

*The First  
Screaming*

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



Published Quarterly  
January - April - July - October

*Eagles  
in Viet Nam*

1st Brigade (Separate) Viet Nam

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101st Airborne Division

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# **The ALWAYS FIRST Brigade**



## **MONSOON AT CHEO REO**



MAJ(R) Ivan Worrell, INFO OFF 5/66-5/67, at the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division Association Reunion in Nashville, Tennessee, in August 2012, posed in front of the Association banner hanging next to the passage to the Hospitality Room.

I have, very recently, survived my 85<sup>th</sup> birthday. My children honored me with an exquisite party where my three children, two of my four grandchildren and three of my eight great grandchildren, one daughter in-law and two sons in-law along with a number of great friends were in attendance. It was a great experience to mark my halfway journey as an octogenarian.

I want all who subscribe to know that I have increased the annual subscription to \$30.00 out of necessity. With the relatively low volume, as magazines go, the increase in paper and printing costs, along with mailing fees, I had no choice but to follow their increases. I plan to continue the quality of the magazine and also continue to solicit your input of memorabilia, stories and pictures to share with your fellow veterans of the First Brigade (S), 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division.

I am looking forward to the Snowbird Reunion in Tampa in February. I know that some warm weather and meetings with old friends will be welcome by then. The Gulf Coast Chapter members are great hosts.

On a more somber note; I thank all who have sent obituaries of our First Brigade (S) veterans and urge all who know of the death of one of our brigade brothers

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).



to send an obituary as soon as possible so that it may be published in the next magazine. I am now a Hospice Volunteer in the WE HONOR VETERANS program that is jointly sponsored by the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization and the Veterans Administration and is administered locally by Home Health Care of East Tennessee, Inc. and Hospice. Volunteers make red, white and blue quilts which are presented to the family as a cover for the veteran when he/she leave their home for the last time. A veteran's certificate that is specific to the branch of service is also presented to the veteran's family on the first visit. I make a concerted effort to visit each of my veteran hospice patients at least once a week.

The cover reminded me of my arrival at the forward CP. My "P" Training was cut short and I caught a ride to Cheo Reo. The airstrip was small and covered with almost crushed shale that cut the C-130 tires. After my gear was stashed, I met BG Willard Pearson who I knew from Fort Campbell where he had been Assistant Division Commander. My next meeting was with Captain Paul W. Apfel, the Information Officer I was to replace. He was sitting on a cot on the edge of the BOQ tent talking to Dan Rather. Rather had been attracted to Cheo Reo by the downing of the Chinook helicopter, and loss of 35 lives, mentioned in a few previous magazines. I have not been able to locate Captain Apfel. He did a great job as Information Officer although I got the feeling he was drafted for the job and would have preferred to continue as a company commander (I believe he deployed as CO of B Company 2/327). Just up the hill from our CP and the airstrip was a Special Forces camp. I walked up to the camp the day after I arrived and found five or six men I had served with in the 10<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group in Bad Tolz, Germany.



WE HONOR VETERANS

# A Brief History of A Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 502<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment

1<sup>st</sup> Brigade (Separate), 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division  
Republic of Vietnam  
September-October 1967

By Charles P. Otstott  
CO, A Company  
Sep-Nov 1967

Dedicated to the men of A Company who fought valiantly together through some dark times...truly a Band of Brothers... and to the wives and family members who have loved and supported them.

Forward: I write this as a former commander of A Company for a short time in Vietnam because several former members of the company have contacted me over the last few years wanting to put their recollections in the context of the bigger picture. I write this for them. It will be painful to recall the events, but it may help someone in the long healing process, not least...the author.

Charley Otstott, Sep 2006

## Prelude-Duties before A Company:

Captain Steve Arnold commanded A Company when I arrived in Vietnam in the summer of 1967 for my second tour of duty in that country. I was a senior captain and expected to be promoted to major about the time I would DEROS in summer of 1968. I was assigned to the S-3 section of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 502<sup>nd</sup> Inf, then commanded by LTC Ralph Puckett, a Korean War veteran and holder of the DSC. I liked him immediately, and he told me that I would get the next rifle company that came open.

I worked in the S-3 shop and was allowed to go out for three or four days at a time on two occasions to shadow the commanders of A Company and C Company as they conducted search and destroy operations on Operations Hood River and Benton. I was in the bush with one of those companies (I believe it was A Company) the night of 13 August when B Company was assaulted by a large NVA element and fought most of the night to repulse the attack. We were in position within sight of the tracers which marked the fire fight, but probably two or three kilometers from the site of the action. I will never forget that one of the B Co. Lieutenants was hit in the back of his rucksack by a B-40 Rocket Propelled Grenade (RPG) and died before he could get needed medical treatment. Ranger Puckett landed by helicopter within the company perimeter during the fight to rally the troops on the position and help with the fight. He remained on the scene all night and B Company controlled the battlefield when morning came.

## Operation Wheeler General Situation:

The 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division was OPCON to the Americal Division in September 1967. The mission assigned to the Brigade in Operation WHEELER was, "...to conduct search and destroy operations commencing 11 September 1967 northwest of TAM KY (BT0627) to find, fix, and destroy VC/NVA forces and to neutralize VC/NVA base camps."



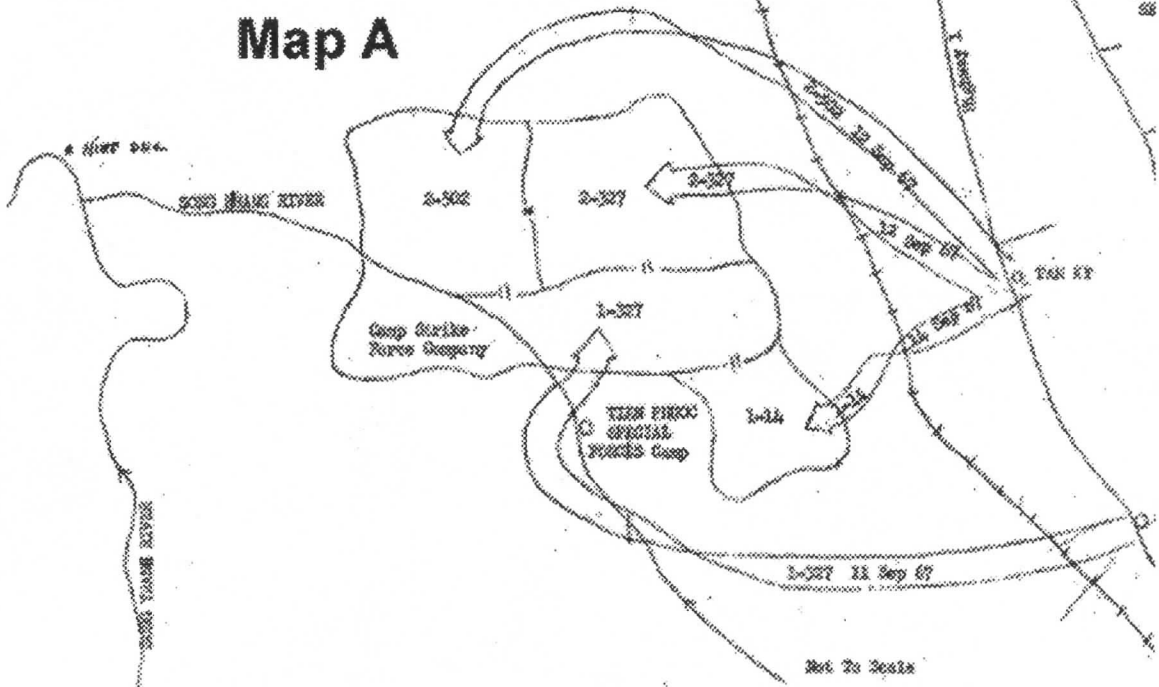
LTG (R) Charles P. Otstott

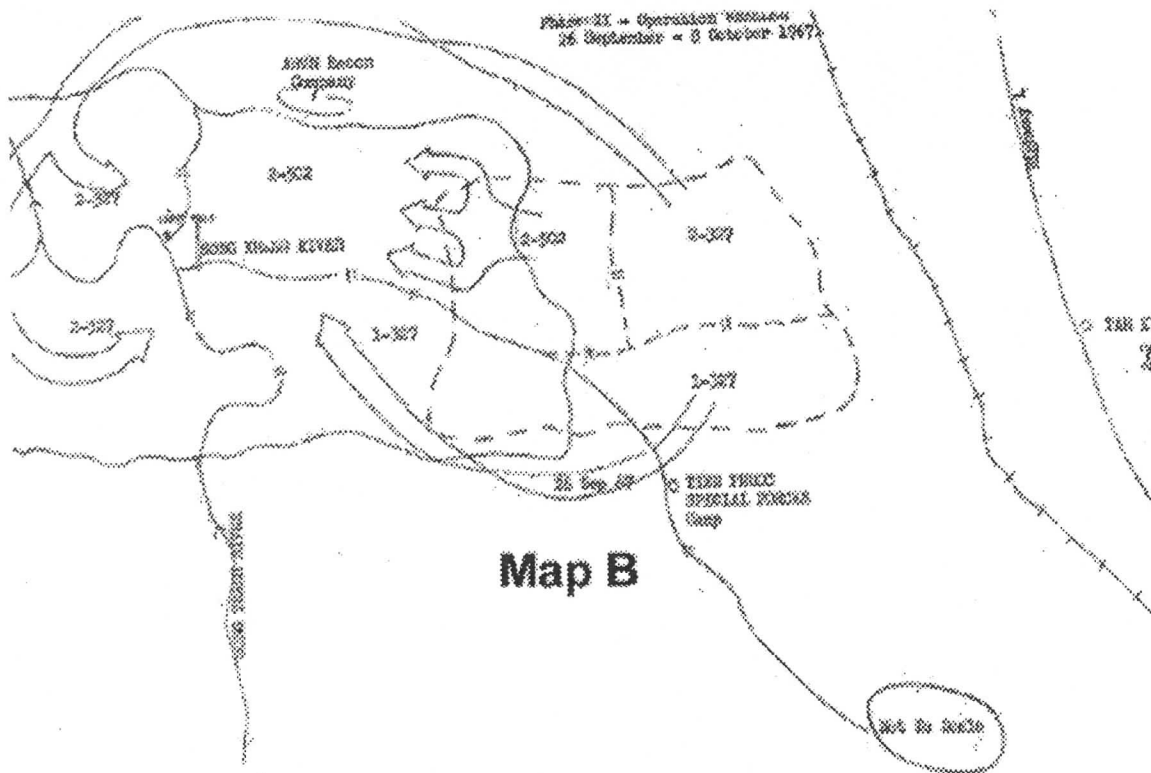
The brigade conducted saturation patrolling and ambushes throughout the operation. Phase I (Sketch Map A) began on 11 September and closed on 25 September. Phase II (Sketch Map B) began on 26 September and closed on 8 October. I recall that we were searching for elements of an NVA division, but the official after action report does not indicate the size of enemy force thought to be in the area.

## 12 September 1967

On 12 September 1967, the Battalion air assaulted into Operation Wheeler in the Que Son Valley west of Tam Ky in Quang Ngai Province. I went in on an early lift with the Tac CP onto a prominent hill named Nui Hoac in grid square BT0722. As we were setting up the command post and monitoring the radios and the progress of the line companies, an explosion only a few feet

Tab 1 to Reference 2, Operations Summary  
Phase I - Operation WHEELER  
11 - 25 September 1967





Map B

away mortally wounded our operations sergeant. I rushed to his assistance and began to administer CPR even as I noticed that both of his legs had been blown off. Two medics worked to staunch the flow of blood, but within 5-10 minutes, it became apparent that he was dead. He had been trying to pull out an engineer picket from the flat area 10 yards from our TAC CP so that we could eventually land helicopters there. That flat area had a number of engineer pickets in the ground as anti-helicopter devices and he had tried to remove one that was tied to an 82mm mortar round as a booby trap. He was our first KIA on Operation Wheeler.

Alpha Company had landed earlier a little northwest of the CP site on the same ridge line and had been engaged in a hot LZ by small elements of NVA and mines that had been placed on likely LZs. Steve Arnold was lightly wounded in the face by a mine near his helicopter as he landed. Before dark that night, LTC Puckett said that I would replace Arnold within a few days as that was the captain's second wound. In the meantime, I had taken over as acting HQ Commandant because the same explosion that killed our Operations Sergeant had lightly wounded CPT Gorski. It was my job to put in place the perimeter security positions for the CP and that took me the rest of that day to accomplish, being very wary of additional mines that might be in the area. It was scary work after seeing what the blast had done to our Operations Sergeant and noting several "four small rocks in a pyramid" signs that the VC and NVA used as warnings of mines to their friends. Shortly after the CP was firmly established, I was sent to the rear to spend two or three days in preparation for taking command of A Company.

**19 September 1967**

I returned to the field on 19 September and joined up with LTC Puckett for the trip to A Company. We landed in a nearby dry rice paddy and the change of command ceremony was conducted in another rice paddy in front of part of the company in formation. LTC Puckett passed the guidon of A Company from CPT Arnold to me and decorated Steve Arnold with two Silver Stars and two Bronze Stars for bravery. Steve and I shook hands and he flew off



to staff duty for the remainder of his tour of duty.

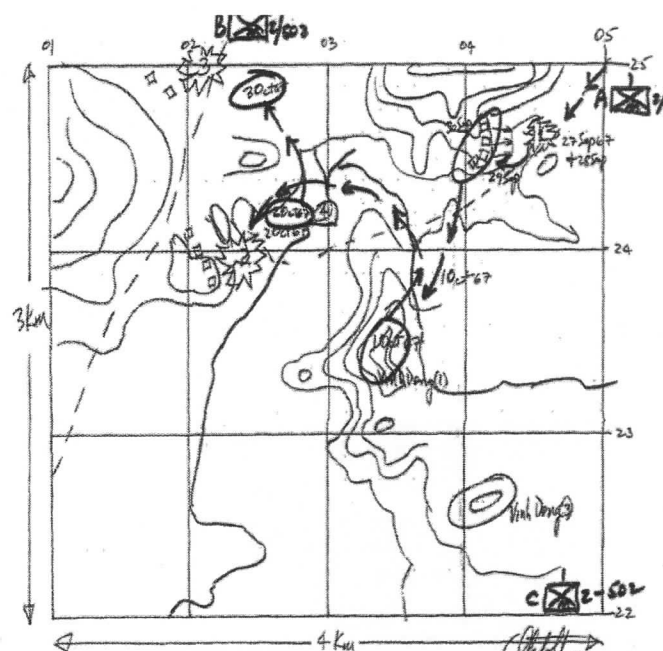
My tenure with A Company began as we patrolled uneventfully for eight days before we had our first sharp contact. It was a good shakedown for me and gave me a chance to see the company in operation and to get to know the key leaders. I had four strong platoon leaders and a great bunch of NCOs and soldiers. 1SG Frank Creed was in the field at all times, and that is where I wanted him to be. The platoon leaders were 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon, 1LT Jerry Barnhill; 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon, 1LT George Anderson; 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon, 1LT Jack Rogers; and 4<sup>th</sup> Platoon, 1LT Jim Peake.

**27 September 1967**

On 27 September, we were moving generally west to establish a blocking position with B Co. under CPT Dick Boyd on

our right (north) and C Co. under CPT Corky Godboldte on our left (south). None of the companies could see each other...we were just moving on three parallel axes to the west in accordance with the Phase II mission. A Company moved along a well defined trail wide enough for vehicles through rolling terrain spotted by small individual bamboo homes (hootches). We moved in a column of platoons with the CP behind the lead platoon. We moved fairly cautiously, but we were not expecting contact as we had none during the previous eight days. (See Sketch Map C for movements of A Company during this period.)

Late in the afternoon, a sharp exchange of gunfire took place with our lead element at about BT 047248. I moved forward to assess



Map C

what we were up against as I received the initial report from the lead platoon leader that he had been engaged by several automatic weapons and had seen soldiers in green fatigues to his front. The next hour or so was a very confusing time as I found one of our troops dead in the road, but was unable to establish visual contact with the rest of the lead platoon. I expected to find them off the trail to the north in a fairly open area about 150-200 meters from the finger which ran northeast to southwest at our immediate front from where we appeared to be receiving most of the fire. Where ever they were, they reported being pinned down and unable to move. [Note: In 2006, I had a long talk with COL (Ret) Jack Rogers at the Atlanta reunion of the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade. He told me that his 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon had been in the lead that day and had been the first unit engaged that afternoon. He stated that most of his platoon had gotten off the trail on the south side, rather than the north side. They had returned fire on the finger to our front from a hasty position just about 30 meters west of my position on the west side of a small tree line which obscured my view of them.]

I brought the second platoon in column up on the south side of the trail to positions that had some concealment and limited cover to bring the apparent enemy position under fire. I ordered the trailing platoons by radio to maneuver to the right (north) along the trail and attempt to get closer to the enemy finger from above on the north end of the finger. They were immediately engaged by two enemy soldiers firing from an outcropping of boulders that stood between five to eight feet tall, probably an early warning OP for the main position. Our lead element had passed them before the firing broke out. They were less than 100 meters off the trail to the north side. The maneuvering element came in close proximity to the outpost and had it under fire, but was unable to dislodge the enemy soldiers.

As the fire fight raged, I tried to help reduce the outpost which I could clearly see just north of my position. I brought up an M60 gunner and told him to watch my tracers. I then marked the boulders with tracers and tried to get machine gun fire into the rock outcropping without injuring our own troops who were maneuvering very close by to reduce the position. I talked constantly on the radio with the platoon leader to make sure ricochets were not falling amongst his troops. I also called for and employed helicopter gunships with miniguns on the enemy held finger to our front. Artillery was called and adjusted over a period of more than an hour to get the rounds on the target as we best understood its layout to our front (west). Light rain began to fall and at some point someone shouted that we were being mortared. I had not heard the mortar rounds explode and was about to question that call. Suddenly I heard a "splock" sound and looked down between my legs to see the tail fin of a mortar round buried in the mud no more than 12 inches from my feet. I never bothered to try to find out if it was a dud round or the tail fin from a round that exploded nearby. I just counted myself exceptionally lucky either way, and I went on with the fight. I believe we succeeded in killing the two NVA in the rock outcropping that evening, but darkness fell as we made our medevacs. I decided that we would move into a defensive perimeter and continue the attack in the morning.

