

# 2/503d

FOR THE MEN, AND THEIR  
FAMILIES, OF THE 2ND BATTALION,  
173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEP)



We try  
harder.

# VIETNAM

newsletter

May-June 2017, Issue 73  
Contact: [rto173@att.net](mailto:rto173@att.net) (formerly [rto173d@cfl.rr.com](mailto:rto173d@cfl.rr.com))

See all issues to date at 503rd Heritage Battalion website:  
[http://corregidor.org/VN2-503/newsletter/issue\\_index.htm](http://corregidor.org/VN2-503/newsletter/issue_index.htm)

## ~ 2/503d Photo of the Month ~



**2/503d Sky Soldiers waiting to join the Battle of the Slopes, June 1967**

(Photo by Earle "Doc" Jackson, B Med)





# We Dedicate this Issue of Our Newsletter in Memory and Honor of the Men of the 173d Airborne Brigade & Attached Units We Lost 50 Years Ago in the Months of May & June 1967



*“They, and we, are the legacies of an unbroken chain of proud men and women who served their country with honor, who waged war so that we might know peace, who braved hardship so that we might know opportunity, who paid the ultimate price so that we might know freedom.”*

President Barack Obama, Memorial Day, 2009

**Winfred Alderman, 20**  
**PFC, C/4/503, 5/17/67**

*“Thank you PFC Alderman for your courage in dangerous times, in a dangerous place.”*

**A Grateful Vietnam Vet**



**Harold A. Beaverson, Jr., 33**  
**SSG, HHC/4/503, 5/31/67**

*“Harold was born October 21, 1933. His parents were Harold and Sara and he had three brothers and two sisters. His wife was Patsye Horn and he had three children. He attended York High and served with the Marines in the Korean War. He joined the Army in March, 1957 and had served one tour in Vietnam and was just days from finishing his second tour when he was killed. He had already signed up for his third tour. He was stationed with HHC, 4th BN, 503rd INF, 173rd ABN BDE at Bien Hoa. He was killed on May 31, 1967 and was 33 years old. He was awarded the Good Conduct, Korean Service, Vietnam Service, Vietnam Campaign, United Nations Service, Combat Infantry Badge, Parachutist Badge, and is remembered on Panel 21E, line 20.”* **Jim McIlhenney**



**Terry Lee Odis Allen, 19**  
**PFC, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

*“Terry is buried at White Chapel Memorial Gardens, Kansas City, KS.”*



**Erling Alton Anderson, 22**  
**PFC, 39th Inf Plt Scout Dog, 6/22/67**

*“Erling is buried at Riverside Lutheran Cemetery Mondovi WI, 3rd section from the west, 3rd row in from the west, 1st column in from in front of cemetery by cemetery sign.”*



**William Joseph Boehm, 19**  
**PFC, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

*“I wish I could have met you my great uncle...memories I have are just pictures and video...thank you for your service and all that you have sacrificed.”*  
**Unsigned**



**James Arnold, 22**  
**PFC, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

*“James is buried at New Forksville Baptist Church Cemetery in Greenville, SC.”*



**Jeffrey Lawrence Barker, 20**  
**PFC, A/2/503, 6/8/67**

*“Jeff I knew you as a young kid. You are a true hero..RIP?? You and Ridgefield will never forget you as of this Memorial Day weekend 2016.”*

**Robert Spadavecchia**



**Glen Trevor Bartholomew, SPR, 1 FD SQN, 5/18/67**



*(continued....)*



**Robert Ray Boyd, 26**  
**CPT, A/3/319, 5/17/67**

*"I was a member of the 53rd Signal Battalion and attached to the 173rd Airborne to provide radio relay services for them. Captain Robert Boyd was assigned to provide oversight for us. I got to know him as he stopped by to chat with us each day, including the morning he was killed when we were attacked while breaking camp. I wrote the following poem which was awarded 2nd place this year at the Botetourt County (VA) poetry contest, based on this day. Here is the poem:*



**AGENT ORANGE**  
**by Ken Conklin**

**The Chinook bore down on us once again  
To carry us to the next clearing  
Carved into the jungle by a sinister force  
Three days here and then there  
So we could defend the intangible.**

**Incoming said the Doppler  
I knew the difference in the sound  
Of acoustical in instead of out  
Then explosions, chaos!  
The Chinook flew away.**

**I inhaled the dust when it reached me  
Making its way through my cells  
Attacking me in latent ways  
Lying in wait for the right decade  
To launch an attack.**

**While Captain Boyd who found his end that Wednesday  
Is on the Wall**

**I saw him there when I visited, to say hi  
And let him know the Chinook did return and take me  
away  
And that the dusty remnants have finally awakened,  
now.**

**Gregory Vincent Brady, SPR, 1 FD SQN, 5/20/67**  
**Peter John Bramble, SPR, 1 FD SQN, 5/22/67**  
**Dennis Lindsay Brooks, SPR, 1 FD SQN, 5/22/67**

**Ervin L. Burns, 28**  
**1LT, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

*"I still have the void he left me with...  
now it's 2015 and I still miss him."*

**His Daughter**



**Albert Butler, Jr., 24, PFC, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

*"Albert is buried at Jefferson Barracks Nat Cem."*

**Darrell Wayne Butts, 19**  
**PFC, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

*"Services were pending Tuesday for Pfc Darrell W. Butts, 19, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold G. Butts, 336 N. Clifton, who died Sunday after being wounded Jun. 22 in Vietnam. Born in Lawrence, Kan., he came here in 1954. He attended Central Assembly of God Church. He entered the service after graduating from East High School in 1966."*  
**Wichita Eagle**



**Carlin Martin, Campbell, Jr., 19**  
**PFC, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

*"We called him 'Terry'. I did not know his real name until I found him on The Wall. I last talked to Carlin Martin Campbell Jr. and Michael J. Waterman on the runway at Dak To on June 21, 1967. They were waiting for the chopper and said they were going on a recon mission on the mountain. On June 22, 1967 they fought the NVA until the last of their ammo. Carlin Martin Campbell Jr. was one of 74 in A Co 2/503, 173 Abn Bde to lose his life that day in the Battle of the Slopes. I think of him often, I will never forget. From a fellow soldier."* **JBW**



**Harry Gibson Carter, 29**  
**SSG, HHC/2/503, 5/30/67**

*"Harry is buried at Lincoln Cemetery in Montgomery, AL."*



**Leonard James Carter, 19**  
**PFC, A/2/503, 6/8/67**

*"Hi Lenny, This is Tom Schiera, all grown up now. It's been almost 50 years since I have spoken to you. I was only 9 when you left for Vietnam in Feb, 1967. I was also the one who answered our back door on that Sunday morning when we learned of your death, when Dallas English came by and told me. Even now, I can still remember it like it was yesterday and yet it is still hard to believe you're gone. 19 years old is way too young for anyone to die. I still have the silver paratrooper wings that you gave to me the day before you deployed..."*



*(continued...)*



....I also want to thank you for having given me all your old monster models...they were awesome! I think of you often and so does my brother, your best friend and brother-in-arms, Sam, who served in Vietnam from Oct. '67-Oct. '68. I will be visiting your grave again on the 50th anniversary of your passing, June 8, 2017. How can it be 50 years already since we lost you? I pray for your soul Lenny, and I want to thank you for the ultimate sacrifice you made for all of us here at home. You were a brave and honorable soldier. I still wish we'd had more time to have gotten to know each other; I was just a kid when you left and you were a very young man. You are the only person who ever stole my toast and ate it in the mornings when you'd come over to get a ride to school with Sam. :) Those are memories I recall with a smile. I miss you Lenny, and I always will. We love you and may God Bless you. Rest in peace, brave soldier."

**Tom**

**James Virgil Chronister, 18  
PFC, C/2/503, 5/1/67**

"I knew you just for that one week you were in my squad. I still remember the last words you spoke 'Torres, Torres I am not afraid', then a mortar went off between us. The shrapnel missed me but you were not as fortunate. I went to your side and discovered that your wound was too severe. Since, your words and your face have been with me. Rest in Peace Jim." **Secundino R. Torres, Jr.**



**Edward Oran Claeys, 20, PFC, C/2/503, 5/17/67**  
(Virtual Wall states C/4/503)

"Eddie, we were never buddies, but we were classmates and friends. To this day, so very many decades later, I remember your sense of humor - sometimes a little sardonic, but always there. You were the first person I ever knew who died ~ the first of our high school class-year. I was stunned when I heard it, from another of our high school classmates. I matured in an unexpected manner at that moment. My grandparents had died, but they were OLD ~ you weren't! But your death brought me a new realization of the preciousness of life ~ mine, and everybody else's too. Thank you for your sacrifice, and thank you for what you taught me, in your life, and in your death."

**Andrew M. (Andy) Kaye**



**Ronald Cleveland Clark, 19  
SP4, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

"I loved you as only brothers can. Ronnie and I grew up together in a small cotton mill village called New Holland. It was about a mile east of Gainesville, Ga. We met in grammar school and became best friends immediately, if I wasn't over at his house he was over at mine and continued that way until my parents moved away from New Holland and I attended another school only seeing him occasionally. Ronnie and I were closer to each other than my own 2 brothers and in essence we became brothers of the spirit. I was devastated when I heard that he was killed, before he entered the Army he had quit school and gotten married. I was attending a class in the lunchroom of my school and heard someone hissing and looked inside the kitchen and there he was delivering milk as he and I had worked for a man that had a milk route delivering milk every morning before school and he had gotten Ronnie a job. He told me that he was going to join the Army and I told him he would go to Vietnam and he laughed and said he was married and they couldn't send him according to the recruiter. He picked me up from school that afternoon and we hung around together talking and trying to see into the future, I prayed that his future would not turn out as it did and grieved as only a brother can grieve for one another. He is still my best friend and he and I talk often and I can see him grinning and laughing. Ronnie you will forever be in my thoughts and prayers. Rest in Peace my brother rest in peace and we will meet again."

