

*The First  
Screaming*

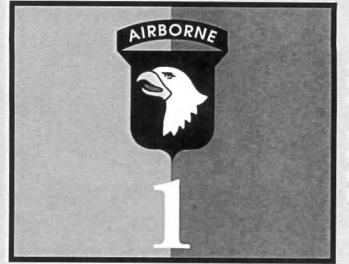
A HISTORICAL REVIEW OF  
THE 1ST BRIGADE (Separate) 101st AIRBORNE DIVISION  
in Viet Nam from July 1965 through January 1968



Published Quarterly  
January - April - July - October

*Eagles  
in Viet Nam*

1st Brigade (Separate) Viet Nam



101st Airborne Division

Volume 16, Number 3

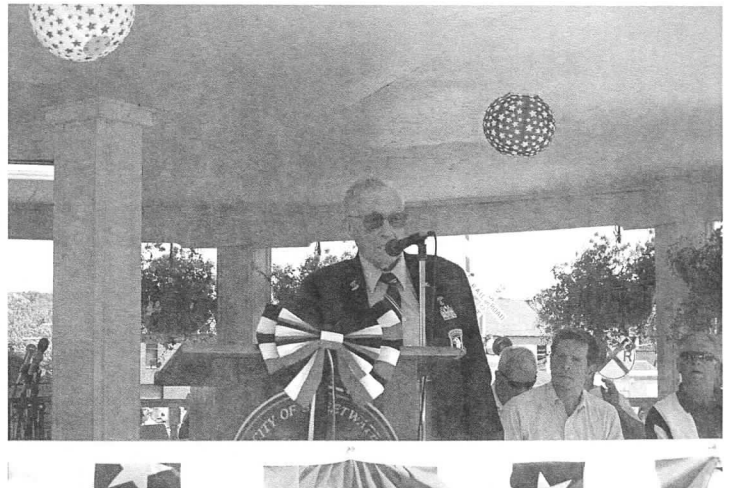
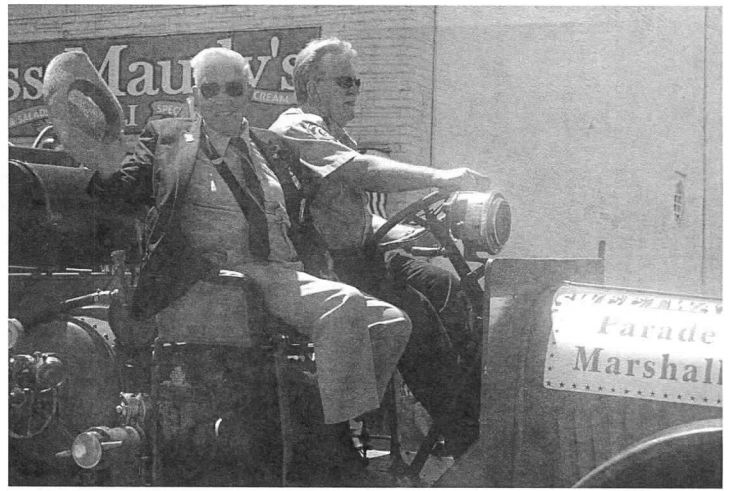
July 2014

\$7.50

# **The ALWAYS FIRST Brigade**



# PHAD RANG



Ivan Worrell, INFO OFF 5/66-5/67, was the Grand Marshall of the 2014 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade in the city of Sweetwater, where he led the parade aboard the City Fire Department antique fire truck.

This issue of *The First Screaming Eagles in Viet Nam* is very late, as most of you can see. I have no excuse for being tardy with the publication; however I do have a reason for not publishing on time. For the past 12 to 14 weeks I have, along with a number of Doctors, Nurses and Technicians, been trying to contain and kill a cancer in my esophagus. Killing a cancer is accomplished by weakening most of the other body parts while hoping the concentration of

killing medication will eliminate the cancer ahead of the remainder of the other body parts. I am now recovering from this assault and am told I should be a real cancer survivor in October 2014.

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion is on track for a great day of celebration at the Nashville Airport Marriott on July 29, 2015. I hope to have registration and hotel information in the October magazine. As most of you know the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion will be in conjunction with the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division Association Reunion.

Look for your October magazine near the first of that month.

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).

+ = Subscriber, \* = Dropped Subscriber,  
 \*\* = Never Subscribed, \*\*\* = Unable to contact,  
 \*\*\*\* = Not in database.

**THE  
HISTORY  
OF THE  
2ND SQUADRON  
17TH CAVALRY REGT  
FROM  
1916 - 1976**

**THIS DOCUMENT WAS WRITTEN BY  
AN UNKNOWN UNIT HISTORIAN ASSIGNED  
TO THE 2D SQUADRON, 17TH CAVALRY**

A HISTORY OF THE 2nd SQUADRON, 17th CAVALRY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

COST OF WARMS	i
LINEAGE AND HONORS	i
CAMPAIGN PARTICIPATION CREDIT	ii
VIETNAM OPERATIONS	ii
COMMANDERS	iv
THE 17th CAVALRY: 1916 - 1964	1
THE 2nd SQUADRON, 17th CAVALRY (IRREGULAR): 1964 - 1967	4
ALPHA TRCOMP ALONE: 1965 - 1967	8
THE WAR IN VIETNAM: 1968 - 1971	12
THE POST VIETNAM YEARS: 1971 - 1974	26
THE NEW CHALLENGE: "AIR ASSAULT"	32
REFERENCES	Appendix I



*The First Screaming Eagles in Viet Nam*

## COAT OF ARMS

Shield: "For ben tonnd and vert, in sinister chief a demiunicorn and in dexter base a demihorse, both rampant argent"—(On a field of green and orange, in the upper right corner, a half-unicorn and in the lower left corner, a half-horse, both reared with the left leg lower than the right and both colored silvery-white.)

Crest: On a hurt wavy of six voided similarly.

Moto: "OUT FRONT!"

Symbolism: The Regiment was organized in 1916 with personnel from the 1st, 3rd, 6th, 8th and 14th Cavalry. The shield is taken from the coats of arms of those regiments: the orange from the 1st; the green from the 3rd; the unicorn from the 6th; the demihorse from the 8th; and the diagonal line from the 14th. The crest is the winged spur, emblematic of the motto of the flying cavalry; the background is the blue ribbon with the regimental motto: FORWARD.

## LINEAGE AND HONORS

Lineage: Constituted 1 July 1916 in the regular army as Troop B, 17th Cavalry. Organized 9 July 1916 at Ft. Bliss, Texas. Inactivated 26th of September 1921, at Presidio of Monterey, California. Disbanded 9 March 1951. Reconstituted 25 April 1957 in the regular army and consolidated with the 101st Airborne Reconnaissance Troop; consolidated unit reorganized and redesignated as Troop B (Reconnaissance)(Aviation), 17th Cavalry, assigned to the 101st Airborne Division and activated at Ft. Campbell, Kentucky. Reorganized and redesignated 3 February 1964 as HHT, 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry (organic elements constituted 21 January 1964 in the Regular Army and activated 3 February 1964).

### Decorations:

#### Valorous Unit Award

Streamer embroidered THUA THIEN-QUANG TRI

(Cited in DA GO 49, 1971)

(Period of Service: 23-28 August, 1968)

#### Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm

Streamer embroidered VIETNAM 1968

(Cited in DA GO 21, 1968)

(Period of Service: 19 Apr-15 Aug 1968)

#### Vietnamese Civil Action Honor Medal, First Class

Streamer embroidered VIETNAM 1968-1970

(Cited in DA GO 48, 1971)

(Period of Service: 18 Mar 68-2 May 70)

Troop A additionally entitled to:

Presidential Unit Citation (Army)

Streamer embroidered DFK TO

(Cited in DA GO 59, 1968)

(Period of service: 2-20 Jun, 1966)

Valorous Unit Award

Streamer embroidered TUY HOA

(Cited in DA GO 1, 1969)

(Period of service: 17 Apr-7 May 1969)

Meritorious Unit Commendations

Streamer embroidered VIETNAM 1965-1966

(Cited in DA GO 17, 1968, as amended by USARV GO 1, 1969;  
as amended by USARV GO 6603, 1967, as amended by DA GO 1,  
1969)

(Period of service: 29 Jul 65-1 Oct 66)

Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm

Streamer embroidered VIETNAM 1966-1967

(Cited in DA GO 21, 1969)

(Period of service: 1-31 Jul 66, 9 Dec 66-18 Jan 67)

Presidential Unit Citation (Army)

Streamer embroidered DONG AP PIA MOUNTAIN

(Cited in DA GO 16, 1972)

(Period of service: 10-21 May 1969)

#### CAMPAIGN PARTICIPATION CREDIT

Vietnam War:

Vietnam Defensive

Vietnam Counteroffensive

Vietnam Counteroffensive Phase II-VII

TET Counteroffensive 1968 and 1969

Summer-Fall 1969

Winter-Spring 1970

Sanctuary Counteroffensive

Consolidation I and II

#### VIETNAM OPERATIONS OF THE 101st

1st Brigade TF (arrived 29 July 1965):

PARRACUDA—Nha Trang/Cam Ranh (Aug 65)

HIGHLAND—An Khe/Qui Nhon (Aug-Sep 65)

GIBRALTER—An Khe (Sep 65)

SAYIPRA—Qui Nhon/Phu Cat (Sep-Nov 65)

CHECKERBOARD—Ben Cat/Lai Kha (Nov-Dec 65)

VAN BUREN—Tuy Hoa (Jan-Feb 66)

SEAGULL—Phan Rang (Feb-Apr 66)

HARRISON—Tuy Hoa (Feb-Apr 66)

FILLMORE—Phu Yen Prov (Feb-Apr 66)

AUSTIN II--Phan Thiet (Apr 66)  
 WHEELER--Chu Lai (Sep-Nov 67)  
 ROSE--Phan Rang (Nov 67)  
 AUSTIN IV--Nhon Co/War Zone D (Apr-May 66)  
 NEWFORDNE--Dak To (Jun 66)  
 DEE/UREG/RD--Dak To (Jun-Jul 66)  
 DECKHOUSE II--Tuy Hoa (Jun 66)  
 NATHAN HALE--Tuy Hoa (Jun 66)  
 FARRAGUT--Phan Rang/Song Mao (Jan-Feb 67)  
 SUMNER/LL--Phu Yen Prov (Mar 67)  
 M/LHEUR I--Duc Pho (Apr-Jun 67)  
 M/LHEUR II--Quang Ngai Prov (Jun-Aug 67)  
 HOOD ROVER/BENTON/BROOK--Quang Ngai Prov (Aug 67)  
 FLINTHILLS--Phan Rang (Nov 67)  
 SAN ANGELO--Song Ba (Jan-Feb 68)

101st Airborne Division (arrives 13 Dec 1967):

JEB STUART--Quang Tri (Jan-Mar 68)  
 CARENTAN I--Hue (Mar 68)  
 CARENTAN II--Hue (Apr-May 68)  
 DELAWARE--A Shau Valley (Apr-May 68)  
 NEVADA EAGLE--Thua Thien Prov (May 68-Feb 69)  
 COMERSET FLAIN--A Shau Valley (Aug 68)  
 KENTUCKY JUMPER--Thua Thien Prov (Mar-Aug 69)  
 MASSACHUSETTES STRIKER--A Shau Valley (Mar-May 69)  
 APACHE SNOW--A Shau Valley (May-Jun 69)  
 LOWER PLAIN--Tam Ky (May-Aug 69)  
 MONTGOMERY RENDEVOUS--A Shau Valley (Jun-Jul 69)  
 RICHLAND SQUARE--Thua Thien Prov (Aug-Sep 69)  
 REPUBLIC SQUARE--Thua Thien Prov (Sep-Dec 69)  
 SATURATE--Thua Thien Prov (Oct-Dec 69)  
 RANDOLPH GLEN--Thua Thien Prov (Dec 69-Mar 70)  
 TEXAS STAR--Thua Thien Prov (Apr-Sep 70)  
 JEFFERSON GLEN--Thua Thien Prov (Dec 70-Dec 71)  
 LAM SON 719--Laos (8 Feb-8 Apr 71)  
 LAM SON 720--Thua Thien Prov (Apr-May 71)  
 LAM SON 810--Thua Thien Prov (Sep 71)

## COMMANDERS OF THE SEVENTEENTH CAVALRY

1 Jul 1916 - 17 Aug 1917	COL Willard A. Holbrook
17 Aug 17 - Oct 1917	LTC James J. Hornbrook
Oct 1917 - ?	LTC E. S. Wright
? - ?	COL Alfred E. Kennington
? - Jun 1918	COL George H. Morgan
Jun 1918 - Oct 1918	COL Hartman
Oct 1918 - Spring 1919	COL George H. Morgan
Spr 1919 - Jul 1921	COL Hartman
Jul 1921 - Sep 1921	COL Joseph E. Cusack

1 Jul 1940 the 17th Cav was redesignated as the 17th Cavalry (Corps Reconnaissance), but was not activated during WW II.

C Trp was the first to be reconstituted, followed very shortly by P Trp, on 25 Apr 1957; A Trp on 1 Sep 1957. (B Trp—consolidated w/101st; F Trp—w/82nd.) HHT and D Trps were reconstituted on 4 Mar 1959. The 2/17th was reunited I/W 3rd Army General Order #26, on 30 Jan 1964.