After establishing the perimeter, I assembled the platoon leaders in the bunker beneath the hootch we were using as a CP. We devised a plan for a deliberate attack of the enemy finger at first light the next morning. 4th Platoon would move to the prominent knoll about 200 meters to our southwest at BT043245 to provide a base of fire. Two platoons with Jerry Barnhill in charge would move via the higher ground north of the trail to flank the enemy and try to get above them to attack down the finger from the north. The last

platoon would remain in reserve with the Company CP. I elected to remain at the CP where I could see the action and direct the fire support. We laid on artillery support to "fire for effect" at 0600 on the enemy finger; and in addition, close air support and gunships with battalion.

## 28 September 1967

In the early morning light, the base of fire platoon moved to its position without incident as did the two platoons that would make the assault. When the prep fires by the artillery battery were to begin, I learned that the data from the previous day's lengthy adjustment mission had been lost and the fires would have to be adjusted once more from scratch. I was furious at this development but had little choice other than to restart the fire adjustment. I had hoped for a devastating battery three or six on the target as our opening move. Instead we had round after round fired singly to adjust on the target while the enemy took cover against the coming barrage. We finally got a good fire for effect and the maneuver force began to move down the finger sometime around noon, if memory serves. LT Barnhill made some progress but reported that he was being sniped at from positions that he had passed as people popped up from apparent spider holes in his rear. I told him to pull back a safe distance and we would put more air and artillery on the target. He did so and we employed five or six CAS missions against the finger and much more artillery and helicopter gunships. He tried to advance again late in the day, but the results were the same. The enemy was obviously well hidden and well protected to have withstood the pounding we had given them. I called off the attack and ordered the company to reassemble in the Night Defensive Position. We would try something different the next day.

During the withdrawal of 4<sup>th</sup> Platoon from its base of fire support position, 1LT Peake was wounded by an enemy 7.62 round. He made the march back to the CP unassisted and told me he had been wounded, but requested to stay with his platoon. I directed him to get on the Medevac we had called to take out the two or three wounded we had sustained. The medevac came in on the road just east of our NDP as the last light was fading.

During the day, I had employed numerous CAS missions through the airborne FAC. Most of the ordnance had been "snakes and nape" which were 250 lb high drag bombs and napalm canisters. A pair of Marine planes delivered five inch Zuni rockets on one occasion. One pair of F-100s gave late warning that they were low on fuel and would have to drop all their ordnance on one pass. I knew that our guys were down and ready for the 250 lb bombs, but as the aircraft rolled in the FAC told me each plane was armed with two 750 lb bombs! I barely had time to get a warning to LT Barnhill when the bombs exploded! Fortunately for our troops, they landed on the west side of the finger and our troops were all on the east side. It was a very close call! Another close call for me personally occurred when I was sitting up on a large flat boulder so that I could see the target area and the rest of the battlespace. During a lull in the action, I looked off to the south and realized that I was exposed to any enemy that might be in that generally open area to our south. I got off the rock and positioned myself on the north side of it so that the rock provided cover from the south. The very next CAS mission that came in dropped 250 lb high drag bombs and I heard a very loud metallic sound as something bounced off the rock I had just been sitting on. I soon realized from the sound that it must have been one of the tail fins from a bomb that had just struck where I had been sitting minutes before!



## 29 September 1967

During the night, a plan was devised at battalion HQ to reinforce A Company with the Recon Platoon and to employ more artillery on the next attempt to take the finger. We essentially ran the same attack plan again only we had the Recon Platoon air assault well above the enemy on the ridgeline and attack downhill along the finger in conjunction with our two platoons. The Battalion S3 was over the battlefield early in the morning controlling the insertion of the Recon Platoon and then directing the fires of two or three artillery batteries from the command and control helicopter. As our units were moving into their attack positions, the S3 gave an erroneous correction to a 105mm battery and the result was a volley of six 105 rounds landing amongst our troops and wounding several, including 1LT Jerry Barnhill the platoon leader of 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon who was wounded by shrapnel in the hand. (He was very angry, and justifiably so, when he returned to the CP as a "walking wounded.")

The Recondo Platoon air assaulted into an LZ about half a mile north and on higher ground from the enemy finger around noon. We reorganized, linked up with the Recondo element and pressed the attack again, only to find that the enemy had withdrawn during the night and left the position unoccupied. I moved the rest of the company to the finger where we reconsolidated and investigated the enemy complex. The NVA left some very new and very clean equipment behind. The NVA bunker and tunnel complex turned out to be a brick factory which used brick kilns as fighting positions as they afforded excellent cover and concealment to the enemy force. Also discovered was a tunnel large enough for 200 people and containing 200 pounds of marijuana. We decided to remain on the position long enough to destroy the complex with explosives so it could not be used again after our departure from the area.

During the movement from the NDP to the abandoned enemy position, we passed the outpost that had engaged us on the first day of the fire fight. One dead NVA soldier lay beside the trail in green fatigues and new web gear.

## 30 September 1967

We spent the entire day of 30 September destroying the enemy complex, resupplying with ammo and planning the next move to a nearby prominent hill mass where the Recondo Platoon would be extracted. The route to the next hill took us into low ground that paralleled the trail we had been on when the engagement of 27 September began. The route then took us up a fairly gentle hill over what appeared to be open ground. We planned and registered fire support by the 4.2 inch mortar platoon at the fire base to walk rounds ahead of us during the move. We also ran local patrols to try to ascertain the direction the enemy had gone when they left the bunker/tunnel complex. We assumed they had departed to the west, but we found nothing to confirm or deny that premise.

## 1 October 1967

We cautiously moved from the vicinity of the destroyed enemy bunker complex toward the southwest and the hill at BT 035233 about 1500 meters away. We employed mortars and airstrikes on suspected enemy positions as we approached. We passed through a small hamlet consisting of three or four hootches which we searched. There were no military aged males in sight, only the usual women and children. We arrived on the hill around mid afternoon without having any enemy contact. The hill turned out to be a well used piece of terrain. It was virtually bare of trees and covered in grass with lots of fairly large boulders in outcroppings here and there. The visibility of the surrounding

terrain was magnificent from the hilltop. One could see easily two to five kilometers in several directions from the position. To the west was a large hill mass that we suspected the enemy was occupying. We prepared to occupy the hill as our NDP while we also prepared for the helicopter extraction of the Recondo Platoon.

Sometime in the late afternoon, UH-1s arrived in our air space to lift the Recondos out. I had recommended they approach from the east due to the unknown enemy situation to the west. But the wind was out of the east and the helicopters arrived in trail formation from the east and made a wide U-turn to make their final approach to our position from the west. This maneuver took them over the jungle terrain about two kilometers west of our position. As the choppers straightened out of their turn and began their descent to our hill, the jungle erupted with automatic weapons fire directed at the helicopters...perhaps as many as 15 to 20 automatic weapons. Tracers were visible reaching up toward the choppers, but no hits were taken. We immediately called for artillery on the source area and we adjusted the fires of 155mm and 105 mm batteries into the area for about an hour, moving it all around the area from which the gunfire had come. We also employed CAS sorties against the area from which the fire came. I will always remember one pass made by the fast movers which came directly over our position flying east to west and shooting 20mm Gatling guns at the enemy. I was showered with the shell casings and at least one live round that fell inside our position, but did not explode. It had not been fired, but was just ejected whole from the weapon as it passed over head. The Recondo Platoon flew away and A Company was once again on its own.

About 1645 or so, the Battalion Commander LTC Danford called me on the radio and asked if I was ready to go down and attack the area where the fire had come from! I told him that I felt the enemy was in great strength from the volume of fire put up at the helicopters and that the area should be the objective for a battalion attack, not just my company. I suggested we hold our position for the night and plan a deliberate multi-company attack for the next day. He agreed and we stayed the night on the hill. The plan was for us to move toward the area in the morning with C Company pressing toward it on our south and B Company doing the same to our northwest.

## 2 October 1967

Our plan was to leave one platoon in temporary overwatch from the NDP and conduct a movement to contact with the company (-) north and west to the stream that ran north-south at the base of the NDP. We would cross the stream to the west side about 800 meters north of where we had seen the heavy concentration of automatic weapons the day before. We would bring the overwatch platoon to the crossing site before moving south along the stream to find and attack the enemy.

We moved cautiously without incident through a small hamlet near the stream and arrived at the stream in mid morning. The stream was about 10 to 20 meters across and waist to chest deep. We crossed it like a classic "danger area," putting M60 machine guns on both flanks of the near side to provide covering fire if needed. We sent the lead platoon across to clover leaf the far side and make sure there were no enemy in the vicinity before we crossed the main body. As I was crossing, I noted that two or three helicopters hovered over the stream about a mile to the north. At the time, I suspected they were from a unit to our north and may have been slightly out of their authorized area. I worried that they might see us, mistake us for NVA, and fire us up; but nothing happened. [Much later I learned



that B Company was in heavy contact just north and a little west of us and these were probably gun ships supporting B Company. The battalion journal indicates that they may have been elements of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division's 1/9 Cav which had been called to support B Company.]

We had 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon in the lead moving south, then the CP, 4<sup>th</sup> Platoon, 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon, and 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon which had been in overwatch most of the morning. The lead platoon was soon in contact and deployed to maneuver against the enemy force on slightly higher ground. They reported rough going against automatic weapons and an occasional RPG. I moved forward to get a view of the action but could not get a clear picture. I sent 4<sup>th</sup> Platoon under SFC McDaniels to the right to try to flank the enemy engaging 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon. 4<sup>th</sup> moved a short distance before being engaged and reporting that they were pinned down. I moved to 4<sup>th</sup>'s position and found them at the base of a small hill from where they had received fire that had killed one man with a bullet through the forehead. I told McDaniels to see if he could get moving by employing fire and maneuver and then went back to my CP location.

Meantime, we were firing artillery to support our attack as close as we dared. 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon began to maneuver forward employing hand grenades against NVA in spider holes. By late afternoon we had made some progress by employing gunships, artillery and fire and maneuver with 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon doing most of the work. It began to rain and we had only about two hours of daylight left. At about that same time the battalion fire base came under attack and we lost our gunships to support the fire base defense. A short time later, 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon called for resupply of hand grenades and I ordered 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon forward to hand over their grenades to 3<sup>rd</sup> and reinforce the attack. While the two units were engaged in the handover and bunched up somewhat at a trail junction, the enemy fired two 82 mm mortar rounds which landed in the midst of our troops with devastating results. We had six immediate KIAs and at least a dozen wounded, some critically. Concerned about a counter attack by the NVA and with casualties to evacuate in waning daylight, I decided to consolidate our position on the most defensible terrain in the area and call off the attack while we tended to our dead and wounded.

We consolidated on the small knoll beside the stream where I had established my CP. To our north about 25 meters was a rice paddy which had been almost dry before the rain started. We collected our wounded and our dead there as it was the best obvious LZ to use for evacuation of both. Medevac was near impossible due to the heavy rain and the enemy fire, but we were lucky to get a Dustoff pilot who was instrument qualified and had nerves of steel [This was MAJ Pat Brady (later Major General) who earned the Medal of Honor in January 1968 for similar heroic evacuations under fire]. B Company had been in heavy contact also about a mile to our north west, and they had several critically wounded troopers also. We had four *critical WIA* and several walking wounded. The Battalion TAC CP had been hit with mortars and small arms fire and they had several critically wounded to evacuate. The Dustoff went to B Company around midnight in the driving rain and made a trip back to Chu Lai. He returned to B Company for more critical WIAs and then announced that he would come to us and could take two of our critical WIAs. We lit the LZ with white light flashlights and he was able to drop in from the east, but took fire from our west during his descent. He took out two of our most critical cases and said he would return for the rest. He tried hard to get back in on his third trip, but the weather had gotten worse and he could not land. Regretfully he had to return to base and we had to keep our casualties with us all night. They were laid out on the edge

of the rice paddy and the medics tended them throughout that long night. In the morning a grim sight greeted me as the rice paddy had filled with water and some of our dead and wounded were partially submerged in the shallow water.

It rained very hard most of the night. We formed a tight perimeter in heavy brush and I circulated early to encourage the men and to caution everyone to be alert. Some of our wounded were moaning and calling out in the early evening, but that dissipated as they fell asleep. I had asked for a "Spooky" flare ship to keep us illuminated all night and aid in our defense. It was pitch black without the flares due to the rain and clouds. I talked to the flare ship all night long on the radio to keep him over us and putting the flares out at the right place. Sleep overwhelmed me several times and the flare ship strayed out of our area once. We were not attacked that night, but it was a very tense period, one of the longest nights of my life.

### 3 October 1967

Early in the morning, another Dustoff came and took the rest of our wounded. The Battalion Commander came in to assess the situation and took some of the dead troopers out in his ship. We received an ammunition resupply slick which took the remainder of our dead troops out. We had about 18 rucksacks from the dead and wounded to dispose of, so we stacked them in a line beside the rice paddy on the trail. When we left the area, we hoped to return and recover the gear. But if that were not possible, we intended to have an airstrike come in and napalm the stack to prevent the enemy from salvaging anything from the rucksacks.

We departed the area about mid-morning to link up with B Company in accordance with the plan discussed between me and the Battalion Commander during his visit. I hated to surrender the battlefield to the enemy, but we were down to about 60 effectives by this time. The enemy apparently continued to hold the higher ground to our southwest, so it was doubtful we could dislodge them. B Company had endured a rough 24 hours also. It was a good thing for both companies.

We linked up with B Company at their location by late morning and began to set up a joint defensive perimeter. CPT Dick Boyd and I were good friends and we were glad to have the other as reinforcements. We settled in to get some rest, maintain our weapons and equipment, reorganize, and prepare for future operations. The weather was not bad that day, but it was expected to get worse the next day.

The rest of that day was uneventful. The duty log shows our field strength at the close of the day as 52 assigned and 10 attached. B Company had 91 and 13.

### 4 October 1967

This day began with terrible weather throughout the battle zone. Some aircraft were grounded and we were told to expect little resupply and to maintain our defensive positions. We did call for and receive the airstrike on our abandoned equipment.

Toward noon, a chopper came in carrying two meals in mermite: one breakfast and one lunch. Dick Boyd and I consulted and I took the breakfast for A Company while B Company got the lunch. Very soon after we began to eat, soldiers began to get sick. The very first was my interpreter. Soon we had about 17 troops throwing up and requiring medevac. The breakfast meal had been contaminated and food poisoning had cut my strength by about 25%, even though we expected most to be back within 24-48 hours.



LTC Danford flew into our position in the afternoon to confer about our next steps. He told me that he would get immediate replacements flowing to me and we decided to pull A Company off line to a relatively safe area and receive the replacements in the field. I told him I would need a couple of days to assimilate the new troops and get them accustomed to the environment before we went "back on line." I planned to get them assigned into our existing structure and conduct at least one day's worth of short patrols to get them settled in their units and knowledgeable about our operations. It would have to be quick learning, but it was better than nothing. We determined that I would take A Company back up on the dominant high ground where we had been when the Recondo Platoon had been extracted after their choppers had been fired upon. We would make the move the next day.

When LTC Danford's chopper lifted off the LZ, it took ground fire from a few hundred meters away from our position. Dick Boyd put an air strike into that area. The day closed without additional activity.

### 5 October 1967

When we saddled up to begin our move back to our previous position on the hill, I was confronted by the only experienced "point man" that we had remaining in the company. He was very frightened and did not want to walk point. I talked with him for about ten minutes and convinced him that we needed his skill that day and that we would be close by to back him up. He courageously agreed to walk point once again. We were essentially only a reinforced platoon of about 45 people. I moved forward far enough to be able to watch the point man and make sure he could see me.

We retraced our approximate route from a few days before, crossing the dangerous stream area with the same technique used going west. From the battalion duty log, I note that we had three air strikes on the hill: two in the morning and one in the late afternoon just before we ascended the hill from the north. We arrived to find no enemy and set about organizing the position. I thanked the point man for his courage and for leading us again.

After we had been on the hill for maybe an hour, there was a loud explosion within the perimeter. We had two men down. Doc Pugh rushed in to begin first aid as we called for a medevac. A booby trapped slack wire hand grenade (M26) had gone off on the trail and seriously wounded two men. Our point man had been hit hard in both legs. One of our sergeants had sustained chest wounds by at least two fragments. Doc Pugh tried valiantly to administer first aid to the stricken sergeant but could not clear his airway. The sergeant died by the time the medevac arrived. A terrible end to what had been a fairly routine day.

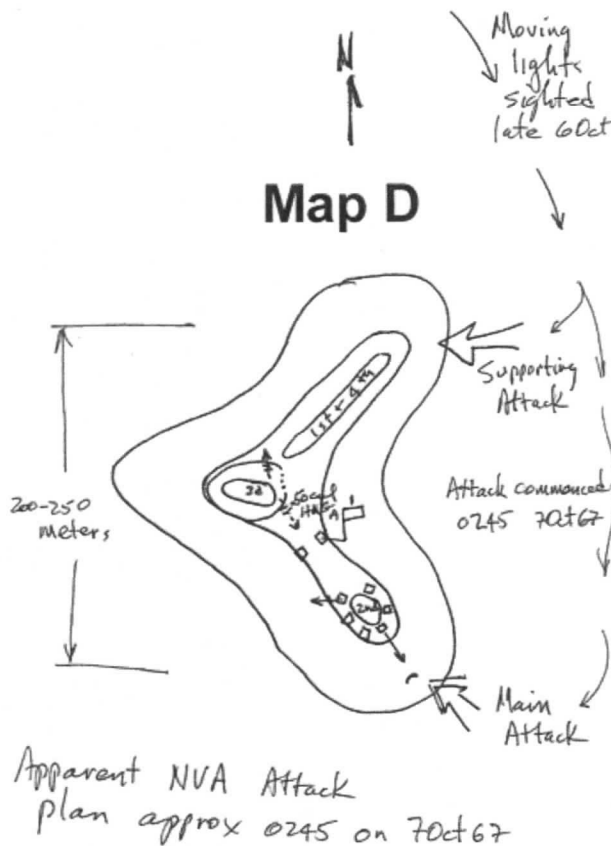
### 6 October 1967

We received 40 or 50 replacements throughout the morning. 1st Sergeant Frank Creed handled the assignments with the platoon sergeants. My instructions to the platoon leaders were to get the troops into squads, get them into defensive fighting positions within the perimeter and then get them out on short patrols, clover leafing out from the NDP. Each platoon had an assigned sector to work in and the intent was to get the new troops as comfortable as possible with our SOPs in a relatively benign environment.