**Terry L. Mize**

**Thorne M. Clark, III, 19  
PFC, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

"Mac, I think of you often. The motorcycle rides, the trips to Santa Barbara, the good times just hanging out. I remember the last time I saw you, with your spit-shined jump boots and shiny airborne wings and all of your damned optimism. I wish that I could share with you some of the blessings I've had come my way over the 35 years that I've outlived you. Who knows? Maybe I can. Your friend." **Mark**



(continued...)



**Jimmy Lee Cook, 18**  
**PVT, A/2/503, 6/21/67**  
(Virtual Wall states C/2/503)

*"Jimmy was 'the one.' I know he was a wonderful son and brother. But he was my first and only true love. I look forward to seeing him again in the presence of the Lord."* Pam



**James George Cox, PTE, 7RAR, 6/26/67**

**Jack Lester Cripe, 18**  
**SP4, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

*"ONE OF MICHIGAN'S FALLEN SONS. Today we honor JACK LESTER CRIFE and the ultimate sacrifice you made for your country. Rest in peace Jack, and know you are not forgotten."*

**Fellow Michigander**



**Marvin Eugene Cutrer, 19**  
**PFC, C/2/503, 5/17/67**  
(Virtual Wall states B/2/503)

*"Marvin and I grew up together in Summit, Mississippi, which was his hometown. In the third grade he gave me a crayfish that I kept in a pan in our kitchen for several months. He was a bright, athletic young man whose death saddened many."* William Calcotee



**Lloyd Dwain De Loach, 22**  
**SP4, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

*"I have the infamous distinction of being the last person Lloyd saw before he died. Your effort probably saved my life that day. Thank you, brother."*

**Wambi Cook**



**Raymond John P. Deed, SPR, 1 FD SQN, 5/10/67**

**Charles Orvis Deedrick, Jr., 22**  
**SP4, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

*"I was a classmate of Chuck's and grew up with him on 4th Street also. Chuck and I used to go to the spillway every day to fish. His pop would come out and get us with his pickup every night. Chuck was in Germany before going to Viet Nam. He signed to go there (Vietnam). I was there the same time as he was and was going to look him up at Long Binh where a common friend, Dorothy Dye, was stationed as a nurse. She saw me and told me about Chuck."* Ron Schmidt



**Lester Michael De Riso, 19**  
**PFC, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

*"You are always loved, missed and forever in our hearts. Your sacrifice will never be forgotten. I will always miss and love you Uncle Lester. Love, Lori."*

**Lori Labossiere**



**Thomas Alfred Deschenes, 20**  
**SP4, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

*"Still think of Tom and his easy going love of life. He made the ultimate sacrifice, and he is remembered with deepest appreciation and warm thoughts of the college boy he was."*

**Paula Lyons Moses**



**Joseph L. Duckett, Jr., 19**  
**PFC, B/2/503, 5/14/67**

*"We remember. Joseph is buried at Arlington Nat Cem."* Robert Sage



**Thomas Benedict Duffy, Jr., 22**  
**PFC, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

*"After All these years, I have not forgotten, could never forget. Rest in Peace."* Jamie Dye Feheley



**George Ray Fayfie Edwards, 26**  
**SP5, C/2/503, 5/17/67**

(Virtual Wall states D/16th Armor)

*"SP5 Edwards was my driver (M113 Armored Personnel Carrier). He was a fine man. We were moving back into base camp around 10-11AM on May 17, 1967 when SP5 Edwards was taken from the field of battle. I lost other platoon members this day and will always mourn their passing. In 1967, I had the fortunate occasion to meet with SP5 Edwards' wife who was in Bad Nauheim, Germany. I made it a point to contact her and try to comfort her in any way that I could. May he rest in peace."*

**Former PSG Thomas R. Presley**



(continued....)



**Timothy James Egan, 19**  
**PFC, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

*"Tim Egan was a great friend. He loved sports and was on the Lindblum High School speed skating team. When he enlisted in the Army, he wanted to be the best so he volunteered for the Airborne. Tim was with the 173rd ABN for less than a month when he was KIA on June 22, 1967. We all still miss him."* **Michael A. Daukus**



**James Richard Emmert, 31**  
**SGT, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

*"James is buried at White Chapel Cemetery in Huntington, WV."*  
**Robert Sage**



**Russel Warren Engle, 20**  
**SP4, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

*"I knew Rusty at Madison HS, in Madison, NJ. He was an athlete and was well-liked by all. It was not until years later, after my own year in Vietnam, that I learned of his tragic death. Although we were not close friends, I felt his loss deeply because of our shared high school experience in a small town. It was an honor, as a volunteer reader on Nov. 10, 2002, to read Rusty Engle's name aloud during the ceremonies marking the 20th anniversary of the Wall."* **Richard Gong**



**Waddel Evans, 19, PFC, C/2/503, 5/11/67**

*"Waddel is buried at Hawks Cemetery, Hopkinsville, KY. PH"* **Robert Sage**

**David Lee Fennessey, 22**  
**SSG, D/4/503, 5/20/67**

*"Wish you were here Uncle Dave. I am a middle aged man now....the last time I saw you was when I was 6 years old....my Dad misses you very much just thought you would like to know.... life is unfair....wish you could have seen the life we all have had....say hello to Mom for me and I love you both. Danny."* **Dan Fennessey**



**Bobby Lee Finney, 21**  
**SP4, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

*"My good friend. After all of these years that have gone by, I still miss you my friend. We went to Vietnam together."* **Waldren Cook**



**Joseph O. Frigault, 40, SSG, 173d Eng,**  
**5/17/67**

*"It was a wonderful time. The May evening air felt moist and warm. In my heart I had that excited, happy feeling one has just before Christmas. Daddy was due home just any day from Viet Nam.*

*The whole family was getting excited and prepared for his homecoming. My chore that evening was to rake our little front yard, one more time. I didn't mind though because I wanted everything beautiful for Daddy. Not having to do the dishes and being outside was just an added bonus. As I lazily pulled the rake across the yard I wondered, 'Will Daddy still be the same?' It had been a whole year since we last saw him. Will he think I am still the same?"*

*Oh I couldn't wait to sit on his lap and rub the top of his hair. Daddy always wore a flat top, army haircut. It looked harsh as a hairbrush, but felt soft as velvet. Oh if I closed my eyes, I could even smell the Aqua Velva shaving lotion he wore. Even the smell of black army boot polish was fresh in my memory. Memories so sweet -*

*Standing there, eyes closed, I wondered, 'Will Daddy think me too big to sit on his lap? After all, I'm a big girl now. Why, last week I turned fifteen.'*

*My brother, Tony's loud mouth interrupted my day dreams with a loud 'MARIE E E E, Daddy's home! Look!' 'Oh is it really true?' I wondered. 'Well, yes, an army jeep was coming down the road,' I reasoned. My heart raced with pure joy!*

*'No! Wait! Something is not right here! Daddy would be coming in a bus or taxi but not a jeep.'*

*'No, God no!' I pleaded in my heart as the jeep slowly pulled up our driveway.*

*Two sharply dressed soldiers got out and walked up to me and asked, 'Is this where Virginia Frigault lives?' I couldn't speak. My heart was pounding so hard in my chest that I thought they could hear it. My jaw just opened and closed quickly like a fish gasping for air but no sound came out. Finally I nodded my head up and down slowly. They walked past me up to the screen door but not before I saw the tears in the eyes of the younger soldier.*

*'No! No! No! God, please, God, No!' My insides were screaming.*

*Nannie, my grandmother, was already at the screen door to let them in....*

(continued...)



....There were mumbles and low whispers. All I could hear was the older sergeant ask Nannie if my mother needed a doctor because he had bad news concerning her husband. Nannie whispered, 'No, just follow me.' With tears in her eyes, Nannie led them down the hall to Momma's bedroom. Nannie waddled down the hall like a mother duck with her baby duck soldiers in line behind her. I joined the line with my brother behind me. As the soldiers entered the room, Nannie gently pushed Tony and me out.

Our ears were pressed hard against the door but we only heard more mumbles and whispers.

Momma was bed ridden and sick. She must have summoned all of her strength because the next thing we heard was a loud wounded animalistic scream. That's when I knew the truth. I would never again sit on Daddy's lap.

Staff Sargent Joseph O. Frigault was killed in action, May 17, 1967." Marie Frigault Collier

**Johnnie Chester Fuller, 26**  
**SSG, D/16th Armor, 5/18/67**

"I was the Platoon SGT of SSG Johnnie C. Fuller. We were in D CO, 16th Armor, 173rd Airborne Bde (Sep). SSG Fuller was an outstanding NCO and a close associate of mine. He was seriously wounded during the early morning hours of May 17, 1967 while operating in the area of Xuan Loc RVN. I lost Johnnie and several other good soldiers on this day. May he rest in peace and I pray that his contributions were not in vain. Johnnie, like many other Soldiers before him, gave his life so that others may live in Freedom. When you read this, say a small prayer for his loved ones, and tell Johnnie 'thank you' we all live a better life because of his sacrifice. May he rest in peace." Formerly (SSG PRESLEY)



**Wilson Truman Gerald, 22**  
**SGT, D/16th Armor, 5/17/67**

"I was only just a child when my cousin Truman left for Vietnam, and he is only a vague memory in my mind's remembrances. But he is the first member of my family that I knew who died for his country and his family. And strangely enough, this is why I will always remember Truman." M'Karyl Gaynor



**Burrell Gibson, 23**  
**SP4, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

"Burrell Gibson was my best friend in Vietnam. We were in the same company, platoon, squad - 173d 2BN A



Company. He was fun to be around, joking and lighthearted. He is also an American hero. He died during the Battle of Dak To 22 June 1967. We had been gassing the LZ when we heard the shooting. We went to base camp and we loaded up with ammunition and went down the hill to join our friends who had been ambushed. He was with me when our medic got shot going down with us. We hit the ground and crawled down dragging the ammunition. We got separated and that was the last time I saw Burrell. I am 69 and will remember our friendship for the rest of my life."