19 Feb 64 - 16 Mar 64	LTC Wilmot J. Kinns
16 Mar 64 - 9 Jul 65	LTC John T. Hodges
9 Jul 65 - 22 Aug 65 (*1)	MAJ Darsey Mason
22 Aug 65 - 29 Jun 66	LTC Jack MacFarlane
29 Jun 66 - 20 Sep 67	LTC Ellsworth F. Crowley, Jr.
20 Sep 67 - 25 Jun 68 (*2)	LTC Julius W. Pecton
25 Jun 67 - 2 Dec 68	LTC Egbert P. Clark III
2 Dec 68 - 16 Aug 69	LTC William W. DeLoach
16 Aug 69 - 22 Aug 69	LTC Patterson
22 Aug 69 - Sep 69	MAJ Wollerton
Sep 69 - Aug 70	LTC Lavore W. Pindus
Aug 70 - 4 Mar 71	LTC Robert F. Molinelli
4 Mar 71 - 28 Oct 71	LTC Archie Rider
28 Oct 71 - 31 May 72 (*3)	LTC Allyn Putler
31 May 72 - 19 Dec 73	LTC Jimmie L. Hughes
19 Dec 73 - 18 Jun 75	LTC Burnett R. Sanders
18 Jun 75 - 15 Dec 76	LTC Gary E. Luck
15 Dec 76 - 78	LTC John H. Oliver

\*1—A Trp was deployed to Vietnam on 29 Jul 1965.

\*2—B, D, and HHT were deployed to RVN in Dec 1967 (C Trp's Fluc's Plt was attached to HHT).

\*3—B Trp departed RVN in Dec 1971. The rest of the Sdn followed on 7 Feb 1972.



2D SQUADRON, 17TH CAVALRY  
COAT OF ARMS

SHIELD. The shield is divided diagonally into orange and green triangles, with a half-unicorn in the upper orange triangles, and a half-horse in the lower green triangle, both reared with the left leg lower than the right and both colored silvery white.

CREST. The crest is a wavy six pointed star, with a background of yellow, bordered with blue. Centered in the crest is a silver spur with silver wings on either side of the spur.

SQUADRON MOTTO. OUT FRONT

SYMBOLISM. The Regiment was organized in 1916 with personnel from the 1st, 3rd, 6th, 8th, and 14th Cavalry. The shield is taken from the coats of arms of those regiments; the orange from the 1st, the green from the 3rd, the unicorn from the 6th, the horse from the 8th, and the diagonal line from the 14th. The crest is the winged spur, emblematic of the flying Cavalry, the background is the blue ribbon with the regimental FORWARD.



## SQUADRON HISTORY

The Squadron is a direct descendant of Troop B, 17th Cavalry, and as such shares the regimented history of the 17th Cavalry with two sister Squadrons. The 1st Squadron, 17th Cavalry was activated at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, as part of the 82d Airborne Division, and the 3rd Squadron, 17th Cavalry at Fort Benning, Georgia, as part of the 11th Air Assault Division (later to become the 1st Cavalry Division).

### WORLD WAR I

The 17th Cavalry Regiment, from which the Squadron derives its lineage, was constituted at Fort Bliss, Texas, on 1 July 1916. During World War I, the Regiment served on the Mexican Border. In 1918, it was brigaded with two other cavalry regiments, the 1st Cavalry and the 15th Cavalry, to form the Third Cavalry Brigade, 15th Cavalry Division. While it was planned for this unit to join the A.E.F. in France, the Armistice was signed before the Division could be deployed. From 1919 to 1921, the 17th Cavalry served as a garrison for Schofield Barracks in the Hawaiian Territory. The original regiment was inactivated at the Presidio of Monterey, California, on 26 September 1921.

### WORLD WAR II

In 1943, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 17th Armored Group was activated at Fort Knox, Kentucky. The 17th Armored landed in France on 17 July 1944, and fought its way through Northern France, the Ardennes, and the Rhineland into Central Europe. The Squadron colors today display the streamers awarded for these campaigns in proud commemoration of the 17th Armored Group's service during World War II.

### POST WORLD WAR II

On 10 August 1950, the 57th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop was redesignated as the 101st Airborne Reconnaissance Company, and was activated two weeks later at Camp Breckinridge, Kentucky. This was the start of a long time association with its parent Division of today, the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). In March 1951, HHC, 17th Armored Group and HHT, 17th Cavalry were consolidated to form HHC, 17th Armored Cavalry. On 25 April 1957, the 101st Recon Troop was redesignated Troop B (Reconnaissance)(Aviation), 17th Cavalry and continued as such until 1964, when it was redesignated as HHT, 2d Squadron, 17th Cavalry, and new organic units were constituted and activated.

### VIETNAM

July 1965, marked another D-Day for the 2d Squadron, 17th Cavalry. Troop A, along with supporting personnel from Headquarters Troop, departed Fort Campbell on 2 July 1965, as part of the 1st Brigade Task Force, 101st Airborne Division, for the Republic of Vietnam. In December of 1967, the remainder of the Squadron joined Troop A in the Republic of Vietnam. During the next four years, the 2d Squadron 17th Cavalry made its presence felt in all four Corps areas of South Vietnam, as well as Cambodia and Laos. The Squadron was awarded the Vietnamese Civil Action Award for its work in relocating and aiding the

Vietnamese people. The Squadron also received the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry for 1969 through 1971, and the Valorous Unit Citation for the defense of Thua Thien and Quang Tri provinces on 7 December 1969 through 16 February 1970. Additionally, Troop A was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for its part in the Battle of Dak To. Troop A also received the Valorous Unit Citation for the Battle of Tuy Hoa, and the Meritorious Unit Award for its service in Vietnam from 1965 through 1966. During its service in the Republic of Vietnam, the Squadron had three members to receive the nation's highest award, the Medal of Honor:

Spec 4 Joseph G. Lapointe Jr., of HHT, was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously for actions during a helicopter assault on 2 June 1969, in Quang Tri province, Republic of Vietnam.

SGT Robert Patterson, of B Troop, received the Medal of Honor for actions during an assault on a bunker complex near La Chu, Republic of Vietnam.

Spec 4 Michael J. Fitzmaurice of D Troop won the Medal of Honor for breaking and routing a sapper attack on his Troop's position.

#### POST VIETNAM

From February 1972 to May 1973, the Squadron redeployed with the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) to Fort Campbell, Kentucky, for refitting, rebuilding and training. The Squadron is presently located on Clarksville Base, where it has made its home and is practicing and perfecting its tactical proficiency.



UNIT DECORATIONS

OF THE

2D OF THE 17TH CAVALRY

Valorous Unit Award, 7 December 1969 - 16 February 1970  
Streamer Embroidered "Thua Tien-Quang Tri"

Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with palm  
Streamer Embroidered "Vietnam 1969 - 1971  
Vietnamese Civil Action Award

Additionally Troop A has been awarded:

Presidential Unit Citation (Army)  
Streamer Embroidered "Dak To"  
Valorous Unit Award  
Streamer Embroidered "Tuy Hoa"  
Meritorious Unit Commendation  
Streamer Embroidered "Vietnam 1965 - 1966"

DECORATIONS WORN BY ALL MEMBERS OF

2D OF THE 17TH CAVALRY

VUA	RVNCG w/Palm	RVNCA
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These decorations are pictured as worn above the right breast pocket by all members of the 2/17th Cavalry.

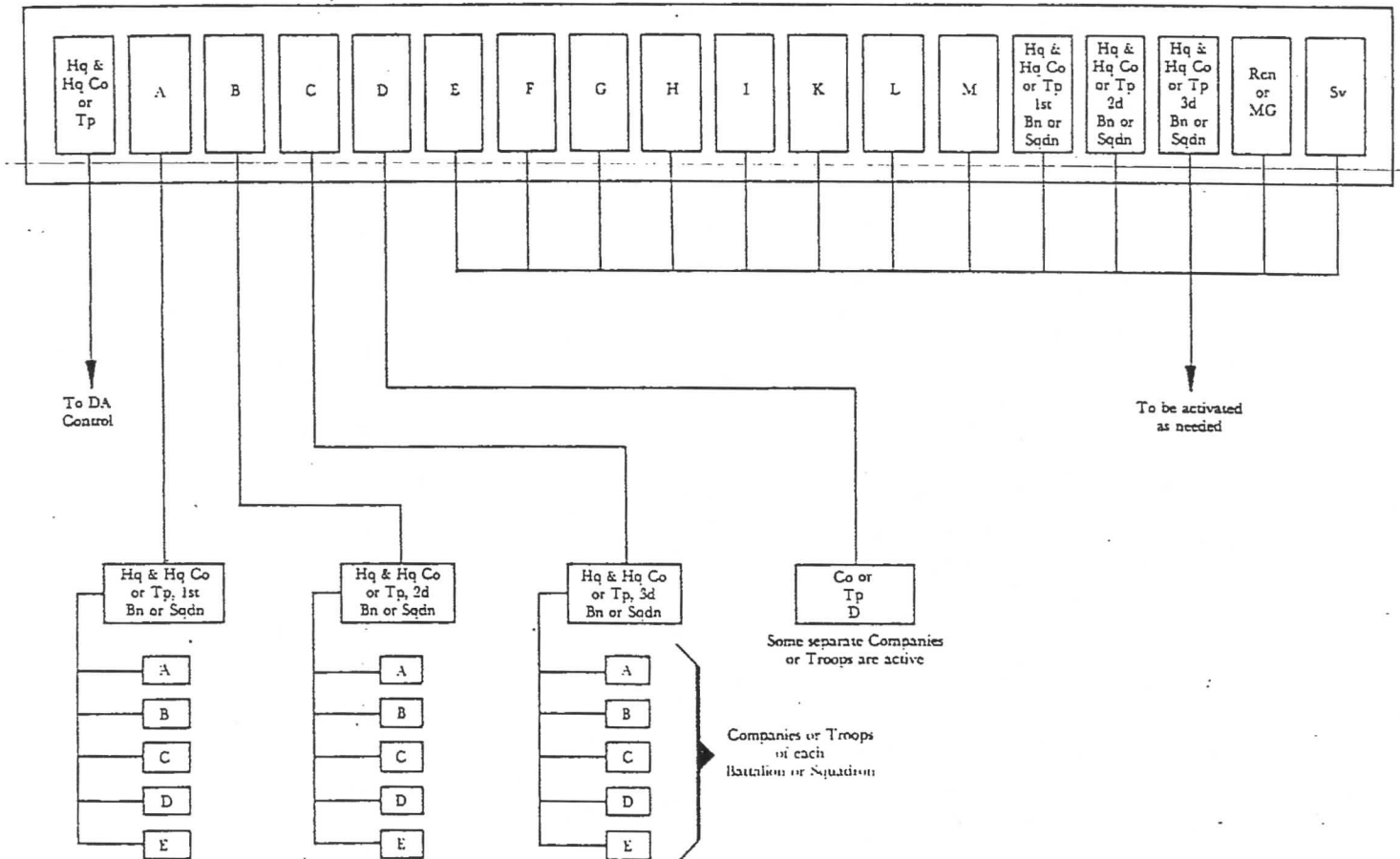
A TROOP ONLY

PUC w/OLC	VUC w/OLC	MUC	RVNCG w/Palm	RVNCA
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Vietnamese decorations may be worn only by personnel who received such awards individually or as members of organizations cited during their tours.

