

*The First
Screaming*

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



Published Quarterly
January - April - July - October

*Eagles
in Viet Nam*

1st Brigade (Separate) Viet Nam

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101st Airborne Division

Volume 16, Number 2

April 2014

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The ALWAYS FIRST Brigade



JUNGLE PATROL

The 2014 Snowbird Reunion in Tampa, Florida, hosted by the Gulf Coast Chapter of the 101st Airborne Division Association was (in my opinion) a great success. The Gulf Coast Chapter members went all out to see that those of us from the northern climes were accommodated in every way possible. Many of the chapter leaders and workers are First Brigade (S) veterans.

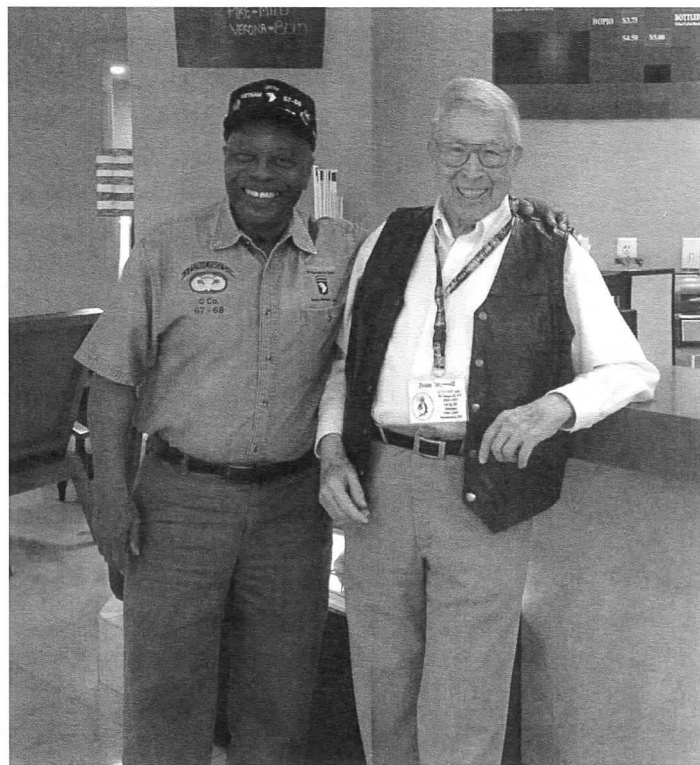
I appreciate those who renew sending more than the \$30.00 renewal fee to help the cause. You can be of further help by listing what the extra dollars are to be used for. The extra is a big help right now because renewals are down. Please be as prompt as possible with renewal payments so that magazines do not need to be sent by First Class mail.

Planning for the 50th anniversary of the brigade landing in Viet Nam is progressing. Registration and Hotel reservation material will be published in the July issue. I believe we have the best hotel and will have the best program for the 29th of July 2015, possible. Because the one day First Brigade Reunion will be on Wednesday in conjunction with the 101st Airborne Division Association Reunion I believe we will have the best financial deals possible and those of us who wish to attend both reunions can do so without excessive travel.

The Battle of An Phu story by Larry Redmond COL (Ret) 2/327 A 5/67-2/68, occurred after the brigade was no longer a separate unit and was published because I believe most of those involved served in the separate brigade.

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).



Randolph Worrell, 2/502 C 6/67-6/68, and MAJ (R) Ivan Worrell, INFO OFF 5/66-5/67, at the Tampa Snowbird Reunion at Starbucks discussing genealogy.

The 2014 Cobra Company Reunion dates will be June 20th & 21st, 2014. For more information contact James W. Hunt, P.O. Box 1398, Crossville, TN 38557.

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Issue #64



"You don't feel no pain, baby. You gonna be all right..."

'Ain't Nobody Been Walking This Trail But Charlie Cong'

By Ward Just

"I can't breathe I am going home. I am going to be OK." These were the last words of Sgt. Richard Garcia, 40, as he lay in a tangled jungle undergrowth in Kontum province in Vietnam.

Garcia was only the first to die. Twenty-four hours later there would be 10 dead, 10 injured on a stretch of trail in the highlands of the New American Republic, some 100 miles from the border between South Vietnam and North Vietnamese troops.

Garcia died at dusk on June 7. They were the first to die from his own hand. It was a bad omen. There had been other things that went wrong. Sgt. Phillip Bryant, 35, an Army aviator from Brooklyn, N.Y., would say later that he knew the Tigers were going to walk into it and catch him. There were signs everywhere, and the signs were terrible. The Tigers were killed by helicopter into a high stand of elephant grass in the late afternoon of June 7. They were the first to die in pursuit of North Vietnamese regulars who had attacked an American artillery emplacement the night before. There were no intricate orders, the Tiger commander, Capt. Lewis Higginbotham, a 20-year-old Vietnam veteran from Houston, Tex., was to take the men and move north.

"He's a Good Killer"

This he did. The point was almost immediately found a trail, and the 42 began to move through the jungle up wards into the highlands, 40 miles north and west from the provincial capital of Kontum. The trail was well-traveled and there were fresh footprints. "Ain't nobody been walking this trail but Charlie Cong," said the point man.

"Kids ain't like the Tiger Force any more. They're going to find the enemy. They're killing. You'll like Higginbotham," the sergeant colonel commanding the battalion had said. "He's a good killer." But on this mission the signs were too obvious, the indications too clear.

The Americans had on one deserted base camp after another, each replaced by the next. Two hundred yards from headquarters in the afternoon, there were two small huts, 200 yards beyond them, three more, a quarter mile beyond that, a second small complex.

Then, at 7 p.m., the Tigers stopped for a rest. The 42 pushed forward into their night, and Garcia was killed when Higginbotham reported the kill. In addition to Harrison's headquarters, "I've got a KIA," the 42's sergeant colonel said. "I've got a KIA." "Maybe a battalion more," the 42's sergeant colonel said. "I've got a KIA." Higginbotham decided to stay where he was that night. The day that is on either side of the trail, Higginbotham, Capt. Chris Verlioren, a 27-year-old aviator from Oakland, Calif., who had been in Vietnam barely nine weeks, and I found under a large bush.

I passed around a small flask of Scotch, with quiet laughter about the possibility of whisky in the middle of the jungle in the middle of a war. "All the force stayed awake that night listening for helicopters. At 7 a.m. they awoke—the second alarm. There was a shot, a rattle of gunfire and suddenly a shower of bullets aimed beyond Higginbotham. There were three Vietnam, across the present camp. They crashed into the ground, landed in the dirt, and fell. The 42's sergeant colonel had been for only half a dozen minutes, but he then there had been a shot, a rattle of gunfire aimed into the bush. Higginbotham shook his head, "Well, they probably got the night with us," he said.

There had been hope that the Tiger Force was on their way out. They were the last words of Sgt. Richard Garcia, 40, as he lay in a tangled jungle undergrowth in Kontum province in Vietnam. Garcia was only the first to die. Twenty-four hours later there would be 10 dead, 10 injured on a stretch of trail in the highlands of the New American Republic, some 100 miles from the border between South Vietnam and North Vietnamese troops. Garcia died at dusk on June 7. They were the first to die from his own hand. It was a bad omen. There had been other things that went wrong. Sgt. Phillip Bryant, 35, an Army aviator from Brooklyn, N.Y., would say later that he knew the Tigers were going to walk into it and catch him. There were signs everywhere, and the signs were terrible. The Tigers were killed by helicopter into a high stand of elephant grass in the late afternoon of June 7. They were the first to die in pursuit of North Vietnamese regulars who had attacked an American artillery emplacement the night before. There were no intricate orders, the Tiger commander, Capt. Lewis Higginbotham, a 20-year-old Vietnam veteran from Houston, Tex., was to take the men and move north.

provision on enemy soil would be of doubtful value. Now with the escape of the three VC, Higginbotham would have to be more careful, but security had to be maintained. Higginbotham had found a landing zone large enough for a helicopter, which arrived at noon and delivered the Tiger Force and Higginbotham's wounded up and shifted to the 42 post.

I refused it, arguing that it was bad luck for a noncombatant to be armed. Vietnam granted. He said anyone who wandered around Kontum province unarmed ought to have his head examined, and besides, it was a fair trade for the drink of whisky the night before.

So I took the 42 and Verlioren shouldered his M16 and we moved out. I never fired the 42 and Verlioren was dead before dawn. The body was drunk by the 10 Tigers who caught the ambush that was now two hours away.

The trail wound into deeper jungle, with base camp following base camp. Higginbotham decided by 1 p.m. that his band had uncovered a starting area capable of accommodating a regiment. The jungle was nicely cleared, the only remaining an occasional exquisitely colored butterfly.

In nearly two years in the Mekong Delta, far to the south, Lewis Higginbotham had acquired a possible knowledge of Vietnam. When the point man found a small arrow-shaped sign saying "Anh ban di trang," Higginbotham translated it, "Friends go straight." The sign pointed down a trail which led to a ridge line, and it was almost an empty message.

Higginbotham deployed his main force in a clearing and sent patrols in two directions where the trail forked. The first, under Sgt. Phillip Bryant, almost immediately saw three enemy soldiers in the khaki uniforms of the North Vietnamese army. They killed two with small arms fire and hand grenades and quickly returned to Higginbotham's command post.

Higginbotham's radio cracked almost simultaneously with the sound of firing from the other fork. The second patrol was pinned down and needed reinforcements.

Striding out in a long, thin line, the Tigers focused up the trail to the ridge line—slowly, carefully, radio silent, rifles up. At the ridge line, another message would wait forward to inform the main force and estimate the strength of the enemy.

This returned look that the enemy force had apparently moved out. Higginbotham decided, and the line moved down the side of the hill, where the two forks of the trail that would take the men to the next hill. It then curved up the next hill.

A Straddle Wound

Who — who knew that a man would be shot through his back? — the platoon moved down. There was a wounded GI in the creek of the fire valley. He had been shot through the back between a crotch of enemy rockets and grenades. A ball above him went down to get him, from the body of an enemy soldier whose head had been blown off in the Durt 10 minutes before.

"You don't feel no pain, baby? You gonna be all right, baby?" "You gonna see that guy?" "Well, he's taken the wounded. He's looking around 300 yards back. Another man's stuck a plasma bottle in the wounded man's back. I'll get it." "I know it." The wounded man said, "I know that you ain't no doctor in 'em." "You gonna see that guy?" "Well, he's better for them when I



Patrolling a desolate hill near Firebase Gladstone: The American equippers were air and artillery.

get them?" Then, "You think I got a straddle wound?" The wounded man, Pfc. Frank Smith of Miami, was the body of a 42nd year Indian. But the medical called for a killer. And they were assigned to escort him to the trail which led down from the ridge line.

It was very quiet. The Americans weren't talking, but while had been talking, and whether a landing zone could be carved out of the jungle. It was 10 p.m. when the first patrol crashed down from the ridge line. It went wide with a "Buddy, Tiger Force."

In the first of motion, three Amer- ican soldiers are full wounded. The first came from above, hitting center. The second came from the left, hitting the back. The third came from the right, hitting the front. The wounded man was carried down the trail, through the jungle, and up to the 42nd post.

The wounded man was carried down the trail, through the jungle, and up to the 42nd post. The wounded man was carried down the trail, through the jungle, and up to the 42nd post.

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leading, preventing the enemy from overrunning positions. Tigers were driving a half dozen to the fire 42nd post. Like in the five succeeding hours of what official records described as "heavy combat."

In the command post, enemy rifle fire was killing about two feet high. Higginbotham was supporting cool, taking orders and ready into the field. Verlioren, who was the only link to the outside world. As long as the artillery could see, the Commandant could not advance, but the fire and the grenades came closer.

By 4 p.m., the situation was almost hopeless. The Americans had been pushed back into a 500-yard perimeter, with Higginbotham and the radio as the bulwark. Verlioren was dead. Sgt. Bryant was the only unscathed man of his unit. The rest were dead.

A radio near there were American reinforcements, a full company. But Capt. Charlie Congrat got to the 42nd post.

"You're going to get it," said Capt. Charlie Congrat. "You're going to get it," said Capt. Charlie Congrat. "You're going to get it," said Capt. Charlie Congrat.

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How low, and at the worst of the firing the 42nd group in Higginbotham's CP found out the fire of a small hill. "Tiger, Tiger."

No one answered. But the enemy maintained the perimeter in what was left of it. I was grateful for the 42nd and thought of "deadly" questions to ask. Who managed the New York Times? The "Militant" started dead by night? But then a voice said "Charlie, don't shoot" and a small detachment had appeared over the ridge. The lead belonged to an American.

No Way to Stop Them There were now seven men in the CP and a 300-yard perimeter. The base was empty of Americans. The 42nd was a drive into the CP and into Higginbotham's CP. I got into Charlie's and the 42nd got into the 42nd's camp. The 42nd's camp was empty. The 42nd's camp was empty.

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was Charlie Congrat. Air was low, and the 300 yards were empty. The 42nd's camp was empty. The 42nd's camp was empty.

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'Ain't Nobody Been Walking This Trail But Charlie Cong'

By Ward Just



Photo by Frank Johnston

"You don't feel no pain, baby. You gonna be all right . . ."

"I can't breathe. I am going home. I am going to be OK." These were the last words of Pfc. Richard Garcia, dying in a tangled jungle undergrowth in Kontum province in Vietnam.

Garcia was only the first to die. Twenty-four hours later there would be 10 dead, 19 injured on a strangely cool afternoon in the highlands. Only 12 men of the elite 42-man Tiger Force of the 101st Airborne Brigade would come out uninjured from a murderous ambush by North Vietnamese troops.

Garcia died at dusk on June 7, believed killed by firing from his own lines. It was a bad omen.

There had been other things that went wrong. Sgt. Pellum Bryant, 32, an Army career man from Brooklyn, N.Y., would say later that he knew the Tigers were going to walk into it and catch hell. There were signs everywhere, and the signs were terrible.

The Tigers were lifted by helicopter into a high stand of elephant grass in the late afternoon of June 7. They were the spearhead element in pursuit of North Vietnamese regulars who had attacked an American artillery emplacement the night before. There were no intricate orders; the Tiger commander, Capt. Lewis Higinbotham, a 26-year-old Vietnam veteran from Houston, Tex., was to take the men and move north.

"He's a Good Killer"

This he did. The point man almost immediately found a trail, and the 42 began to move through the jungle upwards into the highlands, 40 miles north and west from the provincial capital of Kontum. The trail was well-traveled, and there were fresh footprints. "Ain't nobody been walking this trail but Charlie Cong," said the point man.

Elite units like the Tiger Force are always eager to find the enemy. Their business is killing. "You'll like Higinbotham," the lieutenant colonel commanding the battalion had said. "He's a good killer." But on this mission the signs were too obvious, the indices too blunt.

The Americans fell on one deserted base camp after another, each camp larger than the last. Two hundred yards from touchdown in the elephant grass, there were two small huts; 200 yards beyond them, three more; a quarter mile beyond that, a squad-sized complex.

Then, at 7 p.m., the Tigers stopped for a rest, the VC guerrilla blundered into their midst, and Garcia was killed.

When Higinbotham reported the kill-in-action to battalion headquarters—"We've got a KIA"—the G-2 laconically warned him to watch for more. "Maybe a battalion more," the G-2 said.

Higinbotham decided to stay where he was that night. The men dug in on either side of the trail. Higinbotham, Capt. Chris Verlumis, a 27-year-old career man from Oakland, Calif., who had been in Vietnam barely one week, and I holed up under a large bush.

We passed around a small flask of Scotch with quiet laughter about the incongruity of whisky in the middle of the jungle in the middle of a war.

Half the force stayed awake that night listening for infiltrators. At 7 a.m. they appeared—the second omen.

There was a shout, a rattle of gunfire, and suddenly a sheepish private stood before Higinbotham. There were three Vietcong, armed, the private said. They stumbled into the camp, looked at the GIs, and fled. The GIs, equally startled, had time for only half a dozen rounds, but by then the three had scampered across a small stream into the bush. Higinbotham shook his head. "Hell, they probably spent the night with us," he said.

There had been hope that the Tigers'

presence on enemy soil would be undetected. Now, with the escape of the three VC, Higinbotham would continue to move carefully, but security had to be considered compromised.

By 10 a.m., Higinbotham had found a landing zone large enough for a helicopter, which arrived at noon and evacuated Garcia. The Tigers hitched up and prepared to move out. But first Verlumis walked up and offered me his .45 pistol.