**Ferrell E. Weatherman, III**

**Kenneth Lawrence Greene, 20**  
**PFC, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

"Kenneth is buried at The Woodlawn Cemetery in Everett, Mass."

**Robert Sage**



**Gerald Charles Hague, 21, PFC**  
**B/4/503, 5/20/67**

"I was with Gerry when he died and I would be glad to answer any questions if any family member or friend would like to e-mail me." **John Daly**  
[skosichdaly@uswest.net](mailto:skosichdaly@uswest.net)  
(Posted 1 Jun 1999)



**Steven Michael Haniotes, 19**  
**PFC, C/4/503, 5/17/67**

"Stevie ... only 19 years old when you were killed in Vietnam. No surprise to me you 'volunteered'. That's the way you were ... unleashed. I miss your laugh and sense of humor. Daily, I would help you deliver newspapers. As your little sister, I was always 'tagging along'. You never seemed to mind. I remember you performing on the 'trampolines' during half-time of the high school basketball games. I remember your great diving flips at the 'creek' off the rocks. You were GREAT! You were always there for me! You were always so kind and generous to others. Memories of you are in my heart, I miss you EVERY DAY! In Vietnam, you were a Hero. At home you were always my Hero! Only the good die young. Love," Harriett



(continued...)



**David Junior Heller, 20**  
**PFC, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

(Virtual Wall states HHC/2/503)\*

*"He was the best big brother you could have. I dream about what life would have been if he came home. Would life had changed for the better, I hope it would. Thank you."* **Unsigned**



**Note: See Pages 53-54 for a tribute by Wambi Cook, A/2/503, to Dave Heller KIA during The Battle of the Slopes, on 22 June 1967.**



**Alvin Gene Hill, 21**  
**SGT, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

*"I knew Gene almost as long as I knew myself. We were great friends from about the 2nd grade or earlier. After graduation, I went away to the Navy and he went to college for a short time and then on to the Army where he continued to excel, to Truly be the Best That He Can Be. I lost my brother in Korea and Gene in Vietnam, along with many friends and fellow Vets. Honor, Patriotism, and love of Country. He wrote a blank check, payable to the USA, for up to, and including, his life, for Freedom and Liberty. Now he guards the Halls of Heaven. God speed, Soldier."*



**Woodie Brewer, CPO, USN (Ret)**

**Doyle Holcomb, 23**  
**PFC, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

*"I remember Doyle Holcomb, Airborne. The last time I saw Doyle alive he had a pair of antlers tied to his ruck sack. We were waiting for the last lift of choppers to pick us up. We were headed for Dak To. I didn't get to talk to Doyle before A Company was lifted to the mountain Landing Zone on June 21, 1967. On 6/22/67 Company A 2/503 came under fire. They took on NVA regulars that out-numbered them by 5-1. They fought until they ran out of ammo. 74 of America's best died that day. Doyle was found at the front of the fight. I think about Doyle almost daily. From a fellow soldier."* **JBW**



**Richard Elmo Hood, Jr., 22**  
**1LT, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

*"The 'Friends of Rocky Versace' remember one of Frank Meszar's USMA 1966 classmates, 1LT Richard Elmo Hood Jr., on what would've been his 72d birthday - 7 September 2016."*



KR

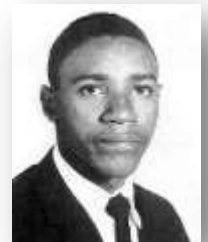
**Vins Ronald Hooper, 20, SP4, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

*"Vins and I were reassigned to the 173rd from the 1st Air Cavalry in 1967. We took our in-country R&R together. We spent time in Quinhon and then to Cam Ran Bay before getting to the 173rd in Bien Hoa. He went to the 2/503rd and I went to Recon 1/503rd. We were going to go back to the world together but a few weeks before we were to return to the U.S. he was killed at Dak To. I was there when I found out that he had been killed though I didn't get to see his body. I have always thought of him. Like me, he was just a young guy who was hoping that serving would give him some chances back in the world. For a long time I felt guilty about his death but then I decided to make the most of my life so that he would not have died in vain. Thank you my friend."* **Ralph Mora**

**Norman Perry Howie, Jr., 20**  
**PFC, C/4/503, 5/20/67**

*"We remember. Norman is buried at Rutherford Memorial Cemetery in Concord, Cabarrus County, NC."*

**Robert Sage**



**David E. Johnson, 22, SGT, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

*"We remember. David is buried at Natchez National Cemetery."* **Robert Sage**

**David Joseph Johnson, 18**  
**PFC, C/4/503, 5/20/67**

*"We remember. David is buried at Natchez Nat, Cemetery."* **Robert Sage**



**Harry J. Johnson, 22**  
**SGT, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

*"I never knew you. You died when I was only three. I have no memories of you holding me or playing with me. There are a few pictures and a lot of stories but it's not enough. I missed growing up with you and sometimes the loss is more than I can bear. After all these years I am finding out who you were and how much you loved us all. I live with an emptiness inside me but through God I will heal and go on to love my own daughter with the intensity she deserves. I look at you and my heart aches and then I go and hug my child. I love you."*

**Kipling Johnson**

(continued...)



**Richard Bruce Johnston, 21**  
**SP4, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

*"Toy soldiers to a real one. Bruce, I went to see you again; unfortunately you were still there. I went to see you many years ago in W. Recently the traveling wall was near me in upstate NY. We use to play war with toy soldiers in the sand piles in front of your house 100's of times. You became one - thank you. We--David Mullen, you and I decided we would play for the Red Sox. Neither David or I made it either."* **Joe Meuse**



**Richard J. Johnston, 19, SP4, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

*"Not forgotten. Richard is buried at Riverside Cemetery, Peshtigo, WI, large north section, 22nd row in from back, west end - 11th column in from the north service road."* **Steve Conto**



**Donald R. Judd, 24**  
**1LT, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

**Silver Star**

**Awarded for actions during  
the Vietnam War**

**"The President of the United**

**States of America, authorized by Act of Congress July 9, 1918 (amended by an act of July 25, 1963), takes pride in presenting the Silver Star (Posthumously) to First Lieutenant (Infantry) Donald Richard Judd (ASN: OF-107775), United States Army, for gallantry in action while serving with Company A, 2d Battalion, 503d Infantry Regiment, in the Republic of Vietnam. On 22 June 1967, with First Lieutenant Judd in the position of rifle platoon leader, Company A was engaged by a North Vietnamese Battalion. With the lead platoon pinned down and in danger of being overrun, Lieutenant Judd stood up and rallied his men in relief of the beleaguered force. Although seriously wounded in this gallant assault, Lieutenant Judd constantly exposed himself to the intense enemy fire to reorganize the perimeter and encourage his men. Despite the heavy volume of automatic weapons fire being directed at him, Lieutenant Judd went forward of the lines to extract a wounded man. Though he sustained another crippling wound, Lieutenant Judd continued forward and succeeded in returning the man to the relative safety of the perimeter. Hearing another cry for help, Lieutenant Judd left the safety of the perimeter to drag in another wounded man. Refusing medical aid so that his men would have more medication, Lieutenant Judd disregarded the murderous hail of enemy fire and continued to move**



throughout the perimeter to lead his men and redistribute ammunition until he fell mortally wounded. Lieutenant Judd's courage and professional conduct were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army."

**General Orders: Headquarters, I Field Force Vietnam, General Orders No. 653 (August 15, 1967)**

**Action Date: June 22, 1967**

**Service: Army**

**Rank: First Lieutenant**

**Company: Company A**

**Battalion: 2d Battalion**

**Regiment: 503d Infantry Regiment**

**Division: I Field Force**



**Stephen Allen Kelly, 19, SGT, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

*"We remember. Stephen is buried at Long Island Nat Cem."* **Robert Sage**

**Clifford Wayne Leathers, Jr., 19**  
**SP4, E/17th Cav, 6/21/67**

*"Photo credit: his brother Michael A. Leathers. Rest in peace with the warriors."*



**James Robert Lester, 34, PSGT, C/4/503, 6/29/67**

*"...Slip off that pack. Set it down by the crooked trail. Drop your steel pot alongside. Shed those magazine-laden bandoliers away from your sweat-soaked shirt. Lay that silent weapon down and step out of the heat. Feel the soothing cool breeze right down to your soul ... and rest forever in the shade of our love, brother."*

**From your Nam-Band-Of-Brothers**

**Charlie Gray Lewis, 30**

**SFC, D/16th Armor, 5/17/67**

*"I still miss my brother, Charlie Gray and have thought of him often lately. The older I get the more I realize what a sacrifice it was that he went to Viet Nam. From the story I heard when I was younger, his men received orders to go to Viet Nam and afterwards he volunteered to go with them. He loved what he did and loved serving our country. I was only 8 when his troop ran over a land mine and he was listed as MIA. I found some pics of him and wanted to post a couple on here."* **Brenda C. Lewis**



*(continued...)*



**Kenneth Kawka Lima, 33**  
**SSG, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

*"SSG Lima provided the type of training that prepped me for Nam. He taught us bayonet drills at McKinley H.S., '65-'68. School Administration wasn't too happy about such aggressive training, but it was a worthwhile skill to have when I went into the Army in '68 and ended up in Nam by Apr '69. I remember his memorial at McKinley when they brought his family to the auditorium. A preview for the coming year for our grads in '68. Rest in Peace, SSG Lima. I got to work with your sons in the police department after I got back."*