ARMOR OR CAVALRY REGIMENTS  
Under Combat Arms Regimental System

(Organic elements vary in number and designations)





+ **Butler A. Baldwin, Jr.**  
2/327 A 7/67-7/68  
March 13, 2014

Dear Ivan,

It is with a heavy heart that I write to inform you of the passing of my husband, Buddy Baldwin, on March 13, 2014 (Butler A. Baldwin, Jr., 2/327 A 7/67 - 7/68). We were vacationing in Hawaii on a long awaited trip to visit with + Doug Abran (2/327 A 4/67-4/68) also

known as "Pineapple." Buddy suffered a massive heart attack on March 8, on Doug's home island of Kauai. The hospital there was not equipped to handle Buddy's needs so he was air-lifted to Honolulu. Doug flew with him and stayed by his side all night in intensive care until I arrived on a commercial flight. I tell you this as testament to the loyalty of all 101st Airborne Screaming Eagles to their brothers. Buddy's other organs began to fail and he was removed from life support on March 13. There was a memorial service for Buddy in our hometown of Ocean City, NJ on April 5. \*\*Sgt Carl Amos (2/327 A 9/67-9/68) drove three hours to be here and spoke to the congregation about their service together in Vietnam.

Buddy's comrades have continued to call me to offer friendship and support. I consider it an honor and a blessing to be thought of as a friend by all those who served with the 101st. I treasure my years with Buddy as he gave me a wonderful life. I miss him terribly.

Gail Baldwin, 308 Central Avenue, Ocean City, NJ 08226, 609-399-1728.

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**\*\* Robert E. Cutter**  
101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Air Assault  
Special Forces  
6 December 2013

From THE SCREAMING EAGLE MAGAZINE – SPRING 2014

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**\*\* COL(R) Jerry L. Denman**  
1/327 S-3 66 - 67  
23 December 2013

From THE SCREAMING EAGLE MAGAZINE – SPRING 2014

+ **SFC(R) Richard L. Snyder**  
2/327 A 1/66-2/67  
December 19, 2013

You may send condolences to Mrs. Richard (Faye) Snyder, 2995 No. Rosser Rd., Ajo, AZ 85321-9740. No other information was received when the subscription renewal form was returned with a note of Richard's passing.

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**\*\* Larry D. Stearns**  
2/502 HHC Recon 12/65-12/66  
22 November 2013

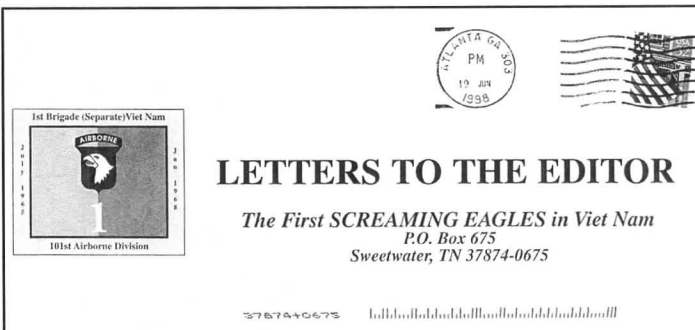
From THE SCREAMING EAGLE MAGAZINE – SPRING 2014

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+ **COL James J. Waldeck, USA Ret.**  
2/327 HHC 7/67-4/68  
15 November 2013

From THE SCREAMING EAGLE MAGAZINE – SPRING 2014

+ = Subscriber, \*\* = Never Subscribed



## U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

+ **BILLIE V. TWO FEATHERS**, 2/502 A & D 12/67-10/68, 14519 W County Rd. K, Hayward, WI 54843, (715) 699-1418 sent the following along with his subscription renewal. Sorry this is late, but at least you have it now. The date of the check (10 Feb 14) was the anniversary date of Doc Brown's death. As you know the O'Deuce went through a lot in March 1968. Because of that, I sometimes find myself losing things or misplacing them for a bit.

BTW, I'm trying to remember the name of the commander of the 1<sup>st</sup> 327<sup>th</sup> this time back in '68. I remember the briefing for the CA (??) into A Shau and all of the Infantry Battalion C.O's were there when I picked out the LZs from that batch of aerial recon photos.

Good thing they overlapped, so I could piece them together like a jigsaw puzzle on the table and actually see it. Once it was together, I compared it to a map of the AO and marked out the LZs on the map. I think those colonels and Gen Mathison found it interesting to watch. I remember +Dan Danford, O'Deuce, (COL(R) Howard H.(Dan) Danford, 2/502 5/67-5/68) and \*\*\*\*Charlie Beckwith from the 2/327<sup>th</sup> there, but can't remember who the BN C.O. for the 1/327<sup>th</sup> was.

I think you may have been at that briefing or just outside. I figure you need to know the basics for your job.

Anyhow, hope to see you in Grand Rapids for the reunion.

*Editor's Note: Most of the material in Billy's letter refers to times after the Brigade was no longer separate. Most of the personnel of this time were held over from the separate brigade that was no longer separate after January 31<sup>st</sup> 1968.*

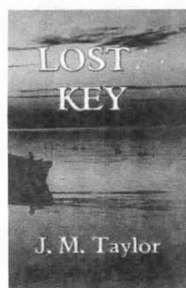
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+ **DAVID J. MARKHAM**, 1/327 C 10/66-10/67, 3410 Adelaide Drive, Erie, PA 16510-2102, work (814) 397-2816, home (814) 899-7252 sent the following with his subscription renewal. The extra is to be used where you deem necessary. Missed you at a COBRA Reunion and the DMOR ceremonies last year, hope that changes this year.

---

+ **JOHN M. TAYLOR, JR.**, 1/501 SIG B 6/65-7/66, 23745 Oakside Blvd., Lutz, FL 33549-6904, work (813) 949-9074, home (813) 948-7747 sent the following with his subscription renewal.

## THE BLUE PARROT



"...High above, the stars slowly emerged from the night sky, a black velvet backdrop for a bright red neon parrot blinking from the building's rusty tin roof, its reflection fluttering in the gentle waves. More red neon tubing flickered, then came on full to spell out "The Blue Parrot." Were these Conchs drunk, color blind, or just out of blue tubing? Ask out loud and all you'd get down here in the Keys was a shrug. What a perfect place to hide from reality."

And read more about *Lost Key* at  
<http://johnmtaylor.com/lostkey/lostkey.htm>.

---

+ **DAVID E. SNYDER**, 1/327 A 9/61-6/66, 316 Lynn Lane, Waynesboro, VA 22980-5447, home (540) 942-4808 wrote -- here is my renewal for another year -- look forward to receiving it. A great publication and I read it the first day. Thanks for all you do. 1/327 Above the Rest.

+ **CHARLES E. PAYNE**, 2/327 HHC 1/66-WIA 1 Sep 66, 218 61st Street, Va. Beach, VA 23451-2117, (757) 431-0300 sent this letter with his renewal. Enclosed is my check and renewal form. It always brings me joy to receive and read a new issue of the First Bde (Sep) magazine. You are stalwart and dedicated in your outstanding service to the 1<sup>st</sup> Bde vets, and I join so many others in my undying appreciation for all you do.

More than a friend, more than a comrade, you are a brother-in-arms. I wish I could award you a medal! May the Lord continue to bless you.

Looking forward to seeing you again soon.

---

+ **LTC(R) JOHN J. DORSEY**, 2/327 A 6/66-5/67, 2010A Garry Oaks Ave., Dupont, WA 98327-7795 when renewing his subscription wrote -- thanks for bringing us a great magazine.

---

+ **MAJ(R) BILLIE R. COOK**, SPT BN 65-66, 208 James Landing Cir., Smithfield, VA 23430-2316, (757) 357-9179 when renewing this subscription wrote -- seems the Support BN seldom gets much recognition. As a company commander and the Bde's movmt control officer, I hope to send some info in the coming month. Thanks for all you do Ivan. Keep up the good work.

*Editor's Note: You are correct. Support Battalion does not get much recognition for a job well done. I look forward to submissions by you and other Support Battalion veterans.*

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+ **LTC(R) WILLIAM (BILL) ROVAN**, 2/327 HQ&A 6/66-5/67, 4920 Hwy 220 W, Lincolnton, GA 30817-5022, (706) 401-7502 sent the following with his subscription renewal. A bit late again ... sorry 'bout that. Little extra included as a self-imposed penalty. Will be sending a change of address in a couple of months or less. Sold my present gentlemen's farm to + Nick Mihalic (2/327 HHC 2/67-8/67).

---

+ **CPT(R) THOMAS J. COURTNEY**, 2/502 B&E 67-68, 335 Cedar Lane, Fayetteville, GA 30214-4729, (770) 487-1333 wrote -- sign me up for another year. I look forward to receiving my magazine and reading about the best unit I ever served in, peacetime or combat. Airborne!

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+ **PATRICK A. KNAUB**, 2/327 A & B 4/67-11/67, 550 Lioners Creek Rd., Dallastown, PA 17313-9502 wrote -- sorry I'm late with my renewal. I should know better. Included is a little extra. I hope to attend the next reunion (my first).

+ **COL(R) FRANK C. RAUCH**, 2/320 FA HHB 6/67-6/68, 130 Sunaire Terrace, Nokomis, FL 34275-2544, (941) 485-4421 sent the following. Many thanks for your renewal letter. Time got away from me –sorry! Here is a check for three years and some extra. Keep up the great work. Airborne!

+ **KEN POTTS**, 1/327 C 12/66-12/67, 1857 N. 185th St., Shoreline, WA 98133-4206, (206) 546-8498 wrote when renewing his subscription – thanks for doing such a great job, Ivan. You're the best.

+ **COL(R) GEORGE W. AUX, JR.**, 2/320 FA HHB,A,B 1/67-8/68, 1529 Crenshaw Point, Wake Forest, NC 27587-7378, (919) 435-7007 sent the following letter. Again congratulations on a great issue! Re-up me again as a charter subscriber. I keep thinking about producing an article about "Things I Remember" (or think I remember). Getting a haircut on a firebase, playing "C-Ration University," as a Forward Observer with 2-327 INF. I'll try to get it done later.

*Editor's Note: George I look forward to publishing memories you write.*

+ **COL EDWARD P. KANE**, U.S.A.(Ret), 326 ENGR A 4/67-4/68, P.O. Box 76, Southeastern, PA 19399-0076 work (610) 989-1350, home (610) 889-7580 sent the following when renewing his subscription. Thanks for all your great work with keeping the First Brigade alive and remembered.

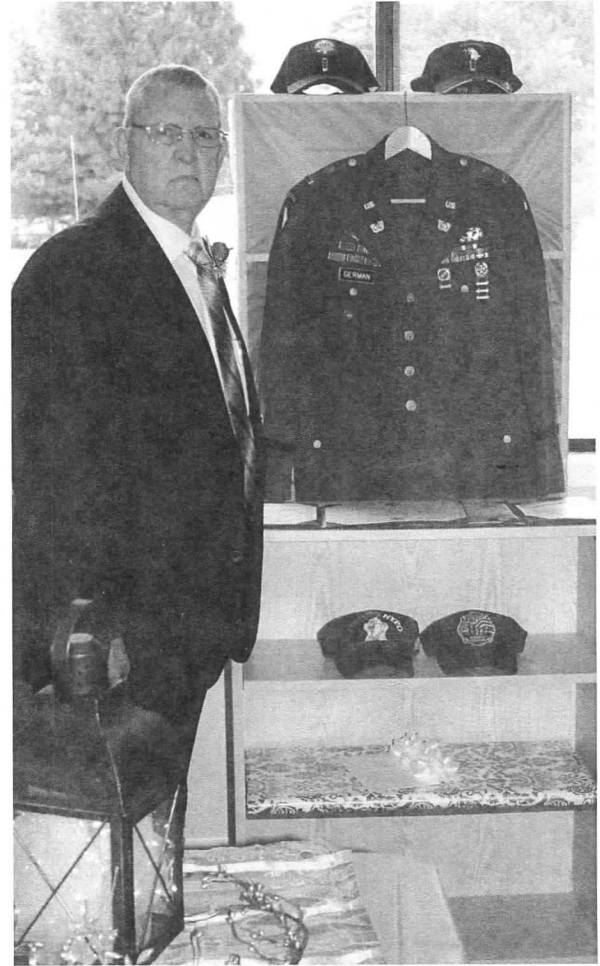
+ **WILLIAM F. (BILLY) WELDON**, 2/327 INF A 6/67-6/68, 806 Grand Canyon Ave., Flagstaff, AZ 86001-5415, (928) 554-6180 when renewing his subscription wrote: Thanks for always making my 'Airborne Day.' When I get the newsletter I think I'm 19 years old again. God Bless all our Screaming Eagles young and old. See you in one year.

