

*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 17, Number 1

January 2015

\$7.50

# **The ALWAYS FIRST Brigade**



# **REST**

Regretfully this January issue of The First Screaming Eagles in Viet Nam is getting to you late. Some reasons for the delay are health, age and inability to drive. I am now a resident of Wood Village Assisted Living in Sweetwater. I am recovering from a broken pelvis because I did not make a good PLF and I am looking forward to the end of canes, walkers and restrictions on driving.

The 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion Banquet will be at the Nashville Airport Marriott on July 29, 2015. I hope to have more details about the program in the April magazine. The First Brigade 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion will be in conjunction with the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division Association Reunion. The



Association moved the 2015 reunion date to July so we would not be required to plan and man two reunion sites this year. I plan to be a part of both reunions. Those who register for the First Brigade Reunion and do not register for the 101<sup>st</sup> Association Reunion will be welcomed in the hospitality room on July 29<sup>th</sup>. Please see the reunion registration form and hotel reservation form on pages four and five. If you are not a member of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division Association and wish to attend the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division Reunion you can reach the Association office at: **101ST Airborne Division Association**, 32 Screaming Eagle Blvd., PO Box 929, Fort Campbell, KY 42223-0929 Phone: 931-431-0199 / Fax: 931-431-0195.



Left to right at the Sweetwater Hospital: COL (R) Joe R. Alexander (3/506 A 10/67-10/68), Ivan Worrell and Rikki Alexander.

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.

# How The Brigade Got To Viet Nam:

+ GRADY M. JONES, HHC S-3 7/64-7/66, 80 Pool St., Byron, GA 31008-4401, (478) 956-5787, [gjonesabn@cox.net](mailto:gjonesabn@cox.net) sent the following article and photos.



Reference the articles in the October issue of the magazine. It caused some flash back so I'm sending you a story and a few pictures. I don't remember exact dates so I'll generalize. I don't know if I can make the reunion, but maybe a daughter will take me.

## HOW THE BRIGADE GOT TO VIETNAM:

I joined the First Brigade S-3 Section, as the Operation Sergeant Major in mid 1964. Maj Hackworth (later the most decorated Soldier in Vietnam) was the S-3. I had just returned from Vietnam as an Infantry Advisor up in the Highlands around Kontum, Pleiku, Dak To and the Van Kiep National Training Center areas, and from the Jungle Warfare School at Fort Bragg and the Vietnamese Language School in California.

We started training the Brigade in jungle warfare, guerrilla warfare and counter insurgency. Well, in the spring of 1965 the Brigade went to Natchez Trace Parkway in Mississippi for this training. A few days later the Commo Sgt came to me and said he had a message for the Brigade to go back to Campbell. I told him to authenticate it with the SOI, and he did and said it checked out – the trucks arrived and we went back to Campbell.

When we got to the office there was a message for all Officers and NCO to report to the Theater at a certain time. We went in and sat down. A few minutes someone at the rear said “The Commanding General” (Major General Beverley E. Powell). We snapped to and the General and the G-1, G-2, G-3 and G-4 and maybe some other staff went up on the stage and sat down. The General came to the podium and said: “The First Brigade has been alerted for Vietnam.” You could have heard a pin drop.

Well, we started the preparations and the movement order. In his book, “About Face,” Maj Hackworth said that Capt Lunde (Asst S-3) and myself got the job of producing the order and that it was a foot thick and would later be used as a model for other units at The Infantry School. I wrote a classified letter to the Language School asking permission to reproduce part of the Schools English/Vietnamese language lessons. They Okayed it and I published a small pamphlet and distributed enough copies for each GI.

I went to ‘Nam with Major Hackworth and a small staff and reps from each unit as a classified advance party ... Our orders (For Official Use Only) said for individual weapons, ammo and rations would be packed in wooded boxes.

We got called to General Westmoreland's Office for a briefing and were told that the Brigade would be used as his trouble shooting unit basically from Saigon up North to the II Corps area and would

be based at Cam Rahn Bay, up on the coast. We got maps and an overlay of our AO (area of operation) and I ordered maps to cover the area, for the whole Brigade. We flew up to Nha Trang, above (North) of Cam Rahn Bay, on the coast and Special Forces hosted us. They flew us, by chopper (H-34 I think and real-real noisy) over and around Cam Rahn Bay and then we landed on a small dirt landing strip that looked like a cigar from the air. We walked picking out the Brigade CP location and AO for all units.

When the Brigade came in by ship we met them, along with General Westmoreland, Ambassador Taylor, etc., and I took a lot of pictures.

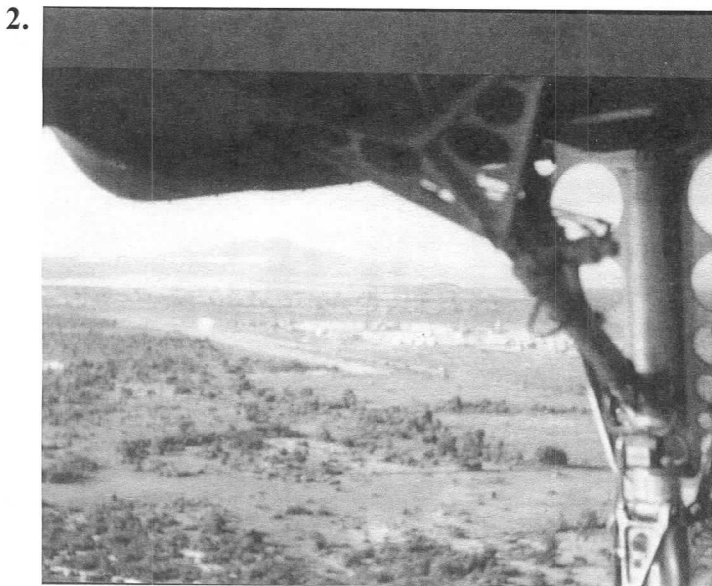
Well, we set up the Brigade CP, with concertina wire around it and MPs at the entrance. There were Vietnamese people in and around the Brigade AO. One day a young girl went up to the MPs (I believe there were two there) and said something and reached under her dress and pulled the pin on a grenade killing herself and I believe one MP and wounding another. I believe this was the first casualty of the Brigade.

A few days later Hanoi Hanna came on the radio and said “Welcome to Vietnam First Brigade, we're going to have you for breakfast.” So much for a secret move!!!!

Well, y'all know about the boat trip and the war afterwards, so I just wanted to tell probably some unknown facts about how we got there.







6.



Photo 1  
*Nha Trang – SF hosted Advanced Party 1965*

Photo 2  
*Cam Rahn Bay air strip 1965*

Photo 3  
*Cam Rahn Bay 1965*

Photo 4  
*GEN Westmoreland (center) and Ambassador Taylor (right) review First Brigade troops – 1965.*

Photo 5  
*Ambassador Taylor and media meeting First Brigade – 196??*

Photo 6  
*GEN Westmoreland and media meeting the First Brigade – 196??*

**Editor's Note:** *Grady was unsure about some of the dates.*

Headquarters  
101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division and Fort Campbell  
Fort Campbell, Kentucky 42223

AJCAG-A  
LETTER ORDERS  
NUMBER 6-84

dwc  
21 June 1965

SUBJECT: Movement Directive, Brigade Task Force, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division

TO: Personnel Concerned

TC 370. Fol orders AMENDED.

SMO: LO 5-116 this HQ CS  
Pert to: Movement Directive, Brigade Task Force, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division

As reads: NA

IATR: NA

IATA: Sp instr: Advance Detachment (pers listed on reverse hereof). PC data: Rpt to San Francisco International Airport, Calif to arrive NLT 2100 hrs 6 Jul 65 for departure on flt PAA 841 at 2200 hrs 6 Jul 65. PCS (MDC): 4A. Auth: Msg 061847 from CGWA MTMTS Oakland, Calif. Tvl will be in Cat "A" space. Each indiv will be limited to 100 lbs bag. Indiv weapons, ammo and rations if carried will be packed in wooded boxes not to exceed 50 lbs per box, clearly marked as to contents and will be



included in bag wt. Pers will rept with orders and immunization records. Personnel will rept to Transportation office this HQ for transportation from home station to San Francisco International Airport.

FOR THE COMMANDER: /s/ T.M. Partin  
T. M. PARTIN  
Capt, AGC  
Asst AG

DISTRIBUTION:

30 – Ea indiv concerned  
10 – Brigade Task Force, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division  
10 – Post F&AO  
2 – Post Surgeon  
10 – ACofS, G3  
10 – ACofS, G4  
10 – Mvmt Svcs  
2 – PIO  
10 – ACofS, G1 – 5, G2 – 5  
10 – AJCAG-P-M

AJCAG-A

LO 6-84 HQ 101<sup>st</sup> Abn Div and Ft Campbell, Ft Campbell, Ky.  
19 Jun 65

SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION:

20 – HQ DA, ATTN: AGAO-O, Wash 25, D.C.  
20 – HQ DA, ATTN: Dir of Trans, DSCLOG, Wash, D.C.  
20 – CINCSRIKE, MacDill AFB, Fla  
20 – CG, USCONARC, Ft. Monroe, Va.  
20 – CG, USATCP, Oakland Army Terminal, Oakland, Calif.  
20 – CG, Third US Army, Ft. McPherson, Ga.  
20 – CG, XVIII Abn Corps, Ft Bragg, N.C.  
20 – CG, USARPAC, Ft. Shafter, Hawaii  
3 – CG, Third US Army, ATTN: TUSA Data Processing Center, Ft. McPherson, Ga.

Personnel Roster (Advance Detachment ) Brigade Task Force,  
101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division

HACKWORTH, DAVID A OF103537 MAJ INF HHC 1st Bde  
101<sup>st</sup> Abn Div

MEYER, RICHARD J 087262 CAPT SIGC HHC 1<sup>st</sup> Bde 101<sup>st</sup>  
Abn Div

JOHNSTON, ROBERT 087805 CAPT ORDC HHC Spt Bn

STEPHENSON, JACK S 05322462 2D LT INF HHC 1<sup>st</sup> Bde 101<sup>st</sup>  
Abn Div

JONES, GRADY M RA14264428 SMAJ E9 HHC 1<sup>st</sup> Bde 101<sup>st</sup>  
Abn Div

HERDENER, CURTIS W RA17697324 SGT E5 HHC 1<sup>st</sup> Bde  
101<sup>st</sup> Abn Div

# 50th Anniversary Commemoration



The two logos above celebration will be on are a first draft for July 29, 2015. The hotel artwork to identify will be the Nashville the July 2015 Airport Marriott 50th Anniversary and the schedule is Commemoration a work in progress. of the First Brigade The 50th Anniversary (S) 101st Airborne gathering will be Division landing in sponsored by THE Viet Nam. The back FIRST SCREAMING of the logo will depict EAGLES IN VIET the date and location NAM magazine. of the reunion. The



**REUNION REGISTRATION FORM  
 FIRST BRIGADE (S) 101<sup>st</sup> AIRBORNE DIVISION  
 THE FIRST SCREAMING EAGLES IN VIET NAM  
 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION  
 WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 2015**



**IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE  
 70<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL REUNION  
 101<sup>st</sup> AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION  
 JULY 29 – AUGUST 1, 2015  
 NASHVILLE AIRPORT MARRIOTT  
 600 Marriott Drive  
 Nashville, TN 37214**

**Registration Fee is \$50.00 per person  
 Includes Dinner, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division Assoc. Hospitality Room (July 29th only),  
 Reunion coin and First Brigade (S) logo mug**

Number Registering \_\_\_\_\_ Total Registration Fee \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse / Guest \_\_\_\_\_

Name (s) on Badge (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Company/Battery \_\_\_\_\_ Battalion \_\_\_\_\_ Unit \_\_\_\_\_

From (Month/Year) \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have special diet requirements? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
 If the answer is Yes, please provide specific information on a separate sheet

I arrived in Viet Nam aboard the USNS General Leroy Eltinge. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
 I was in the Brigade Advanced Party. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Forms must be received no later than July 15, 2015  
 All others will be On Site Registrations at a rate of \$65.00 each**

**Make checks payable to: First Brigade (S) Reunion 2015  
 Mail registration material to:  
 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION  
 First Brigade (S) 101<sup>st</sup> Screaming Eagles in Viet Nam  
 P.O. Box 675 • Sweetwater, TN 37874-0675  
 Phone 423-337-5983**



**101<sup>st</sup> AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION  
70<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL REUNION  
Nashville, TN  
July 29- Aug. 1, 2015**



**Airport Marriott  
REGISTRATION FORM**

Hotel Reservations for the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division Association's 2015 Reunion must be made directly to the Marriott Nashville Airport. Please make reservations prior to 8 July 2015, as the hotel may not extend the room block or discount rate.

You may use this form or call the Hotel directly to make reservations at: 1-888-236-2427

**PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE**

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_ MI \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Guest \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address or PO Box \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Deposit information if payment by credit card:

Credit Card Type \_\_\_\_\_ Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival Date/Time \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date/Time \_\_\_\_\_

Transportation to/from hotel and airport with prior reservation: Do you need transportation? Circle yes or no

Special Needs \_\_\_\_\_ King Bed \_\_\_\_\_ Double Bed \_\_\_\_\_ Wheelchair \_\_\_\_\_



**Price per Night: \$113.00**

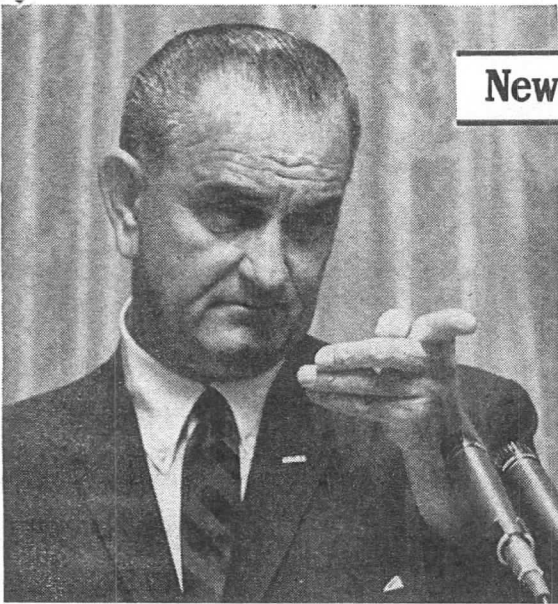
Return this form to:

**Marriott Nashville Airport  
600 Marriott Dr.  
Nashville, TN 37214  
PH: 615-889-9300  
Toll Free: 1-888-236-2427**



<http://screamingeagle.org/70th-annual-reunion/>





Pictorial Parade



Associated Press

President Johnson orders more troops to Vietnam as GI's of the 101st Airborne Division disembark at Cam Ranh

## The War No One Wants—Or Can End

It is a strange, almost passionless war that the U.S. fights in Vietnam. There have been no songs written about it, and the chances that any will be seem remote. There are no hot tides of national anger running. There are no scabrous epithets for the enemy, even on the battlefield. The American GI's whose mission is to kill him, call the enemy simply, "Old Charley"—an elusive, slippery fellow out there somewhere, beyond the next paddy field, or lurking in the next clump of bush—and they set about their soldier's task with a kind of laconic doggedness that seems also to reflect the attitude of their countrymen at home toward a war that no one really wants—but that no one, so far, knows how to end.

A somber President Lyndon B. Johnson caught this mood, curious for the U.S., when he stepped before the television cameras in the East Room of the White House last week to announce his long-awaited decisions on the next moves the nation must make in Vietnam.

"This is a different kind of war," the President said. "There are no marching armies or solemn declarations. Some citizens of South Vietnam, at times with understandable grievance, have joined in the attack on their own government. But we must not let this mask the central fact that this is really war . . . And there are great stakes in the balance . . ."

At no time since he entered the White House had a major policy statement by President Johnson been so painstakingly and suspensefully stage-managed, and it was immediately apparent that the conclusions he had reached were as dra-

matic for what they rejected as for what they proposed. The major new direct military commitments to the war in Vietnam:

- The immediate dispatch of the First Cavalry Division (Airmobile) and supporting units, whose arrival in Vietnam will bring U.S. strength there to 125,000 almost within a matter of weeks. "Additional forces will be needed later," the President said, "and they will be sent as requested." This prompted speculation of 200,000 or more U.S. troops in Vietnam by the end of the year.

- An increase in the draft call from the current 17,000 to 35,000 monthly by November. This will increase U.S. military strength by some 330,000 in eleven months, and put the total number of men under arms at 3 million for the first time in a decade. For the first time since 1956, the U.S. Navy will call on draftees to augment its forces. The Navy's expected needs: 40,000 men a year.