**George Smith**



**Gaetano La Grasta, LAC, RAAF, 6/19/67**

**Frederick Hugo Liminga, 19**  
**PFC, HHC/2/503, 6/22/67**

*"Two names on the wall are Freddy Liminga and David Wedhorn. They were boyhood friends. They had a clubhouse in the sauna in Freddy's backyard. On the door was a sign that clearly stated "NO GRILS ALOUD" I was the only girl they knew. I will always miss them."*

**Patty**



**Robert Richard Litwin, 25**  
**PSGT, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

*"My brother who is always on my mind. I was lucky to get to see you when you got to NAM. The Red Cross notified me you were in Country and my friend and I went looking for you. We missed you in Long Bien and drove to Bien Hoa and found you. I was glad to at least talk to you when you got there. I had a week left in my tour when I got word you were killed."*



**Rich**



**LITWIN, ROBERT RICHARD**  
**Sergeant First Class, U.S. Army**  
**Company A, 2d Battalion (Airborne),**  
**503d Inf. Rgt, 173d Airborne Brigade (Sep),**  
**Date of Action: June 22, 1967**

**Citation:**

**"The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Robert Richard Litwin, Sergeant First Class, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Company A, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 503d Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade (Separate). Platoon**

**Sergeant Litwin distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 22 June 1967 while serving as rifle platoon sergeant of an infantry company on a search and destroy mission near Dak To. His platoon was savagely attacked by a North Vietnamese battalion and pinned down by an intense hail of automatic weapons fire. Seeing his platoon leader killed, Sergeant Litwin stood up in the midst of the raging firefight to rally his men against the numerically superior hostile force. Wounded early in the battle, he refused aid and directed the fire of his men on wave after wave of onrushing enemy soldiers. He heard a cry for help and braved withering fire to race forward of his lines and aid a wounded comrade. Wounded again, he bravely carried the man back to safety under heavy fire. He continued to repel the mass assaults while radioing for air strikes within fifty meters of his positions. He sustained another wound while directing the air and artillery strikes, but continued to refuse aid while fighting furiously to repulse the enemy onslaught. Realizing that his defenses could not last much longer, he moved through the bullet-swept area directing the withdrawal of his men. While evacuating the wounded, he was hit again. Continuing to refuse aid, he sent his men ahead and remained to cover the withdrawal. He was mortally wounded while courageously leading his men in the face of grave danger. Platoon Sergeant Litwin's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty, at the cost of his life, were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army."**

**HQ US Army, Vietnam, General Orders No. 5285 (October 16, 1967)**



*"We remember you Sgt. Robert R. Litwin. From the 400+ students who attend Sgt. Robert R. Litwin School in Chicopee, Massachusetts."*

*(continued....)*



**Carl Fredrick Louvring, 19**

**PFC, HHC/173 Bde 5/13/67**

(Virtual Wall states E-Troop/17th Cav)

**HIGH FLIGHT**

*"Oh, I have slipped the surly bonds of earth, And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings; Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth Of sun-split clouds - and done a hundred things you have not dreamed of - wheeled and soared and swung high in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there, I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung my eager craft through footless halls of air. Up, up the long, delirious, burning blue I've topped the windswept heights with easy grace where never lark or even eagle flew. And, while with silent, lifting mind I've trod the high untresspassed sanctity of space, put out my hand, and touched the face of God."*

**John Gillespie Magee, Jr.**

Pilot Officer, Royal Air Force

Killed in flight 11 Dec 1941, aged 19

**From his brother (and eldest of 7 children),**

**Capt. Frederick S. Louvring**

**(semi-retired; Commercial Airlines; ATP B-737 Pilot)**



**Walter Christian Mayer, 19**

**PFC, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

*"Walter, I remember you as fun, full of life and very smart. I don't have many days that go by that I don't remember you and Kimmey Hobbs. Went to the Vietnam Memorial on the Texas State Capitol grounds on Tuesday May 6, 2014. Was almost overcome with emotion thinking and talking about you two. Thank you for your service to our country. You paid the ultimate price so that your family, friends, classmates and countrymen could live in freedom."*

**LCDR Marvin L. Morgenroth, USNR, Retired**

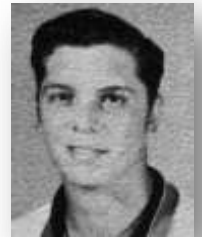


**Ellis A. McBride, Jr., 23**

**1LT, B/2/503, 6/23/67**

*"Ellis went to Pinecrest High School in Lithia, FL. He was one of 3 that were killed from our small community."*

**Marsha Allen Durrance**



**William Stanley McBroom, 20**

**PFC, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

*"William S. McBroom (aka Billy) always had a smile! His fun loving spirit will always be the memory we share. I am his oldest brother, Robert C. McBroom (aka Bob). We had a lot of fun hunting, sledding, fishing, swimming in the river, collapsing caves on each other, swinging from the trees, and eventually going in the service--I in the Air Force stationed in Thailand the same time Billy went in the Army and was sent to Vietnam. He sent me a letter saying we would meet in Bangkok Thailand for rest and relaxation (R&R); instead I got the bad news he was killed and I escorted his body home to New York for burial. The saddest day! Four months later our father joined him after a long illness. We will always cherish the memory of his fun loving spirit and the smile that could light up a room. We often wonder what would have been if he were still here. It doesn't seem possible he passed nearly 46 years ago. Our oldest son is named Robert William for his Dad and Uncle Billy whom he never got to meet. It seems his life, like so many others, were cut short. Their lives had just begun but they were defending our freedom, serving our great country! Often we feel he is watching over us and we think of him often. We will never forget and will always love you!"*

**Bob and Donna McBroom**



**Jimmy Clint Lowry, 20**

**SP4, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

*"We remember. Jimmy is buried at Family Cemetery in*

*Pembroke, NC. BSM PH"* **Robert Sage**



**Gary Allen Luttrell, 18**

**SP4, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

*"Gary, This is Ron Byrd---On June 19, 1967 I met you in Pleiku. I just got in country and you arrived a couple days before me. We talked at the mess hall for about an hour about Sterling and our parents. I guess I was the last person from our home town to see your smile. Ron."* **Ron Byrd**



**Kenneth Frank Matheson, PTE, 6RAR, 5/11/67**



(continued...)



**John Henry McEachin, Jr., 21**  
**SP4, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

*"He was my uncle whom I never had the opportunity to meet and know as my uncle. He was killed in Vietnam without even knowing who I was. I would have liked to have known my father's other brother."* **Lillie M. Epps (McEachin)**




**Note:** See Pages 41-42 for, "Buckets of Blood" by Wambi Cook, A/2/503, a tribute to John McEachin and his other buddies of A/2/503 KIA during *The Battle of the Slopes*, on 22 June 1967.

**Charles Robert Mears, 21**  
**SP4, B/1/503, 6/16/67**

*"It was my honor and privilege to have served in the same platoon as 'Chuck' Mears. Although it's been 37 years I can still visualize his ready smile and guileless ways. I respected Chuck's humility, quiet confidence, inner-strength, and easy-going manner. I never met a more trustworthy, dependable man. God bless all of you, family and friends! From a fellow Skysoldier."*

**Gilbert D. Hill**



 **Stephen Adam Mika, 22**  
**PFC, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

*"I still remember our friendship from elementary school. I remember when you moved away. I remember when you came to visit when you graduated from high school. I remember when you told me that you were leaving to go Vietnam. I will always remember our friendship. Although you know that I think about you from time to time, I think it is time to put it in writing: Rest in peace, dear friend."* **Anthony Armenti**



**Donald Martin Munden, 18**  
**PFC, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

*"I never got the chance to hold your hand. I never got the chance to sit on your lap. I never got the chance to thank you. All of us are so very proud to call you family. I want to show them that my Great Uncle was a hero and how much he was loved."* **Sandi Sibona**



**William Arthur Munn, 18**  
**PFC, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

*"I can't remember my uncle. All I remember are the pictures and me crying to sleep because I didn't know him."* **Amanda**



**Timothy John Murphy, 19**  
**PFC, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

*"My mother attended your wake. She said your dad could only stare at you. I can only imagine what he was thinking. I wish I had known you. I wish you had made it home here. I thank you for what you did for our country. God bless you."* **Patch**



**Note:** The photo shown on the *Wall of Faces* website in connection with William Munn and Timothy Murphy is the same photo. Rather than show no photo at all, we included the picture with the tributes for both men. Ed



**Daniel Lee Negro, 20**  
**PFC, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

*"Danny I miss and think of you all the time, wish we were still able to go bird hunting again, with your Dad, but he's gone too, lonely without the both of you. Love, your Cuz."* **Sid**



**Jerry Lynn Noe, 18**  
**PFC, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

*"I love you little brother. Jerry, I love you very much and think of you every day. I wish that I had told you how much I loved you before we lost you. I love you very much. Big Brother Dale."* **Dale Noe**



**Michael Donald O'Connor, 20**  
**SP4, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

*"My brother was always happy. He was a joy to his parents and his siblings and had many close friends who spent their social times together. He was a hard worker and always wanting to help others. He went to the Army and had his five buddies all sign up at the same time. He turned down officers school because he wanted to really get into the thick of things if he was going to fight for his country. He knew he wouldn't come home; he gave everything away and resigned to dying for his country. He died as a paratrooper, about three weeks after his 19th birthday. He and I were as close as twins. My grief has lasted a lifetime. He was a treasure. We all miss him so much and wonder how much our lives would have been enriched."*

**Judith A. Decker**



(continued...)