I refused it, arguing that it was bad luck for a noncombatant to be armed. Verlumis persisted. He said anyone who wandered around Kontum province unarmed ought to have his head examined, and besides, it was a fair trade for the drink of whisky the night before.

So I took the .45 and Verlumis shouldered his M-16 and we moved out. I never fired the .45 and Verlumis was dead before dusk. The whisky was drunk by the 10 Tigers who escaped the ambush that was now two hours away.

The trail wound into deeper jungle, with base camp following base camp. Higinbotham decided by 1 p.m. that his band had uncovered a staging area capable of accommodating a regiment. The jungle was utterly silent, the only movement an occasional exquisitely colored butterfly.

In nearly two years in the Mekong Delta, far to the South, Lew Higinbotham had acquired a passable knowledge of Vietnamese. When his point man found a small, arrow-shaped sign saying "Anh ban di trang," Higinbotham translated it, "Friends go straight." The sign pointed down a trail which led to a ridge line; it was obviously an enemy message.

Higinbotham deployed his main force in a clearing and sent patrols in two directions where the trail forked. The first, under Sgt. Pellum Bryant, almost immediately saw three enemy soldiers in the khaki uniforms of the North Vietnamese army. They killed two with small-arms fire and hand grenades and swiftly returned to Higinbotham's command post.

Higinbotham's radio crackled almost simultaneously with the sound of firing from the other fork. The second patrol was pinned down and needed reinforcements.

Strung out in a long, thin line, the Tigers moved up the trail to the ridge line—slowly, carefully, radios silent, safeties off. At the ridge line, another six-man patrol went forward to learn the American casualties and estimate the strength of the enemy.

They reported back that the enemy force had apparently moved out. Higinbotham nodded, and the line moved down the side of the hill, down the two-foot-wide trail that wound into the tiny cleft between the two hills. It then curled up the next hill.

A Stateside Wound

Edgy — edgy enough that a man snarled if you stepped on his heel — the platoon moved down. There was a wounded GI in the crotch of the tiny valley. He had been shot through the neck beside a cache of enemy rockets and grenades. A half-dozen men went down to get him, past the body of an enemy soldier whose head had been blown off in the firing 10 minutes before.

"You don't feel no pain, baby," the medic said. "You gonna be all right, baby, you gonna see that girl." While he talked, he wrapped a bandage around his comrade's neck. Another medic stuck a plasma needle in the wounded man's right arm.

"I knew it," the wounded man said. "I knew that my chip was cashed in."

"We gonna get the medevac," the medic said.

"Well, he better be there when I



1972 Pulitzer Prize Photo by David Kennerly, United Press International

Patrolling a devastated hill near Firebase Gladiator: The American equalizers were air and artillery.

get there." Then, "You think I got a stateside wound?"

The wounded man, Pfc. Frank Wills of Miami, was at the base of a 45-degree incline. But the medics called for a litter, and four men struggled and worried him to the trail which led down from the ridge line.

It was very quiet. The Americans weren't talking, but Wills had become half-delirious with pain and fear. He asked why his stomach hurt so much. Then he told the medic that he had \$100 R and R money in his pocket. Take it and hold it for me," he said.

But the medic wasn't listening. No one was. Higinbotham was worrying about Wills and whether a landing zone could be carved out of the jungle.

It was 2:30 p.m. when the first grenade crashed down from the ridge line. It went wide with a thump. Then thump! Again, closer.

In the first 15 minutes, three Americans died, six fell wounded. The firing came from three sides, hitting them at three positions on the trail. Higinbotham, at his command post midway down the trail, knew the danger of the situation before anyone else. He called battalion headquarters and requested artillery and air support.

No one knew then, and no one knows now, how many North Vietnamese there were. They did not have mortars, so the unit was probably company-sized or smaller. But they had grenades and small arms and plenty of ammunition, and they fought from concealed positions. They had the advantage of surprise.

In Vietnam, though, however many advantages the enemy has, the Americans always seem to have more. The equalizers are air and artillery. Higinbotham coolly plotted his location, then called in artillery.

The shells fell in a wide semi-circle just beyond the American positions, but close. One fist-sized piece of American shrapnel landed two yards from Higinbotham. While the shells were

landing, preventing the enemy from overrunning positions, Tigers were dying; a half-dozen in the first 90 minutes, four in the five succeeding hours of what official briefers described as "heavy contact."

In the command post, enemy rifle fire was hitting about two feet high. Higinbotham was superbly cool, talking quietly and easily into the field telephone which was the only link to possible safety. As long as the artillery held out, the Communists could not advance, but the fire and the grenades came closer.

By 4 p.m., the situation was almost lost. The Americans had been pushed back into a tiny perimeter, with Higinbotham and the radio as its nucleus. Verlumis was dead. Sgt. Bryant was the only un wounded man of his eight-man squad.

A mile away there were American reinforcements, a full company. But could Charlie Company get to the ridge in time?

"Well, you've got to try it," Higinbotham said over the radio. For the first time his voice cracked and you saw a 26-year-old advertising account executive or civil servant or department store clerk, not a captain in the United States Army. "If you don't get up here we're all going to be dead. If you don't get up here soon, I'm gonna melt."

There was another crackling over the radio and, barely audible, but precisely as he was reading from a piece of paper, Higinbotham said: "Dear God, please help me save these men's lives."

It got worse after that.

The sniper fire came closer, along with the friendly artillery. A wounded infantryman, his voice loud as a bull-horn, was calling from the left flank: "You've got to get me out of here." He repeated it again and again and again. Then he screamed, and was silent.

The Americans were pushed back into an area half the size of the White

House lawn, and at the worst of the firing the tiny group in Higinbotham's CP heard over the rise of a small hill: "Tigers, Tigers."

No one answered. Had the enemy penetrated the perimeter, or what was left of it? I was grateful now for the .45 and thought of identifying questions to ask. Who managed the New York Yankees? Was Marilyn Monroe dead or alive? But then a voice said "Christ, don't shoot" and a sweat-drenched head appeared over the ravine. The head belonged to an American.

No Way to Stop Them

There were now seven men in the CP and a 360-degree defense. Pfc. Sam Washburn of Indianapolis, Ind., made a dive into the CP and told Higinbotham: "I got two Charlies and the Captain got one. The Captain's dead. We were firing from the trail and I looked over and asked him how his ammo was and he was dead." Higinbotham said nothing and continued to talk the artillery in.

The cries of the American wounded were getting louder as the men pulled back into a tighter circle. There was no firing from the command post because no enemy could be seen.

But then came the grenades. They were coming closer, just off the mark. That was when the awful fear set in. It was the fear of sudden realization that the North Vietnamese were lobbing grenades and there was no way to stop them.

In Vietnam, if you are 30 years old, you feel an old man among youngsters. I was thinking about being 30 among youngsters when Pfc. Washburn leaned over and very quietly, very precisely, whispered "grenade." Then he gave me a push. I don't remember the push, only a flash and a furious burst of fire. The grenade had landed a yard away and was the closest the North Vietnamese were to come overrunning the CP.

Now the enemy was closing, but so

was Charlie Company. Air was now available and 500-pound bombs and 30 calibre machine guns ripped the thick jungle. The wounded men lay scattered in pockets of violence near the CP. They worried about both American bombs and VC grenades and small-arms fire, both coming steadily closer.

Charlie Company, moving up from the rear, could hear the bombs but could not see the trapped platoon. On a signal from Higinbotham, who was in continual radio contact with Charlie, the Tigers began to yell and scream, great banshee whoops to guide Charlie Company to the ridge line. They arrived in tears and handshakes.

And whisky. The battered flask, a tartan-covered bottle more suitable for the Yale Bowl than Kontum Province, was passed around, the 10 un wounded Tigers and their comrades.

Charlie Company relieved the exhausted defenders, established their own perimeter, and swept up the ridge behind a drumbeat of rifle fire. The enemy had moved out, and the air and the artillery strikes were temporarily halted.

Among the Tiger force, 19 wounded were collected and medevac helicopters were brought in. There was no landing zone, so they hovered at 100 feet and sent down a T-bar to hoist the wounded to the chopper. Strobe lights from the chopper illuminated the area, as arc lights illuminate a baseball stadium.

The first chopper took three wounded. The men were strapped into the T-bar and slowly lifted the 100 feet. You saw flashes of light and heard the crack and thwup of bullets and realized that the enemy, still entrenched on the ridge line, were shooting. They were shooting at you. □

Ward Just was seriously wounded in the ambush. His story first appeared in *The Washington Post* on July 17, 1966. A few days later he returned to duty as the Post's correspondent in Vietnam.

WARD JUST, an acclaimed novelist and short story writer, Ward Just began his career as a reporter, first for the *Waukegan* (Ill.) *News-Sun*, then *Newsweek* and later *The Washington Post*. As the Vietnam correspondent for *The Washington Post*, Just earned a reputation for fearlessness, venturing far into the field to report the war firsthand. Badly wounded during one of these missions, Just refused to be airlifted out until all the enlisted men who had been similarly wounded were taken to safety. This incident is portrayed in Michael Herr's book, *Dispatches* and in Just's own critically acclaimed memoir of the Vietnam War, *To What End?*

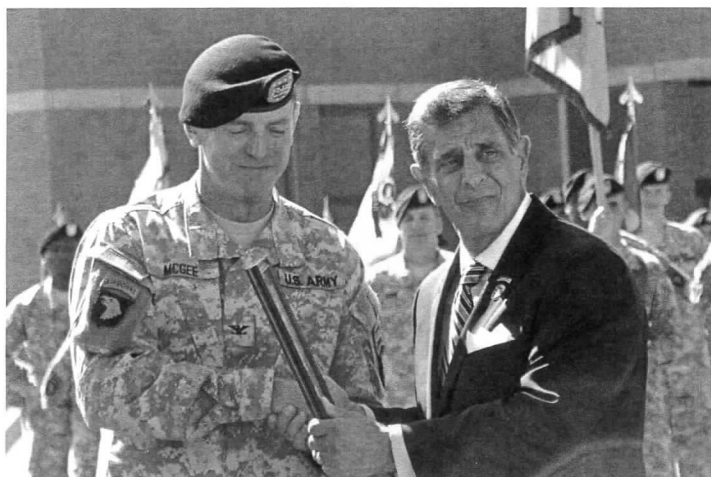



THE BASTOGNE BRIGADE
 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault)



Honors the New
 Distinguished Members Of The 327th
 Infantry Regiment

9 October 2013
 Fort Campbell, Kentucky



Colonel Joseph P. McGee & 1LT Stephen Patterson

**Stephen Patterson is a 1966 Bucknell University graduate with a bachelor's degree in Economics and was commissioned as 2nd Lieutenant in the Infantry. After he commissioned, he completed the Infantry Officer Basic Course, Ranger School and Parachutist School.

In August 1967, Patterson served in the Republic of Korea as a Reconnaissance Platoon Leader operating along the DMZ and was attached to the 2d Infantry Division. Patterson was assigned to A 1/327 101st Airborne Division in January 1968 as a rifle Platoon Leader. He was awarded the Silver Star Medal for his heroic actions in the Republic of Vietnam in March of 1968 where he assaulted into an ambush to take the pressure off the rest of the company. Patterson was regarded by the men he commanded as the best and most courageous Platoon Leader they had during their tour of duty.

Patterson's military awards and decorations include the Silver Star, Bronze Star for Meritorious Service, the Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device for Valor (1st Oak Leaf Cluster), the Purple Heart (1st OLC), Air Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with One Silver Service Star, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation, Republic of Vietnam Civic Actions Honor Medal First Class Unit Citation, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Korea Defense Service Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, Parachutist Badge, Ranger Tab, Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle (M-14), and three Overseas Bars.

Editor's Note: I was not able to attend the ceremony. All photos were furnished by Jesse W. Myers, Jr., 2/327 C 6/67-6/68.



Principals in the Distinguished Member of the Regiment Ceremony are (L to R) Honorary Sergeant Major of the 327th Infantry Regiment, *CSM (R) Joseph M. Bossi, 2/327 HHC 6/66-7/67; Honorary Colonel of the 327th Infantry Regiment +LTC (R) Louis M. McDonald, 2/327 B 5/66-10/66; Brigade Command Sergeant Major Craig A. Copridge and Brigade Commander, Colonel Joseph P. McGee.



Colonel Joseph P. McGee & SPC John Nowlin

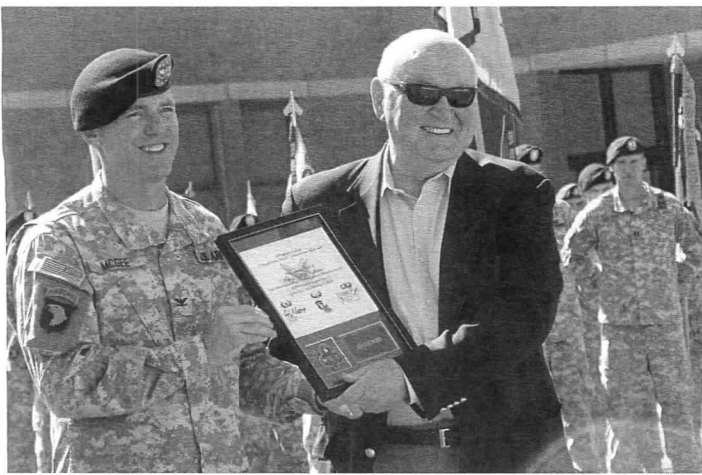
**John Garrett Nowlin is a native of Roscommon, Missouri. He attended Basic Training and AIT training at Fort Gordon, Georgia. After attending jump school at Fort Benning, Georgia, Nowlin was assigned to C 1/327 101st Airborne Division.

In May of 1965, SPC Nowlin deployed with C 1/327 101st Airborne Division as one of 1st Brigade's Boat people. He served his time in Vietnam as a combat RTO until July of 1966.

After returning to his civilian life, Nowlin became an ordained minister and decided to serve the 327th Regiment ministering to veterans and their families. He also co-founded the Cobra Lake Reunion promoting fellowship amongst 327th Regiment. Every year since its founding, he has been a vital part of the success of the event.

Nowlin's awards and decorations include Combat Infantry Badge, Parachute Badge, Vietnam Service Medal, RVN Commendation Medal, National Defense Medal and a Purple Heart.





Colonel Joseph P. McGee & MAJ (R) Jessie Myers

+Jesse Willard Myers, Jr., is a 1963 North Carolina State University graduate with a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering and commissioned as a 2LT from the ROTC program. He attended the Infantry Officer Basic Course and Airborne School and was later assigned to the Seventh Infantry Division in South Korea. Myers spent a year working at the battalion level before being selected to be a Recon Platoon Leader.

In 1964 Myers was assigned to Fort Campbell, KY where he served as the Executive Officer and Commander of the Division Headquarters Company of the 101st Airborne. In June 1967, he deployed to the Republic of Vietnam and was assigned to the 2-327th Infantry Battalion, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. He served as an assistant Battalion S3 Operations Officer and Commander of Company C. In the late summer of 1969, Myers deployed again to the Republic of Vietnam and served as an Advisor to the 6th ARVN Airborne Battalion. His innovative use of 8 inch artillery and the narrative he wrote concerning actions at the Battle of Medevac Meadow in Cambodia appears in the U. S. Army Center of Military History book, *Dust-Off*.

Myers served with the 82nd Airborne Division from 1970 to 1972 as the S3, 1-505 Infantry Division G3 Operations Officer and as the Deputy G3. In late 1972, he attended the U.S. Army Command and General Staff Officer Course at Fort Leavenworth, KS. His last assignment in the military was as the Assistant Professor of Military Science at Davidson College, NC. He was medically retired from the U. S. Army with a service connected disability in June 1976.

Following his military service, Mr. Myers began a successful career as a bank branch manager for Carolina First National Bank based in Lincolnton, NC. He later joined the Corporation's headquarters in Charlotte, NC and eventually rose to the rank of Senior Vice President before retiring from the firm. He was awarded a "crystal hand grenade" for his role in helping the bank expand into what is presently the Bank of America.

Myers' other assignments include 2d BN, 17th Infantry, South Korea; Headquarters Company 101st Airborne Division, Ft Campbell, KY; Team 162 (Airborne) MACV, 1st BN 505th Infantry, Ft Bragg, NC; Headquarters Company 82d Airborne Division, Ft Bragg, NC; US Army CGSC College, Ft Leavenworth, KS; Davidson College ROTC Department.