P.S. Coffee on me.

+ **TIM SWAIN**, HHC S-2 65, 111 E. Morningside Dr., Peoria, IL 61614-2131, work (309) 637-1700, home (309) 692-7301 when renewing for himself and others wrote: Thank you for your continued great work. The 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne is fortunate to have such a talented and courageous fellow as you.

+ **PETER T. RAMIREZ**, 2/320 ARTY B BTRY 7/65-7/66, 1771 Smoketree Drive, El Centro, CA 92243-4130, (760) 353-0659 wrote: Here's \$50 for my subscription and whatever else. Thanks for the memories. Keep up the good work.

+ **CW-3 WILLIAM E. GERMAN**, 801st MAINT B 7/65-7/66, 21401 N.E. Sandy Blvd. Spc #144, P.O. Box 801, Fairview, OR 97024, (503) 706-2188 when becoming a new subscriber sent the following:



Taken January 12th, 2014 on our "50th" Wedding Anniversary

### 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division Memories 1965-1966 / 1967-1968

JUNE 1965 – Fort Campbell to Oakland Army Terminal

JULY 1965 – General LeRoy Eltinge ship to Cam Ranh Bay

JULY 1966 - Return back to Division and assigned to HHC 326<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion

NOV 1967 – Fort Campbell to Bien Hoa Air Base with the 326<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion

NOV 1968 – Return back to Fort Campbell to the 51st Engineer BN

Airborne All The Way  
"BTTW"  
William German



+ = Current Subscriber, \* = Dropped Subscriber, \*\* = Never Subscribed, \*\*\* = Unable to Contact, \*\*\*\* = Not in database



# 11 Copters Hit During Attack On Sniper Valley by 101st

By A3C BOB CUTES  
S&S Correspondent

SAIGON — Troops of the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Div. were flown by helicopter into two areas along the Song Am River North of Qui Nhon Wednesday to launch operations against the Viet Cong.

The troops landed under heavy sniper fire that damaged 11 helicopters and inflicted light casual-

ties on the soldiers. Their mission is to cross to the north side of the river and wipe out pockets of guerrilla resistance known to exist in the Song Am area, nicknamed "Sniper Valley" because of heavy sniper fire there.

The attack, preceded by airborne speaker announcements calling on the VC to surrender, met little organized resistance.

Three Viet Cong were reported killed by a paratrooper ambush Tuesday, bringing the total VC losses in that area to 37 for the week. Also, 167 suspects have been detained by the paratroopers.

An additional 101 Viet Cong were reported killed in a multi-battalion VC attack on a government ranger battalion at Duc Lap, 20 miles northwest of Saigon, early Wednesday morning.

The attack coincided with two small harassing actions directed towards government troops. Artillery units managed to fire more than 1,200 rounds in support of the ranger unit.

Casualties to American advisers at Duc Lap were reported light. Government troops captured 114 enemy weapons, including three rocket launchers and three automatic rifles.

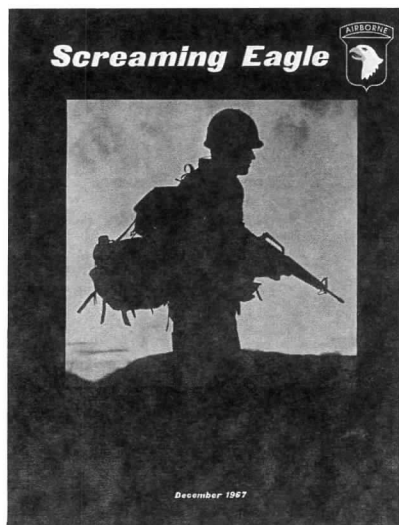
SAIGON (AP)—A Vietnamese government operation in the Plain of Reeds 100 miles west of Saigon had uncovered a Viet Cong hand grenade factory, a military spokesman said Wednesday. He said 20,000 grenades and 3,000 detonators had been seized.

Dozens of other small units actions were reported in which

casualties on each side were light.

Heavy air strikes continued against communications routes and other targets in north Vietnam, and both land and carrier planes continued to pound suspected Viet Cong targets inside the country.

In the north, 50 U.S. planes destroyed or damaged eight bridges, including a 200-foot pontoon structure 120 miles south of Hanoi. Three barges were destroyed and two highways were damaged.



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.



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See order form on Page 35.

# 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.



## Editor's Note:

The normal center fold with a copy of the First Brigade (S) weekly newspaper was changed for this edition because the editor could not find a copy of the newspaper not used in past issues.

FATE UNKNOWN (Reflections of a Combat Tour) by First Sergeant (R) Galen G. Mitchell is a well told story of his experiences in Viet Nam.

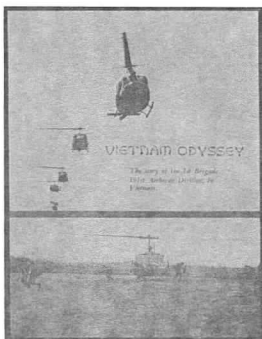
A list of unit newspapers used in the First Brigade (S) is on page 25. They came from my collection (small) and were loaned to me to be scanned and returned. CPT Barry Hana, HQ-PIO 3/67-3/68, was an enormous help when he sent me copies of those papers he had accumulated in a bound book. Mail your paper to me, I will scan it and return the paper to you within two weeks.



**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 ILT 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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# FATE UNKNOWN

*Reflections of a Combat Tour*

*Labuela*

Published by: Labuela Enterprises, LLC

*First Sergeant* **GALEN G. MITCHELL** (USA Ret.)

*Author of:*

## FATE UNKNOWN

Available as eBook or Paperback on Amazon.com  
or Contact the Author Directly  
for a Personalized Autograph Copy

352-205-7724

FATEUNKNOWN@comcast.net

1489 Van Buren Way, The Villages, FL 32162



**BY: FIRST SERGEANT**  
**GALEN G. MITCHELL**  
**USA (Ret.)**

## USNS General Leroy Eltinge

We departed Fort Campbell and Campbell Army Air-Field by civilian commercial aircraft, on the evening of 6 July 1965. I was somewhat surprised the Air Force wasn't doing the transport, but after all, what did a peon like me really know. The flight to San Francisco went smoothly, and it reminded me of being in a bar in Hop-Town (Hopkinsville, Kentucky) on a Friday or Saturday night.

Our duffle bags were stowed and we boarded the plane carrying only our standard issued service-rifle, the M-16. Upon entering the aircraft, we were greeted by several truly beautiful Stewardesses. I mean they were knock-out gorgeous beauties. In those days there was no such thing as equal opportunity; being a natural beauty was a prerequisite of the job.

Once the flight leveled off, most of the troopers never did; they were in love at first sight. The local bars normally had one or two waitresses who generally were married and had a boyfriend on the side, sometimes even the bartender. Most of the time there were a few dozen drunken troopers, each of them thinking they were the best looking of the bunch, and each of them thinking they would be the only one that would win her heart and take her home for the night. This flight wasn't much different and troopers didn't necessarily need booze to be struck by the love bug. But for the most part, leaders kept things under control until the lights went out and they finally dozed off. While others slept, some played cards, some shot dice, and after the lights were dimmed, the booze came out. Troopers were trading their wings for the stewardess' wings, phone numbers, etc. A couple of them were just as wild as the paratroopers on board. No, this wasn't Spirit Airlines, but the plane was definitely full of free spirits. This also was the first time I had ever heard of the Mile High Club. The girls were very nice about the whole situation, and although they were probably used to getting some attention, I seriously doubt they had ever experienced a prior flight with over a hundred young virile men as passengers at one time. Some let their hair down as much as the men and it was a fun flight. Perhaps the stewardesses realized many of the men would never return. This flight was special in more ways than one, as their next one might be an angel flight.

By the end of the flight, a real special bond had developed between us all. As we approached the

exit, the stewardesses were lined up and adorned with pinned on 101st patches, name tapes, cloth jump wings, and even some metal jump wings. One of the stewardesses was even wearing one of the trooper's dog tags. The troopers proudly wore the lipstick imprints on their cheeks from being kissed by a stewardess. As they left the aircraft, just about every trooper received a kiss or a hug, along with lots of good luck wishes. A few of the well-wishers had real tears running down their cheeks.

Next we took buses to Oakland Army terminal, where we were greeted by an Army Band, Red Cross Donut Dollies who were dispensing coffee and doughnuts, and a ship sitting dockside, bearing the name USNS General LeRoy Eltinge on its bow. It was nice of the Red Cross to volunteer their time to see us off and provide some small but special treats; it was a totally unexpected surprise and appreciated gesture. This was my first contact with a Donut Dolly; I had never heard that expression before. We mingled around, drinking some coffee while waiting the word to board.

The USNS General LeRoy Eltinge was first launched in September of 1944 and already was over 20 years old. It was solid grey in color and was not in the best of shape. In fact, I cannot recall anything inside or outside on this relic that wasn't grey. The rumor was it had recently been taken out of mothballs for this mission. Without a doubt, it had seen better days when it was used primarily as a cargo and troop carrier vessel. It measured 522 feet, 10 inches long, and had a beam of 71 feet, 6 inches. After we loaded onto the boat, the deck quickly became crowded. An unidentified trooper from Arizona remarked, "Gee, I wonder what battle General Eltinge lost to have it named after him?" A voice from the crowded deck informed him, "He was Custer's S-2." The S-2 of all Army units, from battalion on up, is the intelligence section. It has been suggested by some historians that George Custer, a respected U.S. Army officer and cavalryman, suffered a disastrous defeat in The Battle of Little Bighorn against a coalition of Native American Indian tribes, partially due to inadequate intelligence-gathering (reconnaissance) and his failure to heed the warnings of his Crow scouts. In the Army, every infantry soldier learns the acronym SAULTE, which stands for size, activity, unit, location, time, and equipment.

Author note: See Annex A for Movement Order and list of original Boat Troopers.

We departed in early evening and passed under the Golden Gate Bridge into the bay. The wind was blowing and I was struck by how cool it was, especially since this was July on the west coast. I quickly went to put on my field jacket, and returned to see a last glimpse of the United States. Our unit was housed five or six floors/decks down, where we slept on canvas cots stacked four high and about 18 inches apart. Every morning, except for the cleanup detail, all others had to go up top to the main deck. It didn't take long to realize how over-crowded the Eltinge was, I suppose to keep the unit intact. There were thousands of troopers and I could hardly move as some men played cards, shot dice or slept while others smoked and joked.



**The overcrowded USNS General LeRoy Eltinge enroute to Cam Ranh Bay.**  
Courtesy of LTC Billy R. Robbins (USA Ret)

The chow line ran all over the boat, up and down stairs, through doorways or whatever the navy calls them. About half way there I was totally lost and by talking with the men around me, found we were all in the same boat. Every door, stairs and hallway all looked the same and everything was painted Navy Deck Grey. The chow line was continuous because as soon as breakfast was over, they started serving lunch, and then supper. Upon arrival, we entered this big room and went through the chow line. The room was made entirely of steel; there was poor circulation and it was hot as hell. Not only were the cooks sweat-

ing profusely, but so were the walls. Once through the chow line, we ate standing since the tables were about the width of the tray and chest high. The boat was rocking; those that were finished eating looked like they were ice skating on the wet slippery floor, with one man falling on his fourth point of contact (buttocks) as they were leaving. Trays were sliding off the make shift tables that were held up by two-by-fours. A trooper on the other side of the room turned around and barfed all over the floor. This caused some of the troopers to start laughing, but caused another to barf. Even on jumps there is always one or two that get sick and other troopers are quick to seize the moment to mess with them. One man hollered out, "Barf in the tray so we can save the big pieces." Oh this place sure didn't smell like a mother's kitchen at all. Yeah, this man's Merchant Marines were a real class act and I suppose they perceived it to be a four or five star dining facility. Some men resorted to skipping meals, but real men would have none of that, so they just dealt with it and drove on to the airborne objective as trained to do so many times. Our hard times and hardships were only the beginning of what would lay ahead for us.