We expected to be in this position for about 48-72 hours working this way before returning to the line. I requested and received a 106 mm recoilless rifle and an M2 fifty caliber machine gun to stiffen our defenses. The 106 came with three "beehive

rounds" which contained flechettes that would decimate any ground attackers. I knew about the beehive rounds from my days as a weapons platoon leader in the 101st, but had never employed them.

The ground we were on was shaped like a pork chop. It consisted of a small knoll on the south, a slightly taller knoll in the center and a ridge running slightly downhill to the east northeast from the center knoll. (See Sketch Map D.) I organized the ground with 2nd



Platoon on the southern knoll, 3rd Platoon in the center, and 1st and 4th Platoons occupying the ridge to the east. I positioned the heavy machine gun and the 106 mm RR in Jack Rogers' 3rd Platoon sector with a Principal Direction of Fire to the north and northwest where they could support B Company, if needed. I also had an alternate position prepared for the fifty which could bring fire to the south and southeast to support 2nd Platoon. We had 800 rounds of ammo for the fifty. The day proceeded uneventfully, and by nightfall we had established a strong defensive position with claymores out, defensive targets registered in three or four places, and knowledge from our short patrols that there was no enemy presence within two or three kilometers of our position. My CP position was in a small saddle between 2nd and 3rd Platoons and included an outcropping of large boulders where 1SGT Creed and the artillery FO were positioned.

Not long after dark, observers within the 1st and 4th Platoon areas reported "moving lights" at some distance from our position to the north. We cranked up a fire mission from the 105 DS Battery at the fire base and fired for effect in the general area. The lights disappeared. I made at least one tour of the perimeter before midnight to check on the troops and make sure that someone was alert on each position.

### 7 October 1967

[What happened next is from my own personal recollections except as indicated as being from the battalion duty log. The NVA attack on our position began about 0200 according to the battalion



duty log. Things happened very rapidly. Others may have their own recollections which I welcome as additions to the story.]

Two or three nearby explosions woke me and sent me straight into the foxhole which was prepared for me and the two RTOs. I yelled "mortars" two or three times at the top of my lungs, thinking we were being mortared from across the stream. I was joined in the hole by Woody and La Mar, my RTOs with their radios. None of us grabbed his weapon which lay beside our sleeping areas within a few feet. We immediately heard automatic weapons fire, saw green tracers and realized we were under ground attack. What I had thought were mortar rounds were really hand grenades thrown at close quarters by the enemy assault elements as they initiated their attack. Initial fire from the enemy was heavy and the return fire from our side built up quickly as both 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon took up the fire at the close-in threat. I called across to the FO to get flares up and began to try to assess what we were up against. It was pitch black with no moon or stars.

Green tracers began to bounce off the ground all around my hole. Suddenly a form appeared running past us from 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon. It was an E6 we had welcomed as a replacement just that day. He shouted as he passed, "There are a million gooks up there!" and disappeared in the direction of 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon. Next came 1LT George Anderson who knelt beside my position and reported that his 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon had been overrun and that he did not believe there were any more of his people alive on the position. Just as he uttered those words, he was struck by a bullet which shattered his rifle and lightly wounded him with bullet fragments. I told him to seek cover with 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon and he left on his own power. The fire was heavy from 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon's former position into the rest of the A Company position. All three of the other platoons were firing back as I informed the leaders by radio of the fact that 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon had been overrun and there were no more Americans alive on the southern knoll. I called Jack Rogers and directed him to move the fifty caliber to the alternate position and start to hose the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon position. After some communications difficulty, we were able to get the artillery battery firing in our support. Soon the fifty caliber machine gun opened fire and I directed the fire through 1LT Rogers. I told him to lower the fire twice until it was bouncing off the ground and the boulders among the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon position. I then told him to traverse continuously. At some point early in the engagement, I directed PFC Harold La Mar to get my weapon which was the closest. He bravely did so and then I told him to fire one or two shots periodically to keep the enemy's heads down. At this time



the NVA were no more than 50 meters away and I could clearly hear their voices as they talked among themselves. Our heavy machine gun fired for about 20 minutes and broke the back of the enemy attack. We continued to receive fire from the position formerly occupied by Anderson's men, but the momentum of the attack was broken by the 800 rounds that poured from the fifty caliber MG. I considered using the beehive rounds, but I was concerned that some of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon soldiers might still be alive on the position. I kept the beehive rounds on hold as a last resort. At some point, CPT Dick Boyd came up on the battalion radio net and told the Bn Cdr that he heard the NVA employing a HMG against us and offered to come to our aide. I intervened to let him know the HMG was ours and that I felt we could stop the enemy without his assistance. I thanked him profusely for the offer. At some point another of our soldiers SP4 Luis Gomez from 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon appeared beside my foxhole and inquired where he could get more M60 machine gun ammunition. It seems he had held his position on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon hill throughout the attack and had expended all his ammo in the fight at point blank range. I told him to take cover with 1SGT Creed next door and he did so.

I am not sure when we got artillery and Spooky up and working for us, but we worked their fires to the south and southeast in areas where I felt the enemy would have reinforcement or temporary base



Leaders of A Company 2/502 were (L to R standing) SFC Crane, Platoon Sergeant 1st Platoon; Platoon Sergeant 2nd Platoon Ruiz; LTG (R) Charley Otstott, 2/502 A & HHC 6/67-6/68; First Sergeant Frank Creed (CSM(R) Frank R. Creed, 2/502 A 5/67-5/68) later CSM of 82nd Airborne Division before he retired; Staff Sergeant (E-6) Jurinski, Platoon Sergeant of 3rd Platoon; and Sergeant First Class McDaniels, Platoon Sergeant 4th Platoon.

Kneeling/sitting (L to R) are 1LT Ossie Reynolds, 1st Platoon Leader, later KIA in an operation just before we went to Song Be, he replaced 1LT Jerry Barnhill after his wounding by "friendly artillery fire;" First Lieutenant George Anderson, Platoon Leader of the 2nd Platoon (the one that got overrun on the night of 6-7 Oct 1967); First Lieutenant Jack Rogers (Jack Rogers, 2/502 A 7/67-7/68), Platoon Leader of 3rd Platoon and First Lieutenant Rod Tillman (LTC (R) G. R. (Rod) Tillman, 2/502 A&B 8/67-11/68), Platoon Leader of 4th Platoon after First Lieutenant Jim Peake (LTG (R) James B. Peake, M.D., 2/502 A 6/67-6/68) was wounded. Both SFC Crane and SFC McDaniels served as acting platoon leaders after their Platoon Leaders were wounded and were in charge of their platoons during the fight on 6-7 Oct.

set ups in support of his attack. The NVA were too close to employ either fire support means against the enemy in contact and I was still concerned about any other survivors of 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon.

As the night wore on, the enemy fire diminished and I alerted everyone that we would counterattack at first light to retake the hill. I ordered 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Platoons to “thin the line” and send half their troops in skirmish line toward the company CP on my signal. George Anderson would bring the survivors he had collected and Jack Rogers 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon would provide a base of fire from our right flank as we moved south. I had said during the fight that if I had a grenade, I could take out the enemy that were close enough that I could hear talking. At first light, SSG Jurinski came forward from 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon and said, “Where do you want the grenade?” It was only then that I realized the enemy fire had stopped completely.

Shortly thereafter, we formed up on line about 20 strong and walked in a skirmish line up the knoll to retake the hill. We found six of our own dead on their positions and a total of 18 dead NVA soldiers in green fatigues with new web gear and helmets. Each soldier had a weapon, mostly AK-47s but at least one RPD and one or two RPGs. One of the dead soldiers had a Russian made flame thrower on his back. He had been shot once in each of his arms and legs and the four wounds had been dressed with field bandages much like our own. We were all very thankful he had not been able to use his weapon. None of us had heard of flame throwers being employed by the NVA, so this was quite a surprise! As we consolidated the position, I continued to direct the employment of the Spooky gunship and artillery on likely avenues of withdrawal, especially in the direction where we had seen the moving lights the night before.

I soon learned for the first time that the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Platoons had also sustained a ground assault at the eastern end of their ridge and had beaten it off with close combat in which white phosphorous grenades had been decisive. Throughout the entire two or three hour battle, I had been unaware of that engagement. They had no troopers killed and only a couple of lightly wounded, but they had driven back a very strong attacking force at the point of contact about 75 meters from my CP.

As soon as we could get ourselves organized, we sent patrols out to the south, east and northeast to try to pick up blood trails and locate any wounded enemy that had been abandoned. One of the patrols found a dead NVA soldier on the trail that led north on the east side of our position. We assumed they had departed to the north, probably back along the way where we had seen their approach with the “moving lights” the night before.

We spent the day reestablishing the coherence of our position and accepting more replacements and conducting short training patrols. We received ammunition resupply to include several boxes of grenades. At one point, either Iron Duke or Cottonmouth flew in for a tour and briefing about the battle. I believe it was Iron Duke (BG Matheson). We also hosted a TIME Magazine reporter who intended to feature the fight in the next issue of the magazine. As I recall, his name was Don Sider. He came in the afternoon and talked with a number of troops. By the time he was to get extracted, the weather had turned bad again and he could not get a helicopter. He spent a very tense night with us on the hill in the rain. He and I sat on the edge of my foxhole for several hours talking about the war and the battle and A Company. My troops were on full alert and expecting another attack. They threw about 100 hand grenades during the night for reassurance and to prevent the enemy from crawling close as he had done the night before. With the rain, the grenades, and the blackness of the night, it was another very long night for all of us.

#### 8 October 1967

Don Sider left early the next morning promising to tell our story in the next issue of TIME Magazine. He called me a few days later to tell me that the Marines’ engagement at Khe Sanh had trumped our engagement, and replaced his report about A/2/502 in the magazine. He was very apologetic.

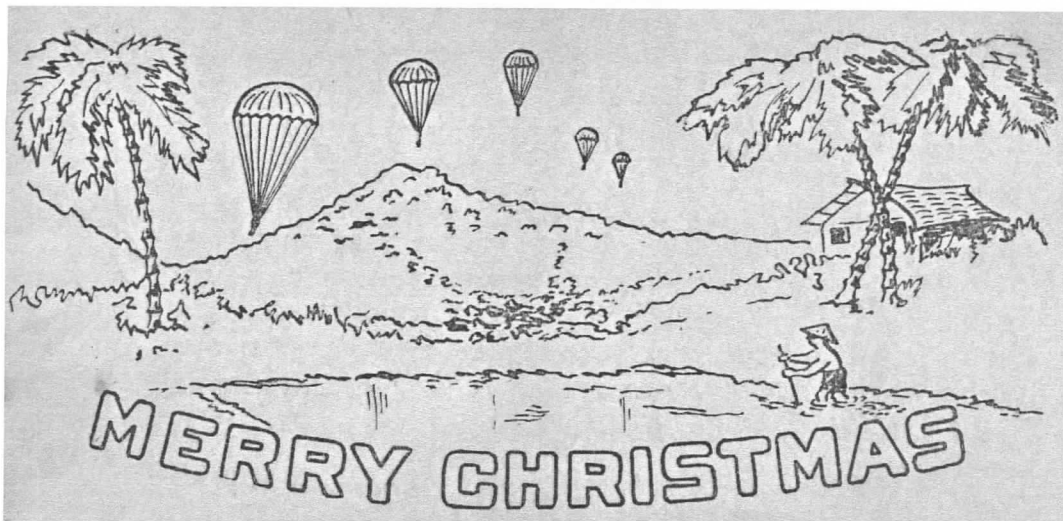
We were extracted either this day or the next and flown to a safe area to refit and relax for a day or so. I visited our wounded at Chu Lai or Tam Ky during this period. We had several that had not yet been evacuated to Japan or the Philippines.



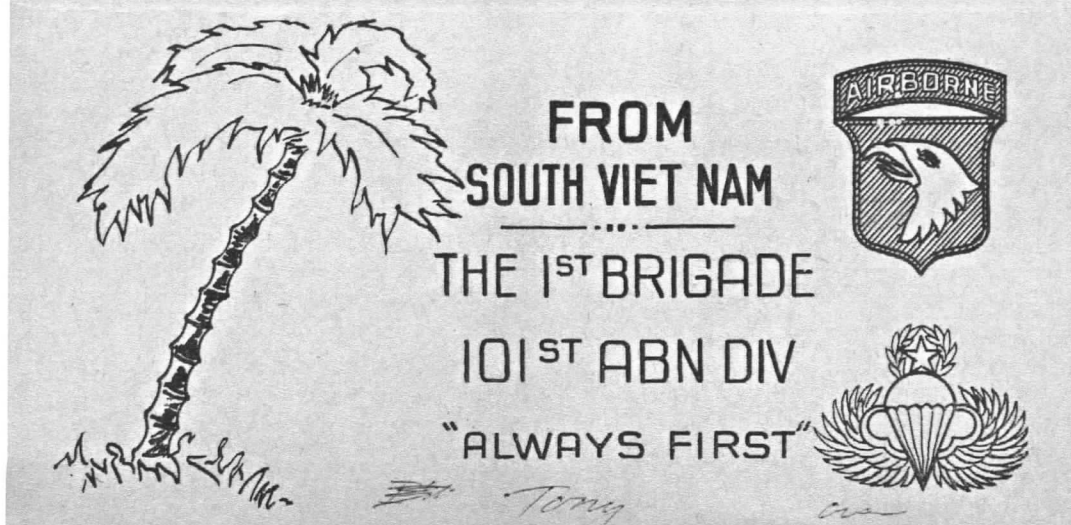
*Standing (L to R) \*\*Darrell Austin who was a Specialist in A Co in Vietnam, Silver Star recipient and later retired after making SFC; LTG (R) Charley Otstott, 2/502 A & HHC 6/67-6/68; COL (R) Howard H.(Dan) Danford, 2/502 5/67-5/68, was CO of 2/502 after \*Ralph Puckett, 2/502 CO 7/67-3/68, was wounded and stayed until LTC \*\*Dan Sharp took over 2/502. The picture was taken at the Atlanta Reunion. Seated (L to R) are \*Jack Rogers, 2/502 A 7/67-7/68, who was 3rd Platoon Leader as a 1LT and retired as a Colonel from the Medical Corps; the Brigade Chaplain, CHAP (COL-R) \*Bill W. Libby, 2/502 HQ 3/68-11/68 and Jack Rogers’ son, Mark A. Rogers.*

*\*non subscriber*

*\*\* not in database*



HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY  
 1st BATTALION (AIRBORNE), 327th INFANTRY  
 2nd BATTALION (AIRBORNE), 327th INFANTRY  
 2nd BATTALION (AIRBORNE), 502nd INFANTRY  
 2nd BATTALION (AIRBORNE), 320th ARTILLERY  
 1st BRIGADE SUPPORT BATTALION  
 A TROOP, 2nd SQUADRON, 17th CAVALRY (AIRBORNE)  
 A COMPANY, 326th ENGINEER BATTALION (AIRBORNE)



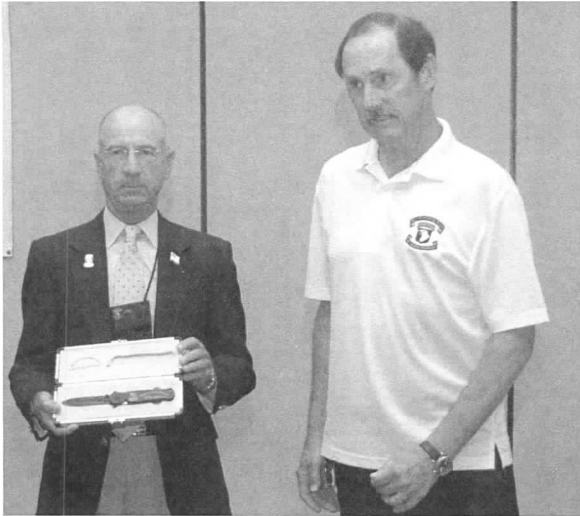
Tuesday, November 13, 2012 4:53 PM  
 From: Tony Bliss, 1/327 A 10/65-10/66  
 486 Bayville Road, Locust Valley, NY 11560-1209  
 tbliss@aquaquest.com

Hi Ivan, Really sorry I was not able to attend the reunion. I found this Christmas card in a book when I was going through my mother's stuff. I had sent it in 1965. I just signed "Tony" and wrote "over." On the back I wrote "Never mind I'll write later." Glad my kids did not take after me!

