" Berry, 3/506 A&HHC 6/67-10/68. *Viet Cong Lose 57 Base Camps*, COL(R) Edwin P. "Ted" Geesey, HHC HQ 5/67-5/68, LTG(R) John E. Miller, 2/327 B 5/67-3/68, *Thomas F. Gaffney, 3/506 A 67-68, *Lyndol L. Cook, 2/327 A 8/67-7/68 and *Joseph A. "Burt" Westbrook, 1/327 C 7/67-68.

Page 3,

Screaming Eagle Briefings, Scratch a VC, William J. Mercier, Jr., 1/327 C 4/67-4/68, *John B. Scott, 1/327 C 9/67-9/68, *Gary Jones, 1/327 C 67-68, *Convoy Escort*, LTC(R) William Karl Bergman, 2/17 CAV A&B 6/67-6/68. *'Rat' Finds Bombs*, *Udo Taring, 3/506. *Photo Helping Hand for a Buddy* by *MSG(R) Richard McLaughlin, 2/502 PIO 11/67-7/68.

Page 4,

A Paratrooper's Eye Reflects, photo credit for *Jerald W. "Jerry" Berry, 3/506 A&HHC 6/67-10/68.

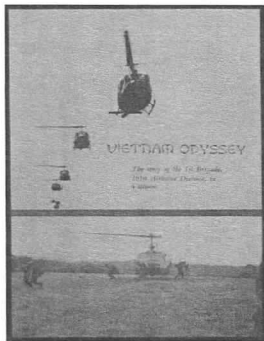
* Not a subscriber



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.

airborne salute



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and voices of the Cadet Glee Club



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(Has some surface noise from the 1959 record used to make the new master.)



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.

The Screaming Eagle



Vol. II, No. 7

1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division

February 14, 1968

Col. Collins Commands 1st Brigade

LRRP's Capture Rocket

PHAN RANG — The dense jungle loomed menacingly on each side of the trail. The men of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division's Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP) were alert for enemy ambush positions. Quietly, they moved down the narrow path.

Suddenly the point man, Staff Sgt. Lester E. Hite, St. Louis, dropped to his hands and knees. The rest of the column repeated his movement. Where once a string of men had stretched down the trail, no one could be seen. Camouflaged fatigues blended into the dark green foliage.

The late afternoon sun filtered through the heavy jungle. Barely audible, footsteps could be heard from the trail ahead.

Hite removed his rucksack. Inching his way forward, he saw the point element of the enemy squad.

Sgt. Ray Martinez, Los Angeles, crawled forward with the M-60 machine gun. The Viet Cong point man noticed the movement and shouldered his rifle. Quickly Hite fired a burst from his M-16. Martinez immediately raked the area with machine gun fire.

As the volume of fire increased, Hite saw an insurgent aim a rocket launcher.

"That was a pretty nervous moment for me," said Hite. "We started firing with everything we had. We couldn't allow them to fire that thing."

Spec. 4 Jack McGill, Los Angeles, moved even with Martinez and Hite.

"We started crawling forward toward grenades," said McGill. "But that bamboo made the going slow."

The paratroopers were tossing grenades into the enemy positions. In return, the VC tossed a grenade toward Hite, Martinez and McGill.

"Grenade!" yelled Hite. The explosion shattered the staccato beat of the automatic weapons. Shrapnel ripped through the area. Hite felt hot metal slam into his back.

"It knocked me completely over, but I didn't have time to think about it," he said.

The VC abandoned the heavy rocket launcher and fled behind cover fire. The LRRP's moved into the enemy positions, found the rocket launcher, two rockets and 20 pounds of rice.

"We didn't find any bodies, but that rocket launcher won't be used to hit any of our companies," said Hite. "It's a valuable commodity to the VC."



Screaming Eagle Leaders

Col. John W. Collins III, (left) outlines plans for the change-of-command ceremonies held at the forward base camp of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division to Maj. Gen. O.M. Barsanti, division commander, (center) and Brig. Gen. S.H. Matheson. Collins took command of the brigade from Matheson, who moved to III Marine Amphibious Force (III MAF) as chief Army adviser.

(Photo by Spec. 4 Ben Croxton)

Matheson Speaks to Troops

PHAN RANG — The distant hum of a helicopter and chase ship could be heard. The color guard and flags of each unit of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division were at attention. Brig. Gen. S.H. Matheson, Los Angeles, and Col. John W. Collins III, Demopolis, Ala., awaited the arrival of Maj. Gen. O.M. Barsanti, commander of the 101st Airborne Division.

Matheson was relinquishing command of the 1st Brigade. He was moving to III Marine Amphibious Force in DaNang as Army adviser to Lieutenant General Robert Cushman, III MAF commander. He would return to Fort Monroe, Va., a month or two later as Chief of Individual Training for the Continental Army Command (CONARC). He already had 13 months as commander of the 1st Brigade.

Collins would be the new commander.

Saying goodbye was difficult for Matheson, but Collins stepping into command made the departure easier. They had worked closely together for six months when Collins was his deputy.

After the colors of the 1st Brigade changed hands, Matheson spoke to the troops:

"I'm sorry to be leaving the

troopers of this brigade," he said. "But I'm turning it over to an old pro—'Rip' Collins.

"I've seen us fight in three of the four corps areas in Vietnam this year. We've fought the enemy and won. This brigade has the finest troopers of any unit, in any army, at any time.

"Now we must forget our role as a separate brigade and join



Matheson

our sister brigades of the division. The 101st again is united.

"I wish you all luck. Keep up the proud history of the brigade."

Collins spoke briefly, citing the outstanding job Matheson had done with the brigade and thanking Barsanti for giving him command of the unit.

Then the ceremony was over. A silence fell over the men as the former brigade commander walked through the ranks, shaking hands with the officers and men assembled.

"Take care now," he said to one trooper. "Keep up the good work," he told another.

Hard paratroopers would miss the man they called "The soldier's general."

The general said a few more hasty goodbyes and boarded his waiting helicopter. Then he was circling the base camp. Helicopter pilots, Capt. Thomas Churchill, Daleville, Ala., and WO1 Michael Jacobi, Martinsburg, Mo., had equipped the aircraft's skids with yellow and red smoke streamers. As the ship circled the area three times, it left colorful trails in its wake.

As the helicopter zoomed at low level overhead, troopers waved goodbye.

PHAN RANG — Col. John W. Collins III, Demopolis, Ala., former deputy commander of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, took command of the "Always First" brigade recently in a change of command ceremony at the forward base camp.

Brig. Gen. S.H. Matheson, former brigade commander, moved to III Marine Amphibious Force in I Corps as the Army adviser to Lieutenant General Robert Cushman, III MAF commander.

Collins has served as Matheson's deputy for six months. Prior to his assignment to the 1st Brigade, he served with the U.S. European Command.

Dubbed "Rip" by friends, Collins is a 1943 graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point and holds a Master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Syracuse. He is a graduate of the Command and General Staff College and the Army Warfare College.