**John Laurence O'Hara, SPR, 1 FD SQN, 5/20/67**

**Michael Parker, 20  
PFC, HHC/2/503, 6/27/67**

*"We remember. Michael is buried at St Raymond's Cemetery (New), Bronx, NY."* **Robert Sage**



**George "Doc" Patton, 19, PFC, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

(Virtual Wall states HHC/2/503)

*"My childhood friend. Thank you for your sacrifice."*

**Pedro Pabon**

**Note: Administratively, most if not all of our Medics were assigned to HHC/2/503, though during combat missions they would be attached to one of our line companies. Ed**

**John Perry Patton, 26  
SGT, A/2/503, 6/22/67**


*"Not a day go's by I think of you and the good times were had while you were in Oregon staying with us, Love Man."* **Unsigned**



**Nguyen Phuc  
SGT, HHC/2/503, 6/23/67**

*"Phuc was our battalion scout/interpreter, and our hooch buddy in '65/'66. He spent his life at war, and gave his life on the Slopes at Dak To. He was a good friend and a good man. I had so hoped to see him again."* **Lew Smith**



 **George Albert Poor, Jr., 19  
PFC, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

*"I had a bunk across from George in AIT at Fort Gordon, Georgia. I did not know him well, but remember one instance clearly. We were in our final weeks of training before Christmas leave. We had to do an Escape and Evade and I was 'captured.' We had heard a rumor that in the enemy stockade where there was a three hole privy with the center hole an escape to the outside. I tried it and as I poked my head out there was George in a guard tower as an NVA giving me the all clear sign. I escaped. Thanks George and God bless you."* **Jack Bradford**



**Leonard Burton Poore, 20  
SP4, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

*"Before Leonard Poore became a soldier and gave his life for his country, he was just another good ol' boy from Texas, easy going & hard working. There was something special about him that makes knowing him also special. SP4 Poore started his military career with the rest of us 'cheese dicks' in SSG Dugar's 2nd Platoon, B Co., 4th Bn, 1st Training Bde, Ft. Polk, LA. We were enlistees-Airborne Infantry all the way. We were sure green dumb asses. SSG Dugar, SFC Lomax, the Field 1SG, & the rest of the NCOs & officers of B Co. turned us into half assed soldiers with attitude. I know the Nam turned Leonard into more than he wanted to be - a hero. We the surviving members of 3rd Platoon salute you. We don't question the why & how, we can only remember & wished we'd gotten to know you even better. May God bless your soul & comfort your family."*

**Larry Brannon, Kennesaw, GA and Joe Mayfield, Birmingham, AL**



**Robert Lee Preddy, 19  
SP4, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

*"Thought Dream. I walk through the scented air of summer Into the frozen air of winter, And as tears inside me fall The pain of old wounds Calls me to mend them, And I realize once more That things done before Have no ending. I feel the cold of eve slowly waning. As sun burst rays of warmth overtake me. And the twisted seeds of doubt Which spread my sins about Lie parched and withered. And the present not the past Claims me at the last For me, it's not over. Bob, you were my boyhood friend but, you died a man in a place that few people could understand. Thank You for your sacrifice and courage. I Salute you my friend. May you rest in peace. Your friend through eternity."* **Chuck Selby**



**Samuel Proctor, Jr., 21, CPL, B/4/503, 5/22/67**

*"We remember. Samuel is buried at King Cemetery, St Simons Island, GA. PH"* **Robert Sage**



(continued...)



**Floyd Elmer Quarles, 20**  
**PFC, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

*"To my Uncle. Thank you uncle Floyd for your service. Too bad I didn't get to meet you, but I've heard about you and had to look you up. I even posted a copy of this photo of you given to put a face with the name. RIP dear uncle."* **Unsigned**



**Warren H. Schrobilgen, Jr., 19**  
**PFC, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

*"I never got to meet you, Uncle Herbie, but my Mother spoke very highly of you and loved you very much. May you and her Rest In Peace."*  
**David Norris**



**Terrence James Renshaw, SPR, 1 FD SQN, 5/30/67**

**Ralph Joseph Rizzi, 20**  
**SP4, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

*"Always remembered. Ralph is buried at Woodlawn Cemetery, Canandaigua, Ontario County, NY."*  
**Robert Sage**



**Jeffrey Ross Sexton, 22**  
**2LT, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

*"Jeff, your heroism is more significant to me as each year passes. I am so grateful for the opportunity to find remembrances of you on the net. We miss you and look forward to the day we are all together again in a place where there is no war or hatred. We adore your friend John Edward Carnes and just knowing him helps us know what a fine man you were, though you were still so young...way too young to leave this earth. You died for something you believed in, freedom for all. Only those who have lost someone as we did you, can know that even after all these years your absence is still felt. God bless those men and their families that serve this country. Love to you, your sister, Chris."*  
**Chris Korbesmeyer**



**James Ruddy, T/SGT, AFV DET, 5/30/67**

**Trine Romero, Jr., 20**  
**PFC, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

*"Trine was my uncle I never got to meet. He died four years before I was born. I always hear what a good person (big brother) he was from my mom. I think of him often as it saddens me to know he died so young and under those circumstances. I have two boys of my own and couldn't imagine them in a war like that and how scared he must have been. I'm honored to call him my uncle."* **Renee**



**John Sharber, Jr., 20**  
**SP4, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

*"Almost 46 years since I last saw You, and the hurt never diminishes"*  
**Wambi Cook**



**Hector Mario Saenz, 20**  
**PFC, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

*"We remember. Hector is buried at Cementerio Municipal Nuevo Casa Grandes, Chil, Mexico. PH"*  
**Robert Sage**



**Lloyd Edgar Smith, 21**  
**SP4, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

*"Lloyd is still deeply missed by all those who loved and knew him. He was 22 years old at the time of his death. As a sister, it is so hard to read about what occurred during the battle that took so many brave lives, especially my brother's life. However, when a son, brother, husband, father, etc. is killed fighting for the Country we all hold so dear to our hearts we want to know what, where, how and when it occurred. Thanks goes to all those that took the time to tell your story about the events that took place at Dak To on June 22, 1967. I for one cannot thank you enough. From his sister."*  
**Linda Smith-Goldsberry**



**James Walter Sanford, 20, PFC, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

*"We remember. James is buried at Memorial Park Cemetery, Orangeburg, SC."* **Robert Sage**



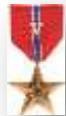
(continued...)





**Charles Harry Snow, 19**  
**PFC, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

*"Charles was an older brother to Billy Ray, James and Clarence Snow. Charles was adopted in love by many in Jacksonville, Oregon. He was a role model for Cub Scouts! He loved the outdoors, fishing and spending time with his family and friends! He will always be honored and missed!"* **Linda Hinkle Nelson**



**Johnson A. Steidler, 19**  
**PFC, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

*"So much the better, for we shall fight them in the shade."*

- Leonidas, Spartan King -  
 - Battle of Thermopylae, 480BC -  
 From his brother, **Ron Steidler**



**David Allen Stephens, 20**  
**SGT, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

*"REMEMBERED by his wife."*

**Patricia A. Stephens**



**David Richard Stephenson, 18**  
**PFC, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

*"David, I miss you all the time. But especially around the holidays. I have been to the wall 2 times and been to the small traveling wall also twice. Even now, tears well up in my eyes... because you were the soul that kept our family together. I love you and hope to see you on the other side. Love, Your baby sister."* **Betty Lou**



**Robert Louis Stevens, Jr., 18**  
**PFC, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

*"What you did in the line of duty will never be forgotten.....You will always remain strong in our hearts...."*

**Unsigned.**



**Fa'Asviliga V. Tafao, 21**  
**PFC, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

*"Dear Saviliga, So many years have passed since you've left us...our family has grown and things have changed, but you have always been in our hearts and never been far from our thoughts. I was so young when you left us but our family is so good at keeping everyone's memory alive that you have never really been gone. We miss you very much and we love you even more. Rest in peace big cousin, Love, Jackie."*



**John Roy Tighe, 20, PFC, B/2/503, 5/17/67**

*"We remember. John is buried at Los Angeles Nat Cem. BSM AM PH"* **Robert Sage**

**Larry Burns Turner, 21**  
**SP4, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

*"We remember. Larry is buried at Oakboro Cemetery in Oakboro, NC. PH"*  
**Robert Sage**



**William Coy Turner, 21**  
**SP4, C/4/503, 5/17/67**

*"REMEMBERED by his family."*



**Daniel Viramontes Valdez, 20**  
**PFC, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

*"After 49 years, you are still the love of my life. The time together lives with me forever."*

**Marcella Valdez Rico**



**Charlie Lewis Walker, 20, PFC, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

*"Charlie was a distant cousin of mine. I never met him. If anyone who knew him would like to write to me, I'd love to hear from you. I am tracing my family tree and would love to hear any information about him that you may have. My name is Claudetta Walker Morgan and you can e-mail me at [CMor36201@aol.com](mailto:CMor36201@aol.com)."*

(Posted 12/8/98)



(continued....)