From the outset, the President laid special emphasis on restraint, moderation and control. He rejected a widely expected call-up of as many as 200,000 members of the ready reserve. "I have concluded that it is not essential to order reserve units into service now," he said. "If that necessity should later be indicated . . . I will give the country due and adequate notice . . ." He rejected suggestions to request an immediate, multibillion dollar appropriation to finance the war (though he would ask for a supplemental appropriation of \$1.2 billion now, more later) and he also refused to go before Congress and declare a national emergency. Instead,

he followed up the announcement of the new manpower decisions with a pledge to work for reform and progress in South Vietnam's villages—and with the initiation of new diplomatic moves to bring the war to the conference table.

Once more, the President stressed his willingness to begin "unconditional discussion" with any group, including the Viet Cong. He noted some fifteen fruitless attempts (box, page 18) to begin such discussions with various Communist states. (At the weekend, President Tito of Yugoslavia, after talks with Indian Prime Minister Shastri, began new efforts for top-level East-West negotiations.)

**Letter for U Thant:** Mr. Johnson also sent U.N. Ambassador Arthur Goldberg to New York with a personal letter to Secretary-General U Thant requesting the help of the U.N. in the search for peace. Thant promptly promised to help with "all the means at my disposal." Inevitably, LBJ's emphasis on peace evoked favorable reaction from nearly everyone, including most of his critics in the Congress.

All of this, of course, was very much as Mr. Johnson had planned it. He had preceded his cliff-hanging week of decision-making with a drum roll of warnings that things "will get worse before [they get] better," and that the nation faced "new and serious decisions" in Vietnam. These predictions were borne out and the President, in the process, reinforced his image as a man of moderation, left himself an open hand for the future and at the same time permitted the nation an almost audible sigh of relief.

Once more, Mr. Johnson had pre-

cisely gauged the reaction of both the Congress and the public. One day later, pollster Samuel Lubell said his samplings showed that three out of four citizens supported the President, and that the extent of the military buildup Mr. Johnson called for was in fact much less than the public had been prepared to accept.

## Making the Decisions

At the Pentagon, the period of decision-making had touched off the most intensive research since the Cuban missile crisis of 1962.

"There was an enormous sense of urgency," said a staff officer who worked

on the studies that went into the final decision. "Should reservists be called up as units or individuals? We took a long look at the reserve problem. We could call reservists, but was it that kind of problem? Is it a good idea to call back a reservist when we have a selective-service manpower pool of 1.8 million men? What were we trying to accomplish? We wanted to beef up in Vietnam, and we wanted to send signals to the Communists, but we didn't want to disrupt our relations with our allies or shake up the American people too much. There were other questions: What was our ability to receive and employ more troops in Vietnam?

Where would we put them? How fast? What would be the effect of a big influx of GI's on the Vietnamese people? How long will our troops have to stay?"

**The Option:** Throughout the eight days of conferences and staff studies, the questions—and the answers—piled up. Finally, on Tuesday—the night before he went to the nation—Mr. Johnson summoned Congressional leaders to the White House. The amenities were kept to a minimum as the President spelled out the five options he had before him. They were:

**1—**A major escalation of the war along lines sought by Pentagon hawks. LBJ dispensed with this brusquely by terming it out of the question.

**2—**To withdraw altogether, "to get out, to surrender, to retreat," as the President phrased it. He made it clear that this option was also not worthy of discussion.

**3—**To maintain the U.S. commitment at its present level, to continue the ground and air war, but not beyond current limits. This option, the President said, was rejected outright by Vietnam commander Gen. William C. Westmoreland and former ambassador to Saigon Gen. Maxwell Taylor. This option they felt strongly (and the President made it clear that he agreed) would simply increase both risks and costs, and make retreat inevitable in the long run.

**4—**Call up the ready reserve, freeze current enlistments and declare a national emergency—which would give the President vast powers to control prices and wages and the allocation of raw materials. He had the power to invoke this option without going to the Congress, the President pointed out, but he emphasized that he would never do so; if he chose this, he would do so before a joint session of Congress.

**5—**A limited escalation of the war by the dispatch of immediate reinforcements and a doubling of draft calls, coupled with a request for a supplemental defense appropriation of about \$1.2 billion. He would wait until January, Mr. Johnson said, to ask Congress for the additional \$5 billion that this and earlier increases in the U.S. commitment would require.

It was clear that Mr. Johnson favored the fifth option. He observed that it was essentially nonprovocative, that it would not touch off another Congressional debate, especially in the Senate, that could cause the Communists to misread U.S. intentions. Almost to a man, both Democrats and Republicans agreed with the President. Even House Republican Leader Gerald Ford of Michigan, hitherto a hawk in most respects, seemed to find the fifth option the best. Later he was to observe: "I felt the President had made up his mind. Once that had been done I thought the only

## PEACE MOVES

"Fifteen efforts have been made to start . . . [peace] discussions" on Vietnam, President Johnson reported last week. In Warsaw and Geneva, U.S. and Communist Chinese negotiators have discussed Vietnam for more than a decade. Following are some of the more notable attempts initiated or endorsed by the U.S. to bring the Vietnam war to the conference table:

■ **July 1962.** The Geneva Conference on Laos was convened, Laos declared neutral and infiltration into South Vietnam along the Ho Chi Minh Trail ordered to stop. Hanoi ignored the agreement.

■ **February 1964.** Prince Sihanouk of Cambodia proposed a conference to prevent the Viet Cong from using Cambodian borders as a sanctuary, then withdrew his proposal under pressure from Peking.

■ **August 1964.** U.N. Secretary-General U Thant offered to visit Hanoi and Peking to discuss Vietnam after the Gulf of Tonkin crisis. His offer was rejected.

■ **February 1965.** Britain proposed reconvening the Geneva Conference, but the Soviet Union refused.

■ **April 1965.** President Johnson at Johns Hopkins University offered "unconditional discussions." The Communists cried "swindle."

■ **April 1965.** Britain's former Foreign Secretary Patrick Gordon Walker went off on a peace mission. He was refused entry by Hanoi and Peking.

■ **April 1965.** Seventeen nonaligned nations called for a settlement. North Vietnam and Red China both said no.

■ **April 1965.** India called for a cease-fire and the maintenance of present borders by an Afro-Asian



Associated Press

### U Thant with Goldberger

peace force. Hanoi and Peking vetoed the plan.

■ **May 1965.** The U.S. suspended bombing raids over North Vietnam for five days. The Communists called the moratorium a "hoax."

■ **May 1965.** A Canadian envoy in Hanoi asked conditions for peace. Hanoi demanded the prior withdrawal of all U.S. troops from South Vietnam.

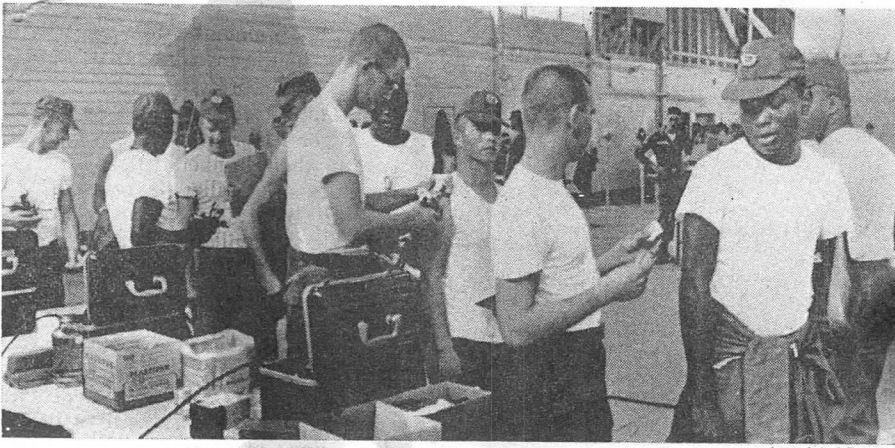
■ **June 1965.** Britain's Prime Minister Harold Wilson set up a Commonwealth Peace Mission. Peking called Wilson a "nitwit."

■ **July 1965.** British left-wing Labor M.P. Harold Davies went to Hanoi, but was rebuffed by senior North Vietnamese officials.

■ **July 1965.** Ghana's Kwame Nkrumah, a member of the Commonwealth Peace Mission, sent his Ambassador to London, Kwesi Armah, to Hanoi. This one is pending.

With these initiatives as prelude, President Johnson last week launched his fresh peace offensive with a plea that U.N. members "individually and collectively" help bring about negotiations.





Associated Press

### Shots for the First Cavalry: As in other wars, husky men fainted

thing the loyal opposition in Congress could do was support him."

One by one, the President called on his guests to comment. And one by one, they expressed their general agreement with the President's decision—George Smathers of Florida, J. William Fulbright of Arkansas, Frank Church of Idaho and doughty old Everett Dirksen of Illinois, who larded his approval with some anecdotes about World War I, and added, "This is serious business and we are playing for keeps."

**Quiet Mike:** Throughout the discussion, Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield, who usually speaks for a number of influential Senate Democrats, had sat silent and noncommittal. Finally, the President turned to him and said, "Mike, you've been quiet."

Mansfield then slowly drew from his inside breast pocket a three-page typewritten statement and, while the rest of the President's guests listened in hushed astonishment, read off a bitter critique of U.S. involvement in Vietnam.

He began by stating that there has been no legitimate government in Saigon since the murder of President Ngo Dinh Diem. Henry Cabot Lodge, ambassador in Saigon at the time, sat a few chairs away staring straight ahead. Mansfield went on. He had written his remarks himself and his office was astounded when the story got out that he had read them to the President. Mansfield said the war is not an American war, that the U.S. must not make it one.

There was a lot more, and the tension in the room grew apace as Mansfield read on. He implied that his sentiments were shared widely in the Senate, and though he promised the President that he would support him publicly, it was also clear that Mansfield was venting some abiding frustrations.

When he finished there was a pause, and the President looked at Mansfield thoughtfully. "Well, Mike," he said, "what would you do?"

Mike Mansfield just sat there, silent. He had no reply.

August 9, 1965

### Moving Out

Even as the President spoke, fresh U.S. troops were landing. The gray bulk of the troopship General Le Roy Eltinge, nineteen days out of Oakland, lay upon the green waters of Cam Ranh Bay in South Vietnam. Aboard were 3,900 paratroopers of the 101st Airborne Division, jubilant or depressed, laughing or cursing in the mercurial manner of soldiers since Hannibal's time. From the railing one newcomer shouted down at soldiers at the pier, "Take a break, men, the 101st is here." Ashore, a veteran armored officer shrugged: "I don't care what kind of outfits they send, as long as they're infantry who can go sloggling through the boonies."

The 101st's brigade preceded the thirteen battalions President Johnson ordered to Vietnam. Eight others will come from the Army's First Cavalry Division (Airmobile), certified combat-ready last week on the midnight before the President's speech. While the 15,787-man division packed up and kept on training at Fort Benning, Ga., its equipment—including 428 helicopters—was already moving out through the ports of Mobile and Jacksonville.

At Benning, giant boxes 8 feet tall



Associated Press

### The Taylors: Remember Bastogne

stood before the barracks, gradually filling with "the small stuff"—stoves and rifles and typewriters. Inside one barracks a husky, 21-year-old Pfc. quietly munched cookies sent by his sister from Oregon. In the bunk next to him a tall Alabama Negro ruminated: "I don't care about goin'. I care about comin' back. If I see him [the enemy] before he sees me, he's hurtin'." And a Pfc. from Massachusetts, his fingers stained with shoe polish, said somebody had to fight the Communists, but didn't look overjoyed at the prospect. Why, then, was he in this dangerous, volunteer outfit? "When I came into the Army," he said, "I wanted to be in the best."

In the mess halls the pictures are down, the curtains are off the windows. Lines of young men in T-shirts get their overseas inoculations from automatic "guns" which force the serum right through the skin. As in other wars, a few men faint after their shots; as in other wars, they are often the huskiest.

And the training still goes on. The basic weapon of the division is the M-16 rifle. It looks like a long-barreled submachine gun, but with its nylon-plastic stock and perforated forearm weighs less than half as much as the World War II M-1 and the later M-14. Semi-automatic or automatic, it can rip off 750 rounds per minute. The division trains in its own helicopters, "rappelling" (sliding) down a 120-foot nylon rope, then perfecting their new tong-anvil-hammer battle strategy. The tong is a small force that locates the enemy and moves him toward the main anvil force. Along the way the hammer segment attacks in strength and drives the enemy against the anvil where the greatest fire power is gathered.

**Finding and Destroying:** The First Cavalry, hopefully, is the U.S. Army's answer to guerrilla warfare in the jungle. Mobility, speed and lightness are the watchwords. The division has no armored units, no heavy artillery. The old concepts of capturing and holding terrain are gone. First Cavalry is interested only in finding and destroying enemy personnel.

No debarkation date or point has been announced, but an advance party will probably arrive in the next week. Until then, it will be up to the 75,000 men already on hand, and the newly arrived 101st Airborne. For the latter there was a welcoming speech from retiring U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam Maxwell Taylor, who commanded the division during World War II, and whose son is now a member. "When the Viet Cong are pressing on you from all sides," he counseled, "remember what was said at Bastogne when the division was surrounded by nine German divisions: 'They got us surrounded, the poor bastards'."



PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE  
1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division  
REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM  
APO San Francisco 96347

AVBD-IO  
MACOI  
Rel. No. 10-14

12 October 66

By PFC Luis Callender

“A NEW HOME AMONG FRIENDS”

The shinning, silvery, Air American C-47 touched down at the airfield in Phan Rang and taxied up to the air terminal.

They stepped from the plane one at a time, being helped by the 101st paratroopers standing by. None had ever flown in a plane before and some were air-sick. There were 25 of them and anxiety masked their faces.

Here was the first group of 50 refugees from Binh Dinh province. This group was from Bon Son. For too long they had endured Viet Cong terror and intimidation. The Viet Cong had finally succeeded in chasing them from their land. So they had come to Minh Thuan province to build a new home and escape the Viet Cong.

Now as they stood in the small air terminal, accepting the many hands of friendship being extended to them by the 101st “Screaming Eagles” from Support Battalion, smiles brightened their previously anxious faces.

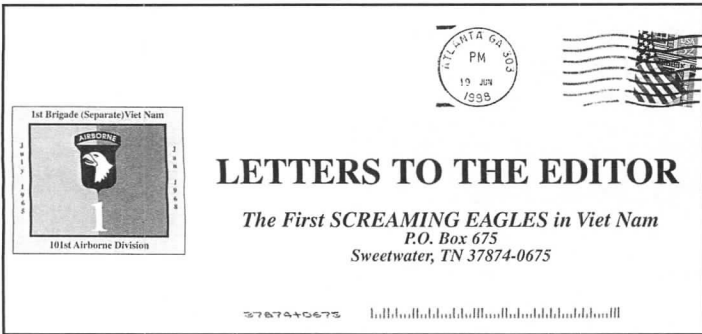
Airlifting the refugees from Bon Son to Phan Rang had been a United States Agency for International Development project. However, the civilian agency needed help in transporting them and their belongings to their new home in Nin Chu beach near Phan Rang, in addition to caring for immediate needs. Help was requested from the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division.

As always, without hesitation, the “Diplomats and Warriors” responded, providing trucks for transportation, medics to care for the air-sick, and a hot chow line was set up to fill the many empty stomachs.

Temporary quarters had been built by USAID personnel working closely with province officials and awaiting the refugees when they arrived at their new home were 101st paratroopers with clothes and food. Such essentials as a well had already been dug on the site of their new homes.

With very fertile, and well irrigated farm land, being provided by the province, each refugee will soon be starting his individual farm. USAID will provide cement and lumber for the construction of permanent housing structures.

To further assist the refugees, the 101st have placed at their disposal welders and metal workers from Company “B” of Support Battalion for the building of wash basins and shower tanks from 55 gallon drums. With the standing promise of the 101st troopers to lend a helping hand whenever they need it, they are well on the way to building a new life. They, in need, have definitely, found a new home among friends...indeed.



**U.S. POSTAL SERVICE**

+ **MAJ (R) WILLIAM E. GROVES**, HHC (AG) 6/66-5/67, 576 Coast Oak Circle, Lawrenceville, GA 30046-6114 wrote: Major “W,” it is that time of the year. Enclosed is a check for another flight. It has been a rough summer as I had a little accident resulting in a hip replacement. The additional metal goes with the right knee and the screws in the back. We are on the road back to some degree of normal.

Recently discovered that a member of our church was with the Air Force in Phan Rang during the same period (66-67) that I was there. He was fairly familiar with our layout. We compared notes for about 30 minutes one Sunday.

I noted Major Cook’s (Spt Bn) comments about limited or lack of information from Support Battalion. (JULY 2014 issue Letters to the Editor page 13.) I am really surprised that some of the members of the AG/Admin group have not followed up and stayed in touch, but the younger ones probably got out of the service and the career troops scattered to the fore winds. I have tried to locate Bill Horgen (Cpt at that time) and Ed Strong (Maj at that time). Major Strong was the AG and Cpt Horgan was Chief of Personnel Services. The last rumor I have was they both had retired (Major-Lt Colonel) and were living in Germany. But unfortunately we don’t hear from the Admin Group.