The 47-year old commander served in the Rhineland, Arden-nes-Alsace and Central Europe during World War II, and in China, Japan and Korea in the following decade. He arrived in Vietnam July 3, 1967.

His decorations include the World War II Victory Medal, the American Campaign Medal, the National Defense Medal (with oak leaf cluster), the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star Medal (second oak leaf cluster) and the Korean Service Medal.

He and his wife Virginia have two daughters — July 21 and Beverly 18.

CO Honors Sgt. Lee

PHAN RANG — Sgt. Irving I. Lee, a paratrooper of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division received the Bronze Star for Heroism and was named "Warrior of the Week" by Col. John W. Collins III, brigade commander.

Lee, a native of Anniston, Ala., is a squad leader with the reconnaissance platoon of the 1st Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf.

While conducting Operation Wheeler near Chu Lai, an element of the battalion came under intense enemy fire. Lee led his squad in relief of the pinned down element, resulting in three Viet Cong killed and three weapons—an M-16 and two AK-47 rifles—captured.

During the action, Lee consistently was the target of heavy enemy fire as he directed his maneuver element. He placed effective suppressive fire on the enemy positions, resulting in two additional Viet Cong killed.



Prayer . . .

Maj. (Chaplain) James J. Murphy, Montgomery, Ala., conducts mass for paratroopers of the 3rd Bn. (Abn), 506th Infantry. Father Murphy and his team of four other chaplains visit troopers in the field for church services and personal counseling. (Photo by Pfc. Jerry Berry)

Editorial on Saving

Put Extra Money to Work

The December pay envelope was swollen by the addition of the pay raise given U.S. men and women in uniform under the Uniformed Services Pay Act of 1967, made more welcome by the fact the pay boost was retroactive to October 1, 1967. By now, the "Christmas bonus" has been spent and the holidays were that much brighter because of the added income.

All of us welcome extra funds, however, not just at Christmas but at anytime during the year. The only way most of us can have the extra money we would like for something special is simply by saving it — by putting aside some money now for our future needs.

Regardless of how it is described, i.e. frugality, thrift or good management of money, saving a portion of your monthly income is plain good sense.

The U.S. government has some very valid, sensible reasons for wanting Armed Forces members to save while they serve in Vietnam. Chief among these are helping to curb the flow of gold from America and helping to curb inflation of the Vietnamese economy.

But saving by an individual is really a personal thing. There are countless reasons why anyone can and should put aside some cash on a regular basis. A long vacation, going to college, buying a new car, getting married and buying a home are just a few personal reasons. The problem is not finding reasons to save but rather one of finding the determination to save. That is a personal thing also.

Those who serve in Vietnam are provided a number of ways to save their income, income which is greater than when stationed in the U.S. because of hazardous duty pay, foreign duty pay and the income tax exemption. U.S. Savings Bonds, the servicemen Savings Deposit program, commercial banking facilities and several pay options available through military finance offices are part of the over-all scheme.

None of these are of any value unless those who serve in Vietnam avail themselves of the services offered. This means the soldier, sailor, Marine or airman has to make up his mind to avoid unnecessary expenses and prevent waste of his money. Common sense? Certainly! Your pay is earned the hard way and make no mistake about it. You would not walk up to a stranger on the street in the United States and hand

him a \$20 bill without making sure you were getting something for the value of your money. Why do it in Vietnam? Why not hold on to your extra cash, the money you do not need to meet immediate expenses by saving it until you can spend it back in the U.S. where you can be certain of getting value for the cash you hand out?

What is the best way to save? By regular monthly deductions. Determine what your expenses are. And no one expects you to scribble by. Be generous to yourself but buy only what is needed and that for which you get value in proportion to cost. Then put the rest into Savings Bonds or an allotment to a bank or some similar plan. Once this is done, live on what you keep. It gets to be a habit and habit is really the key to savings. You might say, you can give yourself a bonus for the future — by adopting the savings habit.

Viet Cong Lose 57 Base Camps

PHAN RANG — Operation Klamath Falls, a brief search and destroy sweep conducted by the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division west of Bao Loc in December, showed the Viet Cong were on the run in II Corps.

Fifty-seven base camps were destroyed, 156 enemy killed and 77 weapons captured.

"The enemy base camps comprised a complete system for escape and evasion," said Capt. Gerald Wright, Decatur, Ga., assistant intelligence officer for the brigade. "We found 13 battalion-sized, 21 company-sized, 21 platoon-sized and two squad-sized base camps. "About 80 per cent of all bunkers in these camps had overhead cover," added Wright. "This indicates their need for protection against tactical air strikes and artillery."

The paratroopers found most of the base camps deserted, but many showed signs of having been occupied 24 hours previously.

"They had a good warning system," said Maj. E. P. Geesey, Altoona, Pa., intelligence officer for the brigade. "We found hot coals in hastily-extinguished fires, wet clothing drying in the sun and food ready for preparation."

Food caches also were found. Usually they were set away from bunker complexes deeper in the jungle to avoid discovery. Paratroopers found a total of 101 tons of rice, three tons of salt, 70 pounds of fish and 515 pounds of tea during the operation.

"Usually the base camps had few supplies in them," said Wright. "This implies two situations: the enemy is poorly supplied in this area, or, priority for resupply is going to enemy units in other areas of Vietnam."

The terrain was some of the toughest paratroopers of the 1st Brigade have seen during their two and a half years in Vietnam. The heavy jungle helped camouflage the enemy base camps.

"It was double and triple canopy jungle," said Capt. John Miller, Springfield, Mo., commander of B Co., 2nd Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf.

On December 8, he and his men fought their way through dense jungle and discovered a large camp consisting of 16 huts with firing positions and bunkers.

"They were set deep into the jungle off a trail," said Miller. "That undergrowth is fine camouflage."

A highlight of the operation was the discovery of a hospital complex by A Co. of the 3rd Bn. (Abn), 506th Inf. Capt. Thomas F. Gaffney, Swainsboro, Ga., and his paratroopers found 1,000 pounds of penicillin and also unearthed a cache of nine weapons.

Also found in the complex were documents verifying the operation of the 186th Viet Cong Battalion in the area. Indications were that the enemy unit had broken into small groups and sought to evade the Screaming Eagles.

Other important base camps were found during the operation.

On December 3, Capt. Lyndol L. Cook, Marina, Calif., and A Co. of the 2nd Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf., found an enemy village complex containing 35 huts, three military classrooms and 28 heavily-fortified bunkers.

On December 21, Capt. Robert McGurk, Manilus, N.Y., and the paratroopers of A Co., 2nd Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf., found a complex with enough huts and bunkers for 100 persons. Two kitchens and three military classrooms were also in the complex.

On December 21, Capt. Joseph A. Westbrook, Decatur, Ga., and C Co. 1st Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf., found 30 fortified bunkers and 12 camouflaged huts.

With the discovery of these base camps, the Viet Cong no longer can operate safely in the area.

"We contacted the 186th, killed 156 local VC and captured 77 weapons," said Wright. "We also destroyed the many base camps and familiarized ourselves with the trails underneath that jungle canopy."