Above the Rest. ABU 1/327/101  
 Tony Bliss, Aqua Quest Publications, Your Source for Adventure [www.aquaquest.com](http://www.aquaquest.com), (800) 933-8989; (516) 759-0476; Fax (516) 759-4519

# First Brigade (Separate) Dinner 2012

## C Company 1/327 Awards



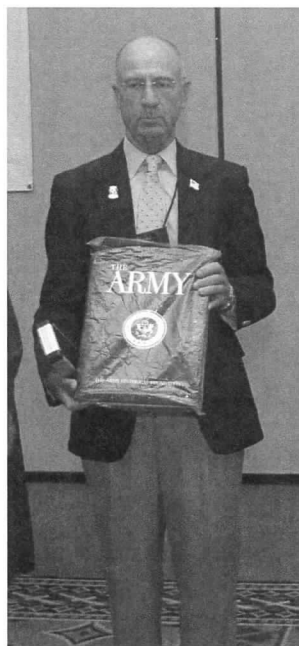
MAJ(R) Walter W. Jackson, 1/327 C 7/67-6/68, wrote this caption which has been slightly edited. "Bill" Beattie (\*SP4 (R) William L. Beattie, 1/327 C dates ?) has just presented General Raymond (MG (R) Fred Raymond, 1/327 HHC, A, C, E 1/68-6/69) with a 327 Infantry Commemorative Knife. It is not often that a retired SP4, U. S. Army, has a Major General standing at attention for the purpose of an official presentation. There wasn't room on the knife to have all of the 1/327 units engraved. The knife was purchased by the C Company and E (Tiger Force) Company, 1/327 vets who attended the reunion and had served with Major General Raymond.



The Blevins family played a major role at the Brigade Dinner when the wife and daughters of Roy P. "Zeke" Blevins, 1/327 C&TF 12/67-1/69, took charge of the raffle table; they are (L to R) his wife Arleta Blevins and daughters Michele Curtis and Christi Scott. Their efforts resulted in raising \$359.00 to be donated to the Fort Campbell "WOUNDED WARRIORS" project.



At an awards ceremony researched and arranged by the First Brigade (S) dinner organizer and host, MAJ(R) Walter W. Jackson, 1/327 C 7/67-6/68, all awards were presented by MG (R) Fred Raymond, 1/327 HHC, A, C, E 1/68-6/69. (L to R) are Miles D. Lester, 1/327 C 3/67-7/68, who was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge, the Republic of Viet Nam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation Badge and the Republic of Viet Nam Civil Action Medal First Class Unit Citation Badge; \*Alton "Dan" Porter, 1/327 C 67-68, the Combat Infantry Badge, Purple Heart, Bronze Star Medal, Republic of Viet Nam Gallantry Cross with Palm and Civil Action Honor Medal; Roy P. "Zeke" Blevins, 1/327 C&TF 12/67-1/69, who was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge, the Air Medal, the Purple Heart, Republic of Viet Nam Civil Action Medal First Class and the Republic of Viet Nam Gallantry Cross with Palm; \*SP4 (R) William L. Beattie, 1/327 C dates ?, the Combat Infantry Badge, the Air Medal, the Republic of Viet Nam Gallantry Cross with Palm (ribbon only), Vietnamese Civil Action Medal (ribbon only). Major General Raymond briefly spoke about the incident where Bill Beattie was critically wounded by a Chi-com hand grenade and was blown 15 feet away from then 1LT Raymond's position. MG (R) Fred Raymond made the presentations; Walt Jackson (in the background announcing the program) and CWO(R) Roger J. Morris, 1/327 C 9/67-9/68 who made sure the correct award was presented.



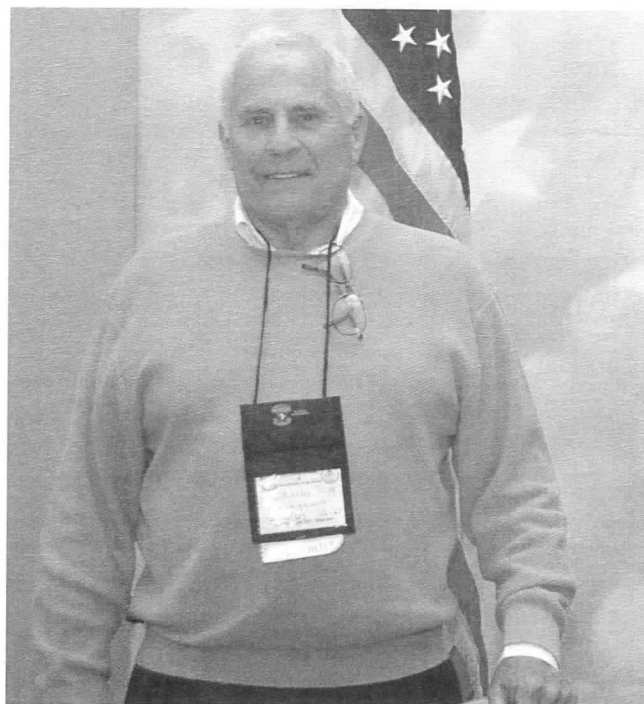
MG (R) Fred Raymond, 1/327 HHC, A, C, E 1/68-6/69, was also presented with a large book that records the history of the U. S. Army. The book was a present from \*Richard Russell, 1/327 C 67-68.

\* non subscriber

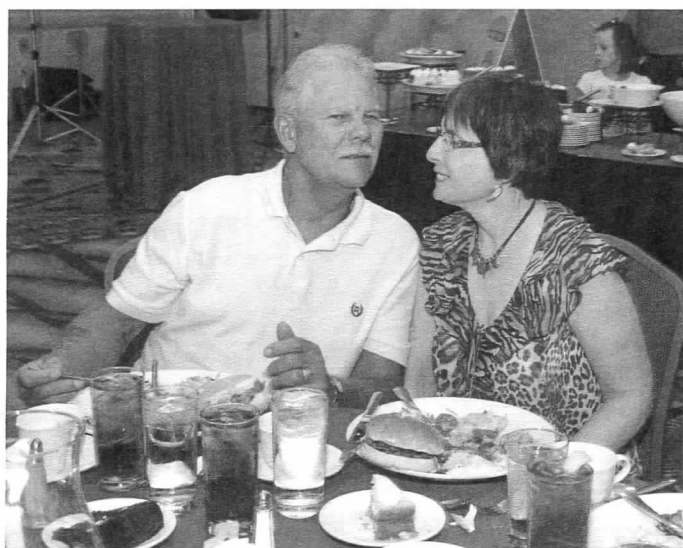




MAJ (R) Ivan Worrell, Information Officer 5/66 - 5/67 and LTC (R) Allen C. De Graw, 1/327 C 7/64 - 7/66 ELT, pose with a replica of the welcome sign that always stood at the entrance to brigade headquarters in Viet Nam. Ivan was Company Commander of C Company First Airborne Battle Group 327<sup>th</sup> Airborne Infantry in 1956 - 57, (Cold Steel Cobra). Allen was C Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 327<sup>th</sup> Airborne Infantry Company Commander when the Brigade deployed to Viet Nam in July 1965. (Photo by Robert Burleson)



LTC (R) Charles T. (Tom) Furgeson, 2/327 A & HHC 5/66-5/67, after the dinner. (Ivan pix)



Wade D. and Yvonne Hansen, 2/327 B 6/67-11/67, appear to have navigated the chow line successfully. (Photo by Robert Burleson)



MAJ (R) Ivan Worrell, Information Officer 5/66 - 5/67, and MG (R) Fred Raymond, 1/327 HHC, A, C, and E 1/68 - 6/69, before the after dinner program began. (Photo by Robert Burleson)

Continued on Page 32

# THE HISTORY OF "IBU" / "ABU"

In 1954, the companies of the 187<sup>th</sup> Airborne Regimental Combat Team (ARCT), decided that rather than use standard military phonetic names (Able, Baker and Charlie, etc) to identify units, they would name their companies after animals. K Company was represented by King Kong Gorilla; L Company was Lion Company; and M Company was Might Moose. However, the troopers of I Company found themselves in a quandary, because the only animals that they knew of that began with an "I" was an Iguana lizard and an Ibis, a gregarious, wimpy-looking, tropical wading bird with a down turned curved beak, and hell no, neither, would ever be selected as a mascot of an elite, gun ho airborne unit.

As the story goes, the company commander, Captain Robert Channon of I Company came up with the mystical name of Ibu, an acronym from their company slogan, "I" Company Is Best Unit – IBU. Now, all that was needed was to create a mystical animal.

The mystical animal had a lion's head taken from Lion Company; from Might Moose Company they took the moose antlers; and from King Kong Company they took the body of a gorilla; then they added Corcoran jump boots and human hands.

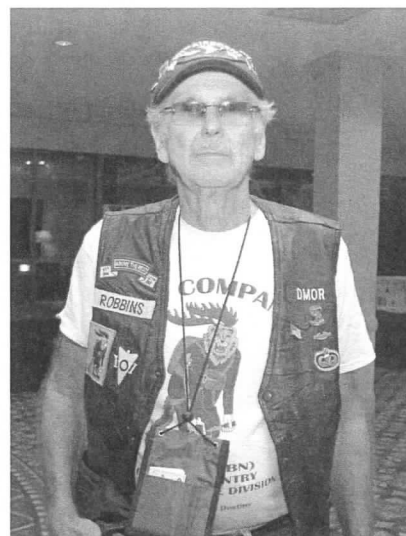
After the Korean Conflict, the 187<sup>th</sup> ARCT was reassigned to Japan, and later they returned to Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and deactivated in 1956. When the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division was activated on 17 July 1956, at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, the Non-Commissioned Officers (NCO's) of I Company, 187<sup>th</sup> ARCT were assigned to the first unit activated in the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division, A Company, 327<sup>th</sup> Airborne Infantry Combat Group (AICG).

Overnight, those old Ibu NCO's changed the name of A Company to Abu Company, keeping their beloved mystical mascot, and when the sun rose the next morning -- in front of Abu Company's mess hall, building 6930, was a 10 feet tall Abu sign, and platoon bays and the company bulletin board displayed large Abu's, and many Abu tattoo's appeared on the left calf of Abu paratroopers.

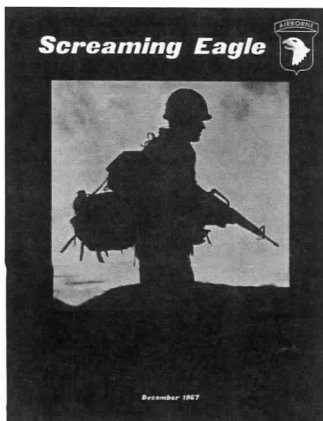
On 21 September 1956, the rest of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division (Pentomic) was activated into five battle groups, and it wouldn't be long before the world would be cognizance of the legendary Abu's.

Currently, the mascot for A Company, 327<sup>th</sup> Infantry (Air Assault) is still an Abu, however, it's appearance is different . . . he is a change of the times . . . instead of arriving on the battlefield by parachutes, Abu troopers now arrive by helicopters, yet Abu and his troopers still possess the same piss and vinegar; the bravery; the esprit de corps; and a similar ABOVE THE REST – BASTOGNE mindset of the 1940's, 50's, and the 1960's – and from there to the current era, Abu troopers have done themselves proud. Their predecessor's would approve – would be extremely proud of all Abu's.

Received from LTC(R) Billy R. Robbins, 1/327 ABU 11/62-9/67, P. O. Box A1327, Sharpsburg, NC 27878-1327, (252) 382-2300 (cell).



LTC (R) Billy R. Robbins, 1/327 ABU 11/62 - 9/67, on his way to dinner. He was one of many ABUs who supported the First Brigade dinner. (Ivan pix)



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.

# AN ABU PARATROOPER

WE came from all corners of our great land.  
WE grew from a boy to a man.  
WE jumped from aircrafts in flight ... day or night.  
WE never backed down from a fight.

WE were 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division Paratroopers.  
WE felt the shakes of a One-19 Boxcar,  
and the blast of a C-One-Thirty,  
WE felt the pain of the suspended-harness.  
And WE didn't mind getting down and dirty!

A lot of people ask us in snide.  
Why jump from a perfectly good airplane?  
Answer: Because the cheapest bidder built the plane!  
And a leg gotta purchase a ticket to ride.

WE ran the streets and roads on the double . . .  
. . . in our shinny Corcoran jump boots.  
Breaking starch; Jody cadence; Looking for trouble!  
While giving other troopers the hoots!

Club Bastogne beer was 25 cents a pitcher.  
WE swam in Kentucky Lake . . . and we hit the bars,  
WE danced in the Jamachi Club . . . and at Dunbar Cave.  
WE chased pretty women . . . and drove fast cars.

WE owned the streets of Hop-Town.  
WE pleased the ladies in Clarksville.  
WE packed the joints . . . spreading thrills all around.  
WE even woo-ed the ladies in Nashville.

WE humped the ridges and the valleys . . .  
. . . the jungles and the rice paddies . . .  
. . . all day . . . and all night . . .  
. . . just looking for a fight.

WE walked in the valley of death,  
WE feared no human. WE feared no evil.  
WE were the baddest MOTHERS in the valley . . .  
. . . and the protected will never know the true taste of FREEDOM!

WE have faced the unknown,  
. . . awaiting around the next turn.  
WE have faced death from dawn to dawn.  
. . . yet fear . . . never caused us concern.

Some were seventeen and eighteen,  
but, they sure knew how to use an M-16!  
Some were twenty-five . . . thirty-five . . . and forty.  
But man. Could they drink and hump! Oh Lordy-Lordy!

WE were in the company of heroes.  
OUR brothers had OUR flanks and backs,  
standing ready . . . to absorb any flak.  
WE feared no evil . . . that's the way our story goes.

With Eagles on our shoulders . . . and wings on OUR chest,  
and along with pride . . . prohibited any fear.  
ABU paratroopers are different from the rest!  
That's why WE'RE called: "ABOVE THE REST!"  
Which mortal men can't comprehend . . . yet, it's so clear.

Some orders were insidious and insipid . . .  
. . . and some were blissful, and some were pure hell.  
Thousands of miles prevented us from walking home.  
Nevertheless . . . orders WE followed . . . or the LB Jail.

Always looking to get some! It ain't no big thang!  
A Charlie here -- and a Gook there!  
I heard that! R and R in Bangkok or Da Nang . . .  
. . . and Baby-Sans with long black hair!

Free postage, MPC, Shasta Orange and Grape sodas.  
Bam-bi-ba; Hamm and Blatzs beer, and sometimes steaks.  
Lucky Strike. Camels and Chesterfield cigarettes with a funny odor.  
C-Rations and John T Humphries' Rum soaked fruit cakes.

Waiting for a big silver freedom bird . . .  
. . . to take us to the land of the big PX's is what we heard . . .  
. . . round eyes -- round door knobs -- and other treats . . .  
. . . like air conditioners . . . and clean, cool, slick, white sheets.

We were amongst the best.  
ABU was OUR family. My brothers -- you stood the test.  
Today -- many of OUR ABU HEROES have soared.  
Their final assignment -- is with the LORD.

Here's a salute to our departed ABU brothers:  
**Prieto; Finley; Leo B Smith; Jefferson Smith; Harry-The-Horse-Godwin; John T; Francisco; Garnett; Zajac; Fipps; Shamp; Emel; Martin; Velez; Perry; Wolfe; Allum; Griffin; Haskell; Martin; Martinez, Gilbert; Johnny K; Scott; Stacey; Stetson; Vigil; Corson; Demboski; Keyes; Perkins; Thompson; Wadsworth; Guzman; Clark; Coleman; Franklin Smith; Carlos; Michael Campbell; Fernandez; Mercado; and Jones.**  
. . . and a salute to other fallen ABU HERO'S.

Now . . . our heroes walk in the valley of the LORD.  
With an MOS of an Angel . . . they were some of our best.  
I bestow to them -- my highest accord.  
I salute them all. ABU! ABOVE THE REST!

Oh how wonderful it would be. How truly proud I would feel,  
. . . if today, my departed ABU brothers were here,  
. . . to allow me the honor to stand in their presence,  
. . . to shake the hand of a hero . . .  
. . . just to shoot the shit -- and have a beer!

Hospitality rooms same-same Bastogne Club of yesteryear . . .  
. . . except today -- those troopers are older . . .  
. . . they have love handles . . .  
. . . they walk funny . . .  
. . . and they can't hear!

One day we all will muster again,  
far away . . . from evil and pain.  
So keep your A and B bags packed.  
ABU's have one last jump with a golden parachute.

STAND IN THE DOOR . . .  
. . . MY ABU BROTHER!  
YOU STOOD THE TEST.  
INDEED, YOU ARE ABOVE THE REST!

Bill Robbins (One-Zero, 9-1-2011)

# FIRST BRIGADE SCRAPBOOK



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

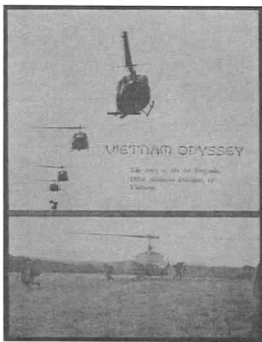
The SCRAPBOOK contains 105 8.5 x 11 inch pages and is three hole punched ready to be secured in a regular three ring notebook. Great care was taken to make copies that are true to the original.

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

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

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

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



months in Viet Nam, provided many of the photographs.

VIETNAM ODYSSEY is a 108 page 8.5 by 11 inch format, soft cover, with four pages of color photos. The layout is excellent, the photos, sketch art and text were produced by members of the 1st Brigade who were part of the history that is recorded.

The manuscript was completed in Viet Nam and sent to the 101st Airborne Division Association for publication.

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

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



This edition of *The Diplomat and Warrior* 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. Barry was the Officer in Charge of the paper. Those mentioned in this paper, who are in the First Brigade (S) database, are listed below.

**Page 2, New 'No Slack' Commander**, photo caption LT GEN (R) Donald E. Rosenblum, 2/327 CO 6/66-6/67, was the outgoing Battalion Commander. William P. Singly, BDE HQ PIO 67, made the *photo of COL(R) Edmond P. Abood*, 1/327 CO 67, the new Commander (deceased 05). **Troopers Receive Close Shaves As Viet Cong Attack Positions**, \*Thomas M. Schlaak, 1/327 B 7/66-6/67 (lapsed subscriber), Brian R. Bingales, 1/327 B 9/66-10/68 (deceased 06). **'Belding Bag' Protects Machine Gun Ammo**, \*David M. Belding, 2/502 B 1/67-7/68, (former subscriber with bad address). **2/327 Gives Rice To Refugee Camp**, Wayne J. Prokup, HQ & HQ 1st BDE 4/67-12/68.