To echo others comments, Ivan, keep up the good work and God Bless. AIRBORNE!!!!

W. E. Bill Groves, Maj, USA, Ret, AG/Admin, cell (770) 722-5953, email: [billrojam@aol.com](mailto:billrojam@aol.com)

*Editor’s Note: I do not have Horgen (Horgan) nor Strong in my database. Can anyone help locate these two?*

+ **CHARLES F. “BUCK” MINDERLEIN**, 2/320 ARTY A BTRY 6/66-8/68, 5510 Plainfield Ave. Baltimore, MD 21206-4223, (410) 485-5494 sent the following.

This picture was taken at 2/320<sup>th</sup> Artillery Forward Base Camp, Bao Loc, Christmas Day, 1967.

The children were from an orphanage in the town of Bao Loc. A 2-½ ton truck brought many orphans to our area and we were lucky enough to watch over this group.

The cooks made a great meal for all of us. We let the kids pick out any candy or cookies, that we had received from our families, and



take it with them. As you can see in the picture, they had a lot to take back. I just remember them being shy, but very grateful.

When the truck came back, these children joined the others and as a group, they sang a song for us and thanked us. They all got on the truck, with all their goodies and waved goodbye.

A Christmas that I will always remember.



Back L to R: 2/320<sup>th</sup> Artillery Forward Base Camp – Eisenhard, Lowe, Weber, Childress, Pittenger, Branum and Minderlein. Front: Orphans from the town of Bao Loc Christmas Day 1967.

+ **ROBERT DICKSON**, 2/320 FA B BTRY 7/65-8/66 (Asst Gunner #3), 309 Lookout Dr., Sedona, AZ 86351-7845, wrote: Sign me up for another year. I’ve enclosed a little extra for all the hard work you do.

It’s almost 50 years now that I went over with the advanced party on C130’s. Cam Ranh Bay was a dirt landing strip when we arrived. Still in good health and in the gym three days a week.

+ **RONALD J. GALLANT**, 1/327 C 9/66-8/67, 5312 Yaupon Holly Dr., Cocoa, FL 32927-3427, (321) 639-9435 when renewing his subscription wrote - Hope you never get ill again. It’s always a pleasant surprise to open the mailbox and see “The Always First Brigade” magazine. Just keep ‘em coming.

+ **MAJ L. W. “BUBBA” JOHNSON, AUS-RET.**, 2/327 A 8/66-9/67, 4320 Harvest Hill Rd., Carrollton, TX 75010-4126 wrote when renewing his subscription – Glad you are doing better. I had surgery last December. All is fine now!

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

home (915) 943-8142 wrote – Sorry I am so late. I guess I just had so many other things on my mind. Here is my renewal for three years. The extra is for whatever you desire – a cup of coffee or beer or whatever. Keep doing the same great job you have for all these years.

---

+ **EDWARD S. BONK, JR.**, 2/327 B 7/65-6/66, 1800 Tomlinson Rd., Philadelphia, PA 19116-3850, (215) 464-2294 wrote – Enclosed is my check for renewal and I enjoy receiving the magazine and reading the articles. Is there a date for publication of the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade History Book?

*Editor's Note: I have yet to find my round to it! In regards to finishing the history book, I have an outline and am still gathering material. I hope the book does not have to be published posthumously.*

---

+ **JOHNNIE C. LINDSEY DMOR**, 1/327 INF HHC & C 10/66-10/67, 992 Walker Lane, Texarkana, TX 75501-2163, (903) 831-5951 wrote – I'm sorry I had to be reminded that it was time to renew. I have been in and out of the hospital for the past month. I broke a rib in three places and punctured a lung and am suffering through all the stuff that goes along with that. High fever, chills and dehydration. I am adding a little extra to help out. I hope I won't have to be reminded next time.

---

+ **TIM SWAIN**, HHC S-2 65, 111 E. Morningside Dr., Peoria, IL 61614-2131, work (309) 637-1700, home (309) 692-7301 wrote – Ivan, Keep up your great work. You are unique.

---

+ **BILL CARPENTER**, 1/327 HHC TF 12/66-12/67, 1041 CR. #14, Rayland, OH 43943, cell (740) 275-2052 wrote – I'm pleased to hear you are doing better. I have a couple of articles for your next issue. I will send them within the next couple of weeks. I have enclosed a little extra (along with my renewal) to help with postage, etc.

---

+ **COL (R) JOSEPH V. RAFFERTY**, 2/327 HHC 6/66-6/67, 93 Bonnie Brae Dr., Novato, CA 94949-5817, work (415) 382-6201, home (415) 382-3398 when renewing his subscription wrote – Hope the illness is over. I'll try to find some photos and send to you.

---

+ **GAIL H. BALDWIN, FAMILY** (Butler A. 2/327 A 7/67-7/68), 308 Central Ave., Ocean City, NJ 08226-4029, (609) 399-1728 wrote - Thanks for printing Buddy's obituary in the July 2014 issue of your magazine. I hope all his friends have seen it now.

Thanks also for keeping me on your mailing list. I enjoy reading about the Screaming Eagles – so much a part of Buddy's life.

I hope you are feeling better by now and that I'll see you in Nashville this summer.

---

+ **COL (R) WILLIAM A. HENRY**, 2/327 B 7/65-7/66, 9502 Chestnut Farm Drive, Vienna, VA 22182-3465, (703) 281-7969 when renewing his subscription and sending an extra contribution wrote: Thanks again, Ivan. Appreciate what you do for us!

---

+ **PATRICK MCGOWAN**, 1/327 B 9/67-9/68, P.O. Box 761205, Melrose, MA 02176-0019 wrote: Thanks for all you do. Enclosed is for two years. Please use extra as you see fit.

---

+ **BEN LAM**, 2/502 HQ 65-71, 3002 Albany Court, Woodbridge, VA 22193-1208, (703) 680-3692 sent the following. Attached you will find my personal check – please hook me up for another year. Thanks for the job well done.

I have planned to attend the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division involving the Vietnam War at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, in July 2015. Please keep me posted.

Last year LTG Emerson invited me to his home in Helena, Montana, when he was unable to talk. I spent ten days with him until he is back to normal, then I left. During that time, I met LTG William Carpenter who came to visit General Emerson.



*Left to right: Emerson, Lam, Carpenter.*

We all had a good time. Enjoyed great lunch prepared by General Carpenter's wife. We had lot of drink to celebrate an un-expected reunion. We all talked very much mostly about the battle in front of pass.

I have invited both Generals to the "Home of the Eagle" in 2015. General Emerson promised to join us if his health is good.



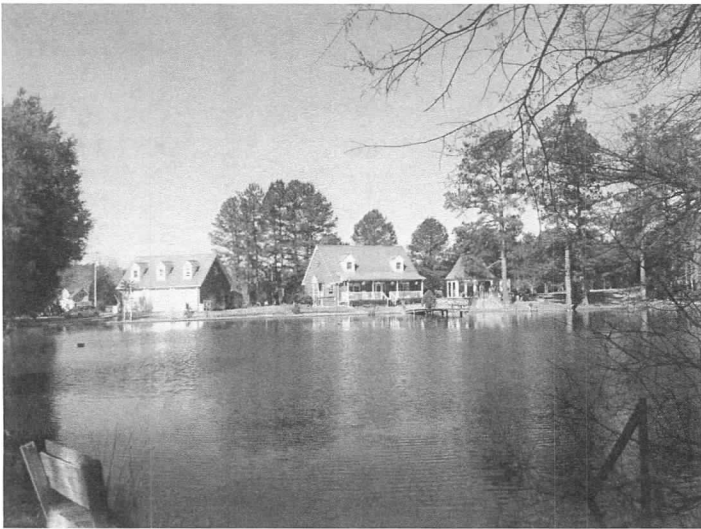
Strike Force, Ben Lam  
Bronze Star for Valor Recipient  
Distinguished Member of 502<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne  
Division

---

+ **LTC (R) WILLIAM P. (BILL) ROVAN**, 2/327 HQ&A 6/66-5/67, 4645 Double Branches Rd., Lincolnnton, GA 30817, (706) 401-7502 wrote: I have moved... change of address form attached.

I sold my previous property to 2/327 member + Nick Mihalic (Doc), 2/327 HHC 2/67-8/67. Doc and I were in A Company at the same time, although a very brief overlap (just about the time we boarded the LST for Duc Pho).

We didn't know each other at the time, of course, but met a number of years ago at the reunion. We talked about the property and finally Nick and Jackie came down from New Jersey to take a look and ended up buying.



I moved a short distance to an old farmhouse located on the local golf course. It was built in 1896 but entirely renovated in 2006 and is a very nice, comfortable home.



Left to right: Rován and Mihalic

Nick and Jackie will not move to Georgia until next summer, as I understand. In the meantime, I continue to move things out, clean up and maintain it.

I have enclosed a picture we took just after the closing. Don't know if you can (or want) to use it in a future edition. Interesting, though, in that two old Vietnam vets ended up being buyer/seller of the property.

I have also attached a photo of the home, just for your info.

Time marches on...2014 about over...glad to learn you are recovering fairly well...enjoy the magazine...and looking forward once again to seeing you in Nashville.

---

+ **WILLIAM "DOC" ACREE**, 2/327 A & HHQ 6/67-2/68, 11216 N. 40th St., Phoenix, AZ 85028-2827, (620) 404-1430 when renewing his subscription wrote: Merry Christmas. Thank you Ivan for all you do for us troopers. You are truly one of the great ones, who is much appreciated. Best Regards, Doc.

---

+ **C.J. FERGUSON**, 2/502 C 7/66-7/67, 53 N. Rachele Ct., Rineyville, KY 40162-8826, (270) 763-6527 wrote: Great job Ivan. Wishing you well and Merry Christmas!

---

+ **SSG (R) JOHN RAYMOND**, 1/327 C RVN 67-72, 359 Meadow Lane, Oak Grove, KY 42262-9211, (270) 640-8318 wrote when renewing his subscription, Thanks. Great work. Keep it up.

---

+ **LUIS VARGAS**, 2/502 C 6/65-6/66, 511 Pineview Lane, Brandon, MS 39042-9748 sent the following. Greetings from the hospitality state. Trust and pray that you're doing much better healthwise and same for your family.

If possible, I would like to have this announcement published. It should be of interest to all Vietnam veterans.

**Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Event**  
**Saturday, March 28, 2015**  
**Gallman, MS**

**Contact: Luis Vargas (601) 825-4121 or (601) 214-8760**

Thank you for considering this request. Wishing you'll have a blessed holiday season!

---

+ **CAROLINE FAZ**, Family (Frank Florez, Jr. 1/327 Inf C 7/65-10/65), 6602 Dorr St., Apt 205, Toledo, OH 43615-4238, (419) 491-8702 wrote: I am sorry I forgot to renew my subscription but, thank you for reminding me. I hope your health is getting better and take care of yourself. Doing a great job on the magazine. I always read it twice.

+ **CARL E. MIDKIFF**, HHC AIR SECT 12/66-12/67, 1029 David Court, Radcliff, KY 40160-1809, (270) 351-1950 sent the following with his subscription renewal. A little early but thought I would go ahead and renew my subscription for two more years. I recently turned 80 but am still hanging in there. I look forward to seeing you in Nashville this year, hope we get some of the pilots to attend the reunion, it would be good to see them again. I read with interest the article on the 17<sup>th</sup> CAV in the last issue of "The Always First" magazine. Troop "C" wasn't mentioned much except that it was reconstituted in 1957. Everything that follows comes under the heading of "As I remember." In March of 1957, 11<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division, at Infantry Kaserne in Augsburg, Germany, Troop C was reconstituted. It's possible that it was called Troop C (Recon) 17<sup>th</sup> CAV. I'm pretty sure it was one of the first Air Troops/Air Cav Troops in the Army. Platoons in the Troop were Troop Headquarters, Infantry, Transport (they transferred either six or nine CH 34's from Oberschlisheim AAF near Munich to Messerschmitt AAF Augsburg with pilots and maintenance personnel). Their job was to transport the Infantry Platoon and the Scout Platoon who were equipped with Jeeps with 106 recoilless rifles. I can't remember the name of the platoon I was in but we had a couple of L-20s, a couple of L-19s and two or three H-13s. I hope I didn't forget anyone.

Before the Division went Pentomic all of the Aviation assets were gathered together at Messerschmitt and after Pentomic about eight or ten airplanes and helicopters along with pilots and maintenance personnel went to Troop C and the other aviation assets formed the 11<sup>th</sup> Aviation Company commanded by Maj Otto Huebner. The Commander of Troop C was Major Oran K. Henderson. When the 1<sup>st</sup> Bde 101 was at Chu Lai around October of 1967, I ran into Colonel Henderson (I was a CW2) and he remembered promoting me to SP2 back in Augsburg nine years before. He mentioned that he was taking over one of the Brigades in Americal Division in the near future. He did take over a Brigade and it was one of his Companies that went into Me Lai. It eventually destroyed his career.

Troop C mostly acted as aggressors to units in the Division and other units in Germany. I remember working out of the Bad Tolz airfield for a few weeks one time. Our field uniforms were the old green OG uniforms with all the patches and tags sewn on and I remember black berets at one time. I Derosed in late May, early June 1958 a couple of days after the Division was alerted to deploy to Lebanon. Shortly before the 11<sup>th</sup> was sent to Lebanon it was reflagged as the 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. I think Troop C 17<sup>th</sup> CAV was inactivated 1 July 1958. I have a Troop photo taken in Augsburg in 1958 that I would gladly donate to whichever active unit that can trace its lineage back to Troop C 17<sup>th</sup> CAV, 11<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division.

Don't know if the above info interested you, I hope it did. Just writing about it brought back some good memories. I met my wife Inga in Augsburg and we will celebrate our 57<sup>th</sup> anniversary in April next year. Earlier this year my son-in-law (Col, Ret), my daughter and I went to West Point to attend my grandson's (Andrew Grammel) first parade as a cadet in the class of 2018. Andrew has asked me to pin on his bars upon his graduation; I intend to be around for that.

+ **HENRY F. BECK, JR.**, 2/327 HHC "Hawk" 4/66-4/67, 149 Sheryl Drive, Deltona, FL 32738-8437, (407) 323-8898 sent this note with his subscription renewal. Ivan, you are doing a great job. Stay well my friend. Re-up for the next year. All the Way -- Second to none -- Beck -- Hawk 14

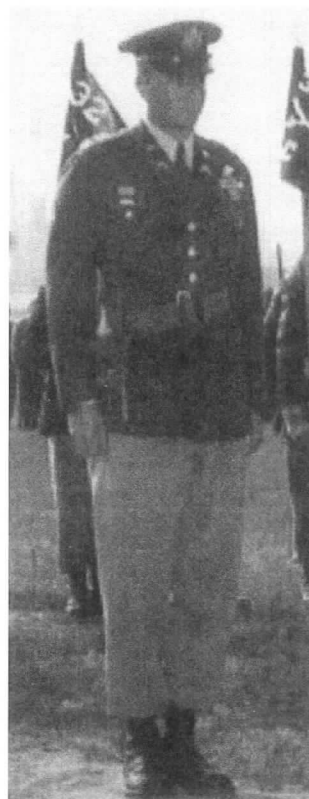
+ **MAJ (R) WALTER W. JACKSON**, 1/327 C 7/67-6/68, 743 Wickham Fen Way, Boise, ID 83709-0169, (208) 340-5740 wrote: Gene Ackerson\*\* (C Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade LRRPS) dropped me a note after the 101<sup>st</sup> Reunion in Michigan. Walt, Good to see you and the others at the reunion. Hope the fishing trip was successful. When I was a kid the lake was full of 30" long trout. There were no salmon.

I talked to Ralph Duckett's cousin in Georgia -- the birth and death dates are 11-10-46 to 10-21-12. (See obituaries) He was with C Company 66-68 on and off.

Summer here was nice but a little cooler than the norm. May look up Clay Wentworth \*\*\* (1/327 no service dates and no address) if this winter goes like last.

Cold Steel Cobras

The following article was rec'd from + **LTC (R) BILLY R. ROBBINS**, 1/327 ABU 7/65-8/66, P. O. Box A-1327, Sharpsburg, NC 27878-1327, (252) 382-2300 (cell).



When I first found ABU Robert Archie Rogers, we talked on the phone for over two hours -- he refused to stop talking -- hungry to talk to anyone. I told him that one day I would visit him -- which I had planned to do during my attendance of the 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV ASSN reunion in July 2015 -- but, I didn't tell him when -- and I didn't think it would be so soon. So, on the way to attend ABU Milton E. McQueeney's memorial service (see obituaries), I stopped by the Alvin C. York VA Medical Facilities in Murfreesboro, TN to see ABU, RAK Robert Archie Rogers.

I opened his door and said "hello." Being blind, he said loudly, "WHO THE HELL IS IT!?" I walked closer to his bed and I said "hello ...."