"The enemy had the advantage because he knew the jungle in the area," Wright added. "He knew the trails and the location of his base camps."



. . . And Communion

Maj. (Chaplain) James J. Murphy, Montgomery, Ala., gives communion to paratroopers in the field. The men are members of the 1st Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Al Wilson)



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Helping Hand for a Buddy

Cpl. Norris N. Dahl, Concord, Calif., pulls Pfc. James A. McDonagh, Coquitland, British Columbia, up a small waterfall during a recent search and destroy sweep. Both paratroopers are members of the 1st Plat., B Co., 2nd Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf. (Photo by Spec. 5 Richard McLaughlin)

Screaming Eagle Briefings

Scratch a VC

The sun was a ball of fire. Despite the smoldering heat, the paratroopers of the 1st Brigade were alert. Perspiration plastered their clothes to their bodies and vines and thorns tore at arms and faces.

Pfc. William J. Mercier, Pontiac, Mich., was walking third in the column. Suddenly a Viet Cong appeared to his left, firing a burst from his AK-47 rifle.

"I got off a burst and he went down," said Mercier, a member of C Co., 1st Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf.

The paratroopers moved in the direction of the enemy and discovered a bunker complex.

"We tossed grenades in the bunkers hoping to find the VC," said Sgt. John Scott, Philadelphia. "Then we spotted him in one."

Spec. 4 Gary Jones, Shawnee, Okla., watched as Scott tossed a grenade in the bunker. Then, with pistol in hand, Jones disappeared inside. Soon he came out, carrying the dead insurgent.

Convoy Escort

Paratroopers of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne's A Troop, 2nd Sqn., 17th Cav. traveled more than 1,400 miles in three weeks of convoy escort between here and the brigade forward base camp at Bao Loc.

"We have escorted vehicles of

all sizes carrying everything from ammunition to ice cream," said Lt. William K. Bergman, Ft. Monroe, Va., a cavalry platoon leader.

The cavalry troop protects its convoys with vehicular mounted machine guns and recoilless rifles. Tactical air and helicopter gunships reinforce their organic firepower when needed.

'Rat' Finds Bombs

A tunnel rat of the 1st Brigade encountered something new in a spider hole recently—two bombs hidden by the Viet Cong.

The pointman of an element of the 3rd Bn. (Abn), 506th Inf., Pfc. Coalie Brandon, spotted the hole and passed word back to Staff Sgt. Udo Taring, the squad leader from Milford, Conn.

Taring summoned Pvt. William Young, New York. The tunnel rat had a job to do.

Taring tossed a grenade into the hole. Nothing happened. With flashlight and pistol, Young lowered himself into the tunnel.

"About 20 feet down the walls became narrow," said Young. "Then I found the bomb."

Climbing back out, Young informed Taring of the find. Two combat engineers of A Co., 326th Engineer Bn. (Abn.), lowered themselves into the tunnel.

Pfc. Ernest Carpenter, Wildwood, Fla., and Spec. 4 Allen Blair, Brooklyn, confirmed the find and found a 250-pound bomb

further into the tunnel.

Placing explosive charges around the bombs, the engineers crawled out. With the paratroopers a safe distance away, the engineers destroyed the bombs in the tunnel.

Ambush Kills 3

A patrol of the 1st Brigade killed three Viet Cong from ambush positions near a creek during a recent search and destroy operation southwest of here.

The patrol of the 3rd Bn. (Abn) 506th Inf. had been searching for a water source, knowing the VC in the area were in need of water. They settled into position and waited.

Night fell.

Pfc. William Schrayner, Akron, Ohio, first spotted the VC coming down a trail to the water hole.

"They were carrying weapons, supplies and field packs," said Schrayner. "There were at least half a dozen."

The paratroopers waited. The VC rounded a bend in the trail, approaching the Screaming Eagles.

Pfc. John Burkett, Boston, raised his M-79 grenade launcher and fired at the first man in the column, killing him.

The other paratroopers opened up and the VC turned and fled.

Pfc. Leon Davis, Toledo, Ohio, and the other paratroopers advanced to check the trail. Three dead enemy were found.

Hawks Search, Contact Enemy

By Lt. Charles Lovedahl

PHAN RANG—The morning dawned with its usual slow, hazy heat. It was the dry season in Vietnam. Dust was everywhere. The paddies were void of rice plants, the roads were powder, the water was putrid and scarce. The heat was stifling.

To the members of the Hawks, the reconnaissance platoon of the 2nd Bn. (Abn.), 327th Inf., it was another day. Another chance for the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division unit to hunt the enemy. Today they would eat breakfast and move out. A Viet Cong company was somewhere in the nearby jungle. Finding it was the mission.

Sgt. James M. Dean, Newbern, N.C. and his point element moved through the barbed-wire fortifications and into the jungle. Two other teams and the command section followed.

Dry rice paddies were crossed and the mountain loomed ahead. It was steep, bamboo grew almost to the top. The enemy were on the other side, beneath the jungle canopy which hid activity from aerial observers. The Hawks moved along a trail. To each man, a turned leaf or broken twig meant someone had passed there recently.

Set Up for Night

They traveled all day through the dense jungle. That night, camp was made on a high, rocky shelf. A spot completely surrounded by dead bamboo was chosen. No silent enemy could sneak into the camp without being heard. Silently the perimeter was established and sectors of fire assigned. The night guard was set up while others heated water and food. The night would be spent in rest.

The next day, the search continued. Across the mountain top and into enemy territory. The area around the mountain had been a lush valley of orange and tea plantations. Unkempt orchards looked like another forest. It was hard to imagine the area as a place where French planters once laughed. It was even harder to imagine the mountain as the favorite stag and tiger hunting ground it once had been.

Discover Trail

At noon, Staff Sgt. Ivan D. Donaldson, Commerce City, Colo., now leading the point element, discovered a high-speed trail. It had been used recently. Debris was scattered—signs the VC weren't concerned about being discovered. The Hawks moved on. Caution was essential. Walk a few feet. Stop. Listen. Walk a few more. Check a small side trail.

Maps and compasses were checked. When contact with the enemy was made, immediate reports would have to be radioed to higher headquarters. The reports had to be accurate. Every ridge, gully and open area had to be plotted.

Nerves were tense, muscles taut. Grenades were loosened on harnesses for quick access. Every turn in the trail was a suspected ambush site. Each had to be flanked and checked.

At 2:30 p.m. Donaldson halted the column and reported to the platoon leader. A complex of trails had been found, each running down the mountain in a different direction. Donaldson's element took one trail, while the others waited.

Donaldson returned. The trail had ended abruptly with no signs of the enemy.

Enemy Ahead

The Hawks moved down the trail once again. Suddenly a movement was heard. It could be an animal—it could be the enemy. The Hawks moved off the trail in ambush. The movement was heard again. A human form in a grey uniform appeared. Then another and another. Three North Vietnamese soldiers came into full view, each with an AK-47 automatic rifle. They were 50 meters away.

The trail was steep and the NVA had their heads down, laboring with the tough climb. Slowly they climbed closer and closer. Forty meters. Then 30. Then 20. All Hawks were ready. Just a little bit closer, each man thought to himself.