His awards and decorations are the Silver Star, Purple Heart, five (5) Bronze Stars with "V" Device, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation with "V" Device, nine (9) Air



Sent to Ivan Worrell by + TIM SWAIN, HHC S-2 65



From: National Ranger Memorial Foundation (rangermemorial@gmail.com)

Sent: Sunday, December 29, 2013 12:13 AM

To: timswain@peorialaw.com

Subject: Anet 465 - The Ranger Creed and what it means to me by retired COL Ralph Puckett.

Editor's Note: + COL (R) RALPH PUCKETT, 2/502 CO 7/67-3/68, was a B Team Leader, in the 10th Special Forces Group, in Germany, when I was an A Team Leader. He was later assigned as Group S-2 and I became his Assistant S-2. When his tour ended I was his replacement.

Medals, two (2) Air Medals with "V" Device, Meritorious Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, two (2) Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, Vietnamese Honor Medal, Vietnamese Campaign Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Vietnamese Parachutist Badge and Pathfinder Badge.

Myers is currently retired.

+ = Subscriber, * = Dropped Subscriber, ** = Never Subscribed

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 35.

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 35



The Ranger Creed and what it means to me

by retired COL Ralph Puckett

12-24-13, No.2



It was 25 November 1950. The day was cold, brisk, bright, beautiful. We (the Eighth Army Ranger Company) were in North Korea about 40 miles south of the

Yalu. We were one of two assault elements for Task Force Dolvin, the 89th Tank Battalion. The Task Force was the lead element of the 25th Infantry Division. The 'end the war - have the boys home by Christmas' that General MacArthur had promised the President at their meeting on Wake Island early in October had commenced 24 November, Thanksgiving Day.

The company consisting of three officers and 74 enlisted men was activated 25 August 1950 exactly two months after the Korean War began. Although I was only a second lieutenant having just graduated from the basic course and jump school without a single day of troop duty, I was selected to be the company commander. The other two officers were classmates and as inexperienced as I. The enlisted soldiers were service troops. Good soldiers but not Infantry. There were two sergeants, 22 corporals, and the rest privates. Obviously no experienced leadership. If there was ever a group of soldiers who looked as if they were slated to become a failure, we were it. Within the next three months this small band of soldiers would live the Ranger Creed ... **although it would not be written until more than 20 years later.** That Creed tells Rangers of today what they are and what is expected of them. They led the way.

Recognizing that I volunteered as a Ranger, fully knowing the hazards of my chosen profession ... Each prospective volunteer was informed that he was being asked if he wanted to "volunteer for an extremely dangerous mission behind enemy lines."

Acknowledging that a Ranger is a more elite soldier who arrives at the cutting edge of battle ...my country expects me to move further, faster and fight harder than any other soldier. The training program began with a vision of what the company would become. This vision was expressed by four training objectives. These were 1. Each Ranger would be physically fit; he would be in the best physical condition of his life. 2. Each Ranger would be trained until he was highly qualified in the tactics and techniques of the individual soldier (TTIS.) 3. Each subordinate team and the company as a whole would be trained until it became a highly competent combat fighting team. 4. Each Ranger would have the confidence in himself that caused him to believe that he, his leaders, and his company as a whole was the best combat unit that America could produce.

Never shall I fail my comrades. I will always keep myself mentally alert, physically strong and morally straight and I will shoulder more than my share of the task whatever it may be one-hundred-percent and then some. The fast-paced sometimes-hazardous training required the Ranger to keep his mind focused on what he and his comrades were doing. The daily PT regimen led by the officers who set the example pushed the Ranger to his limit. Moral lapses were not tolerated. To accomplish his individual requirement and that of his team extracted from the Ranger all the capability he had – and then some.

Gallantly will I show the world ... No need for the Ranger to brag. His performance spoke louder than any words. He was the quintessential "quiet professional."

Energetically will I meet the enemies of my country. I shall defeat them on the field of battle because I am better trained and will fight with all my might. Surrender is not a Ranger word. I will never leave a fallen comrade to fall into the hands of the enemy and under no circumstances will I ever embarrass my country.

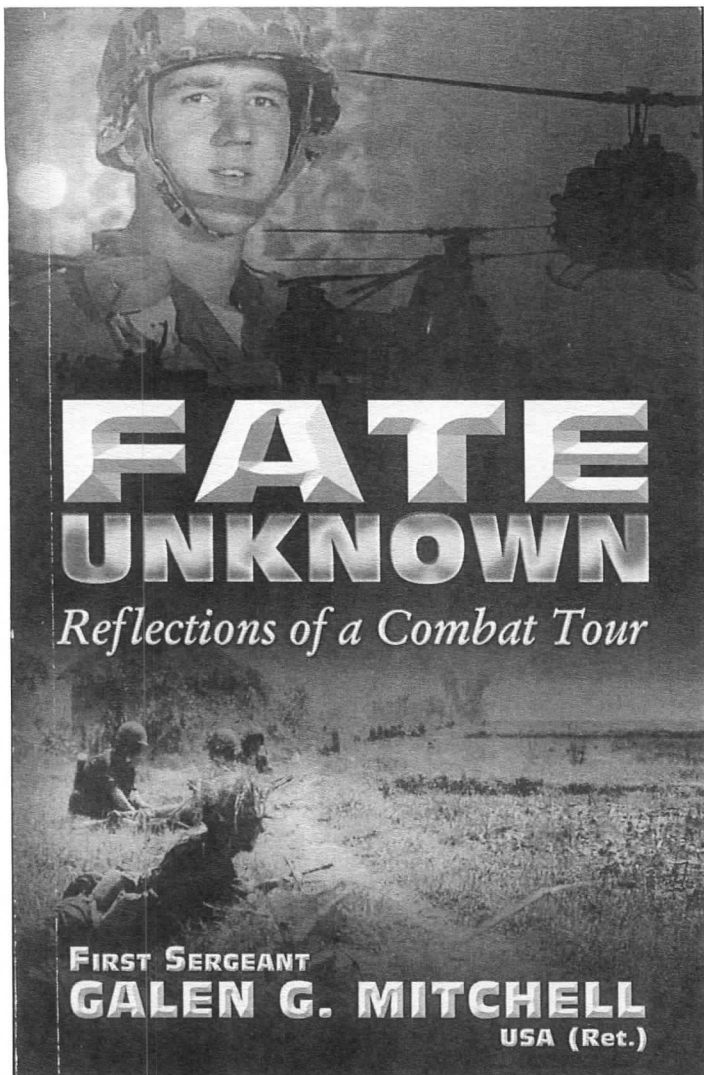
Readily will I display the intestinal fortitude to fight on to the Ranger objective and complete the mission though I be the lone survivor. The fifth and sixth paragraphs of the Ranger Creed synthesize what being a Ranger is all about. My Rangers made me proud. They never quit. They fought on until overcome by vastly superior forces. Of the 51 who had begun the battle for Hill 205, there were only 21 Rangers present for duty when the battle was over. I had been rescued under fire and dragged to safety by Rangers PFC Billy G. Walls and PFC David L. Pollock. Other Rangers owed their survival to comrades who risked their own safety for their fellow Rangers. I had failed to train my Rangers sufficiently that they would be able to rescue or recover all who were unable to save themselves. I am responsible.

In the subsequent 63 years since the Battle for Hill 205, I have gone over the details time and time again, always asking the same questions. What should I have done? What training could we have crammed into the six weeks program that would have prepared us better? How can I do better the next time? I never have arrived at specific, satisfactory answers. I was never satisfied during the training. Though I praised my Rangers profusely, I always felt that we could do better.

Another question that keeps returning? Why me? Why did I survive and others did not? There have been other times both in combat and in peace when I would ask myself ... "Why me?"

I can never justify my good fortune. I can only be thankful and try to live in such a way to deserve what I have received.

Being a Ranger is my most important accomplishment. It colors and affects everything I do. There is a never ending something inside of me that says, "I am a U.S. Army Ranger. I must never give up. I can always do better."



+ Galen G. Mitchell (1/327 A 6/65-5/66) joined the U.S. Army at the age of 17 and completed a 20 year career before retiring as a First Sergeant.

He received numerous military awards including; a Bronze Star for Valor, Bronze Star for Meritorious Service, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, 3 Army Commendation Medals, Combat Infantryman's Badge, Drill Sergeant Badge, Master Parachutist Wings, plus several other awards.

Upon retiring from the military he embarked on a second career as a Correctional Supervisor for the Department of Corrections in the State of New Jersey.

As a new author he brings to his book compelling personal experiences of combat. "Fate Unknown" is a memoir of his journey to Vietnam with the 101st Airborne Division and his comrades in arms.

Galen is a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, The Military Order of Purple Heart and an American Legion member. He enjoys helping and supporting other Veterans.



Category: Non-fiction, Autobiography, Vietnam, Military, History, Combat

Many of you have seen movie versions of war, but have you ever asked yourself what it was really like to be a fighting soldier in the Vietnam War? In *Fate Unknown*, the author, a member of the famed 101st Airborne Division takes the readers to the battlefield, with boots on the ground, as he candidly shares many of his personal experiences of his 1966 tour. He also reveals insightful accounts from fellow soldiers of different ranks, as they saw and lived through it. Situations and battles come into sharp focus through the eyes and ears of those whose lives were changed forever by their tour in Vietnam. This is a compelling, insightful and nonfictional account of a combat tour.

So lace up your jungle boots and live the battle as experienced by an airborne infantry unit during the Vietnam War. You will gain a true understanding of combat and probably change your outlook of war.

\$19.95

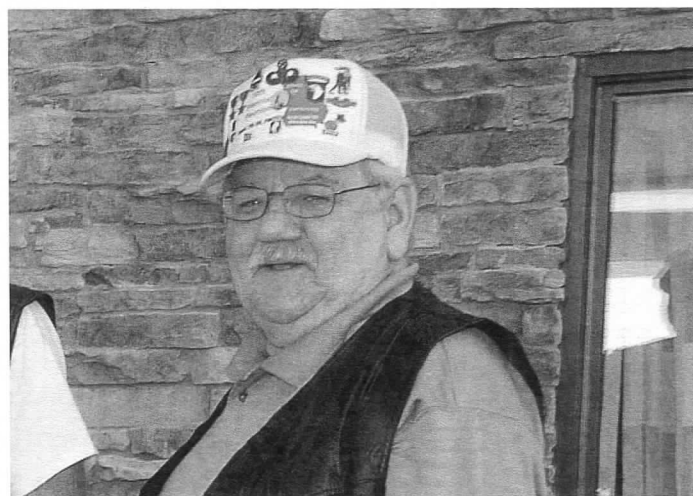
ISBN: 978-0-9860518-0-7



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Published by:
Labuela Enterprises, LLC



Galen G. Mitchell (1/327 A 6/65-5/66)

Galen lives in The Villages, Florida. When free time avails he pursues his favorite hobby of horseracing, seeking that Holy Grail to the cashier window.

Deadline

Material to be published in the July 2014 issue of **The First SCREAMING EAGLES in Viet Nam** is Due June 1st, 2014.



OBITUARIES



Albert "Josh" Lucas
 1/327 ABU 7/66-7/67
 October 31, 2013

A note was received from Donnetta Lucas, wife of Josh, that he passed away on October 31, 2013. She also said that he enjoyed looking at the magazine. After requesting an obituary from Mrs. Lucas, the following was received. The only obituary that was in our local newspaper was a public notification that he had passed away and that there

would be a grave site ceremony. There was a military ceremony and a priest. Since moving to Iowa from California nine years ago, his health was not all that great and he was a very private person. (He didn't want a big deal.) We were married for over 37 years and he never talked about the war or Vietnam. I know it bothered him and was in PTSD groups and on medications because of it. I've been going through some of his stuff and found something I wanted to share. (See the Award of the Army Commendation Medal for Heroism awarded Albert J. Lucas at the end of the obituary section.)

Condolences may be sent to Mrs. Lucas at 810 S. Jackson Ave., Mason City, IA 50401-4917.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
 HEADQUARTERS 1ST BRIGADE 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION
 APO San Francisco 96347

GENERAL ORDER
 NUMBER 1023

9 Jun 1967

AWARD OF THE ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL FOR HEROISM

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

LUCAS, ALBERT J. RA19873785 SPECIALIST FOUR E4 USA
 Co A, 1st Bn, 327th Inf, 1st Bde, 101st Air Div, APO 96347

Awarded: Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device
 Date action: 7 May 1967

Theater: Republic of Viet Nam

Reason: For heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force: Specialist Lucas distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 7 May 1967 in the Republic of Viet Nam. The weapons platoon, after making a heliborne assault, received heavy automatic weapons fire from a tree line one hundred meters from the landing zone. Specialist Lucas immediately returned the fire. A quick visual search of the area indicated the direction that the fire was coming from. Realizing the element might be pinned down for some time, Specialist Lucas left the safety of his position to maneuver on the enemy position. With complete disregard for his own safety, he continually exposed himself to the heavy automatic weapons fire. Later along with a squad he participated in the final assault and was successful in routing the enemy troops. Specialist Lucas' devotion to duty and personal courage were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

Authority: By direction of the Secretary of the Army under the provisions of AR 672-5-1.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

OFFICIAL:

David A. Korponal
 DAVID A. KORPONAL
 CPT, AGC
 Assistant AG

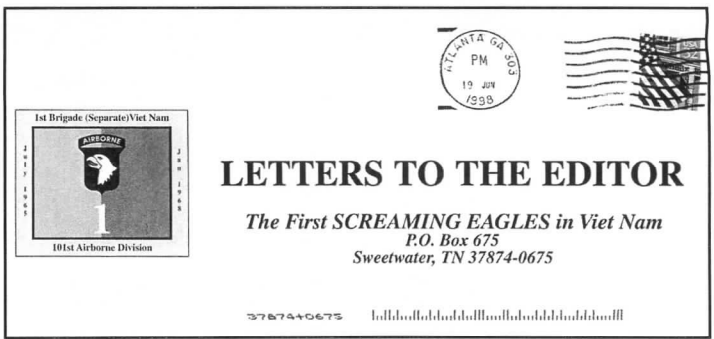
E. M. STRONG
 MAJ, AGC
 Adjutant General

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U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

+ **MAJ(R) BURRWOOD YOST**, 2/502 C LRRP 12/65-7/67, 1012A Natures Walk Dr., Fernandina Bch, FL 32034-4608 sent the following with his subscription renewal. Enclosed is a check to renew my subscription for "The First Screaming Eagles in Viet Nam." I've enclosed a little extra to help defray the cost of postage. I read with interest the RTO Poem by "Gunslinger" in the October 2013 issue. After COL Dietrich retired he resided in Clemson, SC. He did not retire to Traverse City, MI. I had the good fortune to visit him and his wife at their home in Clemson before he passed away in 1997. I've enclosed a photograph of the DSC Award Ceremony for COL Dietrich and myself.



Editor's Note: Please note that the photo is signed by Frank Dietrich who was the CO of 2/502 and that General Westmorland is wearing the Ninth Infantry Division patch (from WWII) on his right shoulder.

+ **THOMAS KINANE**, 1/327 C 4/67-12/68, 646 Wimbledon Ct., Eugene, OR 97401-1781 along with his subscription renewal wrote: Congratulations on the fine work – and best of luck on the history book.

+ **ROBERT B. BROWN**, 326 ENGR A 7/65-7/66, 340 Ridgeway Circle, Troutville, VA 24175-5820, work (540) 330-4561 home (540) 992-3313 sent the following note with his subscription renewal. I was on a mission with C 2/327th INF. I was one of a two-man demo team. There were explosives set in a hooch that had not exploded. Chopping a hole through it large enough, I went in and placed a charge of C-4. There was a bundle of five sticks of dynamite next to a can of either gas or kerosene. I was expecting it to go off any second, but it didn't. I set my charge off and it looked like a young A bomb. The Lieutenant said he was putting me in for the Bronze Star, I never received it. What do you think?

Editor's Note: The Platoon Leader should have followed through.

+ **GARY BILLS**, 2/327 A 10/66-10/67, 1119 N. Spring Valley Dr., Washington, UT 84780-2391, (435) 251-9353 sent the following with his subscription renewal. Keep up the good work. You are appreciated. Please send out a big hello to all my brothers from A Company, 2/327th. My heart soars with all eagles. Airborne!

+ **LTC(R) FRANKLIN "LIN" HASKINS**, HHC 6/66-6/67, 4601 Gilling Ct., Virginia Beach, VA 23464-5829 wrote: Another great issue of "The Always First Brigade." Just want to say thanks for all you do. Many memories come back. I remember using the Australian shower bucket, shown on page 19 of the January 2014 issue. We left five (5) gallon water cans out in the sun all day and always had a hot shower.