After one word, he recognized my voice -- and he said, "BILLY ROBBINS, YOU CAME ALL THE WAY FROM NORTH CAROLINA JUST TO SEE ME! OH MY GOD, WHAT A WONDERFUL THING -- THANK YOU SO MUCH!" His face was bright red and his entire face was smeared

with a big smile. He wouldn't stop talking – even to breathe... he told me that that morning, he was really depressed and was considering... whatever...? Now I ask you – how in the hell could I tell him – NO – I didn't drive from NC just to see him...so I kept my mouth shut – I couldn't have spoken if I wanted too. The first thing that entered my mind – was damn – that could be me lying there in that bed – and probably one day it will be so (?).

I was honored and glad to meet and talk to the FIRST ABU Company Commander, 1-327<sup>th</sup> Inf, 101<sup>st</sup> Abn Div, Robert Archie Rogers, 89, after 56 years of searching for him – although – he lived in Clarksville, TN for quite a while after he retired from the military – go figure.

However, when I met ABU Rogers, I was shocked and sad, and really pissed-off at the VA after ABU Rogers told me of his treatment while in the VA facilities.

When ready to depart for Clarksville, the tone in his voice was begging me not to leave, as he kept talking – non-stop – hungry for a visitor – to keep me listening and not leaving his room – even as I was sadly leaving his room – made me feel ashamed, sad and pissed-off – he continued to talk.

When I departed Clarksville after Mac's services, I stopped again to see ABU Rogers. He talked non-stop for about three hours – made me tired. I tried to tell him that I had to leave for the long drive to NC and that a big storm that had hit CA and was headed this way and I didn't want to get caught in it. He told me that I could stay in one of his two houses not far away – had a pool – we could go here and there – and he knew Aaron Tipton (sp), country singer, and we could hang-out with him – go to the general store, etc.

I think he was saying anything that he could think of to keep me there – hungry for companionship – someone to talk with.

For three hours, ABU Rogers begged me to write a letter to the VA about the unfavorable treatment he was experiencing. Do you know how that feels? How could I not? So I did, Now he calls me almost everyday.

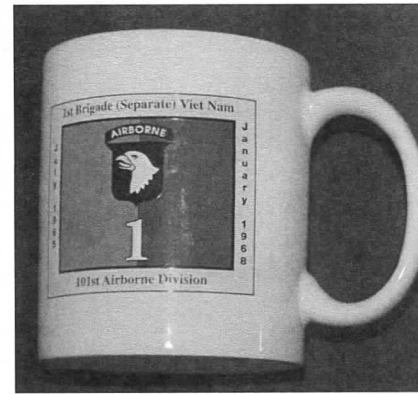
*Please canvas your Chapter and ask the members to please call or visit RAK Robert Rogers, S-3, 3-187, June 1956, then in July 1956 he was the FIRST ABU Co Cdr, 1-327, Ft Campbell, Ky. Mr. Rogers needs our help – he needs to hear a friendly voice – we need to support our RAK Brother.*

Let his phone ring a long time – be patient – he is hard of hearing. 931-260-2890.

*Editor's Note: Also included with this letter was a copy of the letter Billy sent to the Health System Director, Juan A. Morales RN, MSN, at the Alvin C. York VA Hospital in Murfreesboro, TN.*

*Editor's Note: I would like to repeat that long term subscription renewals stand a chance of being losers. We will have to see how long I can continue to publish the magazine.*

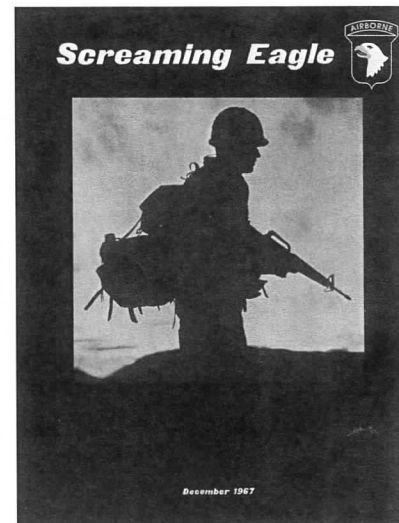
+ = Current Subscriber, \* = Dropped Subscriber, \*\* = Never Subscribed, \*\*\* = Unable to Contact, \*\*\*\* = Not in database



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

\$13.00 + \$5.50 shipping through the U.S. Postal Service a total of \$18.50.

See order form on Page 35.



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.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
Headquarters 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division  
APO San Francisco 96383

GENERAL ORDERS  
NUMBER 6291

13 September 1968

**SECTION I**  
**AWARD OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE**

1. TC 320. The following AWARDS are announced.

WATSON, LEON RA19473186 SERGEANT FIRST CLASS (E-7) Company A 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion (Airborne)  
327<sup>th</sup> Infantry APO San Francisco 96383

Awarded: The Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device

Effective month: September 1968

Date action: 24 January 1968

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 24 January 1968. Sergeant First Class (then Staff Sergeant) Watson distinguished himself while serving with Company A, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion (Airborne), 327<sup>th</sup> Infantry, during combat operations in the vicinity of Song Be, Republic of Vietnam. The second platoon of Company C entered the killing zone of a "U" shaped series of camouflaged enemy bunkers and was immediately taken under fire from a distance of twenty to thirty meters. Interlocking bands of machine gun fire, automatic weapons in every bunker and snipers in the trees on the flanks immediately killed one man and wounded the other four in the point fire team, including the platoon leader. The rest of the platoon was effectively pinned down and unable to maneuver. Once Sergeant First Class Watson had a clear estimate of the situation, he rallied the rear squads and got them on line. With complete disregard for his personal safety, he continually exposed himself by going from man to man checking their dispersion and giving instructions to subordinate leaders before moving out. When he was sure that his men knew what to do, he positioned himself in front of his men. He then proceeded to lead them on a fire and maneuver type flanking movement, charging straight for the bunkers in the final phase and routing the enemy. He was always the forwardmost man and truly led his men on the charge of the bunkers. Sergeant First Class Watson's personal bravery and devotion to duty 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 President of the United States under the provisions of Executive Order 11046.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

OFFICIAL:

/S/ M.K. Labar

LTC, AGC

Adjutant General

W. P. Tallon, Jr.

Colonel, GS

Chief of Staff

# 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 center section is an edition of **THE SCREAMING EAGLE**, September 13, 1967. Those mentioned in this paper who are in the First Brigade (S) magazine database, are listed below.

**PAGE 1, MEDICS EASE TROOPER'S MIND AFTER HIDDEN MINE STRIKES,** \*\* Lamont Howze (2/327 B 67-68), \*\* LTC (R) Ray Millard (2/327 CO B 1/67-1/68), \* Salvador (Sal) Melendez (2/327 HHQ Medic 7/67-6/68).

**PAGE 3, B CO. REPELS NVA,** + Ralph Puckett (2/502 CO 7/67-3/68), \*\* Ted S. Orvold (2/502 B 67 - ?), + Robert H. Berry (2/502 B 1/67-12/67), + CPT (R) Thomas J. Courtney (2/502 B&E 67-68),

**PHOTO - CHECKING FOR 'CHARLIE,'** + Richard J. "Rich" Walsh (2/327 C 6/67-6/68).

**PAGE 4, THREE NVA KILLED, COMPLEX DESTROYED,** \* Rowland Cordero (1/327 C 12/66-10/67), \*\* Nick Sarabia (1/327 C 67-68), + Roger M. John (1/327 C 7/67-12/68).

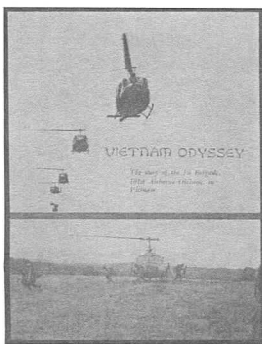
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**VIETNAM ODYSSEY, The First Year** is available for ALWAYS FIRST BRIGADE veterans.

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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The

# Screaming



# Eagle

Vol. 1, No. 5

1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division

September 13, 1967

## 'O-Deuce' Discovers R&R Spa

CHU LAI — Paratroopers of the 101st Airborne hacked their way into a jungle clearing near here and discovered an apparent North Vietnamese Army R&R center nestled on a mountain shelf.

"I couldn't believe my eyes," said one paratrooper. "The area was beautiful, unlike anything I've seen during combat in Vietnam."

Quickly, the 2nd Platoon of A Co., 2nd Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf., put out security and began searching 'Charlie's Hide-Away'.

Twelve thatched buildings were centrally arranged providing a mess hall, an auditorium which opened onto a tiled patio, classrooms with hardwood benches and podium, immaculate living quarters and storerooms.

"The location was ideal," said Lt. Leonard Anderson, Bauxite, Ark. "Towering trees sheltered the village from the sun and observation from the air. Adjacent to the huts were numerous vegetable gardens and rice paddies. Livestock grazed nearby."

"Each hut concealed an underground shelter large enough for 50 to 75 men," said Spec. 5 Dennis Patrick, Raytown, Mo. "The walls of the huts were about three feet thick."

In the kitchen, paratroopers found meat and vegetables ready for cooking. A storeroom contained rice, corn, tea, beans and tobacco. Bundles of NVA uniforms and small arms ammunition were found in bunkers.

Satisfied the search was thorough, the complex was destroyed.

Quipped one paratrooper: "All it needed was a volleyball court and theater and I would have stayed."

## Figures Given On Hood River

Operation Hood River, conducted by the 1st Brigade from August 2 to August 13, accounted for 63 enemy killed. The search and destroy sweeps included Marines from the Republic of Korea, troops from the Army of Vietnam, Mike Forces and Civilian Irregular Defense Groups (CIDG).

One NVA and four Viet Cong were taken prisoner during the operation. Thirty-seven individual and five crew served weapons, 24 tons of rice and three tons of salt also were captured.

\*\*\*\*\*  
HELP STRENGTHEN  
AMERICA'S PEACE POWER  
BUY U.S. SAVINGS BONDS  
\*\*\*\*\*



## The 'Always First' Brigade

Whining engines of an Air Force C-130, scraping of boots on metal runways and silent determination fills the air as paratroopers of the 1st Brigade load up for a new combat operation in their "Rendezvous with Destiny."

(Photo by Staff Sgt. Mike Magiameli)

## Medics Ease Trooper's Mind After Hidden Mine Strikes

By SSG Mike Magiameli

CHU LAI — An explosion shakes the ground around the command post of B Co., 2nd Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf., and a voice screams for a medic.

Six medics rush to the side of a 101st Airborne paratrooper who stepped on a mine. His left foot is shattered.

The paratrooper cries softly. He tries to ease the pain by gripping his rifle. His teeth are clenched.

Pfc. Larry Evans, San Gabriel, Calif., is the first medic to reach him. Evans applies a tourniquet between the wound and the knee.

Spec. 5 Lamont Howze, Atlantic City, N.J., gives the wounded Screaming Eagle a shot of morphine to ease the pain as Evans applies bandages.

Other medics quickly make a stretcher to carry the fallen soldier to the helicopter LZ.

Capt. Ray Millard, St. Louis, company commander, has radioed for a "Dust-Off."

Howze talks to the patient to keep his mind off the pain.

"You son-of-a-gun, you're going home. What some guys won't do to transfer out!"

The wounded soldier manages a thin grin.

"What the hell is this?" asks aidman Spec. 4 James R. Cris-

well, Hobbs, N.Y., noticing the wounded trooper doesn't have parachute wings on his jacket.

"I'm not about to let you go to the hospital looking like a 'Leg.' Criswell takes his wings and pins them on the patient.

"Now, by damn, they'll know you're airborne!"

The effect of the morphine is wearing off and the trooper asks for another shot.

"Hell no!" exclaims Howze. "Consider yourself lucky you got one. I carry this stuff

around and never get a shot and you, just because you get a little scratch, want two!"

The trooper, despite his pain, manages to laugh. He and Howze have been through four months of combat together.

"Don't expect any sympathy from me," says Spec. 4 Salvador Melendez Jr., Chicago. "Six medics in the company and you've got everyone of them waiting on you hand and foot. Now you're going to the hospital where they have good-looking nurses. Boy, some guys sure expect a lot."

Someone yells: "Pop smoke! Chopper's coming in!"

"You're on your way home, buddy," Howze says comfortingly. "Now, don't you play 'Jodie' and look up my girl when you get there."

The wounded paratrooper grins at Howze and shakes his head.

As the "Dust-Off" helicopter settles, the medics lift their friend aboard. They watch the chopper wing back to Chu Lai and the hospital.

"What the hell are you people standing around for?" shouts Howze. "Our job's done here. Get back to your platoons."

The six medics trudge back to their platoons and the continuing job of saving lives.

## Abn Priest Sees 'Star'

WASHINGTON — One of the most famous paratrooper-padres of World War II has been nominated by President Lyndon B. Johnson for major general.

Chaplain (Brig. Gen.) Francis L. Sampson, who jumped with the 101st Airborne Division into Normandy in 1944, is the author of "Look Out Below," the story of a Catholic priest's view of the largest invasion of all time.

Father Sampson is scheduled to replace Chaplain (Maj. Gen.) Charles E. Brown Jr. as Chief of Chaplains. Chaplain Brown retired July 31.

## 1/327 Pounds Enemy

CHU LAI—The 1st Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf., killed nearly 100 enemy in the first two weeks of Operation Benton, captured more than a score of weapons and destroyed several base camps as the "Above the Rest" paratroopers pressed the offensive against NVA and VC elements.

B Co. kicked-off the battalion's body count with 10 enemy kills on the third day of the operation. The "Brave Rifles" also found the battalion's first enemy weapons cache containing a variety of automatic and semi-automatic weapons, mortar shells and small arms ammunition.

Tiger Force carried out various missions as the companies maneuvered in dense jungle terrain. The Tigers found food caches, including one which contained four tons of tea and rice.

Charlie company, initially in reserve, air assaulted into the tactical zone five days after the operation began and was in contact with the enemy within a few hours after landing.

One element of C Co. moved along a ridge line and made contact with a reinforced NVA unit of unknown size. For more than four hours the battle raged. Night fell with the company still in contact. When dawn broke over the battlefield, numerous blood trails indicated heavy enemy losses. Days later fresh enemy graves were discovered as C Co. continued the offensive.

A Co. paratroopers swept over a heavily-fortified NVA base camp, which contained 23 air-raid shelters. Numerous NVA helmets also were found.

During one phase of the operation, C Co. discovered another base camp containing 30 huts large enough to house a company size unit. Paratroopers reported ovens were still hot. They searched, then destroyed the camp.

Another enemy base area swept by C Co. was laced with tunnels, bunkers and numbered barracks. One portion of the complex was used for physical training exercises. In a hut, paratroopers found crude model airplanes apparently used by the enemy for instruction and identification of Free World Military Force aircraft.

During one phase of the search and destroy sweep, B Co. discovered a wide area at the base of a hill bristling with punji stakes and spears. As the paratroopers moved through the obstacle, they heard noises at the top of the hill. Quickly, artillery and air strikes were requested. Fire came screaming in. When the "Brave Rifles" reached the top of the hill they found 12 enemy dead and numerous blood trails.





## Rice Paddy Crossing

Paratroopers of the 1st Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf. cross a sprouting rice paddy during search and destroy operations. (Photo by Spec.4 Matt Pesce)

# Serpent Inhabits Canteen

CHU LAI—Paratroopers of the 101st Airborne carry water in their canteens — also kool-ade, tea and anything else made from a ready mix. But snakes?

C Co. of the 2nd Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf., sent a patrol to a stream near their perimeter to fill canteens.

One member of the patrol, Spec. 4 Melvin R. Valentine, Des Moines, Iowa, was busy talking with friends as he dipped his canteen into the water. He failed to notice his canteen was becoming a "home."

"I had filled about 15 canteens for the command post," said Valentine, "and dropped purification tablets into each. I got quite a surprise when I returned to the company area."

"I poured water in a cup and out came a snake," said Valentine. "He scared the hell out of me and I jumped back, spilling water over myself."

"Then I looked at the small 18-inch snake, pinned it down with my foot, picked it up behind the head and took it over to the interpreter attached to our company."

The interpreter announced the snake was harmless—comparable to the common grass snake.

## Troopers Will Swap For Fruit

CHU LAI—Most every trooper eating C-rations in Vietnam likes fruit, but Pfc. Clarence H. Ward, Baltimore, abhors it. Yet, he never passes up a chance to get an extra can of peaches, pears, apricots or applesauce. Matter of fact, he usually has a good supply.

When the resupply chopper drops in on B Co., 2nd Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf., Ward looks forward to receiving fruit.

What does he do with it? "Well," says the 101st Airborne paratrooper, "You take a man who doesn't like ham 'n lima beans, for example. I'll trade him out of that, plus crackers and chocolate—all for one can of fruit."

# Gen. Matheson Visits Troops Mending in Chu Lai Hospital

## VC Misses Conference

CHU LAI—Somewhere in the jungle west of here angry words will be exchanged between the NVA and the Viet Cong because somebody failed to show up for a meeting. A paratrooper in B Co., 2nd Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf., is to blame.