Now the enemy was 15 meters away, but the second two were partially hidden by a slight rise in the ridge line. The lead enemy soldier looked up. A Hawk weapon bucked four times, killing the enemy. The other two fled.

Quickly and carefully a search was made of the dead enemy and an element followed the other two down the trail.

Call in Artillery

As the Hawks moved down the trail, it became slicker and wider—signs large forces had been using it. The enemy base camp lay just ahead and the Hawks retraced their steps back to the ambush site. A hundred NVA were too many for the smaller reconnaissance force. The Hawks moved back 350 meters and called in artillery.

The first rounds exploded on target. The Hawks could hear the shells screaming overhead.

Receive Enemy Fire

The paratroopers began to move out when two enemy automatic weapons opened up from a tree line. Five more enemy weapons began firing and green tracer rounds wildly filled the air. The Hawks returned the fire. A single shot could no longer be heard. Just one loud noise.

The order to pull back was given. The Hawks couldn't allow themselves to be boxed in by the larger enemy force.

The point element led the way, killing two more enemy as they cleared a path through the jungle. Another element covered the rear, placing a wall of M-16 fire behind them.

For 400 meters they moved. Dawn was approaching and the Hawks had to reach a defensive position by nightfall. They reached the area where they had camped the night before. Then they called artillery fire on the site of their last contact with the enemy.

A report was radioed to higher headquarters. Orders for the next day were to link up with Company A and search the same area—this time with more fighting strength. The reconnaissance mission was over.

A Paratrooper's Eye Reflects...



... Children

PHAN RANG—These are the faces of Vietnam . . . groups of children . . . a sister and brother . . . a boy becoming a man.

Paratroopers of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division take time to stop. They look. They ponder. They recall other mothers and children . . . sisters and brothers . . . boys becoming men.

The present and past are different.

They recall mothers and children living peacefully . . . sisters and brothers playing safely . . . boys—pausing before becoming men.

The paratroopers smile . . . walk on . . . their promise renewed for a world where a boy can stop time for a moment . . . before becoming a man.

(Photos by Spec. 4 Ben Croxton and Pfc. Jerry Berry)

... Sister and Brother



... a Boy ... a Man

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Ben Willis
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C. C. Wright \$
2/502 B 63-2/66 - 7/13
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Belding, MI 48809-1215

\$ = Above Subscription Price

Address Corrections

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through September 4, 2012

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LTC(R) James M. Tajiri
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June 5, 2012
through September 4, 2012

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101st G-2 68 - 1/13
1108 Shetland Court
Raleigh, NC 27609-3657

50TH ANNIVERSARY

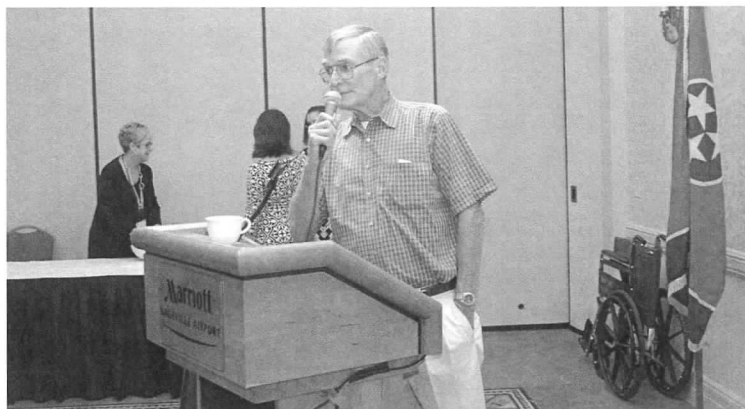


The two logos above are a first draft for artwork to identify the July 2015 50th Anniversary Celebration of landing in Viet Nam. The back of the logo (it will more than likely also be a coin) will have the place and dates of the celebration added to finalize it. The celebration will be on the week of the 27th of July 2015. The hotel and schedule are a work in progress. The 50th Anniversary gathering will be sponsored by THE FIRST SCREAMING EAGLES in VIET NAM magazine.

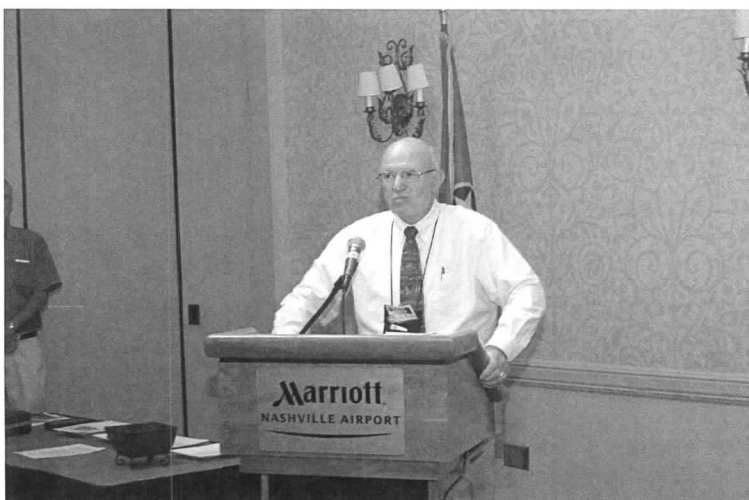


First Brigade (Separate) Dinner 2012

The First Brigade (S) dinner, held in conjunction with the 101st Airborne Division Association Reunion in Nashville, Tennessee, on August 14, 2012, was well attended with 203 in attendance. The food was well prepared and delicious, the program was interesting and the best part of the evening was an opportunity to visit with old friends who are veterans of the ALWAYS FIRST BRIGADE when it was a separate unit in Viet Nam.



MAJ(R) Walter W. Jackson, 1/327 C 7/67-6/68, was the chairman, organizer, sponsor, master of ceremonies and in charge of any and all other tasks pertaining to the dinner. (Ivan pix)



**CHAP (COL-R) Bill W. Libby, 2/502 HQ 3/68-11/68, gives the invocation before dinner is served. (Ivan pix)*



Dinner is served. The buffet dinner was a big success with the First Brigade (S) veterans and their guests. (Ivan pix)



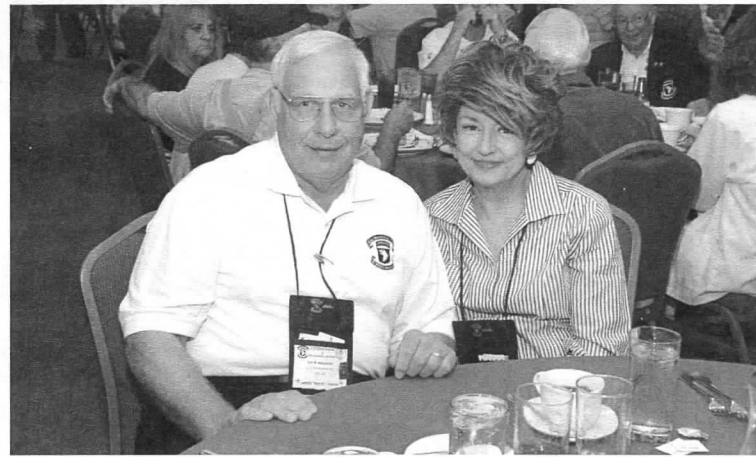
(L TO R) MG (R) Fred Raymond, 1/327 HHC, A, C, and E 1/68 - 6/69, and Roy P. Blevins, 1/327 C & TF 12/67-1/69, await the call to go through the buffet line. (Ivan pix)