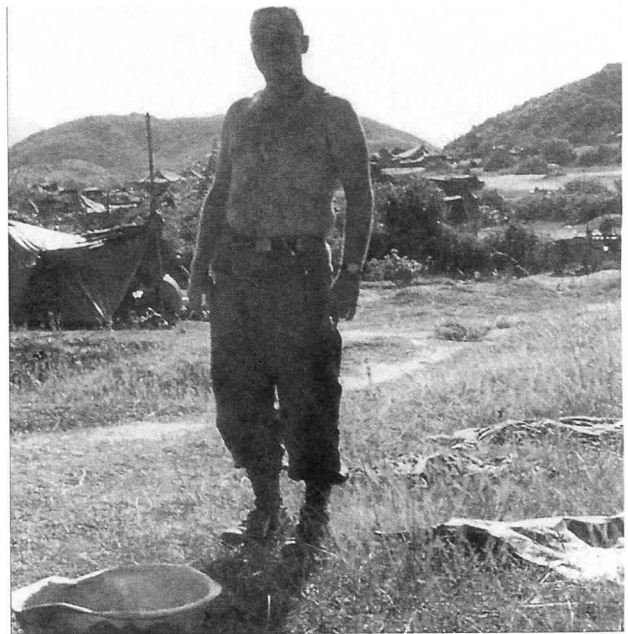
One day I reported to the kitchen for my Kitchen Police (KP) duty. A cook handed me a small knife, took me to this huge room (hole) and said, "Get peeling!" I couldn't believe the sight before me—this huge room, the size of a whole house, was filled with potatoes from floor to ceiling, and there were a couple dozen troopers already at work. At least back at Fort Campbell there were actual potato peelers. I'm not even sure a potato farmer has seen that many spuds in one place before. We sat on big steel cooking pots, and as we peeled them we threw the potatoes into another pot filled with water. I was glad to see the day end, and the only damn thing I learned was that thousands of men can devour a lot of damn spuds in one day.

After a couple days we received word that the showers were now open, so I stripped down to my boxers, grabbed a towel and a bar of soap, and took off to beat the crowd. On arrival, all the shower heads were already taken. As I waited for my turn, the troopers in the showers were lathering up when suddenly they began cursing and bitching because the soap would not rinse off. The soap just became a white paste all over them from the salt water, as if they were smeared with toothpaste. Some had it all in their hair, a couple all over their arms, and one of them even all over his private parts. I thought, "Oh

shit, I'm not getting in there." There were a few serious troopers waiting and making comments like, "Why won't it rinse off?" and as someone entered the room, "What's going on?" I felt elated now by not being the first to arrive and I began to see the humor of the situation at hand. I jokingly told a black trooper from my squad by the name of Private First Class David T. Rogers, who was tall, thin, lanky and always was a happy-go-lucky soldier, "Hey Rogers, you look good man." He still found a smile even though the rest were some unhappy campers. I beat feet out of there. We weren't sure if this was some kind of joke by the Merchant Marines or an honest mistake. They turned on the water every other day for showers and the next time issued us soap that worked in salt water. As they say, just another day in this man's Army.

John T. Humphries took us to the bow of the boat one morning for physical training, but due to the rough seas, that idea was quickly abandoned to prevent any injuries. The up and down motion of the boat was throwing us around the deck like rag dolls, requiring some quick PLFs (Parachute landing falls). Our platoon sergeant, whom everyone just called John T., was a slightly rotund Korea war veteran. His appearance was deceptive, however, as he made the daily runs and kept up with the best troopers. I recall one time shortly after arrival we were training on hand and arm signals, when he caught a man not paying attention and jumped in his shit like he was a drop zone. The trooper told the platoon sergeant that he already had this training in his previous unit. Whoa trooper...wrong answer! John T. said he didn't give a damn what he learned in his previous unit and he was going to learn 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon's arm and hand signals. There was absolutely no question who the MMFIC (main mother fuc-er in charge) was of this unit.

I was 20 years old at the time and viewed Platoon Sergeant Humphries as being really old. In making contact with him some 40 years later, I asked how old he was back then. I was shocked when he told me he was thirty five. There's a lot more than beauty held in the eye of the beholder. He passed away before I could hook up with him for a visit. At the time, I wrote the following:



**PSG John T. Humphries, Qui Nhon, October 1965.**

John T. Humphries recently soared from the mandatory muster we all must answer to. "Jumping" John T. was an Ibu and original Abu going back to 1952. He had Abu tattooed on his left calf and was our Platoon Sergeant when we deployed to Vietnam on the USNS Eltinge in July of 1965.

We were fortunate to have a leader with combat experience from the 187<sup>th</sup> Regimental Combat Team in Korea. As John T. honed our skills we became a fighting force to be reckoned with by our enemies.

"Jumping" John T. Humphries went from the wings of eagles to the wings of angels on 26 April 2007. May this great eagle finally have found peace on a perch in heaven...that elusive peace that evades a soldier while here on earth.

~Written 23 July 2007, By Sgt. Galen G. Mitchell

After the PT fiasco on deck, someone pointing forward of the boat and its bow hollered, "Look...flying fish!" Several of us made our way to him and were astonished to see fish flying through the air out in front of the boat, way ahead of where the boat was breaking water. I observed it for quite some time, not because of something never seen before, but because of the tranquility and quality of the time. The experience was enhanced by the wind blowing clean fresh salt air into my face. I would return there several times during this cruise and on one occasion even saw dolphins running with the boat in a somewhat playful gesture.

As we moved along it became warmer and downright hot as the trip grew longer. The bowels of the boat where we slept became too hot with stinking stale air and everyone started sleeping on deck to escape it. How we never lost a man overboard in the night was a surprise to me, since they slept on the edge of the deck without even a safety rope or rail. This relic of a boat broke down enroute and we just aimlessly floated around, bobbing up and down for about a day and a half until the engine crew had it running again. We limped in or slowly made our way to Subic Bay in the Philippines for repairs.

Once there we were allowed to go ashore for a four hour period and began exploring the Naval Base. Everyone pretty much ended up in the one or two bars located on the base, because a bunch of paratroopers could find a bar faster than an alcoholic bloodhound. We were putting down some local beers by the name of San Miguel's, but the only problem was they had twice as much, if not more, the alcohol content than did American beer. After being pent up for some time, troopers do store up a lot of aggression, and if no one is around to take it out on, they start fighting between units for entertainment. Fights broke out and the bars started getting torn up, so they sent the Navy Shore Patrol to control us. That didn't go over too well; it ended in a standoff until our MP's (military police) arrived and the base commander ordered us to return to the boat. I suppose he gave our brass a piece of his mind. We were confined to the boat for about two days until the repairs were made, and then our luxury cruise continued. Chaplain Bowers stated to us, "Twelve years ago I rode this same ship to Europe." Now how's that for a rugged cross to bear? First Sergeant Robert A. Press told us he had made several trips across on troop carriers and this was the worst ship he had ever been on.

This luxury excursion is summed up best in the following poem, which is all factual, including the trooper in the Brig.

### **That Rusting Crate**

~A poem by Peter S. Griffin

*Orders were cut, the men well trained,  
The 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade of 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne fame....  
3700 Paratroopers, all hand-picked,  
To Viet Nam, they'd soon be shipped....*

*In early July of 1965,  
At Oakland terminal, we did arrive....  
Thoughts of combat, we had surmised,  
But not the hulk that met our eyes....*

*"Donut Dollies", cheerfully, gave us their wares,  
As if to lessen, our growing fears....  
Donuts and coffee, not enough to relieve,  
Life on land, we'd soon grieve....*

*Moored to the dock, The "USNS GENERAL LEROY ELTINGE",  
On THAT RUSTING CRATE our lives would hinge....!  
A mothballed troopship, of years gone by,  
Crossing on it, would we survive....?*

*Was it seaworthy? , would it stay afloat....?  
Drowned in saltwater, our bodies would bloat....  
All envisioned a watery grave,  
Against a shark, could you be brave....?*

*Only 510 feet from bow to stern,  
Of personal space, all would yearn....  
Fighting the crowd, to get to the rail,  
Bumping each other, like cows corralled....*

*Moored in place, for two long nights,  
Staring at the city's lights....  
San Francisco, a great place to be,  
But California, we had not come to see....*

*Finally, we were underway,  
Passing Alcatraz, along the way....  
Then, under the Golden Gate, we passed,  
Wondering, how long, this voyage, to last....?*

*Entering, the pacific, oh so blue,  
Thousands of jellyfish, of many hues....  
Flying fish led the way,  
From this prison, none would stray....*

*Chow lines ringed the ship, all the long day,  
Standing at tables, we ate that way....  
As soldiers regurgitated, in their trays,  
The swaying of the ship slid it your way....*

*Saltwater showers, soap, no lather,  
On the decks, friends, struggled, to gather....  
On THAT RUSTING CRATE, there were no latrines....!  
"Oh My God", I heard someone scream....!*

*Sweltering holes, in the bowels of the ship,  
Personal space just did not exist....  
Stacked four high, on canvass cots,  
Swaying of sea, stomachs in knots....*

*The man above you empties his guts,  
Drenched in vomit, just your luck....  
Wiping yourself, with your last towel,  
Thanking God, it be not, his bowels....*

*Every day, they broke up fights,  
Hoping no one, pulled a knife....  
Quarters too cramped, nerves too frayed,  
To keep the peace, our Chaplains prayed....!*

*Boredom became everyone's enemy,  
Gambling, not considered obscenity....  
Not much to do, see or read,  
A fight or two, to make them bleed....!*

*One day, all fought for the rails,  
Excitement!, the carcass of a whale....  
In its center, a huge, bloody crater,  
Feeding Albatrosses was "Mother Nature"....*

*Across the ocean, we plodded along,  
Of Terra Firma, we did long....  
Ten long days and nights, at sea,  
No gravy, in this damned navy....*

*There was no laundry, on the boat,  
We tied our fatigues, to a rope....  
Across the water, they would skip,  
Saltwater stained, as they dripped....*

*No room at the bow, but....we attempted PT,  
Like the Macarena, barely, could touch our knees....  
By the numbers, one, two, three, four,  
"Tell the people, what she wore"....*

*Only peanut brittle, sold at the ships store,  
Boxes of "Pecos Pete", we did hoard....  
"Crunch, crunch, crunch", became an annoying sound,  
One more bite, we'd go twelve rounds....!*

*On clear nights, a movie, some saw,  
Only a small unit, could answer that call....  
Too many men, for all to see,  
A sudden downpour, our first fatality....!*

*A trooper asleep, on a lower deck,  
The stairwell crowded, getting wet....  
Unknowingly, a soldier leapt,  
Landing full force, crushing his chest....!*

*No space, so into the brig, his body went,  
No air-conditioning to purge deaths scent..  
Suddenly all was quiet, not a sound,  
The engines failed, our hearts did pound....*

*For a solid day, we were adrift,  
Prayed for something, anything, to give us a lift....  
Finally, the crew, got us underway,  
Another prayer, to keep us going our way....*

*Into Subic Bay, for repairs and rest,  
They docked the ship, three abreast....  
Ashore for just two hours, but it was swell,  
Enough to down, some "San Miguel's"....*

*Our casualty disembarked with prayers,  
As mechanics completed, much needed repairs....  
Never had I seen a place so green,  
As we said "goodbye," to the Philippines....*

*Only two days from Cam Ranh Bay,  
New anxieties came our way....  
Can you kill? are you prepared to die....?  
"Ours is but to do and die, not ours to reason,  
WHY?"....?*

*One day out, miraculously, the struggling stopped,  
For each other, suddenly, we cared a lot....  
On that ship, a band of brothers, we became,  
Calling each other, by first names....*

*Suddenly, a fighter plane, flew by,  
Tilting its wings, a welcoming "Hi"....  
An immediate bond, to other military branches,  
The NVA would fight, all our lances....?*

*Excitedly!, someone shouted, "LAND",  
Of mountainous jungles, palms and sand....  
As evening fell, "The Eltinge" docked,  
Reality! Viet Nam, now our lot....*

*THAT RUSTING CRATE, now a refuge,  
one last night,  
Concussion grenades, boomed, to morning light....  
Into a hostile land, we disembarked to meet our fate,  
A sentimental, "GOODBYE",  
to THAT RUSTING CRATE....!*



Grif wrote: The above poem was inspired by my lifelong friend, Jim Soprano, who proudly served with Headquarters Company 1/327 Infantry. Jim and I went over to Vietnam on the Eltinge. We also flew home on the same plane after our tour was over. When I was suffering from a relapse of Malaria during the trip, he took care of me all the way to my house in upstate New York! He was an "Above the Rest!" paratrooper, and he is still the same caliber of a person and friend. Thanks for everything, Jim.