Pfc. Claude Anderson, Jr., Oxford, N.C., was walking point for the 2nd Platoon when he saw a black pajama-clad VC running toward him.

"I dropped my machete, raised my rifle and fired," said Anderson. "Charlie" collapsed in a heap."

Searching the body, the 101st Airborne paratrooper found a typewritten message. An ARVN interpreter working with the battalion said the message called for several groups of main force VC to meet with NVA regulars later this month. "I was disappointed the VC wasn't carrying a rifle," Anderson said. "But I guess the message he carried could be considered a weapon of sorts."

## Fast Kill Added To Rifle Skills

Fast, unaimed shooting by reflex technique called "Quick Kill" will become a basic part of rifle training at 12 Army training centers by December. Presently it is being taught only at installations giving Vietnam-oriented advanced individual training.

CHU LAI — Wounded paratroopers in blue pajama bottoms lay on the beds of the 2nd Surgical Hospital here, their bodies camouflaged in a kaleidoscope of bandages, tubes, and life-saving paraphernalia. Some were asleep when Brig. Gen. S.H. Matheson, commander of 1st Brig., 101st Airborne entered their wards.

The eyes of those awake sparkled as he approached their beds.

"How are you getting along?" asked the general.

"Very good, sir," responded a rifleman, bringing his hand up in salute.

"Your company really put it on 'em last night," smiled the general.

"Yes sir," grinned the trooper in reply.

"I've got a medal for you," the general said. "I don't want you to get any more of these."

The paratrooper blinked his eyes in agreement as he received his Purple Heart.

Two beds away a Spec. 4 lay with his arm in a cast.

"Looks like you took a frag or two," the general noted.

"Yes sir," replied the blond patient. "But I'll be back in Charlie company in a few weeks."

"That's a good unit," responded

ed the general. "Your buddies are cleaning up that area today. Doing real well."

The two paratroopers looked at each other as the general opened the leather-covered case revealing the Purple Heart.

Gen. Matheson nodded to the trooper as he walked away.

"Above the Rest," called the trooper.

"Here's a sergeant from 2nd 'Bat,'" said Maj. Phillip Ritchie, brigade surgeon from Newburgh, N.Y., indicating a man with bandages on his chest.

"No Slack, Sir," greeted the sergeant as the general approached.

"That was quite some fight you put up the other night," complimented the officer.

"Yes Sir," the sergeant responded. "We gave 'em all they wanted. Our platoon is first-rate."

Gen. Matheson grinned, his eyes beaming as he replied: "Yes, I know your platoon leader. I know his father, too. We jumped into Europe together in World War II."

Another Purple Heart exchanged hands.

## Support Battalion's FSE Supplies Combat Units With Life Necessities

DUC PHO — Beyond the main supply depots of the 1st Logistical Command and the rear echelon supply centers of each unit there is a forward supply facility supporting the troops in the field. In the 101st Airborne, Maj. John M. Chambers, Colonial Heights, Va., directs this activity.

"The Forward Supply Element (FSE) is located close to the troops for the distribution of supplies to the units in the field," said Maj. Chambers.

The facility here also has a Forward Supply Point (FSP). The FSP is located closer to the tactical area, making combat supplies readily available to

units in the field.

Lt. Kendall B. Coen, Mineral Bluff, Ga., is acting operations officer for the FSP.

"Our mission is to provide combat service support to the brigade and its attached units during any operation," Coen said. "Utilizing operations criteria and past experience we determine what will be needed at FSP level."

Chambers says he has a fine staff.

"I have never worked with a group of people who know more about how to make a supply system work," he said. "We have a group here that pulls the system together and the sup-

plies come through. The system will provide."

The most common items found at the FSP are clothing, field equipment (weapons, radio supplies, rucksacks) and rations. Periodically, hot food is carried to the troops from the FSP. Fuel depots for gas and JP-4 (helicopter fuel) are often found at the FSP.

The FSP is an adjunct of the Spt. Bn. through which all supplies are requisitioned. The support battalion maintains the motto "Lifeline," definitive of its relationship to the combat troops in the field.

"One might consider us the 'life-blood' of the brigade," said Chambers.



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# B Co. Repels NVA

**NUI CHUONG** — Fires from exploding artillery shells blossomed around the hill. Flames leaped high in the dry elephant grass sending a black plume of smoke into the cloudless sky.

Capt. Ronald G. Odom, San Francisco, looked out the helicopter door at the burning hilltop. He and his paratroopers of B Co., 2nd Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf., were about to make a combat assault which touched off a nine-hour battle with an estimated NVA battalion.

The thin, sandy-haired officer watched the artillery preparation lift — the signal for the helicopters, loaded with infantrymen, to swarm in and land only long enough for the men to leap out.

Intelligence reports indicated the paratroopers of the 101st Airborne would likely make contact with elements of the 21st NVA Regiment, a seasoned, well-equipped force that had roamed at will through Quang Tim province. Mines also could be expected.

The string of helicopters turned on the downwind leg and lined up for the landing.

## Last Assault

Odom, 25, West Point class of '64, was about to make his last combat assault in Vietnam. He had made many before, but this one was special. In 12 days he would be going home, an 18-month tour in Vietnam completed.

The night before, Odom wrote his parents a brief note saying he would not write again because he would be home before further letters arrived. He started to add a postscript saying he was going on his last combat assault the next morning, and he hoped the landing zone would be peaceful.

He decided against the footnote, sealed the letter and checked his gear.

Dark dust now swirled up from the blackened hilltop as the helicopters touched down.

Odom yelled for the troops to be alert for mines as they leaped from the choppers.

Moments later the lead element discovered the first mine, a "Bouncing Betty." The para-

troopers skirted the minefield.

## Six Enemy

"Suddenly we saw six 'Charlies' approaching a woodline in front of the 1st platoon," Odom recalled. "We killed one of them."

As Odom's troopers opened fire, the platoon leader was seriously wounded when a Chinese-Communist rocket struck his rucksack. A hail of enemy bullets forced the 1st platoon to halt. Medics rushed to aid the fallen officer. A "Dust-Off" chopper was requested and Lt. Fred L. Meyers, Jr., Reno, Nev., assumed command of the platoon.

Lt. Donald A. Nemetz, Kingston, Pa., the artillery forward observer with B Co., moved forward and began calling supporting fires. The contact lasted about 15 minutes.

"He (Nemetz) did a helluva job," said Odom. "He kept dropping the fire until it exploded within 50 meters of his position."

## Puckett on Scene

Battalion commander, Lt. Col. Ralph Puckett, Jr., Columbus, Ga., arrived at Odom's command post by chopper and offered assistance.

"We thought the contact was over," recalled Odom. "We walked back to the LZ with the wounded and waited for the 'Dust-Off' to arrive." The 2nd platoon, commanded by Lt. Ted Orvold, Atlanta, was moving out to select a defensive position for the night.

Suddenly, Orvold's platoon was under fire from AK-47 and semiautomatic weapons. Orvold radioed the company commander. Gunfire from the north indicated the 4th platoon was receiving fire also.

Within seconds, B Co. was getting fire from three sides: North, west and east. The time was 5:30 p.m. The company was forced to dig in on the black, bald hill they landed on earlier in the afternoon.

## Couldn't Maneuver

"We were unable to move off the hill," Odom said. "We couldn't find enough concealment for maneuvering. Our location made us a prime target for a mortar attack, and we knew

it could very well be a long night."

A radio message for Col. Puckett informed him a helicopter was coming to take him back to the battalion command post. Puckett declined, saying he would remain with the company until the contact ended.

By 7 p.m. B Co. was dug in. Now an occasional bullet cracked in the damp night air.

Moonlight played across the hilltop casting grotesque shadows that kept the eyes of every paratrooper strained, nerves taut.

## Attack Comes

The moon disappeared at 11:30 p.m. Minutes later the enemy attacked.

"They opened up with everything they had," Odom recounted. "We were hit with 81 and 60mm mortar fire. Off our flank, their heavy machine guns began firing and their infantry moved in."

Odom previously had made a map reconnaissance of likely locations for enemy mortars and Nemetz called in artillery. Despite the artillery support, the enemy continued to rake B Co. with mortars and automatic weapons.

On the northwest flank, a Bostonian, Lt. Robert Berry, and his 4th platoon were taking the brunt of the attack. He radioed: "Some are ten meters away. Good hand grenade range. Out."

Odom recalled the report: "He was so damn cool, I couldn't believe it, and he stayed cool and calm all night long."

Lt. Thomas J. Courtney, Knoxville, Tenn., had the 3rd platoon firing into the enemy pushing toward his flank. The tracers from their rifles crisscrossed the perimeter with streaks of red.

## Spot Mortars

The enemy mortar fire continued to blast away on the hill. Suddenly, a report from Berry's platoon announced the location of the Communist mortars — barely 100-meters from his platoon.

Forward observer Nemetz pinpointed the location and called in a thundering volume of fire.



## Decorated on the Spot

The Silver Star and Bronze Star garnish the field jacket of Capt. Ronald G. Odom. He rallied his paratroopers during a nine-hour battle with an estimated NVA battalion just 12 days before reassignment to Ft. Benning, Ga. Awards for others in the action are pending. (Photo by Spec. 4 Alva Tate)

With the enemy mortars out of action, B Co. fought with everything it had. New machine gun barrels replaced heat-warped ones. Thousands of rounds of ammunition were expended as the paratroopers defended their positions.

Throughout the night, Col. Puckett encouraged the men. He braved mortar fire to aid the wounded and walked the peri-

meter to talk with the troops. At 2 a.m., nearly nine hours after the battle started, it stopped.

Silence surrounded the paratroopers as they waited for dawn.

When day came, the tired men of B Co. surveyed their perimeter. Thirty-five NVA lay dead, their weapons scattered over the battlefield.

## Pfc. Grimes Fills 'Morale' Position

**CHU LAI** — "Jack of all trades and master of most" is the phrase that best describes Pfc. Michael Grimes, a combat medic with the 101st Airborne.

This paratrooper from East-prairie, Miss. is not only a skilled medic, but assumes additional duties that contribute toward the morale and welfare of his unit.

In A Co. of the 2nd Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf., he has been dubbed chief gourmet of native foods, platoon jester and morale builder, and "numbah-one" ammunition retriever — performing each role with a dedication only he seems to understand.

"If we pass through a deserted village," said Spec. 4 Steve Myers, Baldwin Park, Calif., "Our medic looks for an abandoned garden. Likely as not, he'll serve a meal supplemented with corn-on-the-cob and a side dish of rice."

When the airborne infantrymen become a little bored during lulls in combat and morale in 1st platoon needs a boost, Grimes breaks out with one of his many imitations of personalities. In seconds, the platoon cracks with laughter.

"He does 'Crazy Geogenheim' pretty good," commented one paratrooper.

During fire fights, Grimes can be found taking care of his troops with efficiency and calm.

"Once during a fight with VC in a village, some civilians were wounded," recalled Lt. Leonard Anderson, Bauxite, Ark. "Though bullets were striking the ground near him, Grimes calmly held a bottle of plasma as it flowed into the villager's veins."

During Operation Benton when the platoon required ammunition, the helicopter resupply ship couldn't land because of heavy ground fire. The bundle was dropped from the chopper, landing in front of the platoon perimeter. With the platoon covering him, Grimes exposed himself to hostile fire as he retrieved the badly needed ammunition.

Later, when contact ended and the last of the wounded were medicated to safety, Grimes put away his medical accessories and strolled off toward a field, looking for fresh corn for supper.



## Checking for 'Charlie'

Spec. 4 Richard J. Walsh, West Roxbury, Mass., checks out a bunker entrance during Operation Benton. He is a paratrooper with C Co., 2nd Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf.

(Photo by Staff Sgt. Mike Mangiameli)

# Three NVA Killed, Complex Destroyed

CHU LAI — Three North Vietnamese troops were killed and another wounded by C Co. of the 1st Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf., and pursuit of the wounded NVA resulted in the discovery and destruction of a large enemy complex.

Spec. 4 Rowland Cordero, Reno, Nev., and Pfc. Joseph Winthrop, Horsehead, N.Y., were pointmen as an element of C Co. moved up a mountain slope during Operation Benton. Two NVA suddenly appeared on the trail ahead.

"They were walking along and talking to each other," Winthrop said. "We dived for

cover."  
"The enemy saw us just as we leaped," said Cordero. "Then we opened up on them."

As the firing began, two more NVA appeared on the scene and were engaged by the paratroopers.

"We killed three and wounded the fourth," explained Pfc. Nick M. Sarabia, San Jose, Calif. "The wounded 'Charlie' fled into the jungle. We chased him, but he escaped."

A short distance away, the paratroopers found what appeared to be a training center for NVA and VC troops, complete with billets, mess halls and numerous fortified positions.

Capt. Roger M. John, company commander from Sherman, Tex., estimated the area was the base camp of a company-sized element.

Papers on one enemy body identified him as an NVA sergeant.

## 'Ringo' Ill; Medivaced

CHU LAI — When a paratrooper in the 101st becomes ill or wounded he is promptly evacuated from the battlefield. The same is true for scout dogs working with the brigade.

Recently, during Operation Benton, "Ringo"—a big black and brown German shepherd—became ill.

"He just quit eating," said Spec. 4 Joe Montilla, San Jose, Calif. "He didn't have any pep."

Montilla, a member of the 42nd Scout Dog Plat., was working with C Co., 1st Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf., in search and destroy operations.

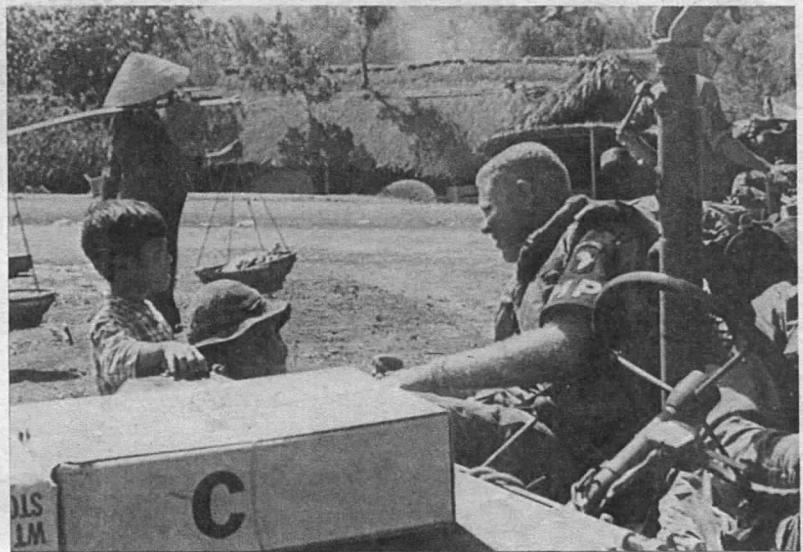
Ringo's keen sense of hearing and smell gave the paratroopers an advantage in locating VC lurking off jungle trails.

"A couple of days in the rear with the 'vet' to check him out and Ringo will be ready for the line again," said Montilla, climbing aboard the medivac chopper.

## Airmobile Ruled Out

WASHINGTON — The 101st Airborne Division has been ruled out of becoming the Army's second airmobile division. Statisticians have calculated that the Army can not afford the aircraft and pilots necessary for the creation of an airmobile unit of division size.

The heavy requirement for additional aviation companies in Vietnam was a major factor in the decision. The majority of aircraft coming off the assembly line can not be delayed to build a Division.



## 'Hey Joe! Take Me For Ride?'

Three Vietnamese children visit with Sgt. William F. Carter, Lumberton, N.C. as the Screaming Eagle M.P. escorted a recent convoy. (Photo by Spec. 4 Alva Tate)

## Enough Arms for Reinforced Platoon

# Weapons Cache Discovered As Troopers Pursue Enemy

CHU LAI — A squad of VC attempted to ambush a platoon of 101st paratroopers who chased the enemy off and found a weapons cache while in pursuit.

During Operation Benton, the 1st Platoon of A Co., 2nd Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf., approached a rice paddy. "As our point squad moved into the open paddy, VC began firing," explained Lt. Jerry Barnhill, San Angelo, Tex. "The enemy failed to see most of my men who were still coming down the mountain."

With split-second reaction, the men of A Co. quickly laid down a heavy base of fire which forced the enemy into the jungle.

"We chased them for an hour," Barnhill continued. "Then we lost sight of them in

a small draw."

Anticipating an ambush by a larger enemy force, Barnhill moved his troops up an adjacent hill, hoping to surprise the enemy on the other side of the draw.

Pfc. William Howell, Washington, D.C., led the platoon along a small trail. Suddenly Howell froze in his tracks. He was staring into the barrel of a .50 caliber machinegun.

"It sort of scared me," said Howell. "Then I realized no one was manning the weapon."

Howell alerted Barnhill and the platoon immediately started searching the area.