**Page 3, Newsmen Swamp Brigade To Cover Operation**, photo by Michael A. Willey, BRIGADE PIO 9/66-10/67. \*Thomas M. Schlaak, 1/327 B 7/66-6/67, COL (R) William J. Northquest, 1/327 C 6/66-12/67. **ABC Correspondent 'Quits' Story, Treats Wounded Paratroopers**, \*Alan W. Wilkerson, 1/327 HHC 67-68. **CBS Shows 1/327 Firefight To Nation**, COL (R) William J. Northquest, 1/327 C 6/66-12/67.

**Page 6, 1/327 Lt Wears Dad's Patch**, \*John T. McKnight, 2/327 HQ 4/67-12/68 (lapsed subscriber). **Brushing Lessons**, picture, \*Daniel K. Cheney, 326 MED SPT 7/66-7/67 (lapsed subscriber).

**Page 7, TO SLEEP. PERCHANCE TO DREAM**, picture by William P. Singly, BDE HQ PIO 67.

**Page 8, Mine Detector**, picture by \*Daniel S. Stroebel, BDE HQ PIO dates? (in database with bad address). **No Break Time For 2/502 Machinegunner**, \*LTC(R) Edward Throckmorton, 2/502 B 67, (in database with bad address). **Clearing Roads Daily A Dangerous Chore**, written by \*Daniel S. Stroebel, BDE HQ PIO dates?.

\* Not a subscriber



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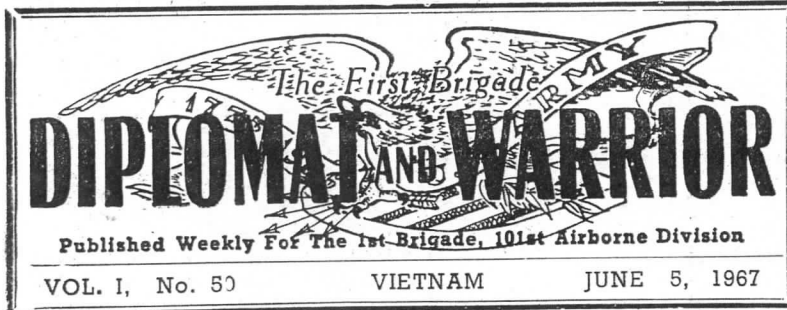
(Has some surface noise from the 1959 record used to make the new master.)



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.



# Screaming Eagles Begin Opn Malheur



## 1st Brigade Leaves II Corps, Joins Task Force Oregon

DUC PHO — The 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne took a giant step into I Corps recently when they landed near here to begin Operation Malheur.

Joining the 196th Light Infantry Brigade and the 3d Brigade, 25th Infantry Division in Task Force Oregon, the Screaming Eagles im-

mediately swung into action and at the end of the first two weeks of fighting had accounted for 270 enemy kills.

After landing on the beach from Navy LST's, the paratroopers of the 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry and the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry conducted heliborne assaults throughout their areas of operation. A day later, the 2d Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry was inserted as a blocking force as the other two elements pushed toward the "No Slack" battalion. A few days later the men of Lieutenant Colonel Edmond Abood also surged forward, hoping to catch a regimental sized enemy force in the middle of a three-pronged attack.

The strategy paid off early. The 1 327 saw the first heavy fighting on the morning of May 15. Eighty enemy assaulted the weapons platoon and headquarters platoon of Company B. The battle raged for an hour and a half before the enemy were thrown back. A search revealed 20 enemy killed. A .30 caliber machine gun also was captured.

On May 16, the Screaming Eagles, aided by gunships of the 176th Aviation Company, fought scattered pockets of Viet Cong in fortified positions. Forty-seven enemy fell in the day's fighting.

Another 32 enemy were killed on May 18. During the day's search and destroy operations, an enemy hospital complex was discovered by elements of the 2d Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry. Surgical instruments, medical supplies, books and foodstuffs were extracted.

Elements of the 2/502 also had good hunting. Sighting an estimated enemy force of 100 on May 19, the "Strike Force" paratroopers called in artillery. A search after the shelling uncovered 25 enemy dead. Fifteen weapons also were captured.

Thirty two tons of salt 25.5 tons of rice, 285 gallons of soybean oil, 30 rolls of cloth and 140 weapons were captured in the first two weeks of action.

## 101st D-Day 23 Years Ago

Today is the 23rd anniversary of Operation Overlord when Captain Frank L. Lillyman, a pathfinder for the 101st Airborne Division became the first Allied soldier to touch French soil during the invasion of Normandy in 1944.

The Normandy invasion was the first taste of combat for the Screaming Eagles when the division dropped behind the heavily fortified German lines.

Landing by glider and parachute, the Screaming Eagles found themselves for the most part, far from the drop zones they had expected. The darkness caused many plane-loads to drop troops from the 101st into the 82nd's areas of operation and vice versa.

Normandy was filled with blood, heroes and fear. But there was also humor. The division commander, Major General Maxwell D. Taylor, found he had landed with a group of 20 field grade officers and only three enlisted men. He is said to have remarked: "Never have so few been commanded by so many."

Today the 1st Brigade finds itself carrying on the proud traditions and fighting spirit set by the original paratroopers and gliderman who initiated their outstanding combat record 23 years ago.



TASK FORCE OREGON COMMANDER — Major General William B. Ross meets Lieutenant Colonel Horry S. Buckley, commander of the Screaming Eagles' 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, during a recent visit to the 'Strike Force' tactical command post. (US Army by PFC Michael A. Willey)

## Eight Veterans Of 1st Brigade March In New York Parade

NEW YORK — Eight wounded veterans of the 1st Brigade on leave from hospitals in the New York area marched with the 101st Airborne and 82nd Airborne Division Association chapters here recently, supporting the fighting men in Viet Nam.

The parade, 250,000 strong, answered a recent anti-war demonstration here

by 125,000. Both the 101st and 82nd chapters carried their respective colors. The wounded veterans hoisted the Screaming Eagles colors.

"It was a great day to see so many Americans for you guys instead of those protesting against the war in Viet Nam," said Harold Bobkier, president of the 101st's New

York chapter. "We also had Mr. Carmen Ruggico leading our group," added Bobkier. "His son, Robert, was killed in Viet Nam last year."

"He searched the area until he found our colors and asked if he could march with us. He said he wanted to march with his son's outfit."

## DSC Presented To Recondo Squad Leader

NHA TRANG — The Distinguished Service Cross was presented to a "Strike Force" squad leader who, though wounded, led an assault on entrenched North Vietnamese soldiers.

Sergeant Kenneth E. Murphy, Necedah, Wis., received the nation's second highest award for heroism from Lieutenant General Stanley Larsen, commander of I Field Force, Viet Nam.

During Operation Gero-

nimo I near Tuy Hoa, Sergeant Murphy's Reconnaissance Platoon of the 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry met heavy enemy resistance. As the lead element of the platoon encountered and killed one NVA soldier, the entire platoon came under automatic weapons fire.

Sergeant Murphy led an immediate attack on the enemy positions, but the paratroopers were driven back. Pinned down twice



during the assault, Sergeant Murphy suffered a head wound, but carried another wounded trooper across 50 yards of enemy fire to safety.

Returning for a second wounded comrade, Sergeant Murphy was hit in the leg by enemy fire, but brought the wounded man to safety.

Reorganizing his forces, the twice-wounded squad leader led a second attack, killing three NVA soldiers as the platoon drove off the enemy.



**NEWSPAPER BREAK** — Screaming Eagles of the 101st Airborne take time to read an issue of the Pacific Stars & Stripes during a lull in the fighting during Operation Malheur. (US Army Photo by SSG Mike Mangiameli)

**'STRIKE FORCE'**

**'Belding Bag' Protects Machine Gun Ammo**

**DUC PHO (2/502 10)** — Anyone who has carried an M-60 machine gun through the sweltering jungle is aware how difficult it is to keep the ammunition clean and serviceable.

Monsoon rains, mud, and even dew can damage 7.62mm rounds enough to cause stoppages in a firefight.

First Lieutenant David Belding, 3d Platoon of Company B, 2/502 has come up with the answer — the "Belding" bag.

Before Operation Malheur

he designed an 18-inch bag made of unserviceable air mattresses and shelter halves. A seamstress sewed the rubber strips to the canvas. A cover with a snap fastener was sewn over the top, completing the bag.

Thus far the "Belding" bag has proven to be almost 100 per cent waterproof. Straps from rucksacks have been introduced, allowing the ammo bearer to carry the bag over his shoulder and making 100 rounds quickly accessible.

The Strike Force platoon has created 12 bags so far, but Lieutenant Belding has been heard to jokingly predict greater things. He feels the "Belding" bag probably will go down in history with the "Eisenhower" jacket and the "Sherman" tank.

**Troopers Receive Close Shaves As Viet Cong Attack Positions**

**DUC PHO** — Five paratroopers of the 101st Airborne have reason to remember a recent action in Operation Malheur near here. Each had enemy bullets come too close for comfort as they defended a hilltop against attacking Viet Cong.

Early one morning the weapons platoon and command group of Company B of the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry were breaking camp. Suddenly 80 VC charged their position. The initial burst of fire killed one paratrooper, but the other Screaming Eagles had time to react.

Captain Thomas Schlaak, commander of Company B, had his air mattress shot out from under him. He still has the mattress as a souvenir.

His radio telephone operator, Specialist 4 Brian Bingle, Cheyenne, Wyo., had no cover from fire, but he quickly pushed his radio handset up to protect his face. An enemy round shattered the handset, leaving him untouched.

The medic, Specialist 4

Walter Cothron, Clute, Tex., killed several VC while treating the wounded, alternately using an M-16 and bandages.

First Sergeant David Kalu, Honolulu, was pinned down behind a tree root for several minutes before Cothron noticed his plight and killed the VC firing on Kalu.

On the perimeter, PFC John Adame, Sacramento, Calif., was stifling the charging enemy. While a VC machine gunner tried to clear his jammed .30 caliber machine gun, Adame picked him off. Other VC tried to use the weapon, but Adame killed at least three more in their attempts.

Another Viet Cong tried to flank Adame, but was handled quickly. The young paratrooper patiently let the VC crawl toward his position and then detonated a con-

cealed claymore mine a few feet to the enemy's front.

Twenty Viet Cong were killed in the action while the Screaming Eagles suffered one killed, four wounded and five close shaves.

**New 'No Slack' Commander**



**DUC PHO** — In a change of command ceremony at the brigade here Lieutenant Colonel Edmond P. Abood, Brooklyn, N.Y., took command of the 2d Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry. Colonel Abood received the unit's colors from former Commander Lieutenant Colonel Donald E. Rosenblum, Cedarhurst, N.Y.

(US Army Photo By Sp4 William P. Singley)

**2/327 Gives Rice To Refugee Camp**

**DUC PHO** — The 1st Brigade donated four tons of rice and two tons of salt to a refugee camp here.

Companies A and C of the 2d Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry made the contribution. Each discovered vast caches during recent patrols near here in Operation Malheur.

Major Wayne J. Prokup, Mineral, Ill., brigade civil affairs officer, and Captain Dennis W. Finnegan, Lynbrook, N.Y., battalion civil affairs, supervised the shipment of the rice and salt to Duc Pho District Headquarters where they were presented to Captain Ho Van Luyen, district chief.

The district supports more than 10,000 refugees.

**Pix Available to Volunteer Dancers**

If the three volunteer dancers who cut a fancy rug with the young lady from Nha Trang during the 2/502d's show at Khanh Duong will contact the brigade information office, they will be given a 5x7 pic of themselves in action.

**Gen. Westmoreland Visits Brigade Hqs**

**DUC PHO** — General W.C. Westmoreland, commanding general, U.S. Forces, Viet Nam, visited the brigade recently.

In addition to briefings on Screaming Eagle activity since his last visit, the former commanding general of the 101st Airborne Division visited the 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry.

**DIPLOMAT and WARRIOR**

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

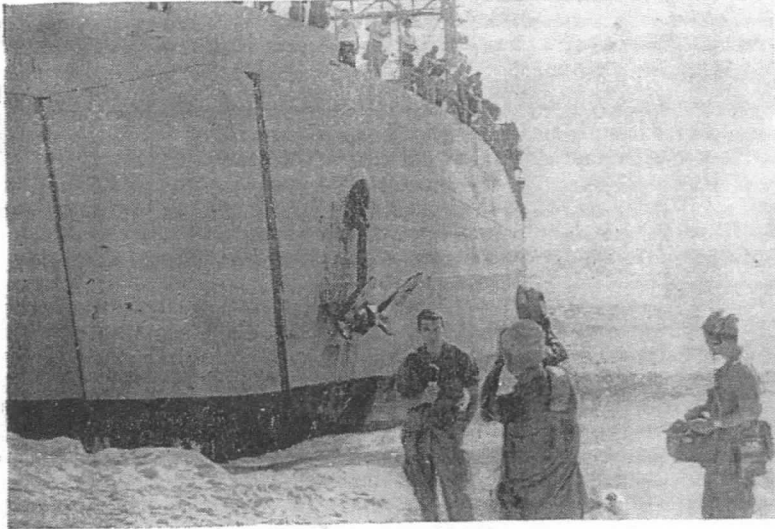
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- CG . . . . . BG S. H. Matheson
- IO . . . . . MAJ Billy E. Spangler
- OIC . . . . . 2LT Barry Hana
- EDITOR . . . . . SSG Mike Mangiameli

Good  
Page

'Help! We're Surrounded By Correspondents!'

# Newsmen Swamp Brigade To Cover Operation



**TELEVISED LANDING** — Howard Tuckner of NBC-TV and his news team film the landing of the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry near here recently. All the major television networks were on hand to record the arrival and early fighting of the Screaming Eagles in Operation Malheur. (US Army Photo by PFC Michael A. Willey)

## ABC Correspondent 'Quits' Story, Treats Wounded Paratroopers

**DUC PHO** — ABC-TV Correspondent Ken Gale, covering the brigade in Operation Malheur here recently, did more than just get a story for his network.

While filming an intense fire-fight with the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry, Gale kept his cameraman filming while he went to the aid of wounded paratroopers.

"I quit covering the story and rendered what assistance I could to the wounded, giving them water, cigarettes, tightening bandages and tourniquets," said Gale.

Before he was airlifted back to brigade headquarters to rush his news film to Saigon and subsequently to New York, Gale stopped to do a favor for another paratrooper.

Specialist 4 Alan Wilkerson, Concord, Calif., penned hasty notes to his parents and girl friend to let them know he was safe. Gale took time to mail the two letters at brigade headquarters before departing the area.

Kurt Volkert, a member of the CBS news team, also carried the mail for paratroopers of the brigade.

After filming the action with Company A, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, the German-born cameraman mailed letters for:

Private First Class Bruce Sorensen, La Mesa, Calif.; Private First Class Milton D. Martin, Naples, Fla.; Private First Class Don Phares, White Hall, Ill.; Specialist 4 Lou Williams; Private First Class Russell D. Fullerton, Clifton, Va.; Sergeant First Class Edward R. Garrison, Pontomiss; toc, and Private First Class Philip A. Pauley.

Private First Class Bruce Sorensen, La Mesa, Calif.; Private First Class Milton D. Martin, Naples, Fla.; Private First Class Don Phares, White Hall, Ill.; Specialist 4 Lou Williams; Private First Class Russell D. Fullerton, Clifton, Va.; Sergeant First Class Edward R. Garrison, Pontomiss; toc, and Private First Class Philip A. Pauley.

After filming the action with Company A, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, the German-born cameraman mailed letters for:

**DUC PHO** — The Screaming Eagles launched their first offensive action in I Corps while representatives of major television networks and wire services recorded the events for the American people.

One company commander said he needed a program to tell his troops from the visiting newsmen.

NBC-TV news correspondent Howard Tuckner filmed the beach landing of Company B, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry as Company Commander Captain Thomas Schaalk, Ft. Benning, Ga., led his troops ashore.

Two days later, NBC was filming the action with Company A, 1/327th, Captain David F. Tambling, Rye Beach, N.H., commanding.

Captain William J. Northquest, Milwaukee, commander of Company C, 1/327th hosted correspondent Bill Plante and the CBS-TV news team during a contact which resulted in six enemy kills on May 11. The CBS crew remained with the brigade and filmed the search and destroy operations conducted by Company A, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry.

ABC-TV visited the brigade during the first week of Operation Malheur and filmed a story for viewers at home. Correspondent Ken Gale and his team recorded sporadic action with Company A, 1/327th on May 13. Hoping for a better story, Gale remained with the company for another day and not only got the story he wanted, but the most hair-raising experience of his Viet Nam news assignment. A close contact wound-

ed several men including Captain Tambling, and during the action a piece of shrapnel brushed the top of Gale's head. The ABC camera crew continued to film the story while newsmen Gale went to the aid of the wounded men around him.

Al Chang, Associated Press, followed the troopers of 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry. Chang gathered material for several stories on men of "the-O-Deuce" and a special feature story on 1st Platoon, Company B, and the platoon leader, First Lieutenant Edward Throckmorton, Washington, D.C.

Bill Hall and Bob Kaylor, United Press International, went in with the first combat assaults on the multiple landing zones in the 2/502 area of operations. The two correspondents remained with the battalion two days gathering data and pictorial coverage for their reports.

The Screaming Eagles had killed 79 enemy and captured scores of weapons when the secrecy of Operation Malheur was lifted and the first public announcement was made in Saigon on May 14.

On Monday evening, May 15, the Huntley-Brinkley Report, Walter Cronkite, and Peter Jennings presented their network color film reports of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division and "Operation Malheur."

## CBS Shows 1/327 Firefight To Nation

**DUC PHO** — On May 15, the following account of operations of the 101st appeared as the lead Viet Nam story on the CBS-TV morning news show. The brigade 10 has just received the transcript:

"Another search and destroy operation is progressing in the northern coastal area of Viet Nam. Elements of the 101st Airborne are sweeping the mountains.