CSM(R) Dewey Walker, 1/327 HQ 3/63-7/66, and Mrs. Walker. (Ivan pix)



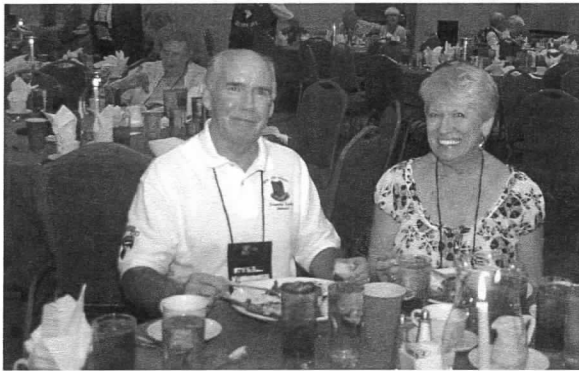
This trooper is sure to leave no doubt as to his division loyalties. He is a SCREAMING EAGLE! (Photo by Robert Burlleson)



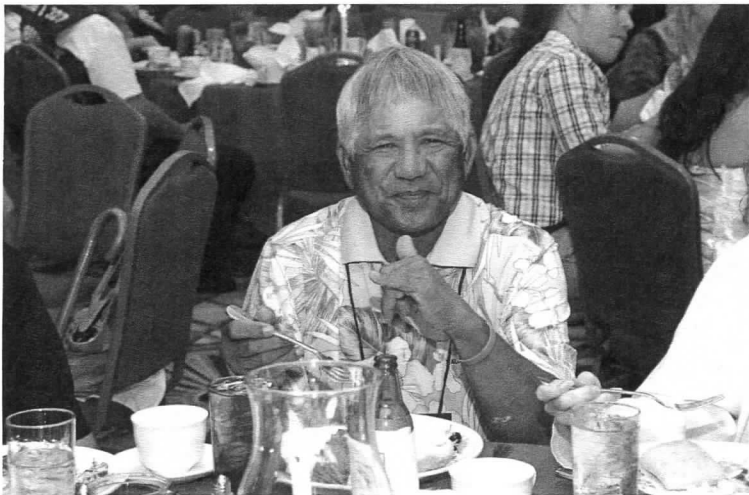
COL (R) Joe R. and Rikki Alexander, 3/506 A 10/67-10/68, take time to enjoy the First Brigade dinner away from Joe's responsibilities for the 101st Association hospitality room. (Photo by Robert Burlleson)



Nick Mihalic, 2/327 HHQ 2/67-8/67, and Jackie Teixeira posed in front of the First Brigade welcome sign. (Photo by Robert Burlleson)



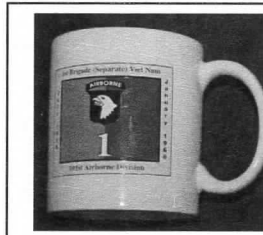
Douglas N. Field, 2/327 B 4/66-12/67, and Arline, both have been frequent contributors of pictures and other material for the magazine. (Ivan pix)



Douglas Abran, 2/327 A 4/67, flew from Hawaii to be with his friends and fellow veterans from the First Brigade. (Photo by Robert Burlleson)



Thomas W. and Mary Dohnke, 2/327 A 7/67-5/68, traveled from California to attend the Nashville reunion. (Photo by Robert Burlleson)

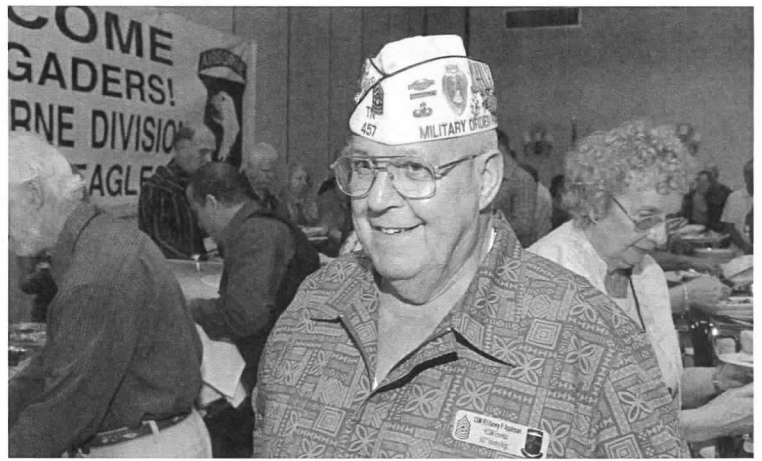


This white ceramic 11 ounce mug has the FULL COLOR FIRST BRIGADE (S) logo on two sides. \$13.00 + \$4.95 shipping through the U.S. Postal Service a total of \$17.95.

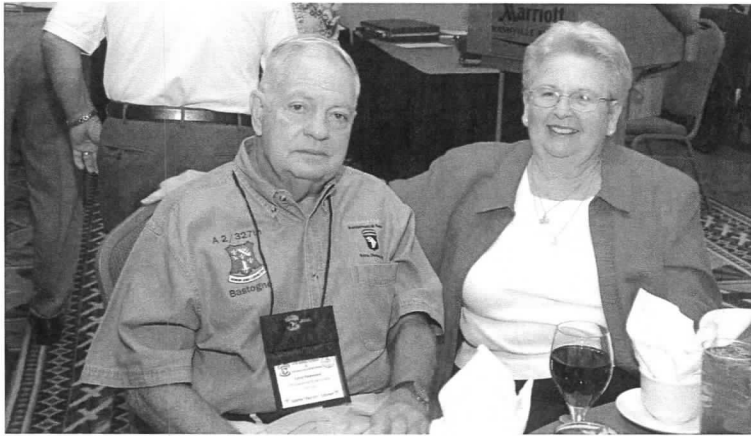
See order form on Page 34.