Hope to see you in 2015.

Here's a little extra for postage (along with his subscription renewal).

Airborne all the way.

Lin Haskins, Brigade Chemical Officer "Bugs & Gas"

+ **LT GEN(R) DONALD E. ROSENBLUM**, 2/327 HQ CO 6/66-6/67, 32 E. Bull St., Savannah, GA 31401-2665, work (912) 658-6718 home (912) 232-1139 sent the following note with his subscription renewal.

Each time I receive your magazine it brings back memories of one of my three great assignments in the U.S. Army.

After 33 years on active duty, the time in RVN with the 1/101 still reminds me of how great the paratroopers of ours were.

It's Airborne All The Way!

Best to you, D. E. Rosenblum (AKA Thunderball)

+ **AL (THOMAS A.) BATEMAN**, 2/502 HHC 9/66-10/67, 205 Walnut Ave., Hamlet, NC 28345, work (910) 205-1404 home (910) 582-1081 wrote: Please re-up me for another year and use the extra for whatever. Thanks for all of your hard work to keep this alive.

+ **WILLIAM V. LARSEN**, 2/327 B ELT 65-7/66, 442 Otisco Drive, Westfield, NJ 07090-2716, work (908) 233-5656 home (908) 233-2217 sent the following: attached find my check to cover my subscription to "The First Screaming Eagles in Viet Nam" for the coming year beyond April 2014.

Please keep up the great work you do. It means a lot to all of us.

+ **BELDON BAKER, JR.**, 2/17 CAV A 12/63-4/66, sent four pictures with short captions.



1st Platoon, A Troop, 2/17th Cavalry. SGT Richardson's Platoon.



First seven First Brigade (S), 101st Airborne Division soldiers killed in Viet Nam.





Beldon Baker, Jr., writing a letter home.



Beldon Baker, Jr., taking a break.

The following message and photos were received from Dan Lenc on behalf of his dad, + DONALD R. LENC, 2/320 FA HHB 6/67-6/68, 5240 Windfall Rd., Medina, OH 44256-8750, cell (330) 410-4127.

Ivan,

I'm sending some pictures along with a story of my hiking trip. I thought it might be of interest to you and the 1st Brigade Vets. On March 18th, 2013, I started my thru-hike of the Appalachian Trail from Springer Mountain Georgia to Baxter Peak - Katahdin - Maine, a distance of 2,185 miles. It took me 5-1/2 months total time with my finish date being August 31, 2013. I think it goes to show the Airborne spirit lives on in us at any age. I finished with my trail name of "All the Way" at the age of 67 years old. Along with all the normal hardships of the trail; rain, heat, cold and bugs, I ran into 1-1/2 feet of snow through the Smoky Mountains with night temperatures dropping to 7 & 8 degrees Fahrenheit. During this time my shoes were frozen on my feet for two days, and when I was finally able to remove them, I found that I had

lost a toenail. After a few days my toe had become infected which required a month of antibiotics to cure and caused much pain hiking throughout that time. On the trail through Pennsylvania I fell and injured my wrist, so I wrapped an ace bandage around it and kept hiking. After finishing my journey and returning home, I went to the VA hospital and found out that I had hiked the last 1,000 miles of the trail with two broken bones in my arm at the wrist. Even with all of that, I still had a good time! My re-up check is in the mail (and was received).

Sincerely, Don

21 SEPT 67

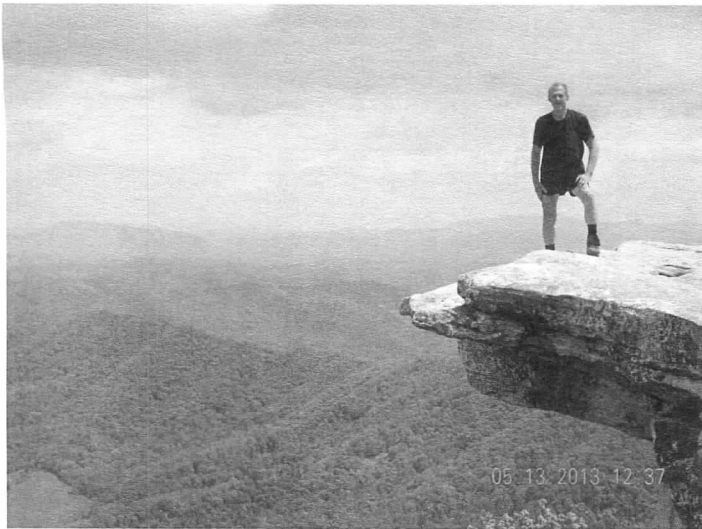


9-21-67: Jerry Walls (left) and Don Lenc (right) taken in Chu Lai - Jerry was KIA Oct 8th, 1967 with A/2/327th.



Oct 1967 - Don Lenc with rucksack leaving hill top in Chu Lai after securing it for Arty Battery, Red Leg RTO with C/2/327th.





5-13-2013 - McAfee Knob, Virginia



6-15-2013 - North of Port Clinton, Pennsylvania



8-31-2013 - Katahdin, Baxter Peak, Maine (North end point of the Appalachian Trail - Finish)

The following was received from + JOHNNY VELASQUEZ (2/502 B VN 67-68).

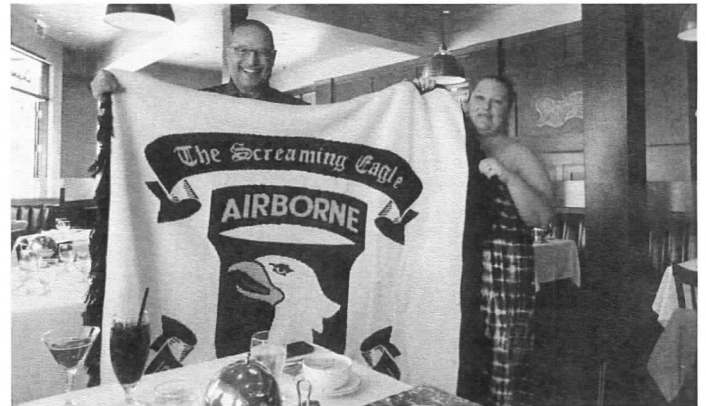
I am sending you the photos you requested and a short history of Larry Grathwohl (not in database).

The late Larry Grathwohl, HHC 2nd 502 went to Vietnam with the First Brigade.

While in his career in Law Enforcement, Larry was able to infiltrate the Weather Underground during the 60's and early 70's and was able to identify those responsible for the bombings of two police stations in San Francisco which caused the killing of a Police Sergeant. After his retirement, a book was written about these incidents by James Pera, a good friend of Larry's who is also a retired Police Sergeant in San Francisco and also a Vietnam Veteran of the 101st Airborne Division 506th.

The book is entitled "The Rampage of Ryan O'Hara."

After the book was written, Larry and James appeared on radio and TV around the country.



Johnny Velasquez presents an afghan from the 101st Airborne Division to Larry's daughter, Lindsey Grathwohl.



Larry's daughter, Lindsey Grathwohl receives a First Brigade Coin from Johnny Velasquez.

+ = Current Subscriber



Battle of An Phu

by + Larry Redmond Col (Ret)

REFERENCE the fight at An Phu on 6 Feb 68 that we had a recent inquiry about on the 327th VN Regiment web site. Having been the CO of A Company then I would offer the following insights on that action.

We lost 12 troopers on 5/6 Feb. Lt Gerald Pelzman was killed early in the day on the 5th and the other 11, Lt Ed Kowski and ten of his troops, died in a second major engagement early on the morning of the 6th of February.

The 5th of Feb started with A Company being airlifted to a cold LZ near Nha Be, south of Saigon/Cholon. We searched Nha Be, an industrial and oil storage area, as I remember with no contact. We were then directed to move to An Phu; link up with the District US Army Advisory Team there, and move north toward Saigon/Cholon and block suspected enemy (mostly NVA) reported to be evacuating the city.

We moved to An Phu on Highway 1 and linked up with the Advisory Team, then with a joint force of A Co and RF/PF moved toward Saigon. We moved about 1.5 K when we had a meeting engagement with an enemy force of unknown size. This developed into a pretty good fight. We had several walking wounded but no KIA. Then LT Pelzman was hit in the chest with a 51 cal MG round while leading his platoon in an effort to flank the enemy. By that time the bad guys had unleashed mortars, 57 RR and 51 cal MGs on us. It was obvious to me that we had met a fairly large force. We broke contact with support from artillery, helicopter gunships, etc. I don't remember any fast movers but there may have been some, in the distance behind the area of engagement.

We were directed to pull back to An Phu and set up a perimeter and hold. Battalion then inserted a second company, B 2-327, to strengthen the position as the intelligence now indicated a large force trying to move from Cholon in the direction of An Phu. As the senior captain I took charge of the perimeter. The company CP set up with the An Phu Advisory Team.

Later, I was directed by one of the Assistant Division Commanders to place a platoon with the RF/PF element in a fort just south of town along the main road, National Highway 1. Believe this was in response to a request from the District Senior Advisor (but that is a guess only on my part) who felt reinforcing the fort was necessary. The fort was about 150 to 175 yards outside the town but had a good commanding view of the rice paddies around the village. I sent Lt Ed Kowski's platoon for several reasons: they were good; he was a former SF enlisted man with a previous tour in NAM and the most reliable LT I had. I had only been in command a little over two weeks at this point and the company was, and its personnel were, new to me. I went with LT Kowski to the fort and got him settled in along one edge of the perimeter. All seemed OK at that point.

Throughout the evening there were periodic shots fired, mostly outgoing. Then sometime around 0230 probing began. A big firefight ensued near and around the fort. Up to that point we had good radio contact with all elements in and around An Phu throughout the evening. With this large scale fight we lost all contact with Lt Kowski's element. We moved the CP radio around the area but could not re-establish contact. From the main street we could see flashes and explosions from around



the fort. After about 20 minutes the RF/PF reported that the fort was under heavy attack but holding. I then had the Advisory Team ask for a check on my platoon and to get them another radio if necessary. It was reported that all was OK, the Americans were in the trench fighting but that they could not be reached because the center of the compound was under heavy small arms and rocket fire.

We continued getting reports to this effect about every fifteen minutes throughout the night. Firing at the fort continued sporadically off and on for the next two hours or so, as did incoming at various areas around the village proper.

Then at about 0530 the radio crackled and a voice stated that the NVA had broken in and were killing all the Americans. Somehow they had lost radio contact with the first assault and finally got a radio working. I organized and led a relief element down the road by moving in the paddies and we reached the fort just at dawn. At that point they had eleven dead and 6 or 7 seriously wounded. I don't believe there was a man out of the approximately 25 in the platoon who did not qualify for a PH.

There were several NVA bodies in the fort, one in the block house where they apparently first penetrated the fort and several more in the wire. Lots of blood trails where other KIA or WIA had been dragged off. We immediately began taking care of the wounded and getting things sorted out. Shortly after that we began getting more help from battalion.

Finally the other Assistant Division Commander, BG Richard Allen flew in. He asked for a briefing. I told him what I could from what I knew. He looked around the compound, looked over at the village 150 yards away and said. "Looks like this platoon saved the fort and the village. If they had gotten this place they would have come right in your back door. They obviously weren't expecting to find Americans here. Great job. What award are you putting Lt Kowski in for?" or words to that effect. Frankly, at that point, awards had not even been a slight blip on my radar. I told him I guess a SS. He responded, something to the effect that possibly a DSC was called for. The BN XO was there and heard that. Later we put LT Kowski in for a DSC but I do not know what award he finally received.

We were pulled off the line along with B Company

and replaced, I was later told, by a Brigade of the 9th Infantry Division. I can't vouch for that but the 9th folks were coming in on the same choppers that we went out on. When we were pulled out we were down to about 40 troops, several of whom were walking wounded.

We were flown to Bien Hoa, where we were filled up with replacements and three days later sent north to Phu Bai to assist the USMC at Hue. On 26 February I had a mortar round land in my foxhole and I then started a long journey home.

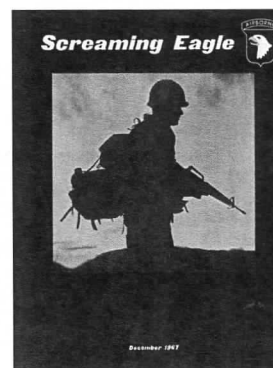
I do not have any official logs on what happened. What I related above is my experience at An Phu some 46 years ago. This recollection is reinforced by conversations over the last 15 years with some of the troops who also were there. Each of those men had their own window on the battle.

I know one thing for sure, on my second tour with the 101st in 71 as a battalion S3, and later commanding a battalion in the 82d Airborne, I was absolutely paranoid about maintaining radio contact.

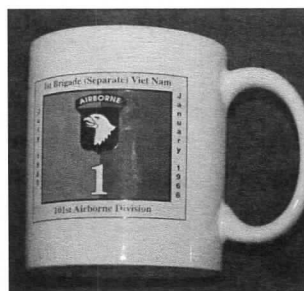
Hope all this helps answer the web site inquiry.

No Slack, Honor and Country!

Larry Redmond



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 35 for order form.



This white ceramic 11 ounce mug has the FULL COLOR FIRST BRIGADE (S) logo on two sides.

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See order form on Page 35.

Army Dropping Number Of Paratrooper Troops Result Of Reconfiguration, Budget Cutting

FORT CAMPBELL, KY. — The legendary Pathfinders have taken their final jump and the Red Devils aren't too far behind.

The two paratrooper units — formally known as the 5th Battalion, 101st Combat Aviation Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division and the 508th Infantry Regiment — are closing out long histories as a result of the U.S. Army's reconfiguration and budget cutting. Among the changes being made is a reduction in the number of parachute positions across the service.

"You have to make the best use of resources across the Army to make sure we're using tax dollars as best we can," said Jim Hinnant, a former 1st Lieutenant and paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne at Fort Bragg and spokesman for U.S. Army Forces Command.

The military is capping parachute positions at 49,000 as part of the 2012 Defense Strategic Guidance, a plan detailing the development of military forces through 2020. The plan calls for some units, including paratrooper units, to change their focus.

Lt. Col. Don Peters, the Team Chief for Operations, Intelligence and Logistics with Army Public Affairs, told The Associated Press the reductions are being

made in part because of reduced budgets and to reach the mandated maximum number of paratrooper slots of 49,000. Peters said 24 units accounting for 2,600 soldiers across the country were removed from jump status. That includes 12 units with the 18th Airborne Corps and the 82nd Airborne at Fort Bragg, N.C., and the Company F (Pathfinder), 4th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment, 159th Aviation Brigade at Fort Campbell, Ky.

"However, paratroopers continue to train and maintain readiness to execute airborne operations should a mission arise and the impact on the reduction of paid parachute positions will not degrade the capability of the Army," Peters said.

The Army kept three standing pathfinder companies: Company F (Pathfinder), 5th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment, 101st Aviation Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault); and Company F (Pathfinder), 4th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment, 159th Aviation Brigade, both at Fort Campbell, Ky. and Company F (Pathfinder), 2nd Battalion, 82d Aviation Regiment at Fort Bragg, N.C.

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division
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MACOI
Rel. No. 12-1

1 Dec 66

By 1/Lt. John H. Hensely

"AIR DROP"

TUY HOA, VIETNAM (101st - IO) — With a recent torrent of monsoon rains at the forward supply point of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division the dirt airstrip soon turned into a field of mud preventing resupply of supplies and equipment.

The paratroopers then turned to Major John W. Rago of Alexandria, Louisiana, the Assault Airlift Liaison Office of the 21st Troop Carrier Wing, requesting airdrop missions to be flown

to the forward supply point located at Dong Tre Special Forces Camp northwest of Tuy Hoa.

On four different days, 58 sorties of Air Force C-130 "Hercules" flew missions over the area kicking out bundle after bundle of supplies needed by the paratrooper combat elements.

Over 200 tons of supplies were dropped by the crews of the 374th, 345th and 463rd Troop Carrier Wings which were rigged by the 109th Rigger Detachment in Cam Rahn Bay and the 101st Rigger Detachment at Nha Trang.

Ground Recovery teams consisted of Special Forces, Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG), local civilians and paratroopers of the 101st.

"Even with the weather against us — low ceilings and poor visibility —," states Major Rago, "the drop was very successful and accurate."

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 35.