Sincerely,  
Grif

\* \* \*

Peter S. Griffin was a member of A Company, 2nd/502nd Airborne Infantry Battalion (Widow Makers). They upheld their Battalion motto and a long tradition dating back to WWII by leaving many VC and NVA widows as they fought in Vietnam.

Word spread quickly of land sighting and the deck of the USNS Eltinge became crowded.

As elements of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division Screaming Eagles gathered, everyone wanted to get a glimpse of Vietnam, our final destination. My first impression of Cam Ranh Bay was of a beautiful green emerald set in blue water that was very serene and

hospitable. It was a very picturesque sight with the bluest water I had ever seen. There wasn't even one sign of conflict or war. We arrived on 29 July 1965 and with only one pier there we had to wait until the following day to un-ass this luxury liner. During the wait, precautions were taken as concussion grenades exploded around the ship throughout the night. After being cooped up for several weeks, we couldn't wait to spread our wings.

Because of the rolling wave action, which after a few attempts put a halt to our physical training on the boat, we quickly lost our physical conditioning in that short period of time. The environment literally just kicked our asses and the weather elements were cruel. It took the better part of a month to become acclimated, while we got our water consumption down to normal. The days brought temperatures of over 100 degrees and if wet when darkness came, especially in mountainous terrain, the drop in temperature brought chills with uncontrollable shaking.

At night if one man fired, the whole Company would open fire. The men were wound tightly and nervous and were fast to react to any unnatural sound. It takes discipline not to fire and give away your position at night. It's even more important and critical for crew served weapons, like machine guns. An enemy will probe a defensive perimeter just to locate them and to find the weakest area to attack. Of course once a position is given away, well, here come the grenades. We became acclimated and adapted to the combat situation faster than we did to the weather.

*To Be Continued...*



## 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 will be the Nashville Airport Marriott and the schedule is a work in progress. The 50th Anniversary gathering will be sponsored by THE FIRST SCREAMING EAGLES IN VIET NAM magazine.

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE  
1<sup>ST</sup> BRIGADE 101<sup>ST</sup> AIRBORNE DIVISION  
REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM  
APO San Francisco 96347

REL. NO. 235  
MACOI

TUY HOA, VIETNAM (101-IO) "Gentlemen, I can assure you that the people of Tuy Hoa and Hieu Houg districts have plenty of rice to eat."

With these words, Lt. Col. Tran Van Hai, province chief of Phu Yen, lauded the accomplishments of the highly successful Operation VAN BUREN before an assemblage of 101<sup>st</sup> commanders.

From the 15<sup>th</sup> of January, 1966 to the 21<sup>st</sup> of February, the "Screaming Eagles" 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade conducted their dual mission in the rice bowl area of Tuy Hoa, 240 miles NE of Saigon. The twofold mission was to protect the agrarian populace of Phu Yen from Viet Cong terrorism while the growers harvested the second of their three annual rice crops; and, secondly, to harvest as many Viet Cong as possible from the fertile province where the enemy have long extracted huge amounts of rice in the form of duressed taxes for their war effort.

During the February harvest season of 1965, only 9,500 tons of rice were yielded to the local government's control. This year, under the allied protection of the U.S. Army's 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne, Korea's Marines and the Vietnamese Popular and ARVN forces, the total number of tons of rice brought under government control was increased to 30,361 tons. And the remaining 40 percent of the rice planted last fall, will be harvested at its maturity in April.

During the coming year, villagers will go to government controlled storage areas in four province hamlets to withdraw rice they will need for short periods of time. This method of holding a receipt for a quantity of rice, and being able to draw against it in small amounts, insures that the Viet Cong are denied wholesale access to rice in the province.

During the first fifteen days of Operation VAN BUREN, contact with the enemy was relatively light, however, 39 Viet Cong were killed and 14 more captured.

Viet Cong terrorism and threat of attack was the occasion during the TET holidays for Company B, 2/502d Infantry to evacuate 85 orphans, 21 nuns, one priest, and 35 families from Hoi Tin, a hamlet near Tuy Hoa.

On February fourth, 101<sup>st</sup> paratroopers made contact with a main force Viet Cong element, resulting in 24 enemy killed.

The fiercest battle of the operation occurred near the hamlet of My Canh on February 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. Elements of the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade encountered strong resistance from regulars of the 95<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the North Vietnamese Army. At the battle's end, 101<sup>st</sup> troopers counted coincidentally, 101 enemy dead on the battlefield, and an estimated equal number carried away in the night.

At the end of Operation VAN BUREN, 283 enemy were known dead, another 194 were estimated, and six were known wounded. Of the dead, 56 were killed by artillery. Thirty-three enemy were captured, and 242 suspects were taken.

General William C. Westmoreland, in a command conference at Nha Trang, indicated that the weapons-to-body-count ration attained by the 101<sup>st</sup> during the operation was “Phenomenal.” For every two enemy killed, one weapon was captured. A total of 118 individual and 16 crew-served weapons, to include 47 Mauser 98’s, 13 AK 47’s, 20 U.S. Carbines, and several French and Chinese Communist arms were captured.

The U.S. Air Force flew 104 missions in support of the operation: two B-52 Bomber strikes, 232 Tactical Air Command sorties, and 123 O-1E light aircraft photo reconnaissance flights and psychological warfare missions.

More than one million pounds of high-explosive bombs were dropped by the Air Force during the operation, destroying 337 structures, damaging 133, destroying four bunkers, seven trench systems, and sinking six sampans.

The psychological warfare team attached to the 101<sup>st</sup> dropped one million propaganda leaflets and 250,000 safe-conduct passes. In addition, they broadcast from and aircraft, 40 hours of loudspeaker propaganda over enemy and contested territories.

Directly supporting the operation, the 2d Battalion 320<sup>th</sup> Artillery fired 11,800 rounds of high-explosive ammunition.

In a letter to Brig. Gen. Willard Pearson, Commanding General of the 101<sup>st</sup>, Gen. Westmoreland wrote: “Gratifying results of operations conducted by your units during my absence in Honolulu are indicative of a high degree of professionalism and fighting effectiveness. The through planning, close coordination and aggressive execution which were evident in these operations are a tribute to you and to all your officers and men.”

-30-

## Unit Paper List

1965 10 25 NUTS Pub Jan 02	1967 01 02 DW Pub Apr 07	1967 09 20 SE Not Published
1966 01 23 DW page 1 Pub Apr 03	1967 01 16 DW Pub Apr 06 (Northquest)	1967 09 27 SE Not Published
1966 02 06 DW Pub Oct 10 (Hensley)	1967 01 23 DW Pub 3 pages Apr 03	1967 10 04 SE Not Published
1966 03 06 DW Pub Jan 11 (Hensley)	1967 01 30 DW Pub Jan 99 &	1967 10 11 SE Not Published
1966 04 10 DW Pub Oct 00 & complete	pages 2-4 Jul 00	1967 10 18 SE Not Published
DW Apr 10	1967 02 20 DW Pub Apr 11	1967 10 25 SE Pub Oct 01 (Joiner)
1966 05 15 DW Pub Jul 00 & DW pages	1967 03 20 DW Pub Apr 05	1967 11 01 SE Pub Jul 03 (Lenc)
2-4 Jan 30, 67	1967 03 27 DW Pub Jul 11 (Hana)	1967 11 08 SE Pub Apr 09 (Northquest)
1966 06 17 DW Pub Apr 14	1967 04 03 DW Pub Jan 00	1967 11 15 SE Pub Jul 06 (Northquest)
1966 07 01 DW Pub Jul 05	1967 04 10 DW Pub Jan 12 (Hana)	1967 11 22 SE Pub Jul 09 (Lenc)
1966 07 08 DW Pub Jul 04	1967 04 24 DW Pub Apr 12 (Hana)	1967 11 29 SE Pub Jan 08 (Morse)
1966 07 22 DW Pub Apr 00	1967 04 17 DW Pub Jan 03 (Northquest)	1967 12 06 SE Pub Oct 08 (Lenc)
1966 07 29 DW Pub Jul 01	1967 05 01 DW Pub Oct 11 (Hana)	1967 12 13 SE Pub Oct 09 (Lenc)
1966 08 05 DW Pub Oct 06	1967 05 08 DW Pub Jul 12 (Hana)	1967 12 20 SE Pub Apr 08 (Morse)
1966 09 30 DW Pub Jul 99 &	1967 06 05 DW Pub Jan 13 (Hana)	1967 12 25 SE Not Published
pages 2-6 Apr 01	1967 06 12 DW Pub Jul 13 (Hana)	1968 01 03 SE Pub Jan 10 (Lenc)
1966 10 07 DW Pub Apr 02	1967 06 19 DW Pub Apr 13 (Hana)	1968 01 10 SE Pub Jul 08 (Lenc)
1966 10 14 DW Pub Jul 02	1967 07 01 DW Pub Oct 13 (Hana)	1968 01 17 SE Pub Apr 99 &
1966 10 21 DW Pub Jul 98	1967 07 10 DW Pub Jan 14 (Hana)	pages 2-4 Oct 00
1966 10 28 DW Pub Oct 98 &	1967 07 21 DW Pub Oct 03 (Lenc)	1968 01 24 SE Pub Jan 09 (Lenc)
pages 2-4 Jan 01	1967 08 16 SE Pub Oct 04 (Lenc)	1968 01 31 SE Pub Jul 10 (Hensley)
1966 11 06 DW Pub Oct 07	1967 08 23 SE Pub Jan 04 (Morse)	1968 02 07 SE Pub Jan 05 (Morse)
1966 11 18 DW Pub Oct 02	1967 08 30 SE Pub Apr 04	1968 02 14 SE Pub Oct 12 (Hana)
1966 11 25 DW Pub Oct 05	(Smith, Wayne)	
1966 12 02 DW Pub Jan 06	1967 09 06 SE Pub Jul 07 (Northquest)	
1966 12 16 DW Pub Jan 07	1967 09 13 SE Will Use in Oct 14	
1966 12 24 DW Pub Oct 99	(Northquest)	

*See Page 16*

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6360 Brixton Lane  
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46 APU(att. to A Co Spt Bn)  
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MAJ(R) Walter W. Jackson \$ 1/327 C 7/67-6/68 - 4/15 743 Wickham Fen Way Boise, ID 83709-0169	Clarence Kinloch 2/502 A 6/66-6/67 - 4/15 1711 Postfoot Circle Georgetown, SC 29440-6769	Donald W. Lilley SPT BN C 4/65-7/66 - 4/15 1506 7th St. East Polson, MT 59860-3829	James M. "Mike" Maples 2/502 C 6/67-5/68 - 4/15 615 Old Harriman Hwy. Harriman, TN 37748-3918
CPT Ted T. Jagosz unit & dates ? - 4/15 5412 Autumn Way Ridgecrest, CA 93555-8435	LTC(R) Arthur G. Kirby, Esq. 2/502 B 5/66-5/67 - 4/15 7210 Vandenberg Dr. Sacramento, CA 95820-6013	Allen W. Lloyd, CPA 2/327 HHC RECON 3/67-8/67 - 4/15 P. O. Box 33519 Indialantic, FL 32903-0519	Michael A. Marinelli 2/327 C 11/66-11/67 - 1/15 4068 Rolling Hill Dr. Titusville, FL 32796-1181
C. T. (Guy) Jamieson, Jr. 326 ENGR A 5/66-6/67 - 4/15 2509 E. 14th Ave. Hutchinson, KS 67501-2121	George N. Klink 1/327 B 6/67-4/68 - 4/15 8285 E. 800 S. Wolcottville, IN 46795-9773	Lloyd Lowe 2/502 Arty Liaison 67-68 - 1/15 909 Joeard Lane St. Charles, MO 63301	David J. Markham \$ 1/327 C 10/66-10/67 - 4/15 3410 Adelaide Drive Erie, PA 16510-2102
Grady M. Jones HHC S-3 7/64-7/66 - 4/16 80 Pool St. Byron, GA 31008-4401	Patrick A. Knaub \$ 2/327 A & B 4/67-11/67 - 4/15 550 Lioners Creek Rd. Dallastown, PA 17313-9502	COL(R) Hendrik O. (Hank) Lunde 2/502 A 6/65-6/66 - 4/15 2909 SW 37th Ter Cape Coral, FL 33914-2812	Chester A. Martin, Jr. 1/327 ABU 7/65-6/66 - 4/15 548 Savely Drive Hendersonville, TN 37075-3246
COL Edward P. Kane, U.S.A.(Ret) 326 ENGR A 4/67-4/68 - 4/15 P.O. Box 76 Southeastern, PA 19399-0076	Donald Korman 1/327 65-66 - 4/15 14333 Thompson Blvd. Cleveland, OH 44142	Carole L. Luttrell Family (Richard 2/327 A 3/67-3/68) - 4/15 27 Taft Drive Rochester, IL 62563-9200	Joseph A. Mastriani \$ 2/320 FA C 1/65-6/66 - 4/15 56 Smoke Hill Ridge Marshfield, MA 02050-2576
Robert (Poo) Karpuszk 2/327 HHC Hawks 9/66-9/67 - 4/15 117 Hart Drive Pittsburgh, PA 15235-5425	Gary D. Kraft 2/320 FA C BTRY 7/65-6/66 - 4/15 9653 W. St. Martins Rd. Franklin, WI 53132-9794	Raymond A. "Chip" Lynch \$ 2/502 A 5/67-3/68 & 69-70 Pathfinders - 4/15 Box # 43, Rt. # 32 North Chatham, NY 12132	Donald G. Matthews 2/502 B 2/67-5/67 - 4/15 310 Cottonwood Ln #310 Prince George, VA 23875-2512