*Henry J. "Doc" and Mrs. Ortega, 1/327 C and T.F. 67-68, pose for a picture. (Photo by Robert Burlleson)



CSM(R) Harvey P. Appleman, 2/327 HQ 2/67-3/68, looks great in his Military Order of the Purple Heart cap. (Photo by Robert Burlleson)



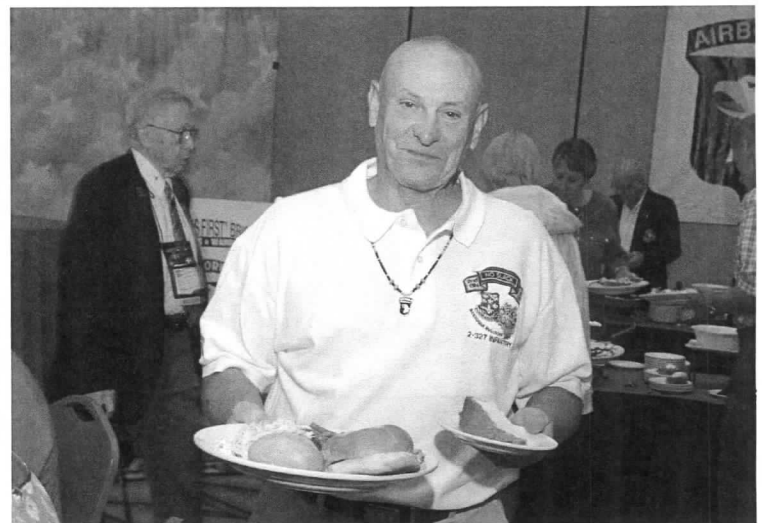
COL(R) Lawrence A. and Mary Redmond, 2/327 A 5/67 - 2/68, are prepared to eat dinner. (Photo by Robert Burlleson)



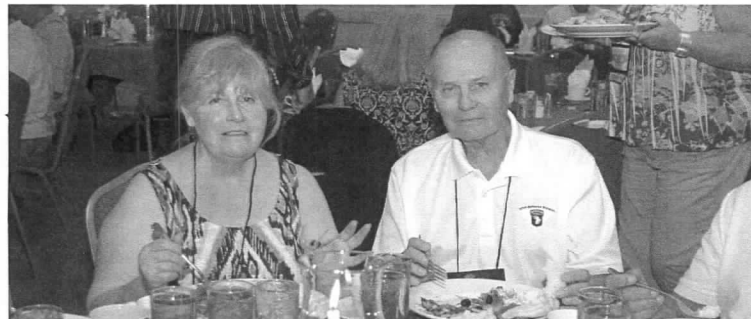
Sgt. Homero and Ernestina Gomez, 2/502 C 6/67-7/68, appear to be enjoying the dinner. They attend most First Brigade (S) reunions. (Photo by Robert Burlleson)



LTG (R) John E. and Joan Miller, 2/327 B 5/67 - 3/68; he served as Commanding General of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and Fort Campbell, Kentucky, when he was a Major General. (Ivan pix)



Terry L. Wren, 2/327 A 4/67-2/68, appears to have found a good dinner on the buffet line. (Photo by Robert Burlleson)



LTC (R) Louis M. and Lista Ammirati McDonald, 2/327 B 5/66 - 10/66; he serves as the Honorary Colonel of the 327th Airborne Infantry Regiment aka First Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division. (Ivan pix)

* Not a subscriber

Attendees Dinner for the First Brigade (S) at the 13th Biennial Reunion held on 14 Aug 2012 in conjunction with the 67th Annual 101st Airborne Division Association Reunion

Douglas Abran	Douglas N. Field and guest	Nick Mihalic and guest	G. "Rod" Tillman
James D. Agins	Charlie L. and Carolyn Fraley	Ray Millard and guest	Donald Vaughn and guest
Roy Aguero	Blair A. Funderburk and 3 guests	John E. Miller and guest	John Vaughn and guest
Clinton J. Akins and guest	Charles R. Gant	Robert Mitchel	Dewey Walker
Joe R. Alexander and guest	Chester L. Giddens	Galen G. Mitchell and guest	David P. Walz
Charles J. Apodaca and guest	Ronald L. Gillette and guest	Michael Mitchell	William Weldon
Harvey P. Appleman CSM(R)	Homer and Nina Gomez and 1 guest	Roger J. Morris	Terry L. Wiley and guest
Richard M. Baker and guest	Jimmie W. Green and guest	Richard H. Murphy	Henry I. Willey
Butler A. Baldwin and guest	Raymundo Gutierrez	Pat (Robert) Noonan and guest	James D. Wilson, Sr.
Jerry R. Barnhill	Lavern Hagen and guest	Michael H. O'Connell	Ivan Worrell
William L. and Donna Beattie	Barry C. Hana	Charles P. Otstott LTG(R)	Terry L. Wren and guest
Dean J. Beaupre and guest	Wade D. Hansen	Chuck E. Payne	Charles C. Wright
Roy and Arleta Blevins and 2 daughters	Roger Haseltine	Alton (Dan) and Rose Porter	Dennis R. Wright
CSM(R) Joseph M. Bossi and 2 guests from Holland	James K. Hill and guest	Robert A. Press and 3 guests	Terry R. Zahn
Billy J. Boyd	John Howard BG(R)	Fred Ranck and guest	22 Active Duty/Spouse attendees
Sidney R. Brown CSM(R)	Charles A. Hubbard and guest	Fred Raymond MG(R)	<i>Editor's Note: This list of names received on September 10, 2012, of those who attended the First Brigade (S) Dinner on August 14th is unedited as it was typed from the hand written list sent by Dinner Chairman MAJ (R) Walter W. Jackson, 1/327 C 7/67-6/68. The list shows 1st Brigade (S) veterans only. Record of wives and guests names is incomplete.</i>
Robert Burleson, Official Photographer	Bill D. Inez	Don Reddeman and guest	
Allen Christensen and guest	Walter W. Jackson and guest	Larry A. Redmond and guest	
William Crook	James E. Kelling and guest	James Rhoads and guest	
John Crosby and guest	Perry B. Larson and guest	Larry Riley and guest	
Robert Crosby	Donald R. Lenc	Bill Robbins	
Howard H. Danford	Robert Leonard and guest	William P. Rován	
George W. and Shirley Day	Miles and Carolyn Lester	Tom K. Sewell and guest	
David K. Dever	David Lindwall and guest	David E. Snyder	
C. W. Dinkle and 2 guests	Carol Luttrell	Samuel B. Snyder	
Thomas W. Dohnke and guest	Raymond Lynch and guest	Michael Steele and guest	
George C. Fallon and guest	Louis M. McDonald and guest	Jessie Talley and guest	
Peter Fekete and guest	Rhuel D. McEllhatten and guest	Thomas Taylor	
	Sarah McNamara	Michael Thompson and guest	