This edition of THE DIPLOMAT AND WARRIOR, June 17, 1966, was scanned from the archive copy at the Don F. Pratt Museum at Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

Page 1, **Capt Carpenter Calls Air Strike On His Own Position** [the three page one stories are by] **SGT Bob Barry, Bde HQ Info 66-67; **LTG (R) William S. Carpenter, 2/502 C 66-67 and *W. Braden Wesley, 2/502 HHC 9/65-7/66.

Page 2, **2/327 Uncovers Large Cannon**, *Louis R. Apuzzio, 2/327 B 6/65-7/66; **Warrior of the Week**, *William Hookham, 2/502 A 5/66-5/67.

Page 4, **"Westy" Salutes 1/327**, by **SGT Bob Barry, Bde HQ Info 66-67. **Not Finished Yet** (continued from page 1), *LTG(R) Henry E. (Hank) Emerson, CO 2/502 10/65-9/66. **Hungarian Trio Meet in Vietnam-Budapest Playmates**, by **SGT Bob Barry, Bde HQ Info 66-67; *Steve Baka, 2/502 HHC 7/65 - 6/66 and +Peter Fekete, 2/502 B 4/65-6/66.

Page 5, **Answered the Call**, by **SGT Bob Barry, Bde HQ Info 66-67. **Army Lt Saves Vietnamese Youth**, **Walter A. Hess, 2/327 HHC 65-66. **Photo, Well Deserved Rest**, **LTG(R) William S. Carpenter, 2/502 C 66-67.

Page 6, **They Felt Helpless**, by **SGT Bob Barry, Bde HQ Info 66-67. **101st Mauls NVA** (continued from page 1), **LTG (R) William S. Carpenter, 2/502 C 66-67; **Walter R. Brown, 2/502 A 66-67; *W. Braden Wesley, 2/502 HHC 9/65-7/66 and *LTG(R) Henry E. (Hank) Emerson, CO 2/502 10/65-9/66.

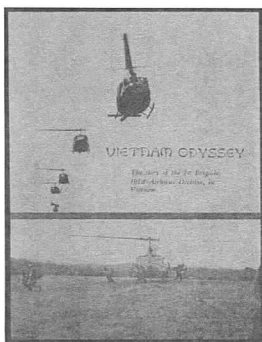
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VIETNAM ODYSSEY, The First Year is available for ALWAYS FIRST BRIGADE veterans.

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.

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'We're Not Finished Yet'

The First Brigade

DIPLOMAT AND WARRIOR

Published Weekly For The 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division

VOL. I, NO. 4

VIETNAM

JUNE 17, 1966



Troopers of Company A, 2d Battalion 502nd Infantry fire from an NVA trench as they repel another enemy attack during Operation Hawthorne. (Photo by Sgt Bernie Mangiboyat, USA)

Company Walks Out

Capt Carpenter Calls Air Strike On His Own Position

By Sgt Bob Barry

DAK TO, RVN — The lonesome end is coming down and bringing his company with him.

The besieged, surrounded, and once overrun company of the 101st Airborne Division has linked up with two sister companies and has begun the trek down from Ngoc-Run ridge.

Capt William S. Carpenter Jr., commander of the heroic company, and famed Lonesome End of the Black Knights of the Hudson led his battered but courageous paratroopers out of what was termed another «Custer's last stand.» The 29 year-old veteran had spent

48 hours under constant pressure from a reported North Vietnamese Army battalion. At one point, during the midst of a fierce charge by a numerically superior enemy force, the West Pointer called an air strike on his own position into which the enemy had infiltrated. The strike broke the NVA charge and saved Carpenter's company.

At 1 a.m. this morning two companies which had come to Carpenter's aid yesterday, began a 100 meter march through bamboo thickets and harrasing sporadic enemy fire. Twelve hours later they reached a

bald hilltop over-looking the Dak-Pa-Can Valley, final resting place of 279 dead NVA regulars.

The hilltop was secured by a provisional company brought from the Brigade's base camp at Phan Rang and under the command of Capt Walter Wesley.

After the dead and wounded were evacuated by helicopter, Capt Carpenter and his weary troopers started the march down the hill for a well needed rest.

American casualties for the operation, HAWTHORNE, have been surprisingly light.

101st Mauls NVA Hawthorne Nets 871

By Sgt Bob Barry

DAK TO, RVN — They're all around us, we can hear them giving orders.» The people remained but the orders stopped; 465 North Vietnamese army regulars were dead. This is Operation HAWTHORNE and the beginning of the monsoon offensive.

HERE TO FIGHT

«These Charlies are here to fight. They've been sitting under that artillery and air strikes for two days and nights,» said Lt Ronald Odom, the S2 officer for the 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry. As he spoke, violent automatic weapons fire cracked through the heavy jungle in the distance. This was the Dak To Kan Valley and for the past four days his unit had been locked in the fiercest battle the 1st Brigade, has been engaged in since its arrival in country

1/327 AIDS TOU MORONG

The operation, dubbed Hawthorne, began with the elements of the 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry relieving the besieged outpost of Tou Morong. Major David Hackworth led his gallant troopers on the helicopter assault that began the fight for the major NVA infiltration route from Laos.

An indication was given as to the type of force the «Screaming Eagles» were up against when Battery B of the 2d Battalion, 320th Artillery was openly charged by a reported NVA company. At one point of the pre-dawn battle, one of the «Red Legs» gun emplacements was overrun, only to be taken back in a fierce battle of winner take all. With elements of the 326th Engineer Battalion supporting the artillerymen, the near suicidal attack by the enemy was driven off. But a valuable warning was given; the enemy was here to fight. As Major Hackworth's

Tiger Force took the brunt of a company sized attack, the 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry went into action in what was later termed «Custer's last stand.»

SUPPORT FROM CAV

Artillery was moved into place to effect fire support for the two infantry battalions. The long road connecting Dak To and the artillery position was cleared by the ever-present 326th Engineers and the tireless A Troop, 2d Squadron of the 17th Cavalry. Everyday, this unbeatable team guides the artillery ammo supply.

(Continued Page 6)

'Not Finished Yet'

By Sgt Bob Barry

DAK TO, RVN — They stood by the roadside in ranks of five deep. General William C. Westmoreland, COMUSMACV, crossed the road and was met with a thunderous «Strike Force, Sir!»

Only Companies A and C had come in to the base camp by the airfield. Bravo Company had stayed in the field. But they came in only to regroup and resupply, and later that same day they'd go out again.

KNOWS OF BATTLES

General Westmoreland cited Captain William Carpenter Jr., commander of Company C for heroism and gallantry. He told the «Strike Force» troopers he knew of their battles and of their friends and comrades being hit. But he also told

(Continued Page 4)

Know Your Enemy

Literally translated, the phrase Viet Cong (VC) means Vietnamese people; however, it has gained the connotation for Western thought of Vietnamese Communist, and those who are Viet Cong employ the whole Communist arsenal of deceit and violence. A Viet Cong is a man, woman, or child — a tough fighter, with words or weapons, for what he is taught to call and believes is the «liberation» of South Vietnam — the Republic of Vietnam. Viet Cong also applies to the military and civilian components of the «Front» (the National Front for the Liberation of South Vietnam, or NFLSVN). To its followers the Front is the government they serve.

The Viet Cong liberation army within the Republic of Vietnam has expanded its numbers enormously, despite increasingly heavy casualties. Its so-called main force has grown from about 10,000 men in 1960 to over 65,000. Several regiments of the North Vietnamese Army have been sent by Hanoi into South Vietnam as part of the Communist buildup of forces in the south. As befits «regulars», many of the VC are armed with late-model weapons and wear uniforms, helmets of wicker or steel, and unit identification.

The strength of the Viet Cong guerillas has not increased as rapidly. The estimated more than 100,000 guerillas and militia, mostly based in the vicinity of their home villages and hamlets, are essential to the success of the main force and to the whole Viet Cong effort. Better armed and trained than before, the irregulars still wear the «calico noir», the traditional black pajamas of the Vietnamese peasant (worn also by the regulars as fatigue uniforms.) They guide, support, reinforce, and provide recruits for the liberation movement. They also make possible the rule of the VC in the countryside, enforcing the dictates of the local Front organizations.

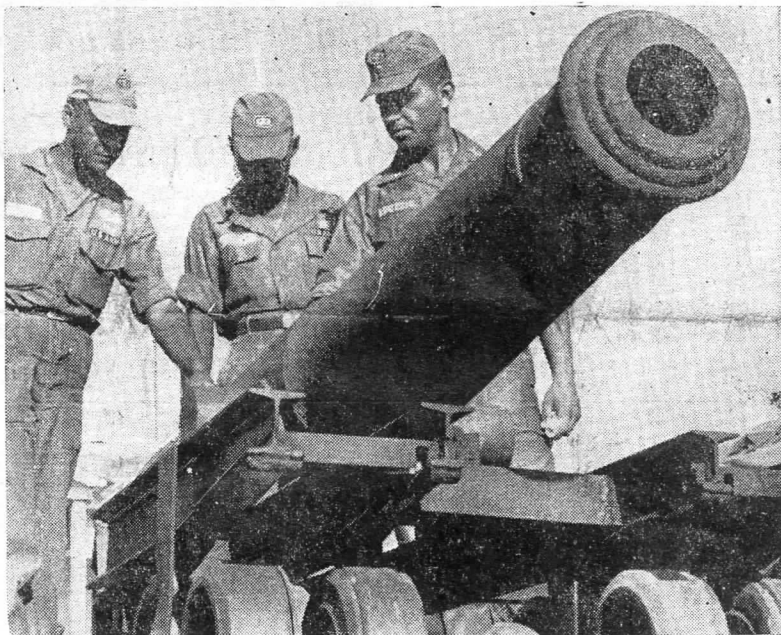
There are substantial areas in which the Front is the only effective government. It operates schools and hospitals, clothing factories and arsenals. Millions of Vietnamese support the Front out of friendship or fear. Due largely to the militia and the secret agents of the VC, an estimated one-fourth of the people of South Vietnam pay taxes to the Government. This is an impressive record for a shadow government.

What makes the Viet Cong and their way of warfare so significant is that they started with so little in material assets, but had a belief in a well-proven doctrine, a thorough knowledge of its tactics, and the moral support of Communists throughout the world. They had no industrial capacity. They had no substantial armed forces, only a few thousand experienced guerillas, and perhaps 100,000 supporters — mostly in remote areas seldom visited by Government troops.

On the other hand, the Viet Cong had hidden stores of weapons and ammunition left over from the war against the French. They were sent trained and dedicated Communists to provide leadership, and the resources of the Communist regime in the North.

As in conventional wars, each side expanded its armed might after the war had started. When it became obvious that the Republic of Vietnam in the South could not win without military force, the US began sending a growing stream of arms and supplies into South Vietnam by air and sea. In the North, infiltrators were trained to assume key positions of leadership in South Vietnam. Communist China and other Communist countries have supplied weapons and ammunition, primarily through North Vietnam.

The Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces, whose fight for freedom we support, have increased their numbers and obtained improved equipment. However, while the Front was experiencing its greatest growth, the Government of South Vietnam was undergoing great political stress and frequent changes of administration. These factors have undoubtedly facilitated the growth of the Front, but they have not stunted the determination to resist Communist aggression.



Lt Louis R. Appuzio and two members of B Company, 2d Battalion 327th Infantry display the two-ton cannon Sp/4 George O. Hazlewood uncovered while clearing away brush from his foxhole at Tuy Hoa.

2/327 Uncovers Large Cannon

By Lt John Hensley

TUY HOA, RVN — «Without a doubt this must be the largest crew served weapon captured yet in Vietnam,» quipped Lt Louis R. Appuzio.

Appuzio, of Elizabeth, New Jersey, was commenting on the ancient two-ton cannon found beneath a layer of jungle growth near Tuy Hoa while his company was on a search and destroy operation.

The commander of Company «B», 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry, had instructed his platoons to clear firing areas forward of their positions.

THOUGHT IT WAS A BOMB

It was while hacking away at brush in front of his foxhole that Sp/4 George O. Hazlewood changed his entrenching tool into a metal object. «At first I thought it was a bomb,» said the Louisburg, N.C. native. «Finally we decided to very carefully dig whatever it was up. When we uncovered this cannon with the 16 pound ball ammunition we just couldn't believe it.»

A platoon spent two days moving the monstrous weapon to where an UH-1D helicopter (HUEY) could pick it up.

DISPLAYED AT HQS

The «HUEY» barely ma-

naged the lift back to Tuy Hoa where it now sits proudly in front of the Battalion Headquarters.

Warrior Of The Week

By Lt John Hensley

DAK TO, RVN — The honor of being chosen the first Warrior of the Week has gone to 1/Lt William C. Hookman of Pomona, California, a Platoon Leader in Company «A», 2nd Battalion, 502d Infantry.

The program, recently originated by the Brigade, is designed to honor a lieutenant of Infantry, Artillery, Armor, or Engineers who has shown outstanding leadership and professionalism as a combat leader.

The California veteran of one month in Vietnam was chosen for his actions in the initial contact at Dak To last week during Operation Hawthorne.

«I am honored by being

chosen,» stated Lt Hookman, «but the real Warrior's are my men. They deserve all the credit possible; they are tremendous soldiers.

The Warrior of the Week is allowed to spend a 24 hour period at Brigade Headquarters with Brigade Commander, Brigadier General Willard Pearson, Clairton, Penn., for his achievement.



Lt William Hookman A/2/502

DIPLOMAT and WARRIOR

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CG Brig. Gen. WILLARD PEARSON
 IO Maj. IVAN G. WORRELL
 OIC Lt. EDWARD SCHILLO
 EDITOR Sp4 MICHAEL H. HAAS



Wading a shallow stream, paratroopers of the 2d Battalion 502d Infantry move from the landing zone to the command post during Operation Hawthorne. (Photo by Robert G. Lloyd)



Elements of the 326th Engineers are lowered into the jungle north of Dak To to cut out a landing zone to evacuate wounded paratroopers on Operation Hawthorne. (Photo by Sp4 Breiland)

Operation Hawthorne

Operation Hawthorne has afforded the «Nomads of Vietnam» the opportunity to meet, on the field of battle, the finest trained and equipped enemy soldiers. Through long nights and hectic days, those of you who represent the «Always First» Brigade on the front line have soundly defeated the forces thrown against you. You have also captured the emotion and reality of battle in your quotes...to you and our lost comrades we humbly dedicate this edition.

The battle for the Dak To Kan Valley was ended a few hours after the massive B-52 Bomb strike — as always the Combat Infantryman had to finish the job. The feeling of these men was captured in two brief radio messages — Colonel: «Don't zap them all, take some prisoners.» Captain: «We'll try Sir, but these men are mad!»



The battery commander of the hard hit B Battery, 2d Battalion, 320th Artillery explains to his battalion commander where the NVA mortar rounds came from and where the NVA soldiers attacked from. (Photo by USA)



Paratroopers of the elite "Recondo" force of the 2d Battalion 502d Infantry move down a stream on patrol during Operation Hawthorne north of Dak To. (Photo by Robert G. Lloyd)

Above The Rest

"Westy" Salutes 1/327

By Sgt. Bob Barry

DAK TO, RVN — General William C. Westmoreland, commander of US forces in Vietnam, mounted a platform of three empty ammunition boxes and said to the troopers around him: «You have lived up to your motto and I salute you. You are «Above The Rest.»

TEN TO I RATIO

The four star general arrived at the artillery firing position where Major David H. Hackworth, commander of the 1/327th Infantry, had grouped his proud troopers. The General minced no words when he spoke. «You have taken casualties, but for every one you received, you gave the enemy ten.»

The troopers sat on a small hillside, looking down at the General as he spoke. All were dirty and tired, but as General Westmoreland came to attention and saluted them, eyes sparkled and privates to majors felt pride well up inside them. They

stood as he passed through them, stopping to talk to some on his way. «What do you think of that M-16,» he asked one man. «The best sir, the best,» was the reply.

GOING IN AGAIN

General Westmoreland accompanied Major Hackworth back to his command post and the 327th moved back to their positions. But as they disappeared into the jungle the tired shoulders were thrown back and the dirty, grimy faces were fixed with a look of determination. They had fought hard and maybe tomorrow they will fight even harder, but whatever the challenge, they were «Above The Rest.»

Church Attendance Of GI's Up In RVN

More C.S. servicemen in South Vietnam are attending religious services on a weekly per capita basis than civilians in the United States, according to a Defense Department report.

Comparatively, the rate of U.S. servicemen attending chapel services in RVN is 20 percent higher than civilians at home.