Harold Mattson 1/327 A 5/65-3/67 - 4/15 8701 Thomas Ave. S. Bloomington, MN 55431	Ronald L. Moore \$ 2/17 CAV A Trp 3/63-3/66 - 4/15 1635 10th Ave., Apt 4 San Francisco, CA 94122-3645	James Pahriss 2/502 HHC 7/65-12/65 - 4/15 302 Ova Edwards Ct. Jonesborough, TN 37659-6092	Richard B. Preston 326 MED D 7/65-8/66 - 4/15 10 Crystal Lane Irvine, KY 40336-8765
Ben Melton \$ 2/320 ARTY HHB 6/67-10/67 - 4/16 104 Stratmore Cr. Bossier City, LA 71111-2286	COL(R) Gerry Morse 1/327 C.O. 7/67-7/68 - 4/15 10914 East Twilight Drive Sun Lakes, AZ 85248-7926	Lynda Park Family (Gardner MOH) - 4/15 1401 Old Newbern Road Newbern, TN 38059	Wayne J. Prokup \$ HQ&HQ 1st BDE 4/67-12/67 - 4/17 6110 Westwind Rd. Jackson, MS 39206-2213
LTC(R) Robert S. Metzger \$ 1/327 C, HHC, & B 7/65-7/66 - 4/15 P. O. Box 191 Voorhees, NJ 08043-0191	SGM(R) Henry B. Morton 1/327 HHC 3/65-2/66 - 4/15 1325 Hoopes Ave., Apt. 4 Idaho Falls, ID 83404	Karl A. Parrish 1/327 C 7/66-7/67 - 4/15 308 Elder Street Vacaville, CA 95688	James R. Rafferty HHC 11/66-6/67 - 4/15 358 Fish Creek Rd. Saugerties, NY 12477-3440
Henry O. Meyer 2/327 HHC 6/66-6/67 - 4/15 9226 S. Avers Evergreen Park, IL 60805-1414	Martha Morton Family (Robert L. 1/327 C 65-66) - 4/15 8712 Old Marsh Way Montgomery, AL 36117	Charles E. Payne 2/327 HHC 1/66-WIA 1 Sep 66 - 7/15 218 61st Street Va. Beach, VA 23451-2117	Peter T. Ramirez \$ 2/320 ARTY B BTRY 7/65-7/66 - 4/15 1771 Smoketree Drive El Centro, CA 92243-4130
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Randy Mills 2/502 A 5/67-10/67 - 4/15 1521 Sweet Myrtle Circle Mount Pleasant, SC 29466-8093	John Neely 1/327 C & HHC 6/68-6/69 - 4/15 111 Federal Street Salem, MA 01970-3241	James Peterson 2/502 HHC 7/65-7/66 - 1/15 3919 Elkstone Pl Santa Rosa, CA 95404-7612	James L. Richardson 2/17 CAV A 3/65-7/66 - 4/15 777 Gholson Road Clarksville, TN 37043-6108
Richard L. Mills 2/17 CAV A 4/67-4/68 - 4/15 73 Priest Rd. Nottingham, NH 03290-6203	Robert Patrick Noonan 2/327 A 10/65-10/66 - 4/15 5468 Paseo Del Lago, E, Unit C Laguna Woods, CA 92637	Frank D. Pierce 2/327 C 65-67 - 4/15 1824 Appalachian Hwy Gadsden, AL 35903-4565	William D. Ritchie 1/502 HHQ VN 6/65-12/65 - 4/15 31 Oakwood Drive Norwalk, OH 44857-1606
Kenneth R. Millsbaugh 2/320 FA HHC 7/67-5/68 - 4/15 3720 W. 91st Ave. Merrillville, IN 46410-6858	Bevan Olyphant 1/327 ELT 7/65-?? - 4/15 7250 North Catalina Ridge Dr. Tucson, AZ 85718	Joel E. Pittenger 2/320 FA HHB 6/67-6/68 - 4/15 275 Portico Dr. Chesterfield, MO 63017-2207	Jim Rizzi 2/502 RECON 6/67-7/68 - 4/15 9 May Ct. Stony Point, NY 10980-3109
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Michael P. Mitchell 2/502 RECON HHC 4/66-4/67 - 4/15 10285 Princess Sarit Way Santee, CA 92071-1278	Felix F. Padula \$ 2/502 HHC 7/65-10/65 - 4/15 5770 Taylor Rd. Painesville, OH 44077-9155	Ken Potts 1/327 C 12/66-12/67 - 4/15 1857 N. 185th St. Shoreline, WA 98133-4206	Dale T. Ronning 2/502 B 12/66-12/67 - 4/15 1440 Maple Lane West Fargo, ND 58078-3415
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LTC(R) William (Bill) Rován \$  
2/327 HQ&A 6/66-5/67 - 4/15  
4920 Hwy 220 W  
Lincolnton, GA 30817-5022

SFC(R) John Sands  
326 ENGR A 7/65-7/66 - 4/15  
729 Lee Cove  
Southaven, MS 38671-3932

Anthony Saucedo \$  
2/327 B 7/66-7/67 - 4/15  
4419 SE 33rd Ave.  
Amarillo, TX 79103-7315

Michael E. Schaub  
2/502 C 7/68-11/68 - 4/15  
P.O. Box 1796  
Crestline, CA 92325-1796

William E. Schieman  
1/327 HHQ 12/65-12/66 - 4/15  
4838 Autumn Lane  
Brooklyn, OH 44144-3151

LTC(R) Richard C. Schonberger  
2/327 HHC 7/66-7/67 - 4/15  
8804 Kenilworth Drive  
Springfield, VA 22151-1101

James F. Schoonover, Jr.  
2/502 HHC,A,C 1/65-6/66 - 4/15  
626 Gardiner Ct.  
Steilacoom, WA 98388-3037

Henry C. Scott \$  
2/502 C 10/66-10/67 - 4/15  
34543 Joel St.  
Chesterfield, MI 48047-2051

Harrison Shannon, Jr.  
1/327 C 6/65-6/66 - 4/15  
1 Lake Hill Drive  
Durham, NC 27713-8954

COL(R) David G. Sherrard  
2/327 C 2/67-8/67 - 4/15  
6130 Black Water Trail  
Atlanta, GA 30328-2717

Gale A. Shire  
3/506 A 6/67-8/68 - 4/15  
P.O. Box 191  
Kasilof, AK 99610-0191

Bob Shuta \$  
2/320 FA C BTRY 10/67-10/68 - 4/15  
2591 Hawleyton Trpk  
Brackney, PA 18812-9607

Storme Silvis Silvercloud  
2/17 CAV A 12/65-12/66 - 4/15  
Silvercloud Ranch  
P.O. Box 830  
Nuevo, CA 92567-0830

Steve S. Simmons  
2/502 A 5/66-3/67 - 1/15  
12893 Adams Way  
Thornton, CO 80241-2126

Donald Singleton  
2/502 HHC&B 7/66-2/68 - 4/15  
217 Cartertown Rd.  
NAM Dr.  
Richmond Hill, GA 31324-3053

William P. Singley  
BDE HQ PIO 67 / 7/15  
1504 Poinsettia Ave.  
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266-4922

Dewey E. Smith  
1/327 B 7/66-7/67 - 4/15  
3395 Early Avenue  
Lima, OH 45801-1164

David E. Snyder  
1/327 A 9/61-6/66 - 4/15  
316 Lynn Lane  
Waynesboro, VA 22980-5447

Dwight D. Stacy \$  
HHC 67-68 - 4/15  
2828 E 700 N  
Pine Village, IN 47975-8033

Teddy F. Stanley \$  
1/327 ABU 12/65-12/66 - 4/16  
109 Danny's Drive  
Amherst, VA 24521-4880

MSG(R) Bobby G. Still  
1/327 A 6/66-6/67 - 4/15  
C/O 866 Clifton Ridge  
McDonough, GA 30253

Robert M. Stoneburner  
2/327 HHC 6/67-6/68 - 1/15  
812 S. Jefferson St.  
Princeton, KY 42445-2370

Dick D. Stranahan  
2/17 CAV A TRP 64-66 - 4/15  
546 Fentress Lookout Rd.  
Falls of Rough, KY 40119-6264

Charles M. Sullivan \$  
1/327 C 5/66-5/67 - 4/15  
4606 Palm Ave.  
Des Moines, IA 50310-3795

Tim Swain  
HHC S-2 65 - 4/15  
111 E. Morningside Dr.  
Peoria, IL 61614-2131

Bill Tay \$  
1/327 ABU 9/67-9/68 - 4/15  
1327 Beverly Lane  
Bloomington, IL 61701-6931

John M. Taylor, Jr. \$  
1/501 SIG B 6/65-7/66 - 4/15  
23745 Oakside Blvd.  
Lutz, FL 33549-6904

COL(R) Thomas H. Taylor  
2/502 B 7/65-7/66 - 4/15  
P.O. Box 1094  
Inverness, CA 94937-1094

Thomas R. Taylor  
2/327 D 8/68-7/69 - 4/15  
4078 25th Street  
San Francisco, CA 94114-3815

Frederick J. Tregaskes  
2/327 B 7/66-8/67 - 4/15  
507 SR 1034  
Templeton, PA 16259-1717

Billie V. Two Feathers  
2/502 A & D 12/67-10/68 - 1/15  
14519 W County Rd. K  
Hayward, WI 54843

COL(R) Frank J. Valentine  
HHC&501 SIG 6/65-7/66 - 4/15  
4393 Deerwood Lane  
Evans, GA 30809-4605

James R. Van Lone  
1/327 C 3/64-7/66 - 4/15  
1917 - 60th St.  
Kenosha, WI 53140-3840

Johnny Velasquez  
2/502 B VN 67-68 - 4/15  
113 Lasata Drive  
Tracy, CA 95377-8328

George B. Vondruska \$  
2/502 A 1/65-7/66 - 4/15  
716 South Dennis St.  
Kennewick, WA 99336-4820

Dale N. Wagner \$  
2/17 CAV A TRP 5/66-6/67 - 4/15  
PO Box 7720  
Reno, NV 89510-7720

Richard J. "Rich" Walsh  
2/327 C 6/67-6/68 - 4/15  
140 Railroad Ave, Apt B103  
Norwood, MA 02062-3583

John P. Wayrynen  
Family(Dale MOH 2/502 B) - 4/15  
20442 315th Ln  
McGregor, MN 55760-5783

William F. (Billy) Weldon  
2/327 INF A 6/67-6/68 - 4/16  
806 Grand Canyon Ave.  
Flagstaff, AZ 86001-5415

Bart Welter  
2/327 HHC 64-9/66 - 4/16  
3501 Champion Lake Blvd #1111  
Shreveport, LA 71105-3778