**Willie Craig Warren, 20**  
**SP4, 173d Eng, 6/22/67**

*"Willie Craig, remembering the years that we grew up in Crockett (Lacy Hill, Fifth Ward) and all the times that we played 'Combat' War with our BB Guns; it was a precursor to our subsequent military service, YOU along with Ruzzell Gray, Sam Williams, and Henry Earl (Lil Bro) Robbins gave the ULTIMATE SACRIFICE! I have remembered you from our childhood, from my TIS (9th Inf Div), and beyond, I shall continue to remember YOU, Ruzzell, SAM, and 'Lil Bro'! From the HEART, Brothers in Spirit-Brothers in Arms-Brothers FOREVER!!!!!"*

**J. Johnson**



## Valor Awards Earned By Our Men

We've listed valor awards here in connection with our men KIA as reflected in source records. It is highly likely awards are not shown for many of our fallen troopers, but had been earned by them. Also, it's likely many of the Bronze Star awards shown here were for Valor, although available records do not reflect the "V" device....*Heroes All.* Ed

Sources:


173d Abn Bde KIA List  
RAR & NZ KIA Lists from the Web  
Virtualwall.org  
Wall of Faces

**Michael J. Waterman, 20**  
**PFC, A/2/593, 6/22/67**

*"Our son. Michael J. Waterman was born on March 16, 1947. He attended Westminster School, graduating in June 1966. He was a Boy Scout, in Little League and manager of his high school football team. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, camping, hiking, skiing, and gymnastics. Michael entered the Army in Sept. 1966. He trained at Ft. Dix, N.J., then Ft. Gordon, GA and airborne training at Ft. Benning, GA. He went to Vietnam April 8, 1967 where he was killed in Dak To on June 22, 1967 in a battle with North Vietnamese regulars."*

**Mr. and Mrs. D. Rodney Waterman**



 **Edwin Jerome Williams, 20**  
**PFC, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

*"We remember. Edwin is buried at Memorial Park Cemetery in Warren, MI. BSM PH"* **Robert Sage**  
(See newspaper report about Robert On Page 57)



 **Alexander C. Zsigo, Jr., 21**  
**SP4, A/2/503, 6/22/67**

*"This is for my oldest brother 'Chuckie' whom I waited for to come home, but never did. He was my hero who gave his life for our country, becoming a hero for all. I hope to soon add pictures and articles about my hero Chuckie. Thank you for reading about my brother. Please come back soon to view the added remembrances, and please add your own."*

**Love, lil\_sis** (Wall of Faces website)



*"It's our job to remember."*

**Mark Carter, 173d LRRP**





# 173d Airborne Brigade Association



~ Candidates for President of the 173d Airborne Brigade Association ~

## TERRY AUBREY

*“Leadership you can count on”*



- VP since 2012
- Revitalized Sky Soldier Store
- Secured logo trademarks
- Designed and developed 50th Anniversary ‘challenge’ coins

## WAMBI COOK

*“Proven leadership for the future”*



### Goals:

If elected, I will immediately apply for an IRS Group Exemption Number to provide blanket IRS Tax Exempt status for all Chapters. This will allow the individual Chapters to solicit monies, goods and services, a business strategy that has been long overdue.

I will carry on the challenge to bring the Association into the 21st century by making it more viable and relevant to the growing number of second generation Sky Soldiers without sacrificing the continued objectives of the Viet Nam era first generation.

I will vigorously strive to ease the way the new troopers are transitioned into civilian life thus opening a faster track for association recruitment.

I will encourage the second generation to take hold of the mantle of leadership within the Association. This will ensure our rightful legacy of distinction among the elite warriors of the past 50+ years.

The Gold Star component of the Association demands strong leadership. I will ensure competent persons assume this vital post.

Give full support to both the Memorial and Foundation elements.

-----  
“The Spring 2017 issue of the *Sky Soldier* magazine should contain an official ballot that can be completed by Members and mailed by US mail to Chapter 30 who will count the ballots. When the Spring 2017 issue is published, online voting instructions will be emailed to all Members who have a valid email address and are current on their annual membership dues or hold a lifetime membership.”

## ELDON MEADE

*“Experience that Matters”*



Former President of four Chapters:

- Chapter 3, Ft. Benning, GA,
- Chapter 20, United Desert, AZ,
- Chapter 25, Thunderbird, Phoenix AZ,
- Chapter 8, of the Inland Northwest WA.

- Agenda -

1. —Establish supportive membership team for advising chapters for retention and recruitment.
2. —Establish a network of Certified Veteran Service Officers supporting our personnel.
3. —Establish a network of family support for transitioning 173d personnel into local areas.

*Airborne....All The Way!*





# INCOMING!



## ~ Chargin' Charlie ~

Just talked with Tony Legmon (C/2/503). He was the trooper that Doc Levy and Doc Brown was carrying in that now famous photo. I forwarded our newsletter to him and he would appreciate being added. Thanks so much for keeping our 2/503 alive.

**Johnny Graham**  
C/2/503



L-R: Doc Levy (KIA), Tony Legmon C/2/503, (WIA), and Doc Brown, near Thoung Lang, 24 Jun 65.  
(Photo by the late Horst Faas)

## ~ Two Airborne Warriors ~



Photo from Col. Bob Sigholtz, 2/503 Bn CO, his inscription:  
"Al Rascon (1/503rd, MOH) and I at the reactivation of 2/503rd in Vicenza, Italy, Jan. '02".

## ~ Memorial at Campbell ~

This is on display at Ft. Campbell, KY. This is one of my JROTC students and his son.

**John W. Searcy, Sr. "Top"**  
HHC/2/503, '65/'66



Inscription reads:

### **AIRBORNE-ALL THE WAY**

**THIS MEMORIAL IS DEDICATED  
TO THE 173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE  
(SKY SOLDIERS)  
THOSE WHO SERVED,  
THOSE WHO HAVE FOUGHT,  
THOSE WHO HAVE FALLEN,  
AND THOSE WHO CONTINUE TO SERVE.**

**"TIEN BIEN"**

**25 JUNE 1963 TO 14 JANUARY 1972  
REACTIVATED  
12 JUNE 2000  
VICENZA, ITALY**

*(Incoming continued....)*



## ~ Proud of Her Sky Soldier ~

Thanks for this current issue of the newsletter (March-April, Issue 72). It never ceases to amaze me how relevant and poignant these newsletters are to the people like Steven (Haber) and Wayne (Hoitt) and AB (Garcia) and Craig (Ford) and all the other Airborne soldiers that I do not know.

Steven and I just returned from a trip to Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand and Singapore. While this was just a pleasure trip, I am still cognizant of the fact that that part of the world would have been so much different if the Vietnam War, or the American War, as they call it, had not happened. For good or bad, it doesn't matter - politically or philosophically - I still am so proud of "my" soldier, Steven, for his role in it and his bravery -- even though he thinks he was just doing it to double his pay!

Love,

**Joan Haber**

**Wife of Steven Haber, C/2/503, '65/'66**

Thanks Joan. We're proud of Steven too. Ed



**Joan & Steve Haber at Sky Soldier George Farris' home in Bangkok, Thailand during earlier trip to Southeast Asia in 2001.** (Photo by George)

## ~ This is *YOUR* Newsletter ~

You gave up a year or a number of years in combat for your buddies and in service to your country. Your service and sacrifice, and that of your fellow Sky Soldiers, should not go unrecorded. Send in your stories, photos, tributes, and newspaper articles of the time to [rto173@att.net](mailto:rto173@att.net) so we may capture our shared history for generations to come. ATW! Ed

## ~ Chapter 17: Keeper of the Flag ~

Gang, I was finally able to get in touch with DUANE WILCOX. As a Chapter 17 member Duane has just become this year's *Keeper of the Flag*. Duane lives in Newark, Ohio and is a retired postal carrier of some 25 years.

Every year Duane has donated to the Chapter what he calls his "jump pay". He does this every three or four months and he invites all other members to once in a while give up their jump pay as donation to the Chapter.

Last year he donated over \$400., and as a result I thought it fitting that he should be the this year's Keeper of the Flag.

The flag, of course, flew at the command post of the 173d in Afghanistan and was presented to Chapter 17 (with a written plaque) by the 503d,. The flag moves around each year to a donating Chapter member. Last year it was in Kentucky.



**Sky Soldier Duane Wilcox, Keeper of the Flag**

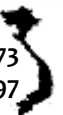
Duane served with Headquarters of the 319th in Viet Nam. He served his tour from November of 1967 to November of 1968. Since retiring from the postal service he spends his time putting unbelievable miles on his motorcycle. He encourages the Herd members to donate one penny for every mile he puts on the road. This too he will give to the Chapter.

He has a Dodge show truck that has won numerous awards. (-) You have to see it with your own eyes. The Chapter sends a sincere *Airborne* to Duane and wish him luck in all the other vehicle shows.

Thank you Duane Wilcox, our *Keeper of the Flag*. We won't hold it against him but Duane is a Penn State football fan. (-).

*All The Way!*

**William Terry**  
**A/3/319**



# LTC Bill White

## 2/503 Bn XO, 1964~1965

Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) William E. White of Fort Myers, Florida, passed away on March 20, 2017. He was 91 years old. Bill is survived by his wife of 66 years, Shirley (nee Harvey) and two children, daughter Mary Jean Botbyl (Jerry) of Ringwood, NJ and son William "Bill" White. Also, many grandchildren and great grandchildren. He was a member of the St Luke's Episcopal Church.



Bill was born at Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, DC. He graduated ROTC from the University of Maryland. Bill served his country proudly in the US Army for 25 years. His service included Lieutenant, Platoon Leader, 1st Infantry Division (The Big Red One) in Germany. After a short tour at Fort Dix, Bill went to Korea and was Captain in the 7th Infantry Division. From there Bill was assigned in 1959 to the University of Detroit ROTC.

After being promoted to Major, Bill was assigned to Fort Carson, then Fort Polk where he was Battalion Commander. In 1963 he joined the 173d Airborne Brigade (Sep) in Okinawa. He was Commandant of the Jungle Warfare Training School on the Island of Irimote. He was Executive Officer of the 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment on Okinawa and then Vietnam. Bill finished his distinguished career as Lieutenant Colonel at Fort Monroe, VA.