Statistics released by Chaplain (Maj. Gen.) Charles E. Brown Jr., USA, Chairman of the Armed Forces Chaplains Board, show, according to actual attendance figures, 18.3 percent of the entire U.S. military population in RVN attend church service weekly.

Officials point out an estimated 20,000 or more additional U.S. servicemen attend religious services in RVN communities near military installations.

«The moral behavior of our fighting men and their interest in religion,» according to Chaplain Brown, «far exceeds that which I observe among their peers here at home.»

It was noted the civilian weekly attendance rate of 14 percent in the U.S., according to the National Council of Churches, includes women and older men.

2/502 BATTLES NVA



Troopers of Company A, 2d Battalion 502d Infantry fight NVA from artillery crater following the main attack by a battalion of NVA on B Battery of the 320th Artillery. (Photo by Sgt Bernie Mangiboyat, USA)

Purchasing Consolidated

Army's 1st Logistics Command, Republic of Vietnam, has consolidated all local purchasing by U.S. Defense Department agencies in the RVN to form a centralized U.S. Army purchasing activity.

The new agency will replace the Logistics Command's purchasing and contracting division.

Westy Lauds 2/502

(Continued From Page 1)

them that they took more than ten of the enemy for every one of their casualties.

As he was talking, a C-130 took off from the airfield. The General looked over his shoulder and paused; then he said to the paratroopers gathered around him: «Take you helmets off, I think you'll be able to hear me better.»

NOT FINISHED YET

Lt Col Henry E. Emerson, commander of the 2/502d Infantry Battalion, stood by proudly as General Westmoreland told his troopers, «The officers and men of every American unit in Vietnam are proud of you and your actions here.»

As the General turned to go, Colonel Emerson said, «We're not finished yet Sir.» Westmoreland looked about him, at the mer of the «Strike Force,» and said, «Damn right you're not.»

Hungarian Trio Meet In Vietnam-Budapest Playmates

By Sgt Bob Barry

TUY HOA, RVN — Three American paratroopers stood in a U.S. Army chow tent near Tuy Hoa, Vietnam, staring in disbelief. They had not seen each other since their homes were destroyed by revolution in Budapest, Hungary, ten years ago.

William Zsigmond, Steve Baka and Peter Feketa were playmates in their home town of Budapest. When the revolution erupted in 1956 the 10 year old boys parted and left the country with their families. Steve Baka's father was one of the organizers of the resistance and before young Steve left his home land he bore the scars of war on his body.

When Zsigmond, now a Specialist Five in the Army entered the tent in Tuy Hoa he heard excited voices conversing in his native tongue. When he introduced himself to Specialist Four Feketa and Private First Class Baka the gap of ten years and half the world away closed.

All three men were in the same unit, 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. All three were in different companies in the battalion and for six months fought in Vietnam never knowing of each others presence.

Zsigmond recalled the first meeting; «We just stood staring at each other when we realized who we were because we couldn't

find any wine.» All three of paratrooper's families arrived in the United States in 1956. All three men were made naturalized citizens in 1963.

Baka commented on his seeing Feketa. «When I saw him I knew immediately who it was. Pete had an accident when we were kids and he still had a scar.»

PFQ Baka is the only one of the three married. His wife Jacki and their daughter live in Forrestville, Md. Zsigmond lives in Pittsburg, Pa., and Feketa, makes his home in East Orange, N.J.

The threesome vowed to keep contact with each other upon arrival back in the United States. The old saying, «its a small world» will be vouched for by three Hungarian playmates.

HAWTHORNE

The operational totals for Operation Hawthorne at press time were as follows:

VC KIA	465
EST KIA	475
WPNS CAP.	114

The fighting is continuing at Dak To.



Pretty Karol Kelly, Florida Citrus Queen for 1965, poses near a local pool at Homosassa Springs, Fla.

Gun 6 Still Ours

By Sgt. Bob Willman

DAK TO, RVN — Mortar shells pounded the earth and machine gun fire sprayed the air. The perils of war were falling upon an artillery unit during the early morning hours of darkness in the central highlands of South Vietnam.

Battery B of the 2d Battalion 320th Artillery was hit hard by a North Vietnamese Army unit approximately battalion size early on the morning of 7 June. They struck with such force the number six 105 Howitzer gun emplacement, manned by Sergeant Malcom Bentz from Huntington, W. V., and his seven men were completely surrounded. Sergeant Bentz was trying to grab a few minutes of sleep when the attack came.

REACTED QUICKLY

Bentz was up in a matter of seconds, diving into the trench that surrounded his perimeter. He quickly sized up the situation and began

firing his M-16 fully automatic, pausing only to hurl grenades into the onrushing enemy. Despite the intense fire, Bentz was able to gain a few seconds of precious time to regroup his gun crew against the overwhelming odds.

Bentz then moved his men away from the gun emplacement to a secondary position. «Automatic weapons fire was coming in when my assistant gunner was killed trying to get to my position,» he stated. By this time the enemy troops were all over his gun emplacement. Sergeant Bentz accurately tossed a grenade into the gun position, killing four.

HE WAS DETERMINED

Fighting continued into the daylight hours as Sergeant Bentz and his crew stood their ground. «No North Vietnamese unit was going to get my gun,» he stated proudly.

you would think he had grown up in any area he was in. On the darkest night, in the thickest jungle, over any type terrain, he could pinpoint any objective.

Devotion, loyalty, trust, — they all fall short of the feeling his men held for him. Whatever the mission and intelligence reports with it, his men were ready, and assured — «The Indian» was going to lead them.

He didn't have parents, a wife and children to go home to. The Army was his life. I once overheard his squad razzing him about not being married but he quipped back, «if the Army don't issue one, I don't need one.»

A short time ago he developed «jungle rot» on his right foot and much to his disagreement was evacuated to the rear for treatment. After arguing with the medics for five days to let him return to his unit they finally consented. He limped to the chopper for the ride back but he never made it. The chopper went down during the night in a ball of flame.

He gave his all; everything a man can give — his life.



Pearson Decorated

During an inspection of Brabota battlefield in Dak To district, Kontum province on Wednesday morning, Prime Minister Nguyen Cao Ky decorated Brigadier General Willard Pearson of Clairton, Pa., Commanding General of the 1st Brigade.

Complete details as to the nature of the award were not available at press time.

Answered The Call

By Sgt Bob Barry

DAK TO, RVN — Some were recuperating from wounds and illness; some were about to go on R&R and others were preparing to go home but all answered the call for help.

Major Donald Schroeder, the Executive Officer of the 2d Battalion 502d Infantry stood before a formation of troopers in Phan Rang. He told them of the Dak Ta Kan Valley and the reports of C Company. «First reports are always the worst and right now that's all I have. Charlie Company needs help,» he said. The men of the rear echelon had a right to be there, most of them were going home very soon. Some had hands bandaged and limps from previous battles, and a few were about to leave for a well-deserved rest. But in war a strange sense of brotherhood joins men of a unit together and the men of the 502d proved it.

The major looked at the men in the formation and said, «A plane will leave in

an hour, Strike Force.» They left their orders lying on their gear and quietly walked to the supply tent for rifles and ammunition. One trooper with a bad limp said to the major, «Don't leave me behind Sir — I'll take a radio.»

86 dedicated men boarded the plane to Dak To. No greater tribute can be paid a comrade in arms than was expressed by the 86 men of the 2/502's Provisional Company.

Amy Lt Saves Vietnamese Youth

By Lt John Hensley

TUY HOA, RVN—Through his courageous efforts 1/Lt Walter A Hess of Chicago, Ill., has been credited with saving the life of a drowning Vietnamese youth near Tuy Hoa.

Hess battled two hundred meters of pounding surf and treacherous South China Sea undertow to pull the lad to the beach where he administered artificial respiration enabling the youth to regain consciousness

Gave His All

By Lt. John Hensley

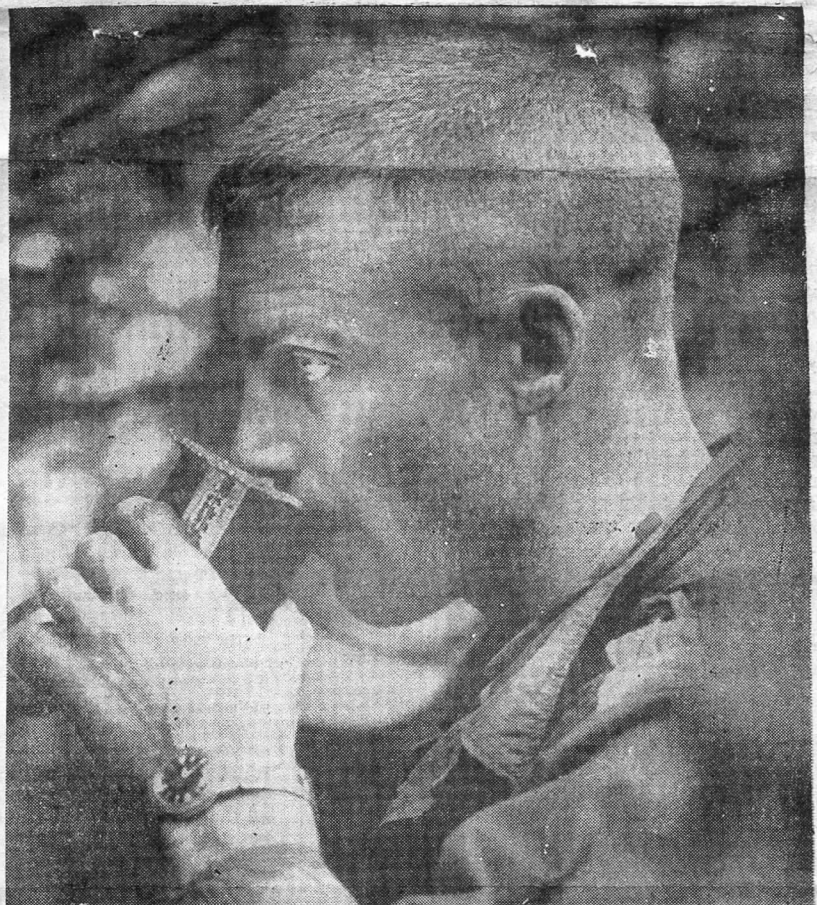
PHAN RANG, RVN — He was called «The Indian» and that's exactly what he was, a full blooded Navajo from Shadow Rock, Arizona. He didn't give his all part of the time, or every once in a while, but all the time. His all was best.

SSgt Gene Hawthorne was a squad leader in 3rd Platoon, Company «A», 2/502d Infantry Battalion. The Ranger-Airborne qualified «Screaming Eagle» arrived in Vietnam in December 1965 and saw his first major action at Tuy Hoa near the now infamous hill «51».

It was at Hill 51 that he was recommended for the Distinguished Service Cross and received the Purple Heart. He took out an eight man patrol and only two returned without wounds — some didn't return at all. They were attacked five times by an undetermined VC force killing at least 35 of them. He was wounded several times throughout the fierce battle. At dawn, he was unable to move, he was bleeding profusely, but he continued to resist by calling and adjusting artillery fire by sound only. When the medics found him he was unconscious and nearly dead from lack of blood.

He gave his all that day and after a short rest in a hospital he returned.

By the way he read a map



WELL DESERVED REST — Capt William Carpenter Jr., commander of C Company, 2/502d Infantry, takes a drink of cool water at the command post after having led his company down from the besieged ridgeline at Ngoc Run Ridge.

They Felt Helpless

By Sgt Bob Barry

DAK TO, RVN — «We've been getting excited all day now so lets just calm down and get it right — OK now, send your message.» These were the words of a professional soldier sent in the still and dark of the night after a battle.

Planes dropped flares as medical evacuation helicopters hovered over the thick-wooded mountain, lifting wounded American Army paratroopers out by wench. It was a very dark night and for the men of 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry it would be a long and lonely night.

FELT HELPLESS

Miles away at the brigade command post a movie was being shown to the men who operate the nerve center of the brigade. The movie was in color and very exciting — but a quiet, strange atmosphere had fallen over the audience. They began to back away from the screen of cloth draped between two trucks; many moved to the side and away from the trucks. Off in the distance the sky was alive with flares — helicopters came in and went out with wounded. «God I feel helpless,» a voice in the darkness said.

The command post operation center was filled with smoke and men — men from two shifts — some didn't want to leave — some just couldn't leave. «All quiet now,» remarked a Captain. «Whats the casualty count,» asked another. «They don't know yet — still bringing them in. It's so damn dark out there,» a voice from a map board said.

ITS THEIR WAR

It was a night after the battle, the battle which could erupt at any minute again. A quiet, soft spoken lieutenant summed it up this way; «you'd like to be out there — probably you couldn't do any more than

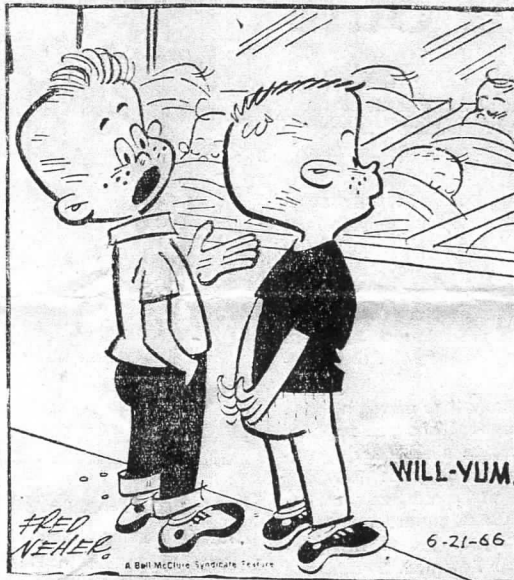
the other guy but you'd have to try. No words will help anyone now — its just those guys out there — no commands would help now — its all their own individual war — its dark and until light it's all their war.»

In Vietnam many men of many units face these nights and lonely moments. But on this night, in a valley known only by the River that flows through it, 375 of the enemy were dead and the paratroopers expected more. The reality of the true war is all theirs; they live it, night after night.

101st Mauls NVA

(Continued From Page 1)

As the hours passed the infantry swept the ridges and bamboo thicket around the Dak Ta Kan Valley. Then in the command post of the 502d the radio came to life. «They're all around us; they're in us.» This was the beginning of a very long 48 hours for Company C of the 502d. Before it was over, Captain Willam Carpenter Jr., commanding officer of Company C, would call an air strike on his own position to break an enemy battalion charge. Before Charlie Company walked off of that hill a provisional company would be formed from troopers in Phan Rang waiting go home. They would go to Dak To to secure the landing zone for Company's C's wounded. All in 48 hours, Company A, led by Captain Walter Brown, would fight the jungle and the enemy to



«All new babies are red. Automobiles you at least have a choice of colors.»

get help to Carpenter's company.

For two days the NVA would continually press the attack. Capt Walter Wesley, provisional company commander, said over the radio, «It appears the whole valley has people in it to prevent him from getting out.»



Capt. Carpenter

But as the battered Company C held out and Company A closed with them, Col Emerson, 502d commander, said, «It could become very sporting out there now it those silly bastards came out of their holes. We'll get a big bag of 'em if they do.»

Wesley took his provisionals up the Ngoc Run Ridge and secured the high ground, fighting the NVA's all the way. When he radioed that the LZ had been secured, Companies A and C began the longest 1000 meter march of their lives. Thick bamboo, tangled jungle and constant harrasing fire from the enemy

hampered their progress. But 12 hours after they began, a dirty, tired, but very determined force of paratroopers emerged from the jungle into the clearing held by Wesley's provisional company.

WELL DONE

On the ridgetop overlooking the valley, the men of the 502d greeted each other, not with cheers or cries of joy but meaningful handshakes and nods of thanks.

QUIZ

SPORTS

- Who is the only woman in tennis history to win the Singles title in the United States, Great Britain, France, and Australia in one year?
- What is the oldest Trophy competed for by athletes on the North American continent?
- Who holds the National Football League passing record for a single season?
- How many boxers who won Olympic titles have gone on to capture world titles as professionals since 1904?
- Princeton's Charley Gogolak finished 10th among major college scorers in the 1965 season with 81 points. How did he score his points?

ANSWERS

- Maureen Connolly in 1953.
- Hockey's Stanley Cup.
- Sammy Baugh with a 70.3 average in 1945.
- Six.
- Exclusively by kicking. Gogolak completed 16 field goals and 33 conversions.

Brig Gen Willard Pearson, Commanding General of the Brigade, greeted Captains Carpenter, Brown, and Wesley with a quiet, respectful handgrasp and 'well done men.»