BILL PLANTE (FILM

REPORT): This is territory which for years has been the area of hard-core VC. U.S. intelligence estimates show at least 45,000 enemy in Quang Ngai and Quang Tin Provinces. Captain William Northquest, commander of Company C, briefs his platoon leaders—(film with sound of Northquest briefing his men before mission).

The terrain is mountainous jungle and the units pause

frequently to send reconnaissance units forward. It was on one such forward probe that scouts heard voices from the top of the hill. Company C's weapons began to move up, and the suspicions of the scouts were confirmed as they were fired upon (action film).

The other platoons of the company were called in and moved up to positions near the top of the hill. For a few minutes there was heavy fire

coming at Company C. The only U.S. casualty was hit by shrapnel. CBS news cameramen and soundmen were in the middle of it. Then artillery was called in, the firing stopped and Company C moved up.

It was an all too familiar sight—a fortified village, a few huts, many trenches, bunkers and tunnels, and the families, Montagnards, of

some of the dead VC. At least one of the dead was a child. This man was captured alive (film of P.) he had been wounded in the exchange of fire and hidden in a bunker. He told the U.S. troops that a 100-man company had used this area as a base, but had left the day before after a U.S. air strike killed 50. The mountain people left behind were a security force."



**C'mon Sickness!  
Get That Position Right!**



**You Legs Can't Do  
Anything Right**



**Nervous — E**

## Brigade Turns Fleec

**PHAN RANG**— The first airborne training school for American troops in Viet Nam was conducted by the 1st Brigade here.

Twenty-five students graduated on the dried rice paddy drop zone after six days of ground training and two days of jumping.

Lieutenant Colonel Quinton P. Sunday, Support Battalion commander, presented each new paratrooper his wings

following their fifth jump from a C-130.

Training was comparable to the airborne classes at Ft. Benning, Ga., with emphasis on physical conditioning, equipment familiarization, exiting the aircraft, control during descent and emergency procedures.

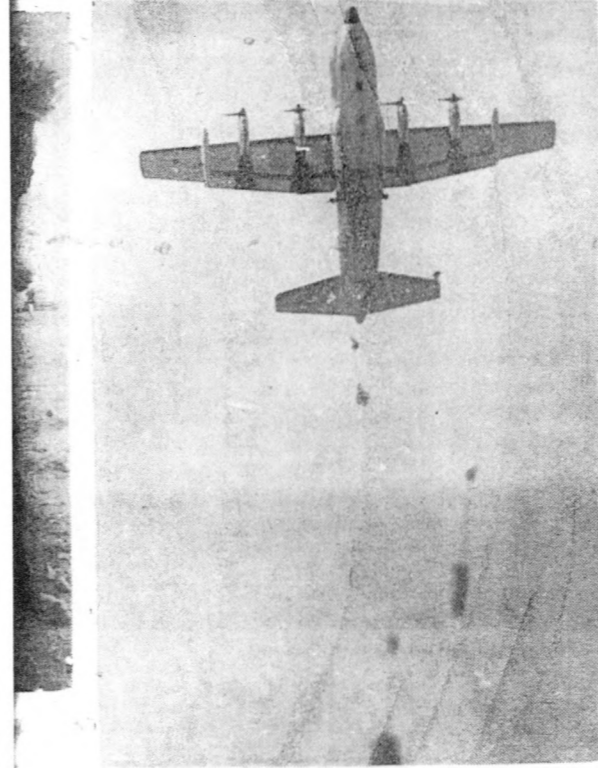
Members of the Aerial Equipment Supply Platoon, Support Battalion, were instructors. Master Sergeant

Walter Schwark, former instructor at the airborne school at Ft. Benning and veteran of more than 300 jumps served as NCOIC.

The new paratroopers received a pleasant surprise following graduation when First Lieutenant Dan Sullivan, assistant brigade finance officer, summoned the new Screaming Eagles to the pay table for their first jump pay.



**Legs All—But They Learn Fast**



**The First Jump  
The Moment Of Truth**

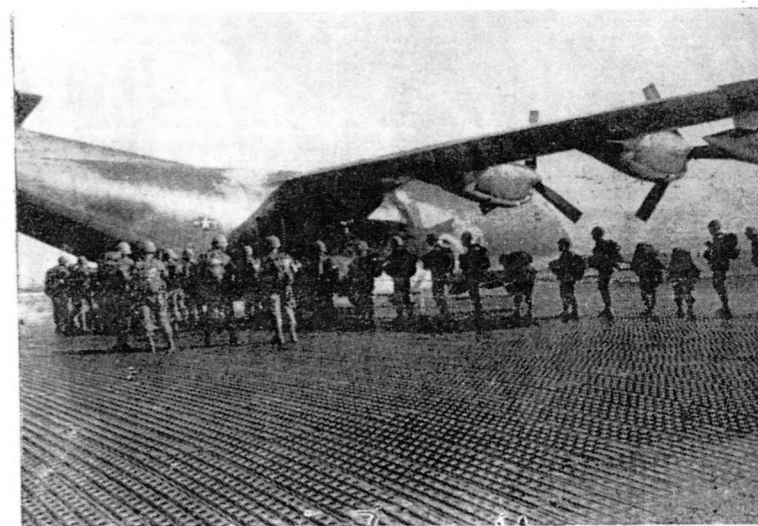
## gs Into Eagles



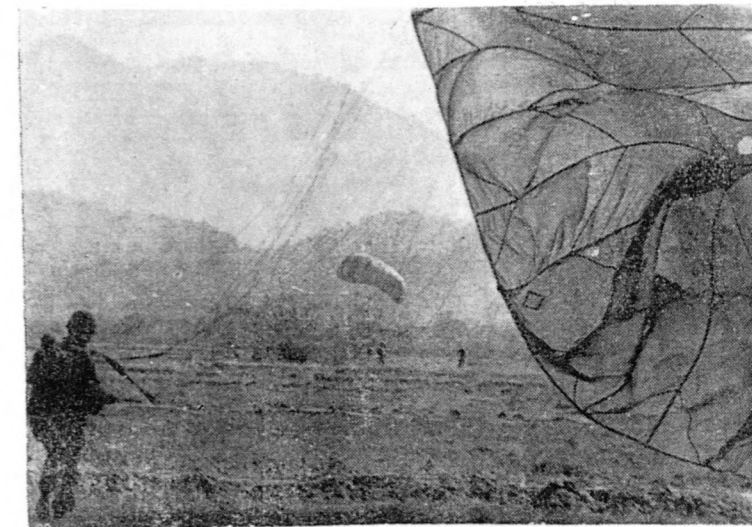
**The Third Jump**



**AIRBORNE!**



**Loading For The Last One**



**Screaming Eagles  
ALL THE WAY!**

# 320th Arty Serves Mess That's Not A Mess

**DUC PHO** — Ask any enlisted man about the quality of food served in his unit's mess and he'll probably say it's just that—a mess.

But not so with 2d Battalion (Airborne), 320th Artillery. A new mess sergeant has made the difference.

Staff Sergeant Herman J. Booth, Hoffman, N.C., has brought enthusiasm to an arduous and thankless job, and the artillerymen appreciate his culinary efforts.

Each meal now includes meat prepared two different ways, two starches (rice and potatoes), two vegetables, hot rolls twice a day and cake every day. In addition, the mess section provides each firing battery in the field with one, often two hot meals a day.

"The most important thing is improvement," said Sergeant Booth. "A mess is easy to set up, but you must constantly work to improve it. I put my emphasis on improvement and supervision."

"I think the mess sergeant is the key," said PFC Dennis L. Weber, Pontiac, Ill., one of nine cooks in the mess section. "Sergeant Booth knows his business."

Specialist 4 Dwight D. Hillhouse, Siloam Springs, Ark., agrees. "I've cooked for eight mess sergeants in the last 10 months and Booth is the best," said Hillhouse.

"He's introduced garrison mess hall ideas here, giving troops a choice of vegetables, starches and meat preparation rather than the old 'Eat what we serve—and like it!' Giving the men a choice is always good for morale."



## 1/327 Lt Wears Dad's Patch

**DUC PHO**—The Screaming Eagle patch on his shoulder looked like any other 101st insignia, but to the man who wore it the familiar design had special meaning.

Second Lieutenant John McKnight Jr., 23, Toccoa, Ga., joined the brigade wearing the shoulder patch his father wore when the elder McKnight jumped with the 101st at Normandy, June 6, 1944.

"Dad never talked much about his experiences to me, but Mom said he was a paratrooper when they met in 1942. He's been on jump status for more than 20 years so I guess he's one of the earliest paratroopers in the Army."

His father's unit—the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment—trained at Camp Toccoa near Currahee Mountain and adopted 'Currahee' as the regimental motto: "We Stand Alone."

Lieutenant McKnight, a 1966 graduate and former light-heavyweight boxing champion of West Point, has been assigned Hawk Platoon leader with the 2d Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry. "Leading the Hawks is a real challenge. I was hoping for a unit with the esprit I've found in the Hawks," he said.

Following graduation, Lieutenant McKnight trained as weapons platoon leader with an infantry brigade at Ft. Benning. He volunteered for Viet Nam and completed Airborne and Ranger training as well as the Navy Scuba Diving School, Jungle Warfare School and the Air Force Tropical Survival School.

His father, who recently completed his second tour in Viet Nam and is now assigned to Ft. Monroe, Va., gave the new Hawk platoon leader this advice: "Do a good job over there."



**BRUSHING LESSONS**—Major Daniel K. Cheney, Lima, Ohio, commander of the 101st Airborne medical section, teaches a young Montagnard to brush his teeth during a visit to the child's village. (US Army Photo by CPT Ludwing Hoffman)

# 176th Avn Company Supports Bde During Operation Malheur Here

**DUC PHO**— One of the Army's most polished aviation units — the 176th Aviation Company (Air Mobile Light) — is supporting the Screaming Eagles in Operation Malheur.

Commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Harry T. McDaniel, Columbus, Ga., the "Minutemen" arrived in Viet Nam in February of last year. Before joining the 101st here, they supported the Republic of Korea's White Horse Division and 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) near Nha Trang.

Sixty pilots and 28 aircraft comprise the 176th. Eight of the aircraft are gunships called "Muskets," supporting the unit's motto, "Spirit of '76." Each is equipped with mini-guns, grenade launchers and rockets.

Maintenance for the helicopters is provided by the 411th Transportation Corps Detachment and communications (avionic) by the 454th Signal Detachment.

Gunship pilot Warrant Officer William G. Montgomery, Clarksville, Tenn., was glad to join the 101st. "All the men were anxious to come here," he said. "Now we're getting a chance to put our training to work."

"Things sure are a lot hotter up here," said Specialist 4 John G. Mertens, Cedar Rapids, Ia., a door gunner. In one day with the paratroopers their aircraft were hit more times than all their previous days in country. Eleven ships were

hit and one completely destroyed by a mortar round. However, no crew members were killed.

"We feel we're really doing our job with the 101st," said

First Lieutenant James Stuart, Lincoln, Neb. "The paratroopers are top notch and the 101st has the best area of operations in Task Force Oregon."



**MEDICAL HELP** — William W. Babson Jr., CO, 2/568th Medical Company (CLR) from Gloucester, Mass., gives medical aid to an inhabitant of Vinh Thuan [in conjunction with the personal hygiene program. (US Army Photo by CPT Wes Groesbeck)

# Screaming Eagles Take Top Places In Special Forces Recondo School

by Sp4 William P. Singley  
**KHANH DUONG**—Smart, Skilled, Tough. Courage. Confidence.

This is the motto of the Military Assistance Command's Recondo School conducted at Nha Trang. A graduate of this school is the sum total of these words.

In recent classes, paratroopers of the brigade have finished number one.

Staff Sergeant James E. Hird, Bradenton, Fla., a member of the 101st's Troop A, 17th Cavalry, was the Distinguished Graduate of Class 11-67.

Earlier, Sergeant Charles H. Hartz, Spring City, Pa., of the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry, finished as the class leader.

In Sergeant Hird's group, the third ranked man was Private First Class Jimmy W. McCormick, Chattanooga, Tenn., of the 101st's Long Range Reconnaissance Platoon.

The course is not designed for men seeking a vacation.

For three weeks the Recondo candidates work 16-hour days under the critical supervision of the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) instructors. The goal of the school is to teach soldiers reconnaissance techniques.

Physical training starts

each day, followed by detailed instruction in patrolling, map reading, communications, first aid, and combat operations.

Sergeant Hird feels the first aid instruction was the best he has ever received in the Army.

"We took blood from each other. Gave each other shots and learned the exact amount of plasma to administer to a wounded man."

Amphibious landings, exiting from helicopters by rappelling and ladders are the more exciting phases of the course.

Map reading is the most stressed and practical application that comes in the final week. After a 100 question examination covering the first two weeks of the course the class is divided into six-man teams and sent on an actual mission during the last week.

Specialist 4 Edward S. Sacco, Waukegan, Ill., an early graduate of the school and fighting for the Recondo Platoon of the 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry, expresses his feelings about the mission. "I thought it would be safe because we were in a school. One of the teams got surrounded by the VC."

The school is inter-service and international. Besides the

US Army, men from Australia, the Republics of Korea and Viet Nam, and US Marines attend.

Specialist Sacco was impressed by the Australians' jungle prowess, and the ROK's performance earned high praise from Sergeant Hird. "They were well educated and highly interested in the course."

Ratings in the school are based on attitude, class work and performance in the field. The high quality of candidates increases the school's standards. In Sergeant Hird's class, only 25 of the original 51 graduated.

One must volunteer for the course. The 101st is allotted three candidates per class. To be eligible a soldier must have six months remaining in the country after completion and have had two months time in a combat slot. Only non-commissioned officers and above may attend, unless a lower ranking man indicates promise of leadership.

The "Screaming Eagles" of the 101st have been finishing high in Recondo School. Upon return to their units, they apply the school's motto in combat operations. Sergeant Hird's feelings about the school reflect the course's purpose. "It is the best school existing as far as Recondo is concerned. The best techniques. The do's and don'ts. It gives you a lot of confidence in yourself."

Plus courage. Toughness. Skill. Intelligence.

## 'CIVIL AFFAIRS'

# Sunlight Reveals Mine During Scouting Party For Refugee Camp

**DUC PHO**—A homemade plastic detonator reflecting sunlight and an alert eye recently saved three lives on a mountainside near here.

The Duc Pho district chief, Ho Van Luyen, just missed stepping on the triggering device of a wired 155mm artillery shell. But the plastic caught the eye of Captain Peter R. Bankson, subsector advisor. Captain Troy Collins, attached to the brigade from the 41st Civil Affairs Company, was the third member of the party. All were on a scouting mission for a refugee camp site. All three were within the bursting range of the shell.

Captain Bankson found two wires attached to the detonator leading into nearby



*TO SLEEP. PERCHANCE TO DREAM — Of level ground and smooth lawns. Of hot showers and delicious meals. Of clean clothes and soft beds. Of home. Of love. Of peace.* (US Army Photo by SP4 William P. Singley)

# 1/327 Officer, EM Picked As Warriors Of The Week

**DUC PHO** — Second Lieutenant Lawrence J. Wissell and Specialist 4 Michael S. Chase, both of the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry, were selected as Warriors of the Week for their actions here during the early phases of Operation Malheur.

Lieutenant Wissell, of Company B, was honored for his leadership when his platoon was ambushed by an estimated Viet Cong company. Taking immediate action, the platoon leader ran from position to position, shouting instructions to his men and later leading an assault which drove off the enemy.

Although wounded by grenade shrapnel, the Lake Geneva, Wisc. native refused to be evacuated until all his wounded men were treated or evacuated.

Chase, a member of Company A, led his squad during a sweep of enemy positions. While advancing on a ridge, the platoon was pinned down by enemy automatic weapons fire and grenades from fortified bunkers.

As the men in his squad retreated from the intensive fire, the Redding, Calif., native stayed and provided protective fire. Only after all his squad had moved to safety did he move back to aid the wounded and help in evacuation.



**CAPTURED WEAPONS** — General W. C. Westmoreland and Brigadier General S.H. Matheson, commander of the brigade, survey some of the weapons captured by the Screaming Eagles in Operation Malheur.

(US Army Photo by Sp4 Thomas Cleland)

## No Break-Time For 2/502 Machinegunner

**DUC PHO (2/502 IO)** — When you're an M-60 machine gunner you look forward to "break-time."

### 1/327 Fights Cobras During VC Hunt

**DUC PHO (1/327 IO)** — Paratroopers of the 101st Airborne are fighting King Cobras as well as the enemy in Operation Malheur near here.

Staff Sergeant Charles Walker, Columbus, Ga., got the first kill while walking point along a rocky trail. He spotted a three-foot cobra basking in the sun, but avoided contact by going around the slumbering reptile. He passed word back: "Watch for snakes."

Five steps later, a 12-foot cobra loomed in his path, coiled and hood extended. Contact couldn't be avoided. Sergeant Walker's M-16 rifle barked.

A second word of caution was passed back. By now all the men were alerted. Half way back in the column, First Sergeant David Kalu, Honolulu, encountered another 12-footer. The agile sergeant sidestepped the snake's first strike. But before he could take action, the reptile sped toward the jungle avoiding further contact with the paratroopers.

But Private First Class Elvin Allen, Dallas, who has carried his M-60 for nearly half of his 10-month tour in Viet Nam, has been missing his. Twice within two days he worked while others rested.

When an element of the brigade paused for a break recently, First Lieutenant Edward Throckmorton, Washington, D.C., had Allen cover a nearby trail. Moments after Allen had his gun in place, sounds came from the undergrowth ahead. Two VC stepped into a clearing and a hail of machine gun fire.

The next day the platoon of Company B, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry halted at a helicopter landing zone to "take-five." Allen set up his machine gun on a likely avenue of approach. Moments later, his alert eyes caught a flicker of movement. A VC stepped into his sights. Allen scored again.