The paratroopers found weapons and ammunition hidden under leaves and rocks.

When they finished searching, 39 individual weapons and five

crew-served weapons had been uncovered.

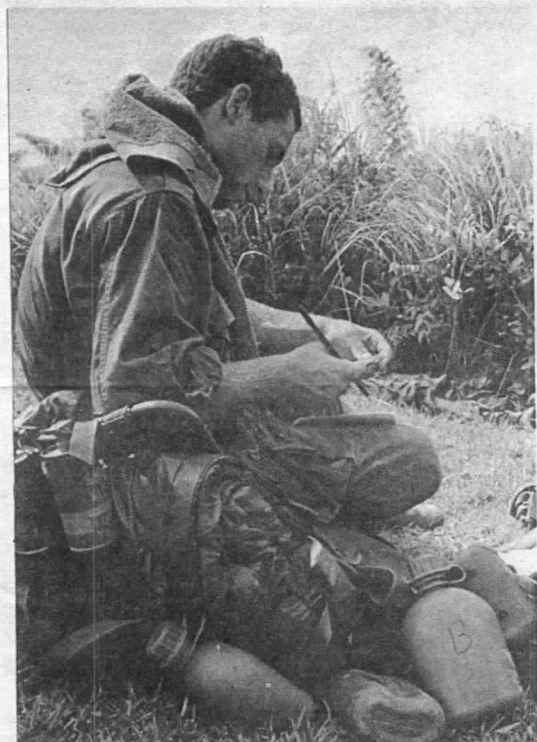
"There were enough weapons and ammunition to equip a reinforced platoon," said Barnhill. "We also found mortars, Chinese-Communist bazookas and 57mm recoilless rifles."

Sniper fire interrupted the search.

The platoon regrouped and moved toward the sniper's location, a cluster of huts about 100 meters away.

"As we approached," said Pfc. Calvin Davis, Tyler, Tex., "A VC dashed out of a hut and escaped into the jungle."

A search of the hut complex revealed a cache of 200 grenades, enough material for 200 more and six rucksacks containing NVA uniforms and documents.



## Letter Home

Pfc. Carmen Gangi, Jr., Bellmar, N.J., writes a letter during a lull in operations of the 1st Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Art Campbell)

## Other Units Find Camps

CHU LAI — While the 1st platoon searched the weapons cache site, Capt. Steven A. Arnold, Decatur, Ill., directed the remainder of his company to investigate the surrounding hills.

"Well-worn trails and green rice paddies indicated the area was being used," said Arnold.

A radio report from the 3rd platoon said paratroopers had found a metal and wood-working shop containing coal, a large metal smelter and blower. Nearby was a mess hall with food and cooking utensils.

"They also discovered finished rifle stocks, new entrenching tools and grenades in nearby tunnels," Arnold reported. "Apparently the enemy gathered shell and bomb fragments for his supply of scrap metal."

A report from the 2nd platoon indicated they found a hospital complex containing penicillin, various medicines stored in 55-gallon drums and sundry medical items.



## Tunnel Busters

Spec. 4 Logan E. Harris, Brooksville, Fla. (left), and Pfc. Moses Taste, Eutawville, S.C., lower an explosive charge into a VC tunnel. Both are members of A Co., 326th Engineers. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Art Campbell)



## OBITUARIES



**Ralph Duckett \*\***  
1/327 C 67-68  
October 21, 2012

+MAJ(R) Walter W. Jackson (1/327 C 7/67-6/68) sent the info on Duckett's death. Ralph of Ellijay, Georgia, served in C Company 1/327 (Wpns Plt) and with the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade LRRPS 66-68. +Larry Redmond (2/327 A 5/67-2/68) said it best –

“The foxholes are getting further apart.”



**Milton E. McQueeney \***  
1/327 ABU 63-66  
December 5, 2014

Notice was received from + LTC (R) Billy R. Robbins, 1/327 ABU 7/65-8/66, of McQueeney's death.

**CSM (R) William T. Mixon \*\***  
327th Inf HHC 66-67  
January 11, 2014

From THE SCREAMING EAGLE MAGAZINE – Fall 2014 issue

**John L. Thomasian \*\***  
2/502 A 10/68-10/69  
March 6, 2014

From THE SCREAMING EAGLE MAGAZINE – Fall 2014 issue

**PSG Ray C. Utley \***  
1/327 B 7/66-7/67  
May 18, 2014

Ray Carlton Utley, 82 of Fayetteville, died May 18, 2014. His wife, Karen, survives him. Condolences may be sent to her at 2309 Fordham Drive, Fayetteville, NC 28304-3639.

The following article from “The Fayetteville Observer” by Bill Kirby, Jr., was received from Mrs. Utley.

### Man of valor stood tall with humility

Unless you knew, you never would have known.

He was quiet. He was humble.

“It’s an honor today to receive this medal,” Ray Utley said on Aug. 14, 2000, a poignant and memorable day at the Main Post Parade Field on Fort Bragg, when the retired platoon sergeant received the Silver Star for valor. “I can’t help but remembering the fallen comrades, but I know they are here, somewhere, to see this.”

Utley received the nation’s third highest honor from then Lt. Gen. Dan McNeill, and dedicated the honor to the soldiers in his old platoon who died, and Utley never forgot.

His platoon found itself engulfed by North Vietnamese soldiers on Nov. 6, 1966, near Tuy Hoa.

When the young platoon leader was fatally wounded by Viet Cong fire, Utley took charge.

He took out enemy soldiers, including a machine gunner, and while some of the 52 American platoon infantrymen survived, so many others died.

They were buddies. They were soldiers. They were a band of brothers in another war of another kind, but brothers all the same, just in a different place.

Two years later, in his second tour to Vietnam, Utley would lose his legs and two fingers when enemy forces set off a booby-trapped artillery explosive.

It ravaged his body. “My mother was already planning where I was going to be buried,” he would later say.





It was devastating. "Make no mistake," Gen. McNeill will tell you, "he was a badly shot-up veteran."

It broke his marriage and his spirit for a time, but never his resolve that a man can stand as tall as the mountain he chooses to climb.

He would stand tall in this community for more than 40 years, and Ray Utley would find a requited love in Karen Anderson Utley, who would become a devoted wife and always be by Ray Utley's side.

They loved Community Concerts and they were always there – front row, seats one and two, Section 101, and always side by side.

I always made a point to speak or shake his hand at the concerts, because I always knew that whether or not the artist or the music or the concert was to his liking ... Ray Utley would be there.

Unless you knew, you never would have known you were in the presence of a military hero who never once shied away from a soldier's call to his God and his country he swore to defend.

He was an unassuming hero.

"I never heard him complain about 'Why me?' or life is hard," Dan McNeill says. "Rather ... he seemed always to be working on something for the benefit of others. Ray Utley was an American soldier to the very end."

No taps this day, by this unpretentious hero's final request.

But reveille, be assured, for a Christian soldier on his way home and a ban of old platoon brothers eagerly in wait.

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



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.



## Renewals

October 7, 2014  
through January 9, 2015

William "Doc" Acree  
2/327 A & HHQ 6/67-2/68 - 10/15  
11216 N. 40th St.  
Phoenix, AZ 85028-2827

COL (R) Joe R. Alexander  
3/506 A 10/67-10/68 - 10/15  
3401 Happy Hollow Rd.  
Lenoir City, TN 37771

MSG(R) Estevan (Chico) Alvarado  
2/502 B 7/65-2/66 - 10/15  
5315 Pace Dr.  
Paducah, KY 42001-9613

SGT(R) Billy Joe Anderson  
2/502 D 68 - 7/15  
521 W. Euclid  
P.O. Box 641  
Waukomis, OK 73773-0641

Ken Arnold  
HQ&HQ CO AVN 10/66-10/67 - 10/15  
2205 St. Vincent Ct.  
Arlington, TX 76013-1379

Gail H. Baldwin  
FAMILY (Butler A. 2/327 A 7/67-7/68) - 10/15  
308 Central Ave.  
Ocean City, NJ 08226-4029

LTC(R) Geoff Barker  
HHC 10/66-4/68 - 10/15  
8849 Glen Lakes Blvd. North  
St. Petersburg, FL 33702-2143

George R. Bassett  
2/502 B 7/65-5/68 - 10/15  
38 Wint Road  
Sweden, ME 04040-5206

Henry F. Beck, Jr. \$  
2/327 HHC "Hawk" 4/66-4/67 - 10/15  
149 Sheryl Drive  
Deltona, FL 32738-8437

SGT Elmer G. Bernard  
1/327 B 9/66-9/67 - 10/15  
14 Vermette Court  
Ipswich, MA 01938-1808

Glen A. Bihler \$  
1/327 HQ 11/66-5/68 - 10/15  
35235 Penman Rd.  
Agua Dulce, CA 91390-4881

Gary Bills \$  
2/327 A 10/66-10/67 - 1/16  
1119 N. Spring Valley Dr.  
Washington, UT 84780-2391

Gerald (Smiley) Bitting  
2/502 HHC 2/66-11/68 - 1/16  
123 7th Ave. Ct. NE  
Altoona, IA 50009-1936

Roy P. "Zeke" Blevins  
1/327 C & E 12/67-68 - 10/16  
1845 Fairway Dr.  
Guthrie, OK 73044

Edward S. Bonk, Jr.  
2/327 B 7/65-6/66 - 10/15  
1800 Tomlinson Rd.  
Philadelphia, PA 19116-3850

William A. Bowen \$  
2/327 Hawk Rec 6/66-6/67 - 10/15  
3206 Hunt Rd.  
Fallston, MD 21047-1230

Robert S. Bradley  
2/327 A 1/67-12/67 - 10/15  
520 San Gorgonio St.  
San Diego, CA 92106

Cain A. Bridgman  
2/502 HHC 8/65-5/66 - 10/15  
1022 Trojan Run Dr.  
Soddy Daisy, TN 37379-5370

Dave Brown \$  
2/327 C 6/66-2/67 (WIA) - 10/15  
26298 Indigo Drive  
Park Rapids, MN 56470-5190

Robert B. Brown \$  
326 ENGR A 7/65-7/66 - 10/15  
340 Ridgeway Circle  
Troutville, VA 24175-5820

CSM(R) Sidney R. Brown \$  
2/502 C 7/65-5/66 - 1/16  
2612 Scott Dr.  
Clarksville, TN 37042-5756

SFC(R) John Burke, Jr.  
2/327 C 12/65-12/66 - 10/15  
11018 Le Jardin Cir Apt 102  
Tampa, FL 33617-2849

CSM(R) Ed Burkhalter  
2/502 A 3/67-5/68 - 10/15  
5123 Boone Links Lane  
Columbus, GA 31909-8045

Steve Buss  
2/502 B 7/65-2/66 - 10/15  
76 Scott Rd.  
Cumberland, RI 02864-2808

SFC(R) Santana Carnero \$  
1/327 HHQ TF 11/65-7/67 - 10/17  
303 S. Teresa  
Monahans, TX 79756-7111

Bill Carpenter \$  
1/327 HHC TF 12/66-12/67 - 10/15  
1041 CR. #14  
Rayland, OH 43943

Joseph E. Carroll  
2/327 C 5/66-5/67 - 10/15  
760 E. Mt. Airy Rd.  
Lewisberry, PA 17339-8909

Jeremiah Carter  
2/502 C 12/65-12/66 - 10/15  
217 Valley Road  
Browns Mills, NJ 08015-6433

Rion Causey  
1/327 HHQ TF 10/67-3/68 - 10/15  
1647 Almond Ave  
Livermore, CA 94550-5033

LTC(R) Allen R. Christensen  
2/327 HHC 7/65-7/66 - 10/15  
7601 Old Chapel Drive  
Bowie, MD 20715

John D. Clancy  
326 ENGR A 9/67-8/68 - 10/15  
10163 Academy Rd.  
Laurinburg, NC 28352-9726

Prof. Joseph F. Connolly, II  
1/327 T.F. 7/65-6/66 - 7/15  
C/O Marriott Residence Inn  
51 Newbury Street  
Danvers, MA 01923

David S. Cook  
1/327 C 7/65-7/66 ELT - 10/15  
12 Lakeshore Drive  
Winthrop, ME 04364-3919

Patrick A. Copeland  
42 IPSD 8/66-9/67 - 10/15  
1140 7th Place  
Hermosa Beach, CA 90254-4911

Lowell T. Crace  
181 MI DET 9/66-9/67 - 10/15  
208 Addison St.  
Fayetteville, NC 28314-1253

LTC(R) Allen C. De Graw \$  
1/327 C 7/64-7/66 ELT- 10/15  
4044 Roscrea Drive  
Tallahassee, FL 32309-2271

Edward W. De Simone, Jr.  
SPT C 1/66-3/68 - 10/15  
94 Elk Run Drive  
Middleboro, MA 02346-3065

Thomas "Mike" DeLamater  
2/502 C 12/65-9/66 - 10/15  
7740 Primrose Green  
Frederick, CO 80530-7049

David K. Dever  
1/327 HHC TF 62 - 66 - 1/16  
P. O. Box 11542  
Terre Haute, IN 47801

Robert Dickson \$  
2/320 FA B BTRY 7/65-8/66 - 10/15  
309 Lookout Dr.  
Sedona, AZ 86351-7845

Thomas W. Dohnke \$  
2/327 A 7/67-5/68 - 10/17  
1282 Sherwood Lane  
Diamond Springs, CA 95619-9214

David D. Durham  
1/327 B&HHC 2/67-2/68 - 10/15  
403 E. 2nd St.  
Fowler, IN 47944

Mike Durrett  
2/327 A 6/66-6/68 - 10/15  
7109 Danwood  
Austin, TX 78759-4619

James S. Earing  
320th FA HQ 5/65-2/66 - 10/15  
10820 S.W. 10th St.  
Pembroke Pines, FL 33025-3529

John Ellison  
2/502 A 9/66-9/67 - 10/15  
P. O. Box 164032  
Little Rock, AR 72216-4032

Caroline Faz  
Family (Frank Florez, Jr. 1/327  
Inf C 7/65-10/65) - 10/15  
6602 Dorr St., Apt 205  
Toledo, OH 43615-4238

Peter Fekete  
2/502 Inf B 7/65-6/66 - 10/15  
2328 Anderson Park Dr.  
Hendersonville, NV 89044-4509

C.J. Ferguson  
2/502 C 7/66-7/67 - 10/15  
53 N. Rachele Ct.  
Rineyville, KY 40162-8826

SGM(R) Charlie L. Fraley  
2/327 A 3/65-5/66 - 10/15  
1532 Willow Way  
Radcliff, KY 40160-2863

Evan Francis \$  
2/502 A 9/66-9/67 - 10/15  
4916 Palisade Dr.  
Madison, OH 44057-9565

Ronald J. Gallant \$  
1/327 C 9/66-8/67 - 10/15  
5312 Yaupon Holly Dr.  
Cocoa, FL 32927-3427

Winston J. Georges  
2/502 B 7/66-7/67 - 10/15  
P.O. Box 24014  
Christiansted  
St. Croix, VI 00824-0014

Greg M. Gerhart  
1/327 A 5/66-5/67 - 10/15  
P.O. Box 287  
Delta Junction, AK 99737-0287

Fred A. Gorden, MG (USA,Ret)  
2/320 FA C BTRY 1/67-1/68 - 10/15  
12021 Windsor Moss #4  
Ellicott City, MD 21042-7117