Lionel West  
2/320 ARTY B BTRY 6/67-8/68 - 4/15  
141 Lisbon St.  
San Francisco, CA 94112-2050

MG(R) Jerry A. White  
1/327 A CO 7/66-7/67 - 4/16  
6825 Copper Oaks Road  
Columbus, GA 31904

LTC(R) Bliss W. "Zeke" Wilder  
2/502 HQ&HQ 3/64-10/65 - 4/15  
4611 Husky Dr.  
Bellingham, WA 98226

Marilyn Wilkes  
Associate - 4/15  
1025 Valley Road  
Dyersburg, TN 38024

Tommie Willard  
1/327 HHC 65-66 - 4/15  
1711 Valle Moor Dr.  
Bismarck, ND 58501-2579

Henry I. Willey  
2/502 A 1/67-1/68 - 4/15  
408 Silver Pine Lane  
Tamworth, NH 03886

Michael A. Willey \$  
BRIGADE PIO 9/66-10/67 - 4/15  
32176 Chester  
Garden City, MI 48135-1742

Jimmy L. Williams  
326 ENGR A 7/65-10/66 - 4/15  
4746 Stacey Rd.  
Memphis, TN 38109-6734



Ben Willis  
unit & dates ? - 4/15  
2112 Spring Creek Lane  
Atlanta, GA 30350

James A. Wilson  
2/327 B 9/66-8/67 - 4/15  
2538 Alder Glen Dr.  
Lodi, CA 95242-4601

MSG(R) James D. Wilson, Sr., Ph.D.  
1/327 TIGER FORCE 7/65-6/66 - 4/16  
6380 Oxford Circle, Unit #104  
Vero Beach, FL 32966-7615

Perry "Woody" Woodruff \$  
2/502 RECON 66-67 - 4/15  
16525 Pine Timber Ave.  
Montverde, FL 34756

Randolph Worrell  
2/502 C 6/67-6/68 - 1/15  
14405 Old Dobbin Dr.  
Huntersville, NC 28078

Terry L. Wren  
2/327 A 4/67-2/68 - 4/15  
5622 N 13000 West Rd.  
Custer Park, IL 60481-9026

Richard Young  
2/320 FA HQ 5/65-2/66 - 4/15  
49 King St.  
Hatfield, MA 01038

CSM(R) Robert A. Young  
HHC CSM 6/66-6/67 - 4/15  
2 North East Street  
Green City, MO 63545-1024

Terry R. Zahn \$  
SPT BN HQ ELT 7/65-5/66 - 4/15  
14824 Erskine St.  
Omaha, NE 68116-5123

**\$ = Above Subscription Price**

### Address Corrections

March 21, 2014  
through July 30, 2014

Arthur R. Besser  
2/502 B 3/67-10/67 - 7/14  
7870 Spencer Hwy Apt 1013  
Pasadena, TX 77505-1919

Woodrow J. Dudley  
2/327 A & C 12/67-12/68 - 10/14  
150 Running Deer Trl  
Lake Helen, FL 32744-2004

Kenneth Gormley, Sr.  
326 ENGR A 7/66-6/67 - 4/15  
1836 Lake Easy Rd.  
Babson Park, FL 33827

Robert C. Hudson  
2/327 C & HHC 7/65-8/66 - 4/16  
10876 SW 11th Lane  
Gainesville, FL 32607

Thomas Kinane  
1/327 C 4/67-12/68 - 10/14  
PO Box 41406  
Eugene, OR 97404-0346

Gary W. Ledbetter  
1/327 C 10/66-5/67 - 4/14  
3529 Trinity Church Rd  
Valdese, NC 28690-8233

Jim Pomilia  
2/502 C 7/64-7/65 - 1/15  
2486 Bay Berry Dr.  
Clearwater, FL 33763-1202  
MSG(R) Bobby G. Still

1/327 A 6/66-6/67 - 4/15  
C/O 866 Clifton Ridge  
McDonough, GA 30253

Richard J. "Rich" Walsh  
2/327 C 6/67-6/68 - 4/15  
140 Railroad Ave, Apt B103  
Norwood, MA 02062-3583

Bart Welter  
2/327 HHC 64-9/66 - 4/16  
3501 Champion Lake Blvd #1111  
Shreveport, LA 71105-3778

### Bad Address

March 21, 2014  
through July 30, 2014

John P. Figueroa (Ret)  
1/327 Tiger Force 10/65-3/66 -  
1/14  
P.O. Box 3432  
Cypress, CA 90630



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.



# DEVISE COMBAT GIMMICKS FOR TROOPS IN VIET

## Sniperscope Put to Use in Darkness

(N. Y. Times-Chicago Tribune Service)  
 SAIGON, Viet Nam, July 23 [Delayed]—The United States military services are modifying their arms and equipment and devising new combat aids on the basis of experience in the war in Viet Nam.

Brig. Gen. John K. Boles, former deputy chief for army research and development at the Pentagon, has been in charge of the joint service effort here.

One of these is an "intrusion detection device" developed on the same principle as seismographs. It pipes the sound of vibration of the ground to troops seeking protection against surprise attack at an outpost.

### Devise Sound Heads

Boles and his aids at the joint research and test activity center here have devised small "sound heads" that can be laid on the ground a mile or two away from the receiving unit.

Four such heads are put out in a suitable pattern and connected to the receiving unit by thin wire. Small wildlife such as birds or hares, would not be heard; but even a 100-pound Vietnamese would make a noise that could be recorded even if he were a considerable distance from the sound head, Boles said.

The logical place for these devices is to string them along jungle trails, he said. His scheme is to connect the sound line to mines so that these could be exploded in reaction to an intruder.

### "Sniperscope" in Use

"We haven't developed that one yet to the satisfactory stage," Boles said during an interview in his office.

"But here's something we already have started distributing," he said as he picked up what he called a "sniperscope," a high-powered telescope that can be attached to a rifle.

"This has a big infrared spotlight and is mounted with a telescopic lens," he said. "It can illuminate a man even in darkness at 700 yards. It works quite well. We have begun distributing these to Vietnamese, and we are getting more for our own forces."

Boles also showed off his "Claymorettes," small mines that can be placed on the side of vehicles and activated from the inside.

### First Too Powerful

"This was developed in the United States in response to a requirement that we wrote here," the general said. "The big Claymore mines we tried at first for the same purpose were too powerful. The blast damaged the truck and hurt the ears of the men inside it."

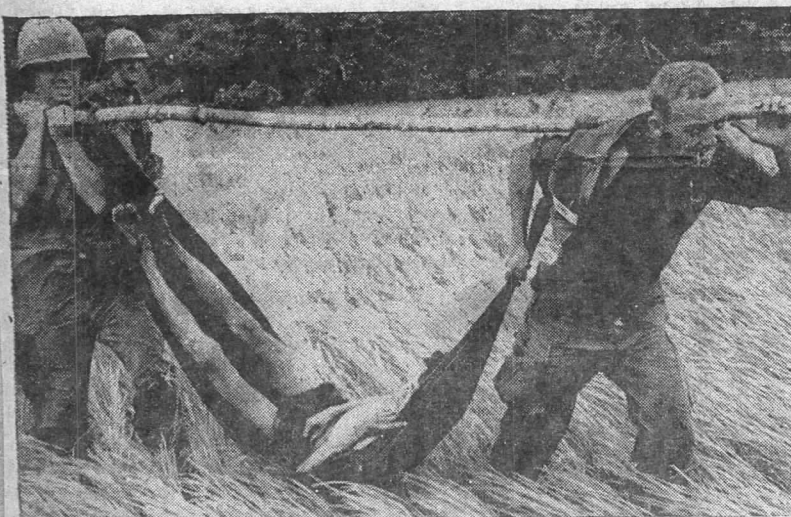
The new Claymorette is designed to repel ambushers of truck convoys. When the ambushers close in on the convoy, according to the planned retaliation, the Claymorettes will be discharged and



—AP Wirephoto

## 'Screaming Eagle' Turns Peace Dove

SAIGON—U.S. paratrooper sergeant, a member of the 101st Airborne Division from Ft. Campbell, Ky., gives a piece of candy to a blindfolded little Viet Cong suspect caught in a guerrilla controlled hamlet.



"OPERATION CACTUS"—101st Airborne Brigade paratroopers rush a wounded Viet Cong prisoner to a medical evacuation helicopter during "Operation Cactus." The VC was wounded during a firefight with the American patrol. (UPI Radiophoto by Kyotchi Sawada)

### DATELINE

## VIETNAM Reds Lose 709

Saigon — Government troops continued to outkill the Viet Cong during the week of Sept. 4-11, establishing a 2.4-to-1 kill ratio, according to U.S. military spokesmen.

The Viet Cong lost 709 personnel during the week's

# The Observer

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Sept. 18, 1965



**Issue #1**



**Issue #2**



**Issue #3**



**Issue #4**



**Issue #5**



**Issue #6**



**Issue #7**



**Issue #8**



**Issue #9**



**Issue #10**



**Issue #11**



**Issue #12**



**Issue #13**



**Issue #14**



**Issue #15**



**Issue #16**



**Issue #17**



**Issue #18**



**Issue #19**



**Issue #20**



**Issue #21**



**Issue #22**



**Issue #23**



**Issue #24**



**Issue #25**



**Issue #26**



**Issue #27**



**Issue #28**



**Issue #29**



**Issue #30**



**Issue #31**



**Issue #32**



**Issue #33**



**Issue #34**



**Issue #35**



**Issue #36**



**Issue #37**



**Issue #38**



**Issue #39**



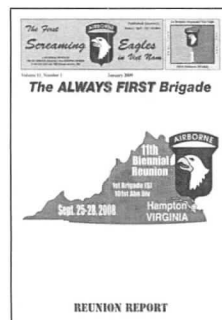
**Issue #40**



**Issue #41**



**Issue #42**



**Issue #43**



**Issue #44**



**Issue #45**



**Issue #46**



**Issue #47**



**Issue #48**



**Issue #49**



**Issue #50**



**Issue #51**



**Issue #52**



**Issue #53**



**Issue #54**



**Issue #55**



**Issue #56**



**Issue #57**



**Issue #58**



**Issue #59**



**Issue #60**



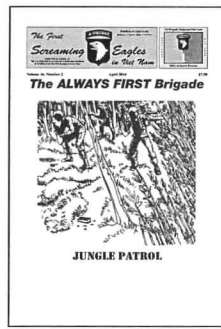
Issue #61



Issue #62



Issue #63



Issue #64



Issue #65

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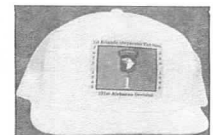
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## **Following Is A Short Description Of The Contents Of This Magazine.**

### **HISTORY OF 2/17<sup>th</sup> CAV ..... PAGES 1 –11**

The History of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Squadron 17<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment from 1916 – 1976.

### **OPERATION VAN BUREN ..... PAGES 24 – 25**

A First Brigade (S) news release covering the highlights of Operation Van Buren.

### **OBITUARIES ..... PAGE 12**

Obituaries submitted for publication and from those published in THE SCREAMING EAGLE MAGAZINE by the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division Association.

### **UNIT PAPER LIST ..... PAGE 25**

A list of the unit newspapers used in the magazine. The papers on hand to be used are very small. If you have a copy of any First Brigade (S) unit newspaper please mail it to the editor. It will be scanned and returned to you. Papers published by mimeograph aboard the USNS General Leroy Eltinge are very hard to find.

### **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR .. PAGES 12 – 14**

*Messages believed to be of interest to most subscribers sent by First Brigade (S) Viet Nam veterans and others.*

### **SUBSCRIBERS' LIST ..... PAGES 26 – 31**

Addresses of new subscribers, renewing subscribers, address changes and a bad address. Please help if you know of those who served in the Brigade and are not subscribers.

### **FATE UNKNOWN ..... PAGES 17 – 23**

Chapter three from Galen G. Mitchell's (1/327 A 6/65-5/66) book, FATE UNKNOWN.

*This material replaces the regular center fold unit newspaper. (See page 16)*

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CHU LAI, Vietnam--HANDY SPARE. A paratrooper of a 101st Airborne mortar crew carries a round for quick access while awaiting a fire mission during Operation Wheeler near here. (USA Photo by Spec.4 Dan Street)

# 81mm Mortars

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