Robert Burleson
Photographic Art

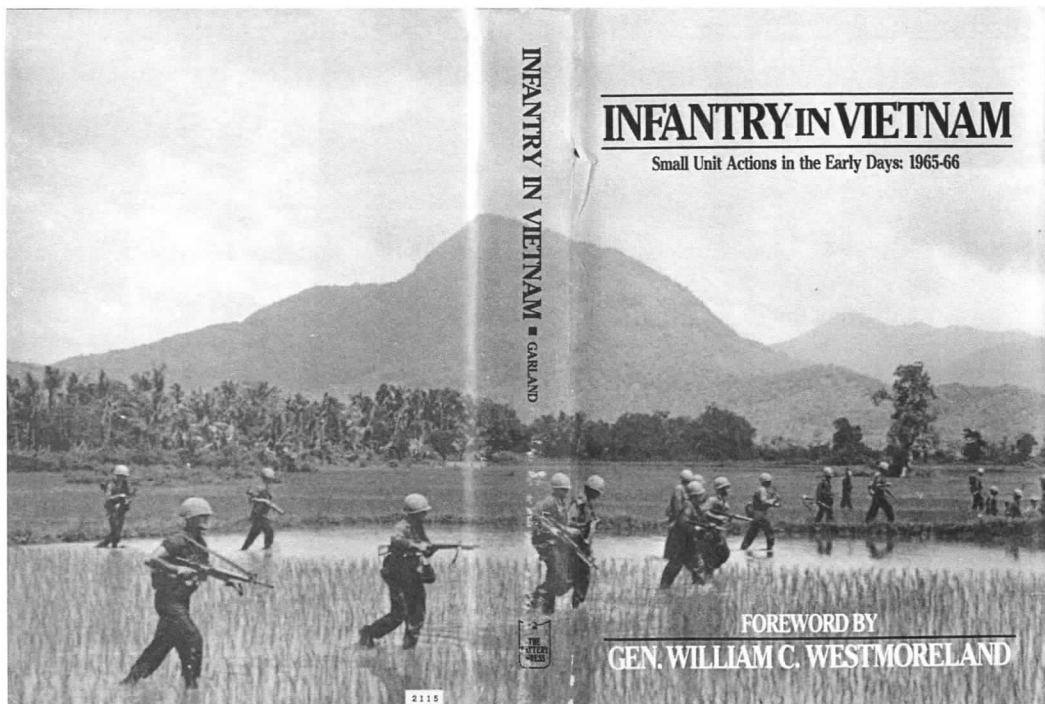
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Continued from the July 2012 issue of *The First Screaming Eagles In VietNam*

XI / leadership

IN TODAY'S war in Vietnam, leadership is as important as it ever has been in our military history. It is important because the tactics being used place great responsibility on small units and on small unit leaders. When battle is joined, success or failure often depends on the actions of a junior officer, or of a noncommissioned officer; if they know their jobs and are willing and ready to accept their responsibilities without hesitation, if they use initiative and act with force and determination, they are leaders who will bring their units through to victory.

In combat, men demand more from their leaders; they demand, and have a right to expect, efficiency and leadership—a leadership that will produce willing, unhesitating obedience and loyalty, and a devotion that will cause them, when the time comes, to follow their leader through hell and back again.

Leadership is a composite of a number of qualities: knowledge, judgment, tact, endurance, initiative, bearing, courage, dependability, justice, and enthusiasm. If a leader possesses all of these qualities in sufficient degree, he will be a self-confident, well-balanced individual, and will inspire the confidence of others. More important than almost anything else, leadership is more than the mere exercise of authority—it is the sum of those qualities that inspire men to positive action in situations when the mere badge of authority will not suffice.

chaos to order

Soldiers, of course, must be trained to expect the unexpected. And when they are caught in a situation they do not expect to encounter, they must be able to overcome the initial shock and confusion so that they can effectively engage and defeat the enemy. Good leadership is the deciding factor in a situation of this sort, and plays a most important role in overcoming the first shocks of the surprise attack and turning the unit back into an effective fighting outfit that can overcome the best the enemy has to offer.

On the morning of 9 February 1966, Company A, 2d Battalion, 502d US Infantry, commanded by Captain Hendrik O. Lunde, but minus its 3d Platoon which had been left behind to establish a patrol base at the scene of an earlier battle, moved in a westerly direction to search several valleys 20 kilometers southwest of Tuy Hoa for elements of a reported enemy regiment. At the end of the first valley, the company turned to the south to check another smaller valley.⁴

It was then that the stillness of the jungle was shattered—a single shot from a sniper's rifle found its way into the stomach of a man in the point platoon. Immediately Lunde halted the company's movement and set men to preparing an extraction zone for a medical evacuation helicopter. Because the situation was so uncertain and the enemy apparently nearby, Lunde secured the work site with Lieutenant William Otto's 1st Platoon and the weapons platoon, which consisted of 20 men organized as a small rifle platoon, and sent the 2d Platoon, commanded by Lieutenant Karl Beach, toward the south in the direction from which the sniper's shot had come to try to

⁴ Combat experience submitted by CPT Phillip W. Mock, USA.



Dean Beaupre (right), A 2/502 1/67-1/68, 1st BDE 101st ABN, RTO for Rod Tillman (left), 2/502 A&B 8/67-11/68 - Plt Leader 4th (Wpns) PLT

We were in a firefight in the Fall of 1967. Rod Tillman was calling for fire-support against VC in a nearby village.

Sent by Rod Tillman

locate the enemy force and to prevent the enemy unit from surprising the remainder of the company.

Within a short time, the sounds of firing could be heard from the direction in which Beach had taken his 2d Platoon, and soon Beach's voice could be heard on the radio telling Lunde that he had made contact with an estimated enemy squad dug in on the rocky slopes of a hill. Sensing a chance to corral an enemy unit, Lunde took the two platoons at the site and started for the sound of the guns, leaving the company's executive officer, Lieutenant Phillip W. Mock, at the site with an engineer squad, the wounded man and several medical aid men, and a 4.2-inch mortar forward observer team. As soon as the wounded man had been evacuated, Mock was to follow after Lunde.

The evacuation proceeded without difficulty, and Mock collected his heterogeneous group and started walking to the south, from whence the sounds of battle had increased. Then he heard Captain Lunde's voice on the radio calling for medical aid men; instead of an enemy squad, Lunde estimated the company had run into a well-trenched enemy platoon.

Mock was trying to follow the company's tracks through alternate patches of murky swamp and dense jungle vegetation when he stumbled into the weapons platoon area. After a brief conference with the platoon leader, Mock decided to take that platoon along with his group and moved his men down the fork of a stream bed to a position about 200 meters behind the two engaged rifle platoons. Here he stopped the weapons platoon and the engineer squad while he moved forward with the aid men to find Lunde.

Confusion reigned on the battlefield, for although the two rifle platoons were roughly on line, the high grass made each platoon leader uncertain as to the location of the other platoon. Each was convinced he was receiving fire from the other platoon as well as from the enemy. Matters were further complicated when Captain Lunde was pinned down by machinegun fire and separated from his radio operator. It was virtually impossible to tell friend from foe in the heat of the battle.

Mock finally made radio contact with the two forward platoon leaders, Lieutenants Otto and Beach, and learned that they were preparing to attack the enemy. Eventually, the platoons were successful and gained the enemy's trenches, and as suddenly as it had begun, the action stopped. After some 15 minutes had passed and the enemy had not made a reappearance, Lunde decided that the battle was

over and ordered the two platoons down off the hill to consolidate in a relatively clear area at its base; he also told Lieutenant Mock and the weapons platoon leader to join the rest of the company at that location to coordinate medical evacuation and resupply.