ISGT(R) S.Z."Rick" Grabianowski 2/502 B 6/67-2/68 - 10/15 P. O. Box 1165 Sparks, NV 89432-1165	John L. Hughes, USA (R) 1/327 HQ T.F. 6/65-6/66 - 10/15 4051 Cedar Circle Nashville, TN 37218-1906	Robert R. Lettmann \$ 2/327 A 4/66-3/67 - 10/15 6313 County Rd. 140 Westcliffe, CO 81252-9624	Donald Montgomery 2/502 HHC 5/66-5/67 - 10/15 113 Holmes Dr. Paducah, KY 42003-1040
Bernard Grossman \$ 1/327 HHC T.F. 7/65-4/66 - 10/15 408 Old Carrington Parkway Lexington, SC 29072-7175	COL(R) William F. Hughes 2/327 B,HHC,E 5/67-12/68 - 10/15 2022 Covered Bridge Rd. Kents Store, VA 23084-2463	Johnnie C. Lindsey DMOR \$ 1/327 INF HHC & C 10/66-10/67 - 10/15 992 Walker Lane Texarkana, TX 75501-2163	James F. Moore 42nd SCOUT DOG 7/67-7/68 - 7/15 P. O. Box 243 Lovell, ME 04051
MAJ(R) William E. Groves \$ HHC (AG) 6/66-5/67 - 10/15 576 Coast Oak Circle Lawrenceville, GA 30046-6114	Chief Donald James 2/502 A 67-68 - 10/15 P.O. Box 242 Nespelem, WA 99155	Quitman B. Lockley 2/502 B 12/67-1/68 - 10/15 10 Saint Annes Dr. Hattiesburg, MS 39401-8253	CWO(R) Roger J. Morris \$ 1/327 C 9/67-9/68 - 7/15 CMR 467 Box R-5113 APO, AE 09096
Richard H. Guillen 1/327 HHC&B 6/65-7/66 - 10/16 9027 Rendalia St. Bellflower, CA 90706-4219	Dave Johnson 2/502 HQ&B 2/64-7/66 - 10/15 1420 La Hermosa Dr. The Villages, FL 32162-0231	COL(R) Bernard J. McCabe, Jr. 1/327 C 6/67-12/68 - 10/15 12210 Vista Bay Lane Houston, TX 77041	LTC(R) Gerald N. Nakashima 1/327 HHC 2/64-6/66 - 10/15 3002 Jarvis Avenue San Jose, CA 95118-1049
Benny L. Hamby 326 ENGR A 2/66-2/67 - 10/15 4660 Liberty Square Dr. Acworth, GA 30101-4968	MAJ L. W. "Bubba" Johnson, AUS-Ret. \$ 2/327 A 8/66-9/67 - 10/15 4320 Harvest Hill Rd. Carrollton, TX 75010-4126	Kevin M. McCabe 2/320 ARTY HHQ 12/66-10/67 - 10/15 1790 Hallandale Ln The Villages, FL 32162	Elijio Navarro 2/502 A 2/66-2/67 - 10/15 3717 Beauregard Dr. Corpus Christi, TX 78415
William "Bill" Harper 1/327 INF HHC & B 1/68-11/68 - 1/16 9 Hollis Drive Gerrardstown, WV 25420-4026	Larry Keller 2/327 B 1/67-12/67 - 10/15 56532 North Bank Road McKenzie Bridge, OR 97413-9617	Regena McGill Family (Joe 2/327 A 3/66-3/67) - 10/15 26 Mimosa Dr. Harrison, AR 72601-2304	Henry E. Olney (Groovy) 1/327 B 6/67-6/68 - 10/15 2123 S.W. 15th Terrace Cape Coral, FL 33991-2227
Deborah H. Head Family (Joseph E.) - 10/15 1448 E. Torrey Pines Circle Yuma, AZ 85365-3504	James E. Kelling \$ 1/327 A 6/67-9/67 - 1/18 2678 133rd Avenue Braham, MN 55006-3766	Timothy McGlynn 2/327 A 4/67-4/68 - 10/15 24051 County Z Richland Center, WI 53581-3934	Fread Otto, Jr. 2/327 B 7/65-7/66 - 10/15 504 Cauthen St. Canton, MS 39046
Rev. Ronald L. Henn 326 ENGR A & B 10/67-11/68 - 10/15 2737 Clinton Circle Hopkinsville, KY 42240-4778	Thomas Kinane 1/327 C 4/67-12/68 - 10/15 2176 Jeppesen Acres Rd. Eugene, OR 97401	Patrick McGowan \$ 1/327 B 9/67-9/68 - 10/16 P.O. Box 761205 Melrose, MA 02176-0019	Ricky Oyas \$ 2/320 ARTY A BTRY 11/66-3/68 - 10/16 2105 Demerse Ave. Prescott, AZ 86301-1013
COL(R) William A. Henry \$ 2/327 B 7/65-7/66 - 10/15 9502 Chestnut Farm Drive Vienna, VA 22182-3465	Albert P. Klerlein, III 1/327 B 12/65-11/66 - 10/15 75 Meadows Rd. Chesapeake City, MD 21915-1700	Arthur B. Macdonald 2/327 C & HQ 7/66-8/67 - 10/15 13050 N. Farley Rd. Platte City, MO 64079-8189	SSG John Pasquale 2/502 B 12/65-2/66 - 1/16 15 Indian Point Estates Wheeling, WV 26003-4541
Thomas A. Hoesch 2/327 A 4/67-4/68 - 10/15 8 Sixpenny Lane Elverson, PA 19520-9549	Ronald M. Koja \$ 2/17 CAV A & 501 S&T-7/65-5/67 - 10/15 6406 Virginia Ave. Parma, OH 44129-2624	William J. Mercier, Jr. 1/327 C 4/67-4/68 - 10/15 900 E. Silverbell Rd. Lake Orion, MI 48360-2331	Peter Pepper 2/327 A 8/66-3/68 - 10/16 1428 Nipomo St. San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
Robert H. Hopkins 1/327 A 7/67-7/68 - 10/15 770 Milton Ave. Rock Hill, SC 29730-3654	Ben Lam 2/502 HQ 65-71 - 4/16 3002 Albany Court Woodbridge, VA 22193-1208	Carl E. Midkiff \$ HHC AIR SECT 12/66-12/67 - 4/17 1029 David Court Radcliff, KY 40160-1809	William T. Pepper 3/506 C 1/68-1/69 - 10/15 859 Arnold Ave, Apt 10 Pt Pleasant, NJ 08742-2460
Maurice S. Hoults \$ 1/327 HHC T.F. 66-69 - 1/16 1741 Burgaw Hwy Jacksonville, NC 28540-3241	Raymond L. Land 1/327 C 5/67-2/68 - 10/15 101 E. La Pera St. Green Valley, AZ 85614-2128	Galen G. Mitchell \$ 1/327 ABU 7/65-4/66 - 10/16 1489 Van Buren Way The Villages, FL 32162-6717	Lewis E. Percy \$ 1/327 C 6/65-6/66 - 10/15 1622 Winter Green Blvd. Winter Park, FL 32792-2252
Guy C. Howard, Jr. 1/327 HHC 6/65-6/66 - 10/15 350 Rackley Rd. Goodspring, TN 38460-2207	Rayford W. Latham 2/327 C ELT 10/64-5/66 - 10/15 1627 Delwood Circle Scottsboro, AL 35769-4040	Ralph John Mobilio 2/502 HQ 7/65-6/66 - 10/15 9324 B Maryland St. Oscoda, MI 48750	David P. Perrine 2/502 HHC 5/67-10/67 - 10/15 8628 Appleton Ct. Annandale, VA 22003-3806
Charles A. Hubbard, III 2/502 A 6/67-9/69 - 7/15 16836 Dunaverty Place Charlotte, NC 28277-4149	Miles D. Lester 1/327 C 3/67-7/68 - 10/15 1391 Thankful Church Rd. Boomer, NC 28606-9157	COL(R) Phillip W. Mock 2/502 64-66 - 10/15 74 Wandering Woods Way Ponte Vedra, FL 32081	COL(R) Kenneth W. Pfeiffer 1/327 C 8/66-8/67 - 1/16 9330 Laurel Grove San Antonio, TX 78250-3552



James Picuch  
2/502 B 7/65-6/66 - 10/15  
P.O. Box 86  
Keno, OR 97627-0086

Philip D. Pitcock  
17th CAV 4th Plt 7/65 - 8/? - 10/15  
4982 Gamaliel Rd.  
Tompkinsville, KY 42167-7746

Roger D. Polasky \$  
1/327 ABU 7/67-1/68 - 10/15  
P.O. Box 441  
Lawrence, PA 15055-0441

Mike Pritchard  
2/17 CAV A TRP 12/66-12/67 - 10/15  
78244 Rainbow Dr.  
Palm Desert, CA 92211-1368

Ralph Puckett  
2/502 CO 7/67-3/68 - 10/15  
100 Spring Harbor Dr., Apt 236  
Columbus, GA 31904-4623

COL(R) Joseph V. Rafferty  
2/327 HHC 6/66-6/67 - 10/15  
93 Bonnie Brae Dr.  
Novato, CA 94949-5817

SSG(R) John Raymond \$  
1/327 C RVN 67-72 - 10/15  
359 Meadow Lane  
Oak Grove, KY 42262-9211

Robert Resendez  
2/327 AT PLT 4/66-4/67 - 10/15  
20202 Timber Stone Ln  
Spring, TX 77379-8897

Rodd Richardson  
2/502 C 7/67-7/68 - 10/15  
P.O. Box 488  
St. Ignatius, MT 59865-0488

Raymond T. (Rocky) Ryan  
1/327 A 8/65-9/66 - 10/15  
5021 Peregrine Dr.  
Shallotte, NC 28470-5183

Alton C. Rye \$  
2/502 C 11/67-9/68 - 10/15  
2441 Bedford Circle  
Bedford, TX 76021-1823

Rick Sanders  
1/327 A 9/66-9/67 - 10/15  
524 W. 25th Ave.  
Eugene, OR 97405-2646

Mitchell Sandlin  
2/502 B 12/66-12/67 - 10/15  
3354 St. Andrews Drive  
Chambersburg, PA 17201

Johnnie Lee Scroggins  
1/327 8/68-8/69 - 10/15  
140 Flamingo Ln  
Eureka Springs, AR 72631-9410

Michael E. Seguin  
1/327 HHC TF 5/66-12/66 - 10/15  
41561 Belvidere  
Harrison Twp, MI 48045-1407

Thomas K. Sewell  
2/327 A & B 1/68-1/69 - 10/16  
2391 Old Coach Trail  
Clearwater, FL 33765-1729

COL(R) Burt E. Slater \$  
SPT BN HQ 7/66-7/67 - 10/15  
140 Lake Shore Dr.  
Norwood, NC 28128-6563

Patrick L. Sullivan  
2/327 RECON 7/65-10/65 - 10/15  
5655 Jarman St.  
Colorado Springs, CO 80906

Robert H. Sunday  
Family - Q. Sunday - 10/15  
P.O. Box 430  
Eufaula, OK 74432-0430

Hiroyuki "Chris" Taga \$  
2/502 HHC 9/66-4/68 - 10/15  
20357 Madison St.  
Torrance, CA 90503-2534

James E. Tarr  
2/502 HQ&HQ 5/66-5/67 - 10/15  
1251 Myrtle Ave.  
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221-4349

Charles W. Taylor  
2/502 B 6/67-6/68 - 10/15  
337 Madison St.  
Coatesville, PA 19320-2956

Richard H. (Dick) Thoma  
1/327 B&HHC BDE 6/65-6/66 - 10/15  
P.O. Box 347  
Yelm, WA 98597-0347

Tommy Thompson  
Family(Kirk KIA 66 2/17) - 10/15  
225 Fourth Ave. #203  
Venice, CA 90291-8607

LTC(R) G. R. (Rod) Tillman \$  
2/502 A&B 8/67-11/68 - 10/15  
2617 Dog Leg Trail  
McKinney, TX 75069-8042

Albert W. Tolbert  
2/17 CAV A TRP 7/65-7/67 - 10/16  
P.O. Box 63  
Mitchell, IN 47446-0063

Larry A. Tolbert  
2/502 B 10/67-10/68 - 10/15  
479 Ferguson Ridge Rd.  
Tazewell, TN 37879-5559

Yen Tran  
2/502 SUPPORT 7/65-3/68 - 1/16  
3801 Magnolia St.  
Irvine, CA 92606-2140

Frank C. Trout  
1/327 ABU 2/66-6/66 - 10/15  
328 N. Wilmette Ave.  
Westmont, IL 60559-1553

Jim Uphouse \$  
1/327 B 6/67-6/68 - 10/15  
408 E. Main St.  
Manchester, MI 48158-8537

John M. Vaughn III  
Assoc. - 10/15  
854 Hibiscus Street  
Boca Raton, FL 33486-3540

LTC(R) John Wagner  
5/27 FA C BTRY 7/66-12/66 - 1/16  
275 Stoneledge Drive  
Roanoke, VA 24019-8505

Leon Watson  
1/327 ABU 9/67-9/68 - 10/15  
269 Lake of Pines Dr.  
Jackson, MS 39206-3226

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2/327 A&C 6/67-3/68 - 10/15  
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October 7, 2014  
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## FROM VIETNAM

COL. J. S. TIMOTHY, Commanding Officer, 1st Bde., 101st Abn Division, APO San Francisco 96347, sent the following message to members of the Association: "Dear Mr. Miller: I wish to express my sincere appreciation for your thoughtful letter. Your best wishes shall be conveyed to the Brigade. Speaking for the many members of the Association in the Brigade, we deeply regret that we were unable to attend the Association's annual meeting at Ft. Campbell. Please extend to our fellow members our thanks for their inspiring expressions of faith and support. We shall strive to uphold the traditions that the 'Screaming Eagles' of World War II so gallantly established. With warmest wishes from the 1st Brigade. Sincerely yours, J. S. Timothy, Col. Inf., Commanding."

FROM CAPT. PAUL W. APFEL, Information Officer, 1st Brigade: "Dear Sir: Reference your Sept-Oct issue of *The Screaming Eagle*. Please consider the information channels open. Be advised that you will be suitably provided with ample material on the 'Always First' Brigade to remind all 101st Association members that we are proud of our heritage and are living up to every tradition as proudly set before us. Always First, Paul W. Apfel."

The Screaming Eagle will not attempt to reprint all newspaper stories published, for we are sure members of the Assn read them with interest and pride. We will try to publish material received from the 1st Brigade and from members in Vietnam. Troops of the 1st Bde participated in an operation near Ah Khe which brought high pride upon them. Dropped by helicopter into a Vietnam stronghold, these men, in the Screaming Eagle tradition, fought valiantly, overcoming the odds to rout the enemy. Lt. Col. Wilfrid J. Smith said it started as a "search and clear operation" but ended in a rare "contact" with the Viet Cong. "Fate at last brought us together and we showed them what we could do." Hand-to-hand combat took place. The Viet Cong suffered heavily in this encounter with the Screaming Eagles who suffered light casualties in the operation. General Westmoreland, CG, MACV, sent this message to the troops: "The success achieved in Operation Cacti in Binh Dinh Province on 13-14 Sept. is gratifying. My heartiest congratulations to the officers and men of the 2nd Bn, 502nd Inf, for a fine job." Later, this message: "The final results of Operation Gibraltar conducted on 18-21 Sept. clearly show a resounding victory. My heartiest congratulations to the officers and men of the 2/502 and other units participating in this successful encounter."

Thus, 21 years after the Holland Campaign of 1944, Screaming Eagles continue the proud tradition of the Division with a "Rendezvous with Destiny."

SGT. BERNARD GORDON, Btry A, 320th Arty, 1st Bde, 101st Abn Div, APO San Francisco 96347, is one of our continuous correspondents from Vietnam sending letters, contributions to the Assn, and clippings from the Stars and Stripes and other publications there. We wish we could print them all. Bernie is a FO with his outfit and has been on several combat patrols. We have written Bernie several times, keeping him informed and to show our interest in him and all the men in Vietnam. Bernie's clipping clearly show the great job being done by soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen. His first letter was from 180 miles north of Saigon along Route 1 where supply points were set up. Nearby were old abandoned French forts and Vietnamese Rangers who had wives and children with them. C rations were shared with these people. Pineapples, coconuts, and bananas are in this area. Then Bernie described an operation conducted by the 1st Bde and the Big Red One by LST to land near Chu-Lai. Friends were made with the Japanese crew of the LST for dinner. Co C, 1/327, occupied a mountain top 1,034 feet high. Going up was tough in this jungle heat, but coming down was harder as they had to cross several streams—all smelled when they got down. They work through a Vietnamese interpreter with whom they really shoot the bull. Relations are good. Next report was from near AN-TUC in the central highlands where the 70th Engrs with the 101st helped turn the jungle into an area for the 1st Cav Div. Bernie says the Engrs did wonders. The towns are "off limits" as usual but the Vietnamese are good barbers and traders—they trade for bread, hot sauce, pappers, cokes, and even water. Fatigues in this hot jungle soon smell, but Bernie, the old soldier, had stowed some soap in his B-bag and cleaned his section up in a nearby river while the fish nibbled at their feet. The medics have some good pills for the GI's now. Bernie heard from Col. Kuhn who once was with the 327. The area had been napalmed and rocketed and there are many wrecked bridges in the area. The "Green Dragon"—a melon with an outer green skin and inner red skin with black poppy seeds—was discovered to be real good eating. Several men in the 1st Bde wounded and killed during operations. The 1st Cav arrived with some choppers as "big as boxcars." A Co, 1/327, did a fine blocking job while B Co dynamited bunkers and other hiding places. The Viet Cong fell into the trap and several were killed or captured. The M79 Grenade Launcher did a good job. Bernie wanted to know if we could get another history going calling it "The Green Jungle." He recalled his WWII experiences, asking that his letters be kept for future use in making a history of Vietnam possible. The next letters came from the approaches to Mang Yang pass, burnt out by napalm and defoliants. The area was heavily mined and several men were lost here, including Sgt. Maj. Prieto. "The place is so scenic and beautiful, but so tragic." He thinks the natives are amazed at the armament of the 101st and that the Viet Cong will think twice before tangling with this firepower. He is proud of America's might. They are near Deo Mang. Action here—men lost but 226 Viet Cong scuffed



with the help of artillery. Bernie has been on three combat patrols. Some choppers lost. This is a 502 operation. Near AN-TUC again. B Co was surrounded and lost some. Bernie fell down a mountainside with a radio on his back and was bruised. The rain stopped and it was cleanup time. Bernie plans to send your Secretary an Australian Bushmaster's hat to wear to the '66 Reunion in Miami—the Aussies are helping here. Next, from impressive DEO MANG, where roadblocks exist, came a description of a rich, fertile area of green fields. DEO MANG is cloud-capped until 10 a.m. Highway 19 slices through it. The top is grass-covered, but lower is the tree line and jungle. Here, the CP of the 1/327. The slope is ever upward—"It gives an eerie and weird feeling when it remains silent. It is massive and tremendous but ever so beautiful." Bernie received one of your Secretary's letters and all got a laugh from it. Bernie on his fourth patrol—a real lulu on the Viet Cong. More later.