There have been times when Allen wished he was carrying a lighter weapon, but recent experiences have changed his mind.

"I'll stick with the sixty," said Allen.



The operator swings the mine detector from side to side, followed by the prober who will investigate his findings. An hour often is required to cover a distance of a half mile. (US Army Photo by PFC Daniel Stroebel)

## 2/502 Ambush Kills Two VC Ammo Bearers

**DUC PHO** — Two Viet Cong carrying ammunition and medical supplies found themselves in need of medical care when they walked into a 101st Airborne ambush near here.

Concealed in dense underbrush, a platoon of Company A, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry scored after an earlier search of a nearby complex of huts uncovered food caches. The huts were destroyed and the paratroopers set a trap for any returning Viet Cong.

"Lay prone," said Second Lieutenant Gerald Petheram, Holland, N.Y. "I don't want anyone to give away our position."

In two and three-man positions, the platoon covered the enemy routes to the destroyed base camp. Less than two hours after darkness fell, the paratroopers patience and noise discipline paid off. Two Viet Cong, carrying a basket of food, medical supplies, clothing and ammunition walked up the trail and into the ambush.

Bursts of M-16 rifle fire broke the silence.

"One died immediately and one struggled for his weapon even though wounded," said Lieutenant Petheram. Another M-16 burst thwarted the attempt.

The ambush was successful.

## Clearing Roads Daily A Dangerous Chore



A puddle might help conceal a mine. A prober must investigate all possibilities.

(US Army Photo by PFC Daniel Stroebel)

by PFC Daniel Stroebel

**DUC PHO** — Swinging in an arc, a mine detector searches each inch of ground for metal content. The man behind the machine hears the constant hum through his earphones. A change in pitch could mean a mine.

When the operator gets a positive reading, he marks the spot with white tape and leaves it. A "prober" follows up. Using a bayonet, he carefully clears the dirt from the area, searching for the mine. With painstaking patience he plunges the bayonet into the dirt, waiting for the scrape on metal which may mean a mine is hidden below the surface.

Many times a tin can or scrap metal is discovered. But the prober anticipates a mine each time he goes to work. When a mine is found an explosive charge is attached

and detonated, eliminating the danger.

The job of sweeping the road between the 101st Airborne's command post near here and the airstrip at Montezuma, home of the 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, has become daily routine to members of Companies A and C of the 39th Engineers. The three-mile road is a major supply route and excellent target for VC mines.

Five men have died clearing the road. During the first five days after the 101st joined Task Force Oregon, four other mines were removed from the road. Two were strong enough to destroy a tank.

The mine sweep is a slow, arduous and dangerous assignment, but the men of the 39th Engineers remain diligent to insure the safety of those who travel their way.

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1/327 C 67-71 - 10/13  
359 Meadow Lane  
Oak Grove, KY 42262-9211

Thomas K. Sewell  
2/327 A & B 1/68-1/69 - 10/13  
2391 Old Coach Trail  
Clearwater, FL 33765-1729

Jim Uphouse \$  
1/327 B 6/67-6/68 - 10/14  
408 E. Main St.  
Manchester, MI 48158-8537

Charles E. Payne  
2/327 HHC & BDE HHC 12/65-11/66 - 7/13  
218 61st Street  
Va. Beach, VA 23451

Robert Resendez \$  
2/327 HHC 4/66-4/67 - 10/13  
20202 Timber Stone Ln  
Spring, TX 77379-8897

Raymond Siso \$  
2/502 A 1/67-12/67- 10/13  
4104 Laurelwood Dr.  
Jacksonville, FL 32257-8914

MG(R) Paul E. Valley  
2/327 A 1/66-6/66 - 10/13  
P.O. Box 1596  
Bigfork, MT 59911-1596

Pete Pepper  
2/327 A 8/66-3/68 - 10/14  
1428 Nipomo St.  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Rodd Richardson  
2/502 C 7/67-7/68 - 10/13  
P.O. Box 488  
St. Ignatius, MT 59865-0488

COL(R) Burt E. Slater  
SPT HQ 6/66-6/67 - 10/13  
140 Lake Shore Dr.  
Norwood, NC 28128-6563

Manuel Vargas  
2/502 A 7/65-11/65 - 10/13  
P.O. Box 370293  
Cayey, PR 00737-0293

Don Perez  
2/17th CAV A 66-67 - 7/13  
457 S. St. Augustine Ave.  
Claremont, CA 91711-5253

LTC(R) Max J. Riekse  
3/506 HQ LRRP 10/67-10/68 - 10/13  
P.O. Box 82  
Fruitport, MI 49415-0082

John Eagle Smith  
2/502 HQ 11/65-3/66 - 10/13  
85104 Shiloh Place  
Fernandina Bch, FL 32034-7612

John M. Vaughn III  
Assoc. - 10/13  
854 Hibiscus Street  
Boca Raton, FL 33486-3540

David P. Perrine  
2/502 HHC 5/67-10/67 - 10/13  
8628 Appleton Ct.  
Annandale, VA 22003-3806

John P. Ritchey  
HHC Staff 7/67-7/68 - 10/13  
4628 Harbour Village Blvd, Unit 2407  
Port Orange, FL 32127-7271

James E. Soprano  
1/327 HQ 7/65-6/66 - 10/13  
2620 10th St. N.  
Naples, FL 34103-4512

COL James J. Waldeck, USA Ret.  
2/327 HHC 7/67-4/68 - 10/13  
102 N. Sulgrave Ct.  
Williamsburg, VA 23185-3235

James Piecuch  
2/502 B 7/65-6/66 - 10/13  
P.O. Box 86  
Keno, OR 97627-0086

SFC(R) David Ross  
2/17 CAV A TRP 1/67-2/68 - 7/13  
6042 N Lee St., Apt 7C  
Morrow, GA 30260-1240

Patrick L. Sullivan  
2/327 HHC 1/63-11/65 - 10/13  
5655 Jarman St.  
Colorado Springs, CO 80906

James C. Walden  
2/502 B 4/66-4/67 - 4/14  
74 Branch St. #16  
Scituate, MA 02066-2557

Greg L. Pierce  
2/320 FA C Btry 9/66-5/68 - 10/13  
236 Cherry Lane, South  
Monmouth, OR 97361-1907

Raymond T. (Rocky) Ryan \$  
1/327 A 7/64-11/66 (WIA 65)- 10/13  
5021 Peregrine Dr.  
Shallotte, NC 28470-5183

Robert H. Sunday \$  
Family - Q. Sunday - 10/13  
P.O. Box 430  
Eufaula, OK 74432-0430

Leon Watson  
1/327 ABU 9/67-9/68 - 10/14  
269 Lake of Pines Dr.  
Jackson, MS 39206-3226

Joseph A. Young  
1/327 C 7/65-12/65 - 10/13  
10227 Chautauqua Ave.  
Lanham, MD 20706-2038

Larry M. Young \$  
2/327 HHC 9/67-9/68 - 10/13  
47820 251 St.  
Garretson, SD 57030-6008

**Address Corrections**  
September 5, 2012  
through December 5, 2012

Roy P. "Zeke" Blevins  
1/327 C & E 12/67-68 - 10/13  
1845 Fairway Dr.  
Guthrie, OK 73044

Elmer C. Galloway  
2/502 HQ 12/67-12/68 - 10/13  
6417 Sentry Way, Apt 1  
New Port Richey, FL 34653-2660

COL(R) Hendrik O. (Hank) Lunde  
2/502 A 6/65-6/66 - 4/13  
3982 Kirk Court  
Naples, FL 34116

Leonard A. Vitha  
2/502 RECON HQ 7/66-7/67 -  
10/12  
1325 3rd Ave  
Windom, MN 56101-1455

\$ = Above Subscription Price




This white ceramic 11 ounce mug has the FULL COLOR FIRST BRIGADE (S) logo on two sides.  
\$13.00 + \$5.50 shipping through the U.S. Postal Service a total of \$18.50.  
See order form on Page 34.

**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



**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**  
*The First SCREAMING EAGLES in Viet Nam*  
P.O. Box 675  
Sweetwater, TN 37874-0675

**E-MAIL**

+ COL(R) LAWRENCE A. REDMOND, 2/327 A 5/67-2/68  
336 Crystal River Dr., Poinciana, FL 34759-5212  
(863) 427-3727  
a327noslack@aol.com

Ivan; Just finished the latest magazine. Super read and lots of great pics from Nashville - well done. Thanks for another fantastic effort. Where is the 2015 gathering to be held? Atlanta? Keep up the good work. See you at Snowbird.

Larry  
A327NoSlack

*Editor's Note: The 2015 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration will probably be held in Nashville, Tennessee.*

**U.S. POSTAL SERVICE**

+ CHARLES E. PAYNE, 2/327 HHC & BDE HHC 12/65-11/66,

218 61st Street, Va. Beach, VA 23451, work (757) 431-0300 home (757) 431-9678 wrote: Please find enclosed my check for \$25.00 to renew my subscription to the 1<sup>st</sup> Bde magazine. It was great to see you healthy and well at the Nashville division reunion. Keep up the great work!

+ SGM(R) CHARLIE L. FRALEY, 2/327 A 3/65-6/66, 1532 Willow Way, Radcliff, KY 40160-2863, (270) 351-6583 along with his subscription renewal wrote: Ivan, great meeting you for the first time at the Reunion in Nashville. In your database I would like to locate David McDonald (Co. A 2/327). If anyone can help me please do.

+ MAJ(R) WILLIAM E. GROVES, HHC (AG) 6/66-5/67, 576 Coast Oak Circle, Lawrenceville, GA 30046-6114, (770) 963-9947 when renewing his subscription wrote: Hook me up for another year. Time almost got away from me as I forgot to get this in the mail. All is well on this end, although I did have to have a knee replaced this summer. Perhaps, sports, jumping out of airplanes and age is starting to take its toll. Take care and keep up the good work on the publication.

+ BUTLER A. BALDWIN, JR., 2/327 A 7/67-7/68, 308 Central Ave., Ocean City, NJ 08226, (609) 399-1728 along with his renewal wrote: Can't wait to hear more about your plans for 2015 - it'll be here before we know it!

+ = Current Subscriber

## OBITUARIES



**1SGT(R) Bobby H. Burke**  
2/327 C 7/65-6/66 ELT  
March 5, 1933 –  
November 23, 2012

US Army Retired E8 (“TOP”) Bobby H. Burke passed away Friday, November 23, 2012, at Baptist Hospital, Pensacola, Florida. He was victim of a stroke. Bobby was also a retired Army JROTC Instructor for the State of Florida Teachers.

Bob was from Brodhead, Kentucky, the son of Pete and Lizzie Burke, he was 79 years old.

Survived by his wife, Mary; sons, Joseph, Bruce and Scott; granddaughter, Amy and her husband Steven; great grandchildren, Breanna and Brayden David. Bob was preceded in death by his son, Bobby H. Burke, Jr.

He was a member of the V.F.W., AmVets, Elks, American Legion and numerous Army Airborne Associations. “Second to None”

A graveside service was held at 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, November 28, 2012, at Barrancas National Cemetery with full military honors. OAK LAWN FUNERAL HOME was entrusted with arrangements. Condolences may be offered at <http://www.oaklawnfunerals.com/>.

*Robert C. Hudson, 2/327 C & HHC 8/64-7/66 wrote:*

Bobby was 1st Sergeant of C/2/327 when I arrived at Fort Campbell in summer of 1964 as a platoon leader in C/2/327, through the end of my first tour in Vietnam in August 1966. He was an excellent soldier and leader. Bobby told me at a reunion a few years ago “...when you new lieutenants would come in, we would watch you for a few weeks and decide who was worth saving.....then we would train you, and, you didn’t even know it!” He was right. 1st Sergeant Burke and the platoon sergeants were consummate professionals and I learned so much from them. Barbara and I attended the viewing and funeral. He looked sharp in his Army dress blues. We met his three sons, one is retired Army. He is buried at Barrancas National Cemetery at Naval Air Station Pensacola.

Best regards,  
Bob Hudson

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**Ruben Dominguez**  
2/17 CAV A Trp 62-66

Ruben G. Dominguez, Sergeant 1st Class, US Army (Ret.) went to be with the Lord on Monday December 26, 2011, at the age of 77.

Ruben joined the Army in 1950. He served in Korea with the 25th Infantry Division as an Infantryman from 1952 until 1953. In 1965 he served in Vietnam with the 101st Airborne Division until 1966. From 1966 until 1968 he served as a drill sergeant for OCS prep school at Fort Sill Oklahoma. In 1968 until 1970 he served with the 75th 9th Infantry Division Airborne Rangers. He retired from the military in 1976 with 24 years of service. Ruben retired from Kelly AFB with 23 years of civil service.



He was a life time member of DAV, VFW and the Alamo Silver Wings Airborne Association. He served as a member of the elite, Honor Guard for many years. Decorations: Bronze Star Medal – Air Medal (Fourth Award), Army Commendation Medal with “V” Device, Army Commendation Medal with Fourth Oak Leaf Cluster, Vietnam Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal with First Oak Leaf Cluster, Good Conduct Medal (Fourth Award), United Nation Service Medal, Civil Action Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Korean Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, (Vietnamese Award) Republic of Vietnam, Cross of Gallantry with Palm (Unit Citation), Combat Infantry Badge (2<sup>nd</sup> Award), Parachutist Badge, six overseas service Bars.

He is survived by his wife Guadalupe; his daughter Sylvia Dominguez; step-children Mary Mora, Roland Duran, Carolyn Bondoc and Debora Sanchez; three sisters; eight grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

This obituary was listed in THE SCREAMING EAGLE magazine, Fall 2012 issue.

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**John W. Kusenberger**  
1/327th INF C 6/64-6/66

John Kusenberger of Broaddus, Texas, was listed in THE SCREAMING EAGLE magazine, Fall 2012 issue as deceased in 2004.

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**COL(R) Frank J. Valentine**  
HHC&501 SIG 6/65-7/66  
April 26, 1947 - September 11, 2012

WATERLOO - Melvin R. “Mel” Valentine, 65, of Waterloo, Iowa, died Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2012, at his home of lung cancer as a result of exposure to Agent Orange in Vietnam.

He was born April 26, 1947, in Iowa Falls, son of Ray and Genny Register Valentine. He married Linda Pommrehn on June 7, 1968, at St. Matthews by the Bridge Episcopal Church, Iowa Falls.

He graduated from Des Moines East High School in 1965 and received a bachelor’s degree in social work from the University of Northern Iowa in 1987. Mr. Valentine served in the 101st Airborne 327th Infantry during Vietnam. He worked at John Deere for 30 years, retiring in 2002. He served on Local 838 Employee Assistance Program Committee for 24 years, was amalgamated chair for four years and author and main contributor of “UAW Local 838, Our History” published in 1978. He was a member of Trinity Episcopal Parish, a 35-year AA member and a member of the American Legion, National Order of the Purple Heart and Disabled American Veterans.

Survived by: his wife; three daughters, Wendy (Scott Van Dorn) Valentine of Iowa Falls; Melinda (Kevin Davis) Valentine Davis and Amanda (Nate Whitesell) Valentine, both of Waterloo; six grandchildren, Joseph Repp, Spencer, Logan and Isabella Davis, Hope Valentine and one on the way; a brother, Robert (LouAnn) of Pelion, S.C., and a sister, Susan (Rick) Churchill of Charlotte, N.C.

Services were held at Trinity Episcopal Parish, Waterloo, with burial in Waterloo Memorial Park Cemetery, with military rites by Cedar Falls AMVETS Post 49 and Iowa Army National Guard.

Memorials in lieu of flowers: may be directed to Trinity Episcopal Parish or Disabled American Veterans. Condolences may be left at [www.LockeFuneralHome.com](http://www.LockeFuneralHome.com).

*Tim Swain, HHC S-2 65, sent the above obituary.*

# SITE OF FIRST PARACHUTE JUMP

★ FROM AN AIRPLANE ★

## MARCH 1, 1912

### The First Descent

Early in 1912 Thomas Benoist, the owner of an aviation school in Kinloch Park, decided to promote a parachute jump from an airplane, a feat considered at the time to be impossible or crazy. The parachutist was Captain Albert Berry, the son of a balloonist. The aircraft used was a "pusher" biplane designed by Benoist and flown by Anthony Jannus. After being delayed twice by weather, the jump took place on March 1, 1912 at Jefferson Barracks in south St. Louis County. The parachute was carried in an iron cone fixed to the undercarriage of the plane to which two leg loops were attached. After an 18-mile flight from Kinloch to the jump site, Berry dropped through the fuselage of the aircraft, put his legs through the loops and tied a belt around his waist. At 1,500 feet, Berry cut himself from the aircraft and dropped 500 feet before the chute opened, an experience he described as "uneasy." The descent went perfectly, which Berry later said, "confirmed the feasibility of such descents." Ironically, Benoist arrived at Jefferson Barracks too late to see the jump.



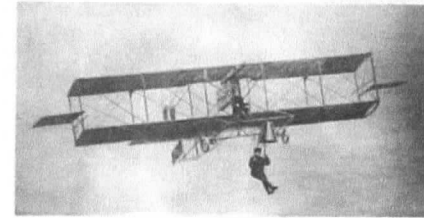
Thomas Benoist



Anthony Jannus (l) and Albert Berry (r) pose with the 1912 Benoist "pusher". The cone under the aircraft carried the parachute.

### Inspires U.S. Army Responses

None in 1912 believed a person could parachute from an airplane without having the pilot lose control and the plane crash. Experts thought the aircraft would go out of control from the sudden loss of weight.



Jannus piloting the plane, while Berry practices getting into the leg loops.

Refuting that assumption – this successful event in 1912 – inspired "airborne" responses over the next century. Further innovations and enhancements in parachute design, aircraft performance, military training and tactics led to the formation of U.S. Army regiments and units that would become world famous in WWII, Korea, Vietnam and post 9-11 wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

This proof of a successful parachute jump led to military units jumping behind enemy lines and small reconnaissance units dropped deep into enemy territory. Of equal importance, aircraft crews were able to escape damaged aircraft that could no longer fly – as in fighter and bomber aircraft. All this military advantage and life-saving capability grew from this first jump conducted by men with ideas and courage to test them.