After his military career, Bill and his family moved to Franklin Lakes, NJ where he had a business career that spanned 12 years. Upon retirement, Bill and Shirley moved to Long Beach Island, NJ. They eventually settled in Fort Myers, FL where Bill and Shirley have lived the last 13 years.

He was buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers please make donations to the 173d Airborne Brigade Association Foundation, c/o Treasurer Jerry L. Cooper CPA, 4004 Sheffield, Muskogee, OK 74403-8557.

*All The Way, Sir!*

# SGM Richard A. Banks Jr.

## B/2/503

FAYETTEVILLE — Remembering the life of Mr. Richard Albert Banks, Jr.

SGM (Ret.) Richard A. Banks, Jr. was born to the late Elder Albert and Chessielene Banks on March 12, 1941 in Birmingham, Alabama. On Monday December 12, 2016, Our Heavenly Father said it was time to come home for eternal rest.

Richard leaves to cherish his wife of 39 years, Elizabeth L. Banks and four children; Ricky L. Deberry of Fayetteville, NC; Dr. Garrison Gerald-Banks of Atlanta, GA; Sharon Gerald-Johnson (Jarvis) of Greensboro, NC; Alrick L. Banks of Fayetteville, NC. They have four grandchildren: Tiffany R. Deberry of Grovetown, GA, Autumn Jordan of Garfield, GA, Maia E. and Amari C. Johnson of Greensboro, NC; two great-grandchildren: Malik T. and Amani M. Deberry of Grovetown, GA. He leaves three sisters: Aquila Richet (Randy); Gladys and Margaret Banks. His only brother, Elder Samuel Banks, preceded him in death.

*Rest With the Warriors Bravo Bull*



## Mortality Rate Is High, Purple Hearts Are Many

# Meet Bravo Company: Bloody But Not Beaten

By Tom Tiede  
Newspaper Enterprise Assoc.



Tom Tiede in Vietnam. Tom was a guest and speaker at one of our 2/503 reunions held in Cocoa Beach, FL.

**BIEN HOA, Viet Nam** – The boy dropped his duffle bag in the middle of the tent and looked around at the dust. He was a replacement. . .youngish, a peeling nose, and dripping skin.

“UH”, he mumbled, “*this B Company?*”

A man in the rear was washing his socks. Others slept. One played with a dog. Somebody was scratching out a letter.

“*This is it fella.*”

The boy felt hollow. His pants seemed too tight. His feet hurt, he was thirsty. He stood ill at ease, and removed his cap.

“*What kinda outfit is it?*” he asked.

At that the room stirred. Several people chuckled. A guy blew his nose. The man washing his socks said: “*It’s tough, boy, tough. Just wait’ll you see us jump without parachutes.*”

“*Huh?*”

“*This is Bravo Company, kid....welcome to hell.*”

“*Gee,*” the lad gulped, “*no kidding?*”

No kidding. Hardly anyway. B Company, 503rd Infantry is as near hell as one can come in this combat. Fifteen dozen men from 18 to 38, who are bedfellows with death.

They call it Bloody Bravo here, and the name fits like a grape skin. For 11 months they have forfeited more wounded, faced more hostilities and survived more calamities than most comparable units in this war.

Last May a Bravo sergeant became the first casualty of the conflict for the 173rd Airborne Brigade. It was prophetic. Since then the beleaguered men from B have spilled enough blood in the jungles of Viet Nam to beggar the imagination.

They have more Purple Hearts than salt tablets.... some 110 have gotten one, dozens have two, a few three, and one, Joseph Rosado of New York has four – one each for arm, leg, shoulder and chest wounds.

### **Six Officers Gone**

Such is the mortality rate, in fact, of 180 men on the original company roster, only 66 are left...and of them, only 26 have survived unmarked.

All six of the original officers have departed – either on carry-alls or otherwise. Nine sergeants have been killed or evacuated.

One platoon has gone through three lieutenants.

The company is under its fifth captain.

And no wonder. Bravo has taken part in a dozen major operations, scores of lesser fire-fights and thousands of patrols.

To compound the hazards, they draw the enemy like insects on a sucker. In a recent three-hour holocaust they were caught inside a horseshoe ambush and several hundred of the other side emptied everything but canteen water on their unprotected position.

One hundred - sixty men walked into that trap.

### **Good Men Gone**

Sixty-one of them had to be carried out.

In D Zone, on Operation Crimp, during the Marauder exercise, and in the rancid rice fields of the Delta, Bloody Bravo has given and taken – lives for lives. Zinn, Olive, Baker, Rich, and dozens more...all good men, now dead.

The First Platoon alone has been down to 10 survivors or less three times. In January, they lost 28 in a single two-hour battle.

But, for all of it, Bravo’s battered have seen at least as much heroics as horror. Two have been submitted for, or received Distinguished Service Crosses, four for Silver Stars, thirty-three for Bronze Stars and 14 for Army Commendation Medals.

(continued....)



One of them, a Negro who cared for men of every race, is both typical and unique. He forfeited his life for his fellows....on top of an exploding grenade.

**On Top of Grenade**

They have asked for him the Medal of Honor.



Milton Lee Olive, III, "Skipper", a Bravo Bull and recipient of the Medal of Honor.



But heroes they all are, grimy, gallant GIs. Boys who may grow up in a daybreak assault....and then not live to see sunset. Men who have fought for nearly a year.

Bravo Company. . .bloodied they have been for a fact.

But beaten? Not yet, nor ever.

-----  
Tom Tiede's report appeared in *The Albuquerque Tribune*, April 18, 1966. (Photos added)



Bravo Bulls. If you *must* go to war; go with these guys.



From the archives, date unknown...

# Vietnam veterans recall young hero

By Tom McCann

Tribune staff reporter

It has been almost 40 years since a scrawny soft-spoken young private named Milton Olive jumped on a grenade to save four men he hardly knew. But his comrades from the 173rd Airborne Brigade haven't forgotten.

More than 150 Vietnam veterans from Olive's company quietly gathered Sunday morning at the lakefront park that now bears his name to honor his heroism.



Olive Park, near Navy Pier in Chicago

They shared stories and a few tears before laying a row of American flags at the foot of Olive's memorial, saying it was the least they could do for a young man from the South Side who showed them what it meant to be a soldier.

*"Not a day goes by when I don't think about what he did. It takes a special character to give up your life like that,"* said Ed Johnson, 58, a paratrooper who was friends with Olive in Vietnam.

*"You'd like to think you'd do the exact same thing in the same situation. But he lived up to it. He was a true hero."*

For his valor, Olive posthumously received the Medal of Honor in 1966. He became the eighth African-American, and the only African-American from Chicago, to win the nation's highest military honor.

Olive had been in Vietnam only four months when his platoon was ambushed in the jungles near Phu Cuong in October 1965.

As five soldiers clung together for their lives, a grenade landed in their midst, and the 18 year-old Olive screamed "Look out!"

With no time to react, he quickly held it to his chest, absorbing the explosion with his body.

Thanks to his courage, four others, including Olive's platoon leader, are alive today, but none was well enough to attend Sunday's event.

The surviving members of the 173rd Airborne Brigade and Olive's company, the "Bravo Bulls," met in Chicago this week to celebrate their 36th annual convention and reunion.

They closed out the week with the solemn ceremony at Olive Park near Navy Pier.

*"We gather together today as Sky Soldiers to remember a soldier with whom we marched,"* Lt. Col. Roy S. Lombardo, Olive's old commander, told the crowd. *"He was a soldier who loved his fellow soldiers so much he was willing to sacrifice his life to protect them. His deeds are recorded now in history."*



Lt. Col. Roy S. Lombardo (facing camera) of Baltimore hugs Bob Warfield of Lakewood, Wash., on Sunday in Olive Park in Chicago. (Tribune photo by Nancy Stone)

Philip Moulaison, a federal judge in Phoenix, Ariz., remembers Olive having a lively sense of humor. Lombardo saw him almost every day reading his Bible.

But Johnson and Olive forged a special bond because both were from the South Side.

*"When you're out there fighting on the other side of the world, you stick with the guys from back home,"* he said.

Every Memorial Day for the last 17 years, Johnson arrives at the park at 8 a.m. to lay a wreath for his fallen friend. He was angry at himself Sunday for forgetting a new wreath this time.

*"I'm going to keep doing it until I can't do it anymore,"* said Johnson, an elementary school math teacher in Chicago. *"Until I'm buried myself, I'm going to make sure no one forgets this man."* 🇺🇸



# The Snake Killer and The Other Sergeant

Thanks for the info and picture of Camp Zinn. I can still remember that area.



Photo sent to Tom of Camp Zinn taken by our former battalion commander, Col. George Dexter.

Enclosed is a copy of an original hand drawing of myself and Sgt. Tate. Sgt. Tate's drawing in charcoal was done in the Camp Zinn compound in late March '66, just a couple of hours before the Company departed on an Eagle Flight into the Iron Triangle. Howard Brodie, a war correspondent for UPI accompanied us on that strike.

During the tedious search and destroy mission, we took a break to eat a lunch of C rats. It was during this break that I noticed an odd looking snake (about 28" in length) crawling in the grass close to where Mr. Brodie was sitting, eating his lunch. I said, "*Brodie, don't move, there is a krait in the grass by your foot*". I eased over to where he was sitting and cut off the snakes' head with my Haubu knife I had brought with me when we deployed to NAM from Okinawa.

Upon returning to Camp Zinn a couple of days later, Mr. Brodie approached me about drawing my picture to be submitted to UPI. I posed for him approximately 2 hours while he did the drawing. I never heard anything further from Mr. Brodie or any other stories of his rambl'ns in NAM.