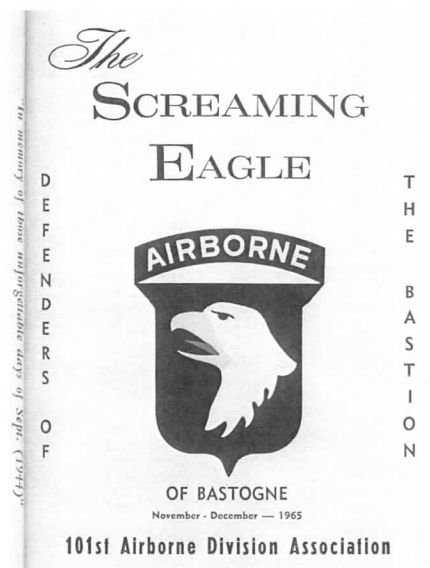
A SECOND LETTER FROM COL. TIMOTHY: "Thank you for your kind and encouraging letter reference the proffered assistance from our Division Association. You may be assured the 1st Brigade is carrying the banner and hallowed traditions of the 101st Airborne Division proudly and well. The necessary documentation for complete unit history in Vietnam is being constantly screened by our Unit Historical Officer. For edification of our fellow members of the Association, I am enclosing some representative copies of our news releases to date. Your continuous support and interest is a source of great encouragement for the 'Always First' Brigade."

Editor's note: News releases received from the 1st Brigade will appear in future issues of The Screaming Eagle as they are received. The 1st Brigade's paper is named "Nuts."

FROM SGT. MAJ. TRINIDAD PRIETO (502), Hqs 1st Bde: "From what I hear, everyone had a grand time at Ft. Campbell. I hope so. We are doing very well here in Vietnam and will do better. I was hit on 31 Aug. and have been in the hospital. Will be here for two more weeks. But that's the breaks. My best to all and hope to make the Reunion next year."

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*This is the cover for the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division Association magazine (November-December 1965) the above material was copied from.*



# Continued from OCTOBER 2014 issue (page 32) – The History of 2/17<sup>th</sup> CAV 1916-1976

## ALPHA TROOP ALONE 1965 – 1967

Troop A arrived in the Republic of Vietnam on 29 July 1965, and immediately spent the next two weeks trying to make a "home" for themselves in the then desolate Cam Rahn Bay area. The Troop got its first real chance to flex its muscles on Operation BARRACUDA, which was held in conjunction with the 1st Infantry Division just south of Nha Trang. This was only one of many small operations conducted in and around Nha Trang to acquaint the 1st Brigade of the Screaming Eagles with Vietnam. The Troop quickly proved its worth as they recorded not only the first kill in Vietnam for the 101st, but marked the first time that any Troop of the 17th Cavalry had engaged in a firefight in a combat zone. Over the next two years, A Troop, with the remainder of the 1st Brigade, would make 28 tactical deployments, traveling over 2,300 miles and conducting 23 major operations in Vietnam.

On 19 August, the airborne cavalrymen found themselves as the nucleus of a mobile infantry battalion task force, TF HANSEN, which loaded into LSTs at Nha Trang and moved to Qui Nhon on the 22nd.

Regrouping at Qui Nhon, TF HANSEN moved to An Khe and commenced Operation HIGHLAND, to secure and prepare the way for the arrival of the US 1st Cavalry Division, which was due in from the States. For most of September, A Troop's mission was to secure a 45-mile stretch of Highway 19 between Qui Nhon and An Khe Pass. Three hundred convoys of various sizes traveled the road secured by A Troop during this period without the loss of a single vehicle to enemy action. In October, the Troop was honored by being the first cavalry troop in the US Army to have some of its members receive the Combat Infantryman's Badge for their actions as part of TF HANSEN.

The Troop moved on from An Khe to Qui Nhon for the arrival of yet another allied unit, the South Korean Tiger Division. Finally, on the 11th of November "Always First" Brigade and the weary cavalrymen moved to Phan Rang and began to set up a "permanent home"...or so they thought. The next two weeks at Phan Rang were spent at improving their living conditions and in pulling much-needed maintenance on the Troop's vehicles. For the first time since their arrival in Vietnam, the airborne troopers celebrated a Thanksgiving "holiday" in real fashion, with the cooks turning out an extra-special turkey dinner, complete with all the trimmings.

Three days later, the Troop moved via road marches to Cam Rahn Bay, and then flew to Bien Hoa for operations with the remainder of the 1st Brigade and the "Big Red One" along Highway 13 and in the Iron Triangle.

It was during one of the numerous patrols and sweeps that the Troop was called on to perform in Operation CHECKERBOARD that they lost their first trooper to a VC mine. On 19 December, the operation ended and on the 21st, the Troop returned to Phan Rang. Following a week-long stay at their base, over the Christmas Holiday, the 1st Brigade Task Force would begin what history has recorded as their "Odyssey", for as they returned to the field for Operation VAN DUREN, they would not return to their permanent base camp for the next two years.

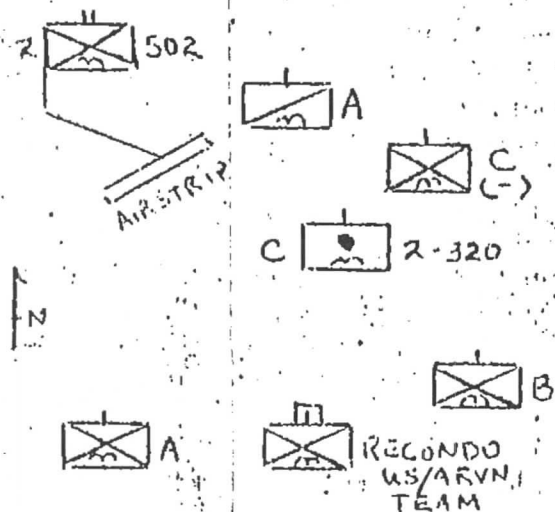
Early 1966 brought the cavalymen their first mission in the Tuy Hoa area. In a thirty-five day period, the 1st Brigade was to kill 348 enemy personnel from the 95th NVA Regiment, while conducting security operations and thereby allowing the local populace to harvest their rice crops unhampered by enemy interdiction.

The beginning of April saw the Brigade on the move again...Phan Thiet...Nhon Co...Cheo Reo...Pleiku...wherever a "fire brigade" was needed during the Vietnam Defensive Campaign, the Screaming Eagles reacted aggressively. Operation AUSTIN IV provides an example of the Troop in action during a sweep, some 30 miles north of Bu Gia Map near Bu Prang:

"On 5 May 1966, LTC Emerson, CO of the 2/502nd Infantry Battalion, conducting a reconnaissance of Bu Prang in search of the enemy. The following day, at 1000 hours, his recondo platoon, with some attached engineers inserted into an LZ around an abandoned airstrip and began a "checkerboard" sweep of the surrounding area. Checkerboarding amounted to dividing the battalion's area of operation into a checkerboard grid pattern, inserting near the center, and checking the pattern by sending elements of the Battalion in all directions. By late afternoon, Company A was headed north, Company B to the east, and a company team (consisting of a US and ARVN recon platoon--the Apache Platoon) headed to the south. For the next three days, the units moved and searched during the day, while setting up ambushes at night. In order to travel as light as possible, only the essentials were taken by the infantrymen. This allowed them to move rapidly and not be tied to the resupply helicopters. Company C and the engineers were held in reserve at the airstrip.

"By 10 May, although no contact had been made, additional resources arrived in the form of an artillery battery and A Troop, 2/17th Cav (dismounted). While the cavalymen went into reserve, one platoon from C Company was sent to the US/ARVN recondo team, to bring it to the strength of a full company.

"Initially, Company A was 7 km to the southwest, B Company was 8 km to the southeast, and the recondo team was somewhere between the two. Realizing that his force was too spread out, LTC Emerson directed B Company to move behind Company A, and the Recondo Team to move to the northwest and to tie in with A Company's left flank. Meanwhile, Company A was to continue moving to the southwest. This order was given at 1020 hours, and by 1430, A Company encountered heavy contact. Immediately, A Company was to be assisted by A Troop, with orders to move southwest and tie in on A Company's right flank. Scattered action continued until dusk as both B Company and the Recondo Team were hit as they moved to their new positions. The Battalion learned from a captured NVA soldier that they



were up against four NVA companies, already dug in, with six more companies in bunkers between the first force and the Cambodian border. Realizing this, the Battalion consolidated its positions about 2000 hours, and sent out ambush patrols."

The plan for the 11th called for the cavalrymen to move out at 0700, move a kilometer to the northwest and then turn 90° to the left, and move to a blocking position behind the NVA forces, now identified as the 141st NVA Regiment. The remaining three companies would attack the NVA position and catch the enemy in a position where he would have to withdraw through the cavalrymen to cross the Cambodian border.

At 0700 hours, the Cavalrymen moved out and by 1000, they were paralleling A Company's advance. By 1040, A Company was engaged with enemy forces in bunkers and by 1125, so was the recon team, on the left.

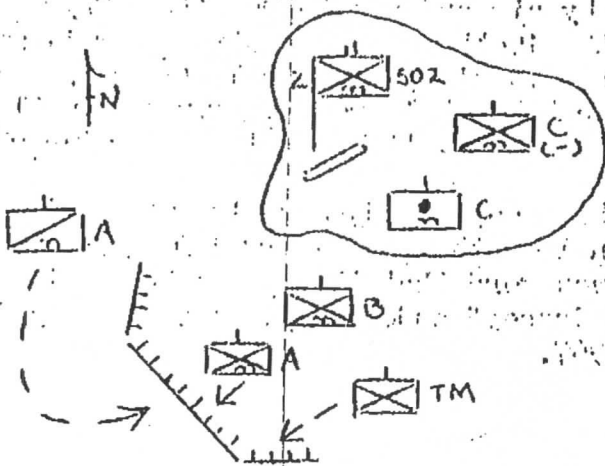
As the infantrymen slowly advanced into the enemy's positions, A Troop continued to move through the extremely rugged terrain in order to get behind the enemy force. LTC Emerson was in his C & C helicopter and by 1330 saw that the cavalrymen were in a position to move behind the enemy force. Taking the enemy from the rear, A Troop, with an attached platoon from C Company that had been with them for the past day, moved carefully through the bunkers, forcing what remained of the enemy to withdraw after a brief firefight.

As the cavalrymen worked over the bunkers, LTC Emerson held his infantry companies back for fear that they might advance into a overlooked strongpoint, which would cause further unnecessary casualties. As the day

came to a close, the airborne cavalrymen from A Troop were in control of the field with a NVA body count of one hundred and six KIA's.

The operation did not end though, and beginning the next day (the 12th), the 2/502nd TF continued their checkerboarding, although there was no enemy contact. At 1000 hours, on the 13th, an "Arc Light"...B-52 air strike...was placed in front of their route of advance in the area where the other six companies of the 141st were supposedly encamped. At 1840 hours on the 14th, the 2/502nd reached the Cambodian border, and learned (from four POWs picked up during the final two days of the drive) that of the 450 men in the 141st Battalion, only about 50 had survived the B-52 strike and had moved on to Cambodia. Shortly thereafter, the cavalrymen left the "Gunfighters" Battalion and moved north.

Between 29 May and 2 June, the 1st Brigade shifted its forces into northern Kontum Province in the Dak To area. Beginning on 2 June and lasting until 22 June, the Brigade conducted Operation HAWTHORNE, which would ultimately earn them the Presidential Unit Citation. HAWTHORNE turned out to be a model operation employing massive B-52 strikes and a double envelopment of the 24th NVA Regiment, which would yield 459 enemy KIA's and another estimated 485 KIA's in just 18 days of fighting. During





HAWTHORNE, another famous incident occurred when CPT Carpenter of G Company, 2/502nd Infantry, called in an air strike on his own position, due to his being heavily outnumbered and in danger of being completely overrun at any moment.

After a brief lull, the airborne cavalrymen moved back to Tuy Hoa and conducted search and destroy operations with elements of the Brigade. The year almost closed out on the Troop while it was still in the Tuy Hoa area, but late December 1966, brought a return to Kontum Province and an "Unmerry Christmas".

The new year opened with Operation FARRAGUT, in which the "Chieu Hoi" program was stressed, in an attempt to weaken the enemy through psychological warfare, by offering conditional pardons to NVA and VC soldiers. The success of the Chieu Hoi program in FARRAGUT is obvious, for 475 NVA/VC surrendered to the 1st Brigade's "soldiers with the chicken patch".

The spring found the Troop in Phu Yen Province and then on 29 April, the whole Brigade task force moved by air and sea to Duc Pho, 175 miles south of the DMZ, where it joined the 196th Light Infantry Brigade and the 3rd Brigade of the 25th Infantry Division, to form TF OREGON. The cavalrymen participated in Operation MALHEUR I and II, from 29 April to 7 June, and from 8 June to 1 August. Again, the operations conducted were primarily search and destroy.

The last major operation of the Troop's "odyssey" began on 11 September in the Chu Lai area, and then into the Song Tranh Valley. At the end of November, the Brigade received word that the remainder of the 101st would be joining them soon. The "odyssey" ended in preparation for the Divisions arrival in December of 1967.

*To Be Continued*





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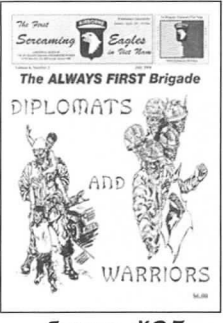
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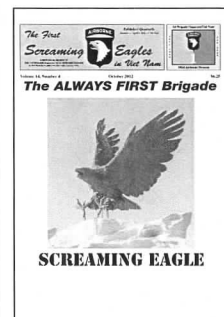
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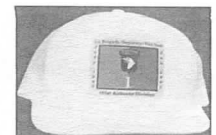
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## Following Is A Short Description Of The Contents Of This Magazine.

**HOW THE BRIGADE GOT TO VIET NAM ..... PAGES 1 – 3**  
Grady M. Jones, HHC S-3 7/64-7/66, who was the Brigade Operations NCO, sent the story and pictures of the Brigade move to Viet Nam.

**50th ANNIVERSARY REUNION ..... PAGES 3 – 5**  
50th Anniversary coin along with reunion registration form and hotel reservation information.

**NEWSWEEK ARRIVAL STORY ..... PAGES 6 – 8**  
The arrival of the First Brigade was a part of the Viet Nam build up in the August 9, 1965 edition. The copy shown is from the Tim Swain, HHC S-2 65, collection.

**A NEW HOME AMONG FRIENDS ..... PAGE 9**  
A First Brigade news release (12 October, 1966) about refugees in their own country.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ..... PAGES 10 – 14**  
Messages sent by First Brigade Viet Nam veterans and believed to be of interest to most subscribers.

**BRONZE STAR WITH “V” ..... PAGE 15**  
Bronze Star citation sent by Leon Watson, 1/327 ABU 9/67-9/68.

**THE SCREAMING EAGLE ..... PAGES 17 – 20**  
This copy of the unit newspaper dated September 13, 1967, was sent by COL (R) William J. Northquest, 1/327 C 6/66-12/67.

**OBITUARIES ..... PAGES 21 & 22**  
First Brigade soldiers who died and whose obituaries have been made known to the editor.

**SUBSCRIPTION LIST ..... PAGES 23 – 25**  
Names and addresses of renewing subscribers, address corrections and bad addresses.

**A REPORT FROM VIETNAM PUBLISHED IN THE 101st AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION MAGAZINE ... PAGES 26 - 28**

**17th CAVALRY HISTORY ..... PAGES 29 – 32**  
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PHAN RANG, Vietnam – CO AND RTO. + Capt. Julius F. Johnson, Leavenworth, Kan., and his radio –telephone operator, \*\*\*\* Spec. 4 Charles H. Bridgeman, Searly, Ark., move along a jungle trail during the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne's Operation Klamath Falls southwest of here. Johnson commands A Co. of the 1st Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf. (USA Photo by \*\*\*\*Spec. 4 Ben Croxton)

*Editor's Note: Capt. Johnson (BG(R) Julius F. Johnson, 1/327 A 6/67-6/68) retired as a Brigadier General.*

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