This monument is dedicated not only to Benoist, Jannus and Berry, but also to the thousands of U.S. Army Airborne troops who served their country. Men and women of the 82nd Airborne All-American Division, the 101st Airborne Screaming Eagles, the 173rd Airborne Sky Soldiers, the 187th Airborne Rakkasans and the Special Forces Green Berets.

Dedicated March 1, 2013  
101st Anniversary of "The First Descent"



On March 1, 2012, a commemorative jump was made onto this field celebrating the 100th anniversary of the First Jump from an Airplane at this site. The jumper, Lew Sanborn of the Gateway Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Division Association, was 82 at the time of the jump and has made over 7,300 jumps. He is still jumping at this time.

Sponsored By

AIRBORNE



82nd Airborne All-American Division

AIRBORNE



101st Airborne Screaming Eagles

AIRBORNE



173rd Airborne Sky Soldiers

AIRBORNE



187th Airborne Rakkasans

AIRBORNE



Special Forces Green Berets

# Historic Airborne Poster for Sale

To All Airborne Veterans & Troops

Where were you when the first parachute jump was made from an airplane? If you were there, you are more than 100 years old.

A poster has been printed to be sold and help raise funds for a marker/monument at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri – “Site of the First Parachute Jump from an Airplane, March 1, 1912.”

The monument will be installed and dedicated March 1, 2013, the 101<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the Jump onto the Parade Ground. A larger version of the poster will be featured on the pedestal monument under glass for viewing by visitors.

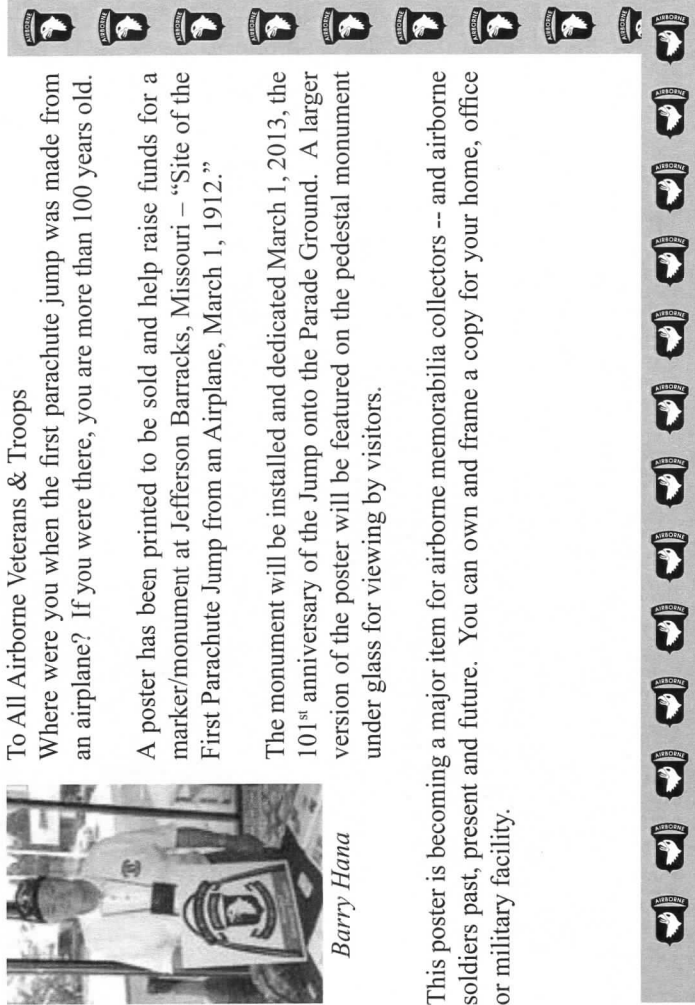
Barry Hana

This poster is becoming a major item for airborne memorabilia collectors -- and airborne soldiers past, present and future. You can own and frame a copy for your home, office or military facility.

This four-color, horizontal 24” by 18” poster printed on glossy paper is made available through the Missouri Gateway Chapter of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division Association, in partnership with the Missouri Chapter of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Association and several other units – the 173<sup>rd</sup>, the 187<sup>th</sup> and Special Forces. Displayed in three sections, “The First Descent,” tells the story of the historic jump. “Inspires U.S. Army Responses” describes the development of airborne units in subsequent decades. The third section displays five famous airborne unit badges on the right.

You can order a poster by sending a printed note with your name, shipping address and personal check made out to the Missouri Gateway Chapter, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division Association. Mail to P.O. Box 221293, Kirkwood, MO, 63122. The poster is priced at \$25, with \$5 each for handling and shipping, a total of \$30 for each order.

Barry Hana, Former First Brigade (Separate) Public Information Officer, 1967-68 in Vietnam, is handling the order/shipping process. This poster would make a great gift for airborne folks. The initial print run has been limited to 250 copies, but more can be produced based on demand. Call 314-753-8932 for more information, or to make an additional contribution.



# Subscription Price Increased

The yearly cost of a subscription to **THE FIRST SCREAMING EAGLES in Viet Nam** will be \$30.00 after January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013. The magazine will continue to be published quarterly.

Increased costs for production of the magazine and for postage have made this very difficult move necessary.

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

I look forward to continuing to serve you with this more than 14 year old historical publication.

Ivan Worrell, INFO OFF 5/66-5/67  
Editor and Publisher

## 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

# A Father's Quest

Veteran returns to mark grave of daughter he lost 40 years ago

By Paul Woolverton and Pete Pepper

This is a story about a soldier, a lost child and a city.



Benito Garcia in 1968

## The Soldier

The soldier is Benito Garcia, A Company, 2/327<sup>th</sup> First Brigade (Separate) 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division. Three tours, wounded five times. Some of you may know Benito; he fights for veterans, their families and their widows with their claims at the VA. He's helped a lot of vets, hundreds of them.

## The Child

The child is Yvonne Angelic Garcia. She was born October 27<sup>th</sup>, 1968. She was Benito and Dianne Garcia's first child, born prematurely. Despite being assured that everything was fine, she lived for only one hour and thirty-four minutes. Benito was told by a doctor, a Major, first that everything would be all right, and then after the baby died, he told Benito to get over it. He couldn't get over it and he punched the Major.

Benito was now facing court martial, Dianne was devastated and they didn't have enough to do anything more than bury the baby in a remote cemetery. Less than a handful of people witnessed little Yvonne being placed in an unmarked grave back in 1968.

Benito was hustled out of Fort Bragg by sympathetic superiors to serve out his enlistment and his wife went home to Chicago. A bad memory buried but not forgotten.

## The City

The city is Fayetteville, North Carolina, an Army town, next to Fort Bragg. Because it's home to the Airborne, some of you were likely stationed there at one time or another.

Last year, during a visit to Fayetteville for an event called Heroes Homecoming, a long-overdue welcome home for Vietnam veterans, Benito asked for help in doing his duty. Could the Mayor, Tony Chavonne, help him get a death certificate and maybe help him find Yvonne's grave?

Forty-three years later and Benito still wasn't over it. He felt he had failed, as a paratrooper, as a man and as a father.

Benito had no idea if his request for help would

be answered, but Mayor Chavonne sensed the need and made sure his folks did the best they could. It was no easy task. Mayor Chavonne said, "We went about searching all our records and we got with the register of deeds, Lee Warren, and the courthouse. The Parks and Rec Department manages all the grave sites, and we (finally) found the unmarked grave of that young child over off North Street, really remote cemetery here."

Cemetery supervisor Damon Hickmon said it took him a day or two to track it down. He found reference to the burial site in an old ledger marked "Northside Baby Spaces." But the records were inaccurate and that cemetery had many unmarked graves. But finally, he knew for sure where Yvonne was buried.

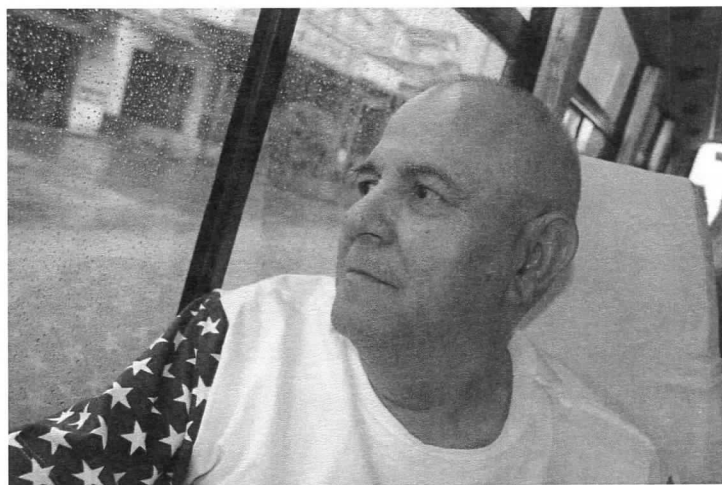
We didn't know any of this when we met the Mayor at the County Court House. He gave Benito three certified copies of the death certificate and then he told us to follow his car.

Soon, we were part of a convoy driving through town as a light rain fell. Down a dusty road, behind a cement plant, across a field covered with dying grass, stopping behind a line of cars, people getting out, a big man with a clipboard, Damon Hickmon, standing in the distance.

As Benito walked forward, the Mayor's wife, Joanne, placed a bouquet of flowers in his arms. The Mayor handed us an umbrella so we could keep Benito dry as he approached the big man with the clipboard. Damon pointed to a bare spot on the ground. "She's right here," he said, "This is where your daughter's buried."

Benito collapsed to his knees, crying quietly. He was not alone. "I don't know if it was relief or guilt. Or maybe both," Garcia said. "Relief at finally finding it. Guilt at not having done anything about it prior to this. So there were a lot of conflicting things."

After a few moments, he composed himself and called Dianne in Chicago on his cell phone. "I found



Benito Garcia in Viet Nam in 2009



From left to right:

Benito, Dianne, Anastasia, Madison and Benito Junior

her,” he said, “I found Yvonne.” They cried quietly together.

Some politicians might have had a photographer there, even a news crew. It was a good thing the Mayor had done, a good thing the city had done, and it was a good story. But no one tried to get any credit for helping Benito. In fact, the help didn’t stop there. The help grew much bigger.

This year, on the forty-fourth anniversary of Yvonne Angelic Garcia’s birth and death, October 27<sup>th</sup>, a service was finally held. This time, instead of a handful, there were dozens of people, dozens of veterans like Benito, and Benito’s family, his wife Dianne, his daughter Anastasia, his granddaughter Madison and his son Benito Junior. The Mayor and the city arranged everything, hosted Benito and his family at a hotel, brought them to the cemetery in a limousine. Yvonne’s grave was finally properly marked. A priest, Father

Tom Malloy, officiated. We all prayed for the child, for the mother and father and their grief, still raw after all those years.

A big man with a beautiful voice sang: “Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now, I see.”

So the lost child was finally found. Mayor Chavonne said it was the right thing to do for a veteran, for any veteran. He said he was doing it for all vets who have done their duty and still carry the weight of it.

It was in the same way that the Mayor and Fayetteville had honored those who had done their duty so many years before in Vietnam, an extension of Heroes Homecoming.

After all, Fayetteville is a military town and they know what it means to serve.

Paul Woolverton is a reporter for the *Fayetteville Observer* and Pete Pepper was \*Benito’s Company Commander in Vietnam, A Company 2/327<sup>th</sup>.

\*Non Subscriber



## 50th Anniversary Commemoration



The two logos above are a first draft for artwork to identify the July 2015 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration of the First Brigade (S) 101st Airborne Division 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 27<sup>th</sup> of July 2015. The hotel and schedule are a work in progress. The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary gathering will be sponsored by THE FIRST SCREAMING EAGLES in VIET NAM magazine.



## Arriving Vietnam 26 Oct 1967

COL (R) JOE R. ALEXANDER, 3/506 A 10/67-10/68

To All,  
Just found this travel log that I had written after arriving Vietnam.  
Interesting trivia. Note that I misspelled Modern Airlines (Mordern).

### TRAVEL LOG

[All time & Mileage Approximate]

- (1) Campbell Army Airfield – 1800 Hours – 2 Oct 67
- (2) Oakland Airport – 2000 Hours – 2 Oct 67 (via Mordern Airlines)
- (3) Oakland Naval Base - 2130 Hours – 2 Oct 67
- (4) Boarded USS William Weigel – 2130 Hours – 2 Oct 67
- (5) Departed Docks – 1500 Hours – 3 Oct 67 [Beginning of 1 year tour]
- (6) Brief Stop at Midway Island – 10 Oct 67 – 0600 Hours
- (7) Crossed International Dateline – 10 Oct 67 (I skipped the 11 Oct 67)
- (8) Crossed Pacific Ocean – 16 Oct 67 (approx 6500 mi from San Francisco)
- (9) Crossed Philippine Sea – 1830 Hours – 19 Oct 67
- (10) Landed Subic Bay (Manila) – 1830 Hours – 19 Oct 67
- (11) Liberty (Subic Bay) – 1830 – 0045 Hours and 0800 – 1500 Hours – 20 Oct 67 (Off Base Liberty)
- (12) Departed Subic Bay – 1800 Hours – 20 Oct 67
- (13) Crossed South China Sea – 1600 Hours – 22 Oct 67 (approx 7100 mi from San Francisco)
- (14) Landed Qui Nhon, Viet Nam – 1600 Hours – 22 (Sunday) Oct 67
- (15) Departed Qui Nhon – 1130 Hours – 23 Oct 67
- (16) Arrived Vung Tau – 1000 Hours – 24 Oct 67
- (17) Departed Vung Tau – 1300 Hours – 25 Oct 67
- (18) Arrived Cam Ranh Bay – 0730 Hours – 26 Oct 67
- (19) Parade for Gen Matheson (Brigade Commander) – 1100 Hours – 26 Oct 67
- (20) Departed Cam Ranh Bay – 1400 Hours – 26 Oct 67
- (21) Arrived Phan Rang Base Camp – 1700 Hours – 26 Oct 67



COL (R) JOE R. ALEXANDER,  
3/506 A 10/67-10/68

Continued from Page 11



CPT(R) Charles "Jim" Apodaca, 2/502 B 5/66-4/67. Jim was editor of VIETNAM ODYSSEY and has been a great supporter of the magazine. (Ivan pix)



Dean J. Beaupre, 2/502 A 1/67-1/68, and his wife Elaine in the Hospitality Room. (Ivan pix)



Benny L. Hamby, 326 ENGR A 2/66-2/67, and his wife Betty Jane. (Ivan pix)



**Issue #1**



**Issue #2**



**Issue #3**



**Issue #4**



**Issue #5**



**Issue #6**



**Issue #7**



**Issue #8**



**Issue #9**



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**Issue #23**



**Issue #24**



**Issue #25**



**Issue #26**



**Issue #27**



**Issue #28**

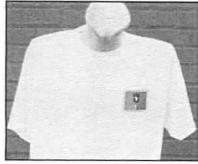


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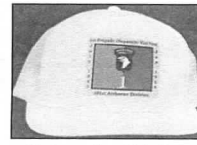
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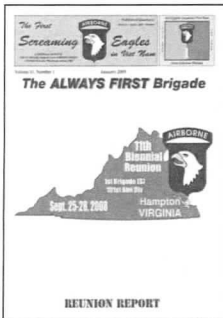
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**Deadline**

Material to be published in the April 2013 issue of **The First SCREAMING EAGLES in Viet Nam** is Due March 1st, 2013.

**THE FIRST SCREAMING EAGLES IN VIET NAM**

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### **Following Is A Short Description Of The Contents Of This Magazine.**

**A COMPANY 2/502 SEPT – OCT 1967..... PAGES 1 – 8**  
 A short history, with maps and photographs, of A Co. 2/502 by the Company Commander LTG (R) Charles P. Otstott, 2/502 A & HHC 6/67-6/68.

**A 1965 CHRISTMAS CARD .....PAGE 9**  
 A copy of the Christmas card sent home by Anthony A. "Tony" Bliss, Jr., 1/327 A 10/65-10/66, in 1965.

**FIRST BRIGADE (S) DINNER 2012 ..... PAGES 10 & 11**  
 Pictures from the C Company after dinner awards as well as other pictures taken at the dinner.

**ABU HISTORY AND POEM.....PAGES 12 & 13**  
 We have written many Abu articles. Now you can know the origin of the Abu.

**THE DIPLOMAT AND WARRIOR ..... PAGES 15 – 22**  
 Volume 1, No. 50 is a larger paper than most with eight pages. A list of those mentioned, who are in the publisher's database is on page 14.

**SUBSCRIPTION LIST ..... PAGES 23 – 26**  
 Names and addresses of new subscribers, renewing subscribers and address changes.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR .....PAGE 26**  
 Messages sent by readers believed to be of interest to most subscribers.

**OBITUARIES .....PAGE 27**  
 1SGT(R) Bobby H. Burke, 2/327 C 7/65-6/66; Ruben Dominguez, 2/17 CAV A Trp 62-66; John W. Kusenberger, 1/327 INF C 6/64-6/66 and COL (R) Frank J. Valentine, HHC & 501 SIG 6/65-7/66.

**FIRST PARACHUTE POSTER FOR SALE .. PAGES 28 & 29**  
 A reduced in size replica of a poster produced to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of man's first parachute jump from an aircraft was furnished by CPT Barry Hana, HQ-PIO 3/67-3/68, who is helping to raise money to construct a marker or monument dedicated to this first parachute jump from an aircraft.

**A FATHER'S QUEST..... PAGES 30 & 31**  
 This story about the family of Benito R. Garcia, 2/327 A 1/67-8/67, is one of the best human interest stories published in this magazine.

**JOE ALEXANDER'S LOG BOOK .....PAGE 32**  
 The log book kept by COL (R) Joe R. Alexander, 3/506 A 10/67-10/68, of his trip to Viet Nam.

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