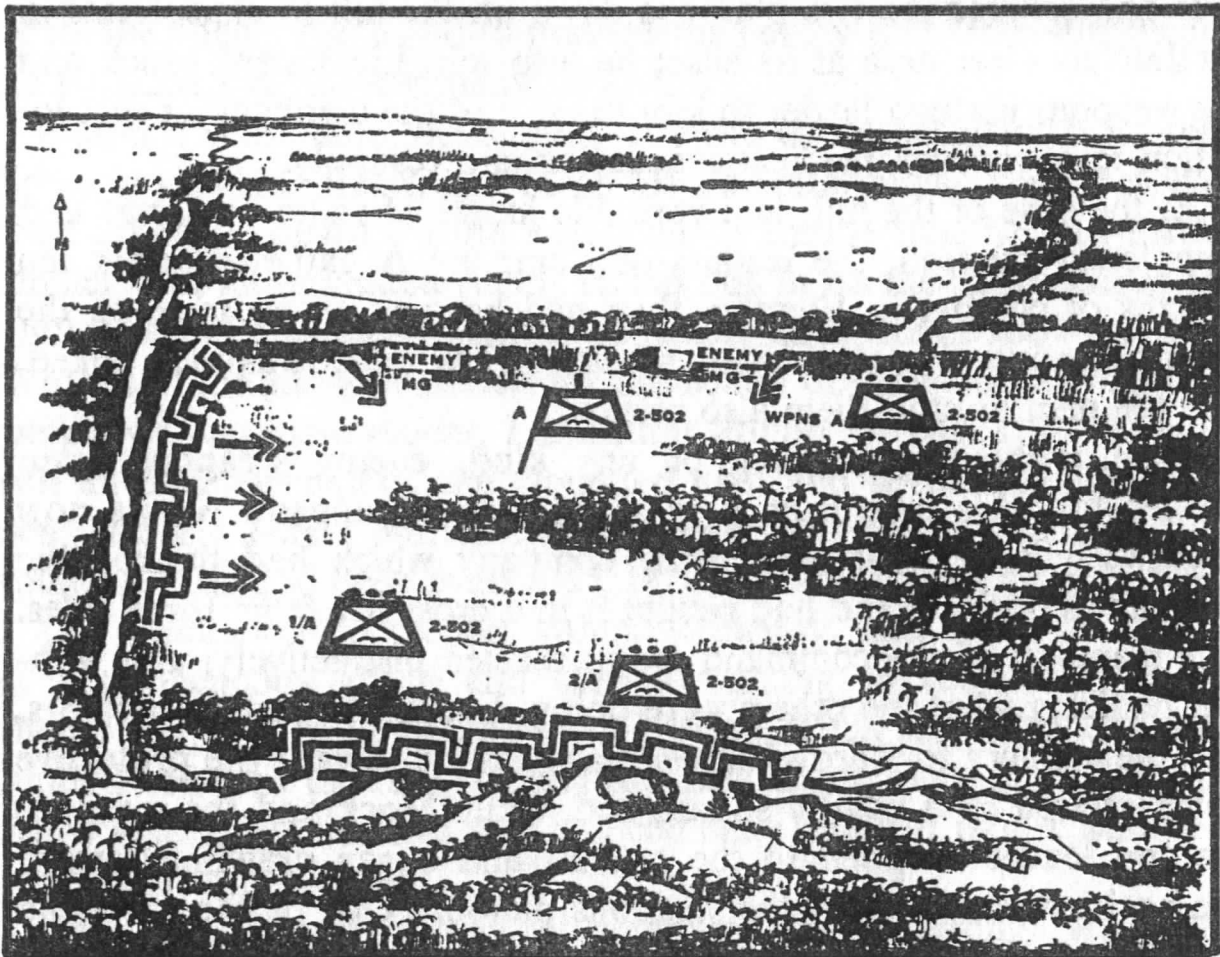
At the base of the hill, in a veritable jungle of radio antennae and completely exposed, the leaders of Company A gathered; after ten months of combat in Vietnam they had become accustomed to the enemy disappearing after losing a battle. They relaxed as they talked, and the men around them also relaxed.

Then, without a warning of any kind, enemy weapons again opened fire, this time from very short range. Company A was now engaged with at least one enemy company which had flanked the company's position and had caught it in a cross-fire from three sides. The members of the command group reacted instinctively, and without realizing what the others were doing. Lunde, his radio operators, and the artillery forward observer team dashed toward the protective cover offered by a nearby stream bed, while Mock and the weapons platoon leader dropped to the ground and began crawling toward the position occupied by the weapons platoon. One of Mock's radio operators had been shot in the thigh, and Mock and the other operator dragged him with them. (*Map 81*)

But at the weapons platoon, conditions were even worse. The platoon was receiving heavy 60mm mortar fire and an unbelievable number of enemy hand grenades. Men were lying and kneeling huddled together, facing in every direction with stunned expressions on their faces. The weapons platoon leader was killed and numerous other men wounded before many minutes passed.

Finally Mock grabbed the senior sergeant he could find and ordered him to lead the men of the platoon to the stream bed in an attempt to link up with Lunde's command group. Although they were reluctant to leave the relative security of their positions, the men followed after the sergeant, crawling and keeping as low to the ground as possible. It was 1830 and darkness was coming on, and Mock, still at the weapons platoon position with 15 men, three of whom were wounded, finally learned that the two rifle platoons were intact and were even then consolidating in a tight perimeter at the base of the hill.

Mock had not been able to raise Captain Lunde, but felt he had to keep things moving. He knew that there was an enemy force between his position and the command group, and he believed there was an-



Map 81. Surprise Attack

other group of enemy between his location and the two rifle platoons. He was tempted just to stay put for the rest of the night. But the wounded men needed help, and since he had no aid men in his group, he had to get help somewhere. He also felt that the company would be better off if as many of the men as possible could get together; it would be better to combine their firepower than to have it scattered all over the area.

And so he and his group began a slow movement to join with the two rifle platoons. Eventually, after a tedious and lengthy crawl, the forces joined arms, to be joined by the command group a short while later. The enemy, apparently as confused as Company A, failed to exploit his initial advantage and withdrew to the west with the coming of daylight.

This time Lunde and his men did not relax.



Issue #1



Issue #2



Issue #3



Issue #4



Issue #5



Issue #6



Issue #7



Issue #8



Issue #9



Issue #10



Issue #11



Issue #12



Issue #13



Issue #14



Issue #15



Issue #16



Issue #17



Issue #18



Issue #19



Issue #20



Issue #21



Issue #22



Issue #23



Issue #24



Issue #25



Issue #26



Issue #27



Issue #28



Issue #29



Issue #30

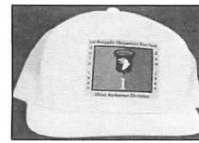
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Issue #53



Issue #54



Issue #55



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Issue #57



Issue #58

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CHU LAI, Vietnam -- (Left to right) Brigadier General S. H. Matheson, Commander of the 101st Airborne, Major General Richard Knowles, Task Force Oregon Commander and General William C. Westmoreland, MACV Commander, study weapons captured by the Screaming Eagles during Operation Benton near here.

(USA Photo by Spec. 4 Alva Tate)