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Answer to Previous Puzzle

ACROSS

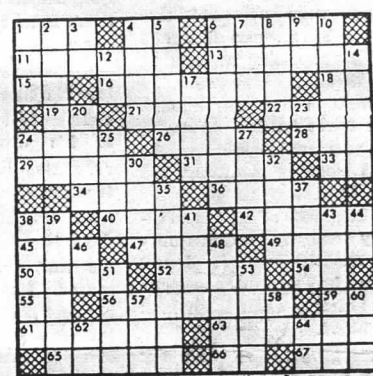
- Man's nickname
- Conjunction
- Bend over
- Like a bear
- Chief
- Compass point
- Parts of flowers
- Artificial language
- Grand Duchy (abbr.)
- Man's nickname
- Decorate
- Rail bird
- Take one's part
- Compass point
- Shoot at from cover
- Old's nickname
- Exclamation
- Young salmon
- Shore bird
- Quiet
- Boisterous festivity
- Loop
- Cover
- Chimney carbon
- Part of speech
- Girl's name
- Druggery
- Parent (colloq.)
- Teutonic deity
- Latticework
- A state (abbr.)
- Relative
- Tour
- Portions of medicine
- Compass point
- Before

- Emmets
- Chairs
- Slim
- Number
- Kin
- Hypothetical force
- Die
- Exists
- Shake
- Speirian character
- Principal
- Fall in drops
- Note of scale
- Steamship (abbr.)
- Three-banded armadillo
- Verve
- Goddess of discord
- King of beasts
- Lodgers
- Weaving machine
- Piggins
- Frightful



DOWN

- Large cask
- A state
- Manuscript (abbr.)



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January 1, 2014
through March 20, 2014

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326 MED D 7/66-2/67 - 4/15
33 Sunset Blvd.
Hamilton Sq., NJ 08690-3940

LTC(R) Paul W. Apfel

2/327 B CO ELT 7/64-7/66 - 1/15
1585 Summerhill Lane
Lincoln, CA 95648-8348

Larry Atkins

2/502 A 7/65-7/67- 1/15
2150 Little Cedar Dr.
Kingwood, TX 77339-1715

CSM(R) Peter Bacerra

2/327 HQ 5/66-5/67 - 1/15
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Columbus, GA 31909-2607

Beldon Baker, Jr.

2/17 CAV A 12/63-4/66 - 1/15
3804 Nassau Circle
Hopkinsville, KY 42240-5342

Al (Thomas A.) Bateman \$

2/502 HHC 9/66-10/67 - 1/15
205 Walnut Ave.
Hamlet, NC 28345

Dean J. Beaupré \$

2/502 A 1/67-1/68 - 7/15
3469 Fancher Rd.
Holley, NY 14470-9393

Robert H. Berry

2/502 B 1/67-12/67 - 4/15
26743 W. 109th St.
Olathe, KS 66061-7499

CW4(R) George T. Berryhill

2/327 HHC 10/67-10/68 - 4/16
300 Walker Road
Travelers Rest, SC 29690-8836

Gary Bills \$

2/327 A 10/66-10/67 - 1/15
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Washington, UT 84780-2391

Gerald (Smiley) Bitting

2/502 HHC 2/66-11/68 - 1/15
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Altoona, IA 50009-1936

John E. Boeddeker \$

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Lehigh Acres, FL 33936-1439

SGT Anthony E. Bouchard

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Antioch, TN 37013-4050

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Troutville, VA 24175-5820

Philip V. Bulone

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MAJ(R) George H. Carter

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Chicago, IL 60651

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Slaton, TX 79364-2811

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4/65-12/65 - 1/15
709 Hidden Lake Road
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2/327 HHC 7/65-6/66 - 1/15
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Peru, NY 12972-5405

Ben R. Hammack

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CPT Barry Hana

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Wade D. Hansen

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Casa Grande, AZ 85122-6512

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Rochester, MN 55906-7629

Joseph Hennessy

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Thomas J. Horner, Jr. 2/502 A 7/67-10/67 - 4/15 340 Taylor St. NE, Apt. P-33 Washington, DC 20017-1551	Jim Lane 326 ENGR A 5/66-5/67 - 4/15 1105 So. H Street Port Angeles, WA 98363-5533	Art Osborne 2/327, 3/506 7/67-7/68 - 1/15 3650 Denewood Ct. Columbus, GA 31909-3741	R. Jack Santos 2/17 CAV A Trp 1/66-12/66 - 7/15 1828 Berkley Ave. Pueblo, CO 81004-3240
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LTC(R) Robert P. Johnston \$ SPT BN 7/65-3/66 - 1/16 21500 Limit Road Easton, KS 66020-7144	Luis M. Lopez 2/502 A 3/67-3/68 - 1/15 1700 Onyx Lane Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403-5620	1SGT(R) James B. Rawlinson 2/502 12/65-12/66 - 1/15 139 Michael Lane Talladega, AL 35160	Donald J. Stevenson 2/320 FA HHB 8/67-11/67 - 1/16 P.O. Box 860217 Plano, TX 75086-0217
Phil Kallas 1/501 A 69-70 - 4/15 308 Acorn St. Stevens Point, WI 54481-6001	Kevin M. McCabe 2/320 ARTY HHQ 12/66-10/67 - 10/14 3406 Washington St. Bethlehem, PA 18020-6502	Donald M. Reddeman \$ 2/502 A & E 8/67-3/69 - 1/15 5115 Eagle Rd. Highland, MI 48356-1401	SGT Jesse Talley 501 SIG BN A 7/65-1/67 - 1/15 280 Stratton Ct. Brentwood, TN 37027-4228
Fran Kilgore Associate - 1/15 1832 Cougar Lane Clovis, CA 93611	1SG(RET) Robert O. Martin \$ 2/327 Recon 1/67-11/67 - 1/15 1041 55th St. Downers Grove, IL 60515-4824	COL(R) Lawrence A. Redmond \$ 2/327 A 5/67-2/68 - 4/15 336 Crystal River Dr. Poinciana, FL 34759-5212	Yen Tran 2/502 SUPPORT 7/65-3/68 - 1/15 3801 Magnolia St. Irvine, CA 92606-2140
Thomas Kinane 1/327 C 4/67-12/68 - 10/14 646 Wimbledon Ct. Eugene, OR 97401-1781	Ron Martin \$ 2/327 Att A,B,C 4/66-8/66 - 1/15 11 Northlake Cir. Peachtree City, GA 30269	Enriquez M. Rel 2/327 C 7/67-2/68 - 1/15 P. O. Box 2883 Ruidoso, NM 88355-2883	LTC(R) John Wagner 5/27 FA C BTRY 7/66-12/66 - 1/15 275 Stoneledge Drive Roanoke, VA 24019-8505
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Jose S. Laguana \$ 2/502 A 12/65-9/66 - 1/15 P.O. Box 21823 Barrigada, GU 96921-1823	Donald A. Nelson 1/327 B & HHC 9/66-3/68 - 1/15 490 Fairbanks Road Farmington, ME 04938-9405	LT GEN(R) Donald E. Rosenblum 2/327 HQ CO 6/66-6/67 - 4/15 32 E. Bull St. Savannah, GA 31401-2665	MAJ(R) Fred M. White 2/327 C&A 8/67-8/68 - 1/15 3 Fairway Drive Elizabethtown, KY 42701-8104

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Address Corrections

January 1, 2014
through March 20, 2014

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Ron Martin
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Bad Address

January 1, 2014
through March 20, 2014

Stephen Patterson
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Pacific Palisades, CA 90272

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BEANS, AMMO AND MUSIC

Saigon, Vietnam (delayed) - The Support Battalion of the

1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division not only provides the paratroopers with rations, ammunition and fuel, but also musical entertainment - a jive combo that visits the line units in the field.

The trooper, weary after a long operation, has only to sit back, smoke a cigarette and listen to the beat of the drums, the rock of a guitar and a loud horn.

The group leader, Sergeant Joseph Graham from Philadelphia, Pa., comments, "It makes us feel good to be out in the woods with the troops. Usually we are in the rear area, pounding on typewriters or sorting records, but here we are with a beat and jive to keep our troops alive." Yeh. Yeh. Yeh.

50th Anniversary Commemoration



The two logos above are a first draft for artwork to identify the July 2015 50th Anniversary Commemoration of the First Brigade(S) 101st Airborne Division landing in Viet Nam. The back of the logo will depict the date and location of the reunion. The celebration will be

on July 29, 2015. The hotel and schedule are now a work in progress. The 50th Anniversary gathering will be sponsored by THE FIRST SCREAMING EAGLES IN VIET NAM magazine.

POW's indicates that enemy units are probably aware of our efforts and have restricted the use of fires to counter our detection efforts. The last four Red Haze missions have been scheduled in order to coincide with reported cooking times of the units, but the results to date are inconclusive.

(5) Where photographic coverage was not available, visual reconnaissance was able to fill in the gap. Here again this reconnaissance effort was restricted by the heavy tree canopy.

(6) In order to provide for the timely acquisition of basic photographic coverage it is necessary to plan and request photo coverage well in advance of moving into an area. The limitations imposed by the current availability of aircraft and facilities require a lead time in excess of seven days in order to obtain photography of a new area.

c. The immediate deployment of IPW teams to the point of enemy capture has proven to be a valuable tactical asset; however, units must take care to insure that prisoners are at the designated point for interrogation. Wasted time only deprives other units of the brigade of this capability.

d. The use of daily liaison visits to CIDG Camps and District Headquarters within the TAOR has done much toward supplementing the intelligence picture.

e. Contact was frequently established by employing patrol teams into their areas based on reports from reliable sources. Exploiting the contacts gained requires improvement.

4. (C) COMSEC:

a. Organic COMSEC: A total of 9,955 transmissions were monitored. During JOHN PAUL JONES, 4 nets were monitored: Bde Op/Intel, Admin/Log, and Bde Command nets. During this period there was a vast improvement in the field of communication security within the Brigade nets.

b. Attached COMSEC: A total of 3,617 transmissions were monitored by an attached COMSEC team from the 313th Radio Research Bn. Of this total, 792 transmissions were covered on the command nets of 1/327, 2/327, and 2/502 Inf, and 534 transmissions (90 hours) were covered on the Bde switchboard.

5. (U) The following is a breakout of enemy weapons and material losses during Operation JOHN PAUL JONES:

a. Weapons Captured:

Mausers	- 19
M1S 36	- 1
SKS	- 6
AK-47	- 13
Czech .22 cal	- 1
US carbine	- 6
RPD MG	- 5
US .45 cal pistol	- 1
.45 cal Thompson SMG	- 1
M-16 rifle	- 1
French MAT 49 SMG	- 1

b. Ammunition:

Grenades	- 608
Mines	- 51
SA ammo	- 5559
57mm RR	- 6
75mm RR	- 9
Bangalore torpedoes	- 15
81mm mortar	- 1
Demolitions (lbs)	- 50

c. Others:

RPD MG barrels	- 3
Bicycles	- 4
Boats	- 1
Radios, AN/PRC-10	- 1
Radio, 71-B	- 2
Rice (tons)	- 11.7
AR-47 magazines	- 35

Inclosure 1 to Inclosure 1 (Intelligence) to Combat Operations After Action Report, Operation JOHN PAUL JONES.

1. (U) VC/NVA initial Order of Battle within Brigade TAOR: VC/NVA dispositions at the beginning of Operation JOHN PAUL JONES were as indicated below:

a. The 95th and 18B Regiments were confirmed as being present in PHU YEN Province in July. The 18B was believed to be deployed in the eastern portion of the province, with the 95th further to the west.

b. The 95th Battalion, 68th Arty Regt, NVA was confirmed in the province in July.

c. The 85th VC Local Force Battalion was believed to be located in the area of Song Cau.

d. Nine district and local force companies were believed to be located in the province, with a strength of 70 per company.

2. (O) Order of Battle Findings and Summary in Operational Area:

a. Summary:

(1) As a result of exploitation of B-52 strikes, and sweeps through known VC base areas within the operational area contact with elements of the 561st (95th) Arty Bn was made in the Ky Lo Valley, and an NVA captain assigned to the 5th Division was captured. Sweeps of the area to the east of Dong Tre and Cung Son forced the VC to disperse into small elements to avoid contact. Scattered contacts with VC and NVA forces were made during the sweep.

(2) Units identified by prisoners and agents as being in the Brigade area of operation were the 561st Arty Bn and 5th Division, both located in the Ky Lo Valley.

(3) Constant resistance on a small scale was met by the Brigade in Tuy An District, along the Cai River, where a large amount of rice is grown, indicating that the VC are in need of the rice in this area, and are trying to obtain it despite US forces.

b. OB Findings: Inclosure 2 (Order of Battle Findings) to Inclosure 1 (Intelligence).

c. Final Viet Cong/NVA dispositions at termination of Operation JOHN PAUL JONES: Inclosure 5 (Final Order of Battle) to Inclosure 1 (Intelligence).

Inclosure 2 (Order of Battle Findings) to Inclosure 1 (Intelligence) to
Combat Operations After Action Report, Operation JOHN PAUL JONES.

1. (C) Order of Battle findings on the 561st (95th) NVA Arty Bn, 68th Regt.
(See Inclosure 3 - Order of Battle Findings 561st (95th) Arty Bn).
2. The base camp of the 18B NVA Regimental Headquarters is usually moved every 4-6 days. The Regiment transports all equipment by means of back packs. The Regimental headquarters is not usually located near populated areas. Members of the 18B Regt receive about 550 grams of rice per day. Each company has one cook.
3. (C) The CO, 95th NVA Regt is Lt Col NGUYEN QUANG. Other officers of the Regiment are as follows:

Political Officer - Maj VINH
11th (4th) Bn CO - Capt SUNG
13th (6th) Bn CO - Capt LUU
20th Co CO - Capt MINH
23rd Co CO - Lt DAO

The following personnel and equipment breakdown of the regiment is given as of 15 May 1966:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>STRENGTH</u>	<u>ADDITIONAL INFO</u>
11th Bn	350	
12th Bn	350	
13th Bn	350	
16th Hvy Wpns Co	70	4-75mm RR, 4-57mm RR
17th Mortar Co	80	6-82mm mortar, 3-60mm mortar
18th Commo Co	50	
19th Engr Co	45	
20th Med Co	—	
21st Recon Co	30	
22nd Hvy MG Co	70	6-12.7mm AA MG
23rd S&T Co	84	
Total:	<u>1479</u>	

The 23rd S&T Co operated a rear base area at BC868524.

4. (C) The 96th NVA Arty Bn has composition similar to that of the 561st (see Inclosure 3). It contains the 7th and 8th companies with 77 and 78 men respectively. The 7th Company has 4-120mm mortars. The 8th Company has 6-75mm recoilless rifles. The Bn was last located vic BQ703245. The total strength of the Battalion is 300 men. Each company has a signal section with 2 radios. Personalities of the Battalion are listed below:

Bn CO - Capt PHUC
1CC - Capt HUAN
Bn Political Officer - Capt THUOC
Deputy Political Officer - Capt THOM
8th Co CO - 1/Lt KHANH
XO - w/Lt TUYEN
Co Political Officer - 1/Lt THUCNG
Deputy Political Officer - 2/Lt HIEU

5. (C) The VC DK-7 Company was located vic of North Tuy An District in Aug 1966. The 1st platoon contains 37 men, 3 BAR's, 21 Russian rifles, 5 carbines and 2 Thompson submachineguns. Personalities of the company are listed below:

Co CO - 2/Lt KY
Co XO - WO CHIEN
Political Officer - 1/Lt MINH
Asst Political Officer - M/Sgt VO CONG KHANH

The company usually cooked rice once a day at approx 2000 in houses or underground. The company usually does not fire on recon planes, but takes cover. The company selects campsites near streams and usually remains in place for 2-3 days.

6. (C) The 213 VC Local Force Bn was formed in An Linh Village, Phu Yen Province. The Bn has a strength of 300 and consists of 3 companies. Equipment of the Bn includes 3-60mm mortars, 1-MG, 18-AR's, and small arms (assorted). Personalities of the Bn are listed below:

Bn CO - CHI
Bn XO - HOC
3rd Co CO - Y LE (Montagnard)
3rd Co XO - DAT

7. (C) The Son Hoa District Company has a strength of 90 men broken into three platoons. The company has 1-60mm mortar. Company personalities are listed below:

Co CO - NGUYEN CAN
Co XO - PHAT
Political Officer - LUC
1st Plt CO - TRAN VAN LUYEN
2nd Plt CO - HA
3rd Plt CO - Y MO

Approximately 65% of the company personnel have malaria. The company is short of provisions.

8. The headquarters of the 5th Division is believed to be in the Ky Lo Valley. Both the 18B and 95th NVA Regiments are part of this division, as well as the 561st Arty Bn.

Inclosure 3 (Order of Battle Findings, 561st Arty Bn) to Inclosure 1 (Intelligence) to Combat Operations After Action Report, Operation JOHN PAUL JONES.

1. (C) The 561st NVA Arty Bn also known as the 95th NVA Arty Bn is composed of the 7th, 8th and H-14 companies. The present strength of the battalion is approximately 127.

2. (C) Sources for this report:

(POW) Nguyen Thanh Lap - H-14 Co
(POW) Tran Xuan Duc - 7th Co
(POW) Nguyen Van Ty - 7th Co
(POW) Trinh Duy Thonh - H-14 Co
(POW) Nguyen Van - 7th Co
(POW) Nguyen Ba Soan - 7th Co
(POW) Kieu Hang Bien - 7th Co

3. (C) The Bn left NVN in Feb 1966 from Thanh Hoa Province and entered Laos. The Bn was led by local guides in Laos. The Bn entered SVN through either Kontum or Darlac Province and moved to Minh Dinh where they stayed for one month. The Bn moved to Phu Yen in July. The Bn entered the province minus two 120mm mortars of the 4 assigned.

4. (C) The Bn was located in the Ky Lo Valley on 8 August. The morale of the Bn is low due to sickness (malaria) and poor diet. This is evidenced by the strength of the battalion at 127 as opposed to a TO&E of 400. Medical supplies were depleted about 3 months ago.

5. (C) Personalities of the Battalion are:

Bn CO - Capt NGUYEN PHOUOC THOUC
Bn XO & PO - Capt TRAN MY PHOUOC
CO, 7th Co - 1/Lt PHAN VAN
CO, 8th Co - 1/Lt TRAN KHANH
Bn Opns Officer - 2/Lt TRAN HAI

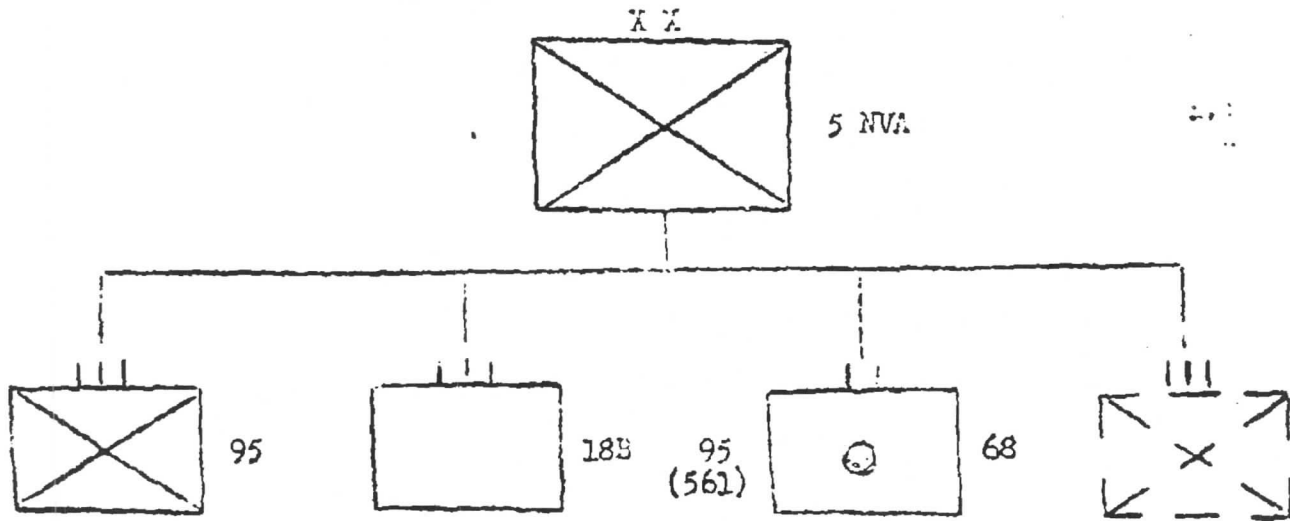
6. (C) Telephone communication is used within the companies. Communications above company use back pack radios. The Bn used 7 radios, type 71-B. 4 of the radios are in 7th Ci, and 3 are in the Bn HQs.

7. (C) The cover designations used by the 561st are listed below:

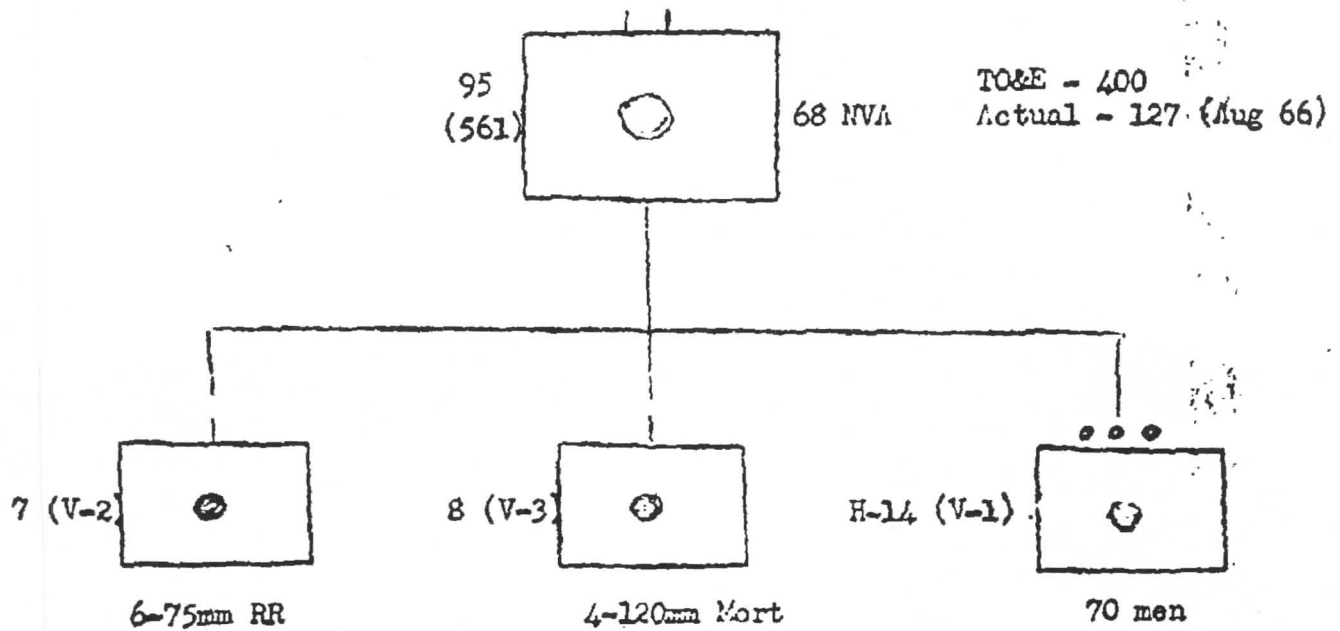
7th Co - V-2
8th Co - V-3
H-14 Co - V-1

H-14 Company is called a company, however it is actually a platoon, possibly a headquarters platoon.

Inclosure 4 (Organization Charts) to Inclosure 1 (Intelligence) to Combat Operations After Action Report, Operation JOHN PAUL JONES.



Based on triangular organization of NVA Inf Div. No unit has been identified as a third regiment.



Inclousure 1 (Final Order of Battle) to Inclousure 1 (Intelligence) to Combat Operations After Action Report, Operation JOHN PAUL JONES.

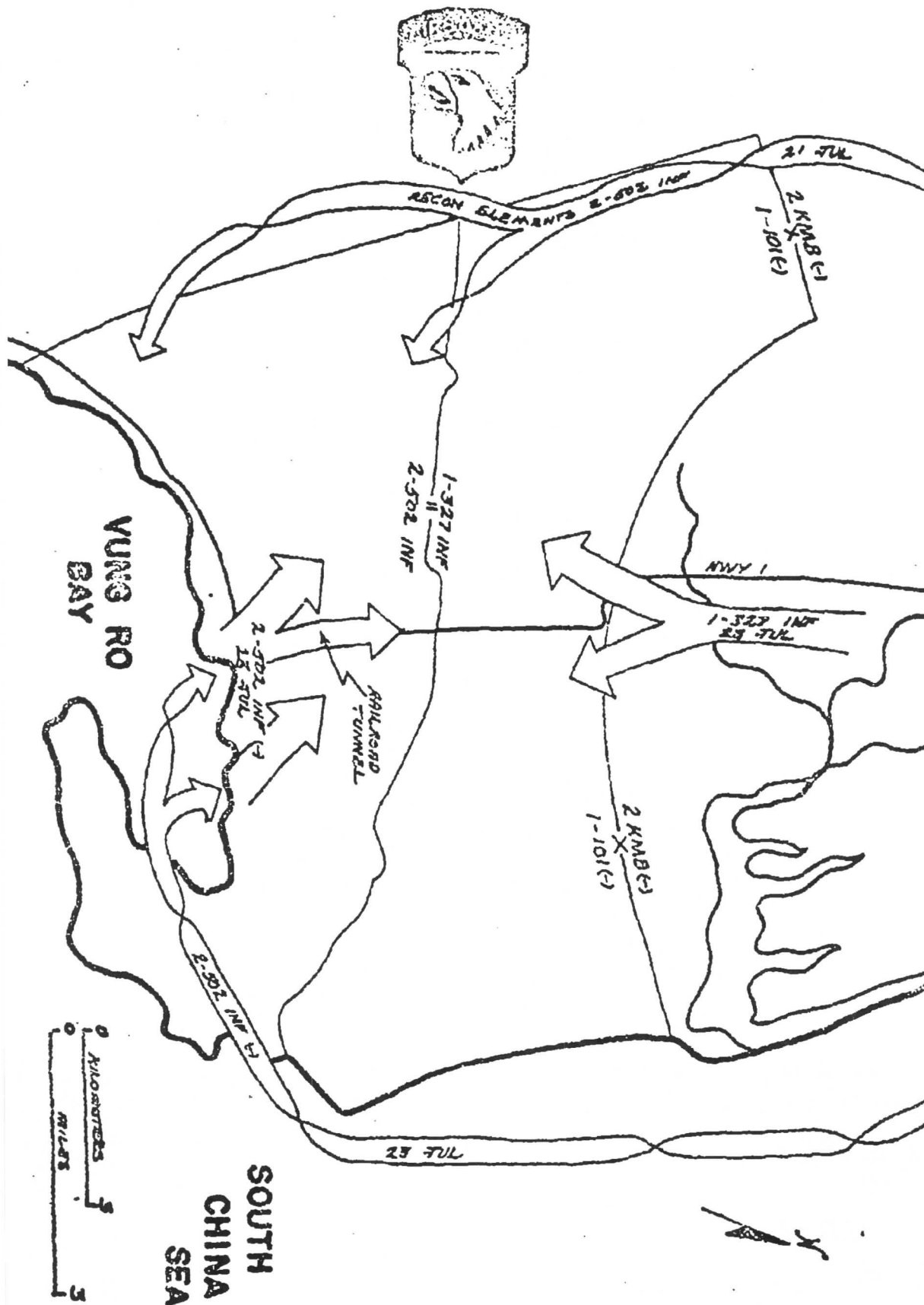
<u>UNIT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>STRENGTH</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVALUATION</u>
5th NVA Bn	BQ8502	---	10 Aug	Probable
95th NVA Regt	BQ8540	1100	10 Jul	Confirmed
100 NVA Regt HQ	BQ8596	400	23 Aug	Reported
7th Bn, 100 Regt	BQ9384	200	9 Aug	"
8th Bn, 100 Regt	BQ8785	300	3 Sep	"
9th Bn, 100 Regt	BQ830925	300	10 Sep	"
95th Bn, 68th NVA Arty Regt	BQ7877	127	12 Aug	Confirmed
96th Bn, 68th NVA Arty Regt	BQ6621	400	4 Jul	Reported
1st Co (375), 85th VC LF Bn	BQ986649	---	3 Sep	"
2nd Co (220), 85th VC LF Bn	BQ989839	---	"	"
3rd Co (377), 85th VC LF Bn	BQ985595	---	"	"
4th Co (), 85th VC LF Bn	BQ875595	---	"	"
213th LF Bn	BQ8540	300	9 Aug	"
DK11 Co	CQ075944	100	25 Aug	"
DK7 Co	CQ040020	100	20 Aug	"
207 Co	CQ117580	100	27 Jul	"
U/I Co	BQ9076	100	3 Sep	"
U/I Bn	CQ026796	800	"	"
VC Platoon	CQ118740	---	31 Aug	"
Sapper Platoon	CQ142526	---	2 Sep	Probable
2 VC Platoons	CQ1069	---	15 Aug	"
VC Platoon	CQ0801	---	1 Sep	Reported
VC Platoon	CQ0892	---	"	"
U/I Co	BQ922830	---	22 Aug	"
310 VC Bn	BQ8584	---	23 Jul	"
U/I NVA Co	CQ062410	75-100	25 Aug	"
U/I VC Co	CQ077407	200	20 Aug	"
U/I VC Co	CQ170330	---	17 Aug	"
U/I VC Co	CQ195323	70	"	"
Recon Section, 100 Regt	CQ185355	---	15 Aug	"
U/I VC Co	BQ896380	---	23 Aug	"
U/I Bn, 100 NVA Regt	CQ0247	---	26 Aug	"
304 VC Co	CQ1046	---	2 Sep	"
2 U/I NVA Cos	CQ0766	---	3 Sep	"
Song Cau District Co	CQ0580	---	"	"

Inclousure 2 (Operation Schematics) to Combat Operations After Action Report, Operation JOHN PAUL JONES

Operation schematics for the three phases of the operation are attached as follows:

- TAB A - Phase I (21-30 July)
- TAB B - Phase II (30 July - 15 August)
- TAB C - Phase III (16 August - 5 September)

**1ST BDE, 101ST ABN DIV
OPERATION JOHN PAUL JONES
PHASE I 21-30 JUL 66**





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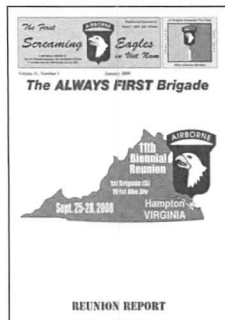
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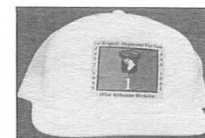
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Following Is A Short Description Of The Contents Of This Magazine.

WARD JUST PAGES 1 – 4
'Ain't Nobody Been Walking This Trail But Charlie Cong' is a full page story, with pictures, in The Washington Post, Sunday, Jan. 28, 1973, by Ward Just.

DMOR FIRST BRIGADE PAGES 5 & 6
Latest First Brigade veterans to become Distinguished Members of the 327th Infantry Regiment.

THE RANGER CREED PAGE 7
What the Ranger Creed means to COL (R) Ralph Puckett, 2/502 CO 7/67- 3/68, who now serves as the Honorary Colonel of the Ranger Regiment.

FATE UNKNOWN PAGE 8
A new book by Galen G. Mitchell, 1/327 A 6/65-5/66, about his and some of his friends Viet Nam experiences. Look for excerpts from the book in future issues.

OBITUARY PAGE 9
The obituary of Albert "Josh" Lucas (1/327 ABU 7/66-7/67).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR PAGES 9 – 12
Messages believed to be of interest to most subscribers sent by Brigade Viet Nam Veterans and others.

BATTLE OF AN PHU PAGES 13 & 14
This battle will be covered in the book COL (R) Lawrence A. Redmond, 2/327 A 5/67-2/68, is working on.

PARATROOPERS BEING DROPPED PAGE 15
Story about reduction in number of Army troops on jump status.

THE DIPLOMAT AND WARRIOR PAGES 17 – 22
Volume 1, Number 4 published June 17, 1966. A list of those mentioned in this edition and are in the magazine database is on page 16. This is the first edition published after Operation Hawthorne in the mountains near Dak To.

SUBSCRIBERS' LIST PAGES 23 –25
Addresses of a new subscriber, renewing subscribers, address changes and a bad address. Please help if you know of those who served in the Brigade who are not subscribers.

OPERATION JOHN PAUL JONES PAGES 26 – 32
Inclosures to the Operation John Paul Jones After Action Report that was featured in the January issue.

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