My mother, who lived in Stockport, Ohio received a letter from a niece that was attending Ohio State University. She was taking Art as one of her subjects and during one of her classes the instructor handed each student a copy of the original drawing Howard Brodie had given him. He wanted each student to try drawing the pictures of me and Tate. Immediately, my cousin recognized me and the address printed on the drawing and asked the instructor if the original could be given to my mother....Hence, that is how I finally ended up with it. It hangs on the wall in my office next to the picture of Camp Zinn that I now have.

*AIRBORNE!*

**Tom Wallace**  
**A/2/503, '65/'66**



**"SNAKE KILLER: Sgt. Thomas Wallace of Stockport, Ohio, killed a deadly 'five step' snake on the trail."**



**"WAITING to take part in the Brigade Search and Destroy mission in Zone D is Sgt. James Tate of Bogalusa, La."**



# This Is How US Paratroopers Were Trained During WWII – It Was No Picnic

Dec 6, 2016 Joris Nieuwint



In 1930, the US Army experimented with the concept of parachuting three-man heavy-machine-gun teams. Nothing came of these early experiments.

The first US airborne unit began as a test platoon formed from part of the 29th Infantry Regiment, in July 1940. The platoon leader was 1st Lieutenant William T. Ryder, who made his first paratroop jump for the US Military on August 13, 1940, at Lawson Field, Fort Benning, GA from a B-18 Bomber. He was immediately followed by Private William N. King, the first enlisted soldier to make a parachute jump.

Although airborne units were not popular with the top U.S. Army commanders, President Franklin D. Roosevelt sponsored the concept, and Major General William C. Lee organized the first paratroop platoon. This led to the Provisional Parachute Group, and then the United States Airborne Command. General Lee was the first commander at the new parachute school at Fort Benning, in west-central Georgia.

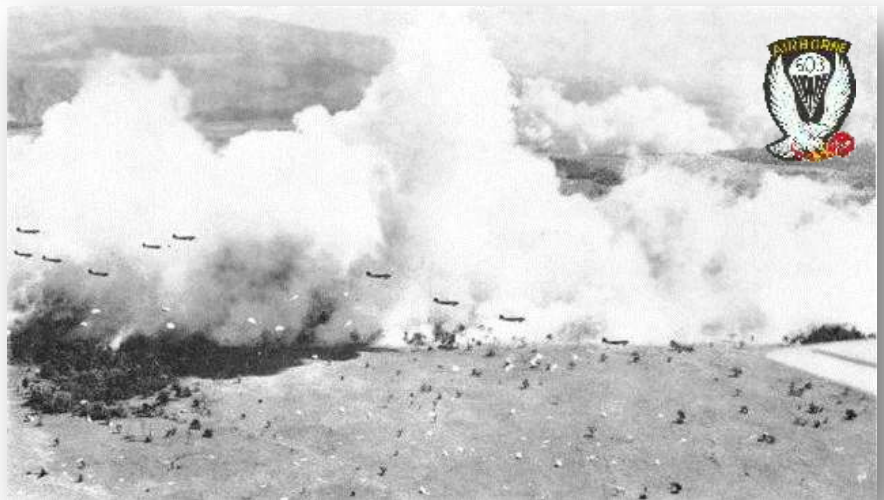
The US Army regards Major General William C. Lee as the father of the Airborne.

The first US Army Combat Jump was near Oran, Algeria, in North Africa on November 8, 1942, conducted by elements of the 509th Parachute Infantry. In Europe, this was followed by jumps on Sicily, in France both at Normandy and on the South Coast, The

Netherlands, and Germany by The 17th, 82nd, and 101st Airborne, together with airborne Divisions and brigades from the UK, France, Poland and others.

In the Pacific theater, Paratroopers were used in the Philippines, New Guinea, and in Burma.

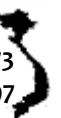
The US 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment, elements of the Australian Army's 2/4th Field Regiment and an ad hoc Parachute battalion group made up of personnel from the 153 and 154 (Gurkha) Parachute Battalions of the Indian Army were used in these landings.



*"September 5, 1943. C-47 transport planes, silhouetted against clouds of smoke created to provide cover, drop a battalion of the U.S. 503d Parachute Regiment and elements of the Australian Army's 2/4th Field Regiment at Nadzab, New Guinea, during the Battle of Lae. A battalion dropped minutes earlier is landing in the foreground."*

Source:

<https://m.warhistoryonline.com/world-war-ii/us-paratroopers-were-trained-during-wwii-x.html>



# A CHARLIE MORRIS STORY

This is my favorite war story, also, Sgt. Morris is my favorite combat NCO. His leadership style was quirky, unique, and invariably, right on target.

Charlie Morris joined the Third Platoon of A/2/503 in early February 1966, as the squad leader of the weapons squad. He was a Korean War veteran, a no nonsense "old school" NCO. He knew when not to get in your face and tell you you were stupid, when you already knew you were stupid. And, he knew when to kick you in the ass when you needed an ass kicking. He was a good NCO.

The Third Platoon was the maneuver platoon on the 27th of February 1966, at Phu Loi. When the shit hit the fan, our platoon was to move around on the right flank and roll up the left flank of the bad guys like an old newspaper. The gunfire was intense. There was a lot of noise and a lot of confusion. As we moved around to the right, there was a lot of gunfire, and many explosions. By the time the third platoon got on the right and on line, there were only ten or fifteen of us. We did not surprise the bad guys. They knew we were there and they greeted us with the heaviest gunfire of my Vietnam experience. Twigs and branches were flying everywhere, small trees were being cut down by their "50's". It was intense.

I was a machine gunner. As my assistant gunner, Mac Holmes, and I got on line the gunfire from the bad guys intensified. I was surprised that any of us were still alive. We couldn't see the bad guys but we could sure feel the effects of their gunfire. Holmes and I began to return the fire. We fired low. Left to right and back left again. If we couldn't roll up their flank, I was going to make damn sure that they didn't roll up ours.

The firing was continuous. I was sure no one could move without getting hit. Holmes and I just kept firing that M-60. *Left to right, right to left.* A couple of the guys around us got hit. We just kept working that M-60. Then, I caught a movement out of the corner of my eye. It was that new Sgt., Sgt. Morris, and he was moving toward me. What's that dumb shit doing, I thought.

As I kept firing the machine gun I watched Sgt. Morris move closer and closer to me. He wasn't slithering



Jim Healy, A/2/503

under the leaves and brush, burrowing half under the ground, which was the only way I thought anyone could move without getting hit in the face by the incoming fire. He was moving in a formal, if there is such a thing, Army low crawl. His M-16 was cradled in his arms, his head was up, he was looking where he was going, straight toward me. That dumb sonofabitch is going to get shot, I thought. Elbow, knee, elbow, knee he kept coming toward me.

If he's heading this way, risking his life, it must be to tell me something, I thought. Why the hell doesn't he just yell it out? God knows, there was plenty of yelling going on. Elbow, knee, elbow, knee he just kept coming. I must be missing something, I thought. He must see something I don't see. There is some target, some target of opportunity I'm missing. I looked harder into the underbrush as I kept firing left to right, right to left. I couldn't see anything new. I kept firing and Sgt. Morris kept coming. *Elbow, knee, elbow, knee.*

Finally, he got up next to me. He was smiling. He was chewing on a cigar stub. He shoved his face up close to mine and said, "*Makes you feel like you're in a real war, don't it Healy?*" Then, he turned and elbow, knee, elbow, knee headed back to his position.

I can't think of Charlie Morris without thinking of this story. It still makes me smile today. What a magnificent NCO. What a magnificent man.

Jim Healy  
A/2/503, '65/'66



1931 ~ 1996

SSG Charles Bedford Morris  
A/2/503 RVN, recipient of the  
Medal of Honor.



## The MOH or DSC which never was...

*Tribute to Medic Malcolm Crayton Berry, HHC/2/503 attached to A/2/503 on 29 June 1966, during the Battle at Xuan Loc, in a letter by SGM Charlie Morris, MOH, A/2/503. Malcolm, another of our fallen men who officially went unrecognized for his heroic actions and ultimate sacrifice during combat. Ed*



Sp Berry totally disregarded the incoming fire and assisted the wounded man to a position that offered some cover where he could treat the wounds. When my comrade was safe, I started to fire and move my own way back to 3rd Platoon.

Sp Berry again left his position under heavy fire and came to my assistance. He treated my wounds and ordered me to lie down while he tried to control bleeding from a large chest wound. I refused to stay down and started to crawl away to a position where I could get involved in the fight. Sp Berry actually held me down then sat on me to keep me from leaving.

Enemy fire was increasing as they became better organized and I had to get involved in 3rd Platoon's defenses. Since retreat was impossible without leaving our wounded, we had to fight. Sp Berry had to release me because other wounded men needed his skill.

He ordered me to stay close to his position so he could keep my wounds under observation. I saw Sp Berry get wounded and went to his assistance. He was badly wounded and would have bled to death without quick medical attention.

I stopped the bleeding with a tourniquet but in spite of his pain he tried to teach me how to do his job. I moved to provide aid to other wounded men

and again Sp Berry tried to coach me on the best way to treat them. Later, Sp Berry was hit again and died with me at his side.

Sp Berry kept several men alive with his skill as a medic, and his example of heroism under fire was an inspiration to all who saw him.



Charlie Morris  
1931 ~ 1996

Charles B. Morris  
SGM USA (Ret)  
Medal of Honor



Dust Off of A/2/503 wounded and dead after the Battle at Xuan Loc, RVN on 29 June 1966.

(Photo by Jack "Jackattack" Ribera, A/2/503)

## To Whom it May Concern:

Sp Berry was attached to 3/A/2/503 as a Medic during combat operations in the vicinity of XUAN LOC, RVN, on 29 June 1966.

While searching for the enemy, an area was found which showed signs of heavy human use where there was no civilian population. On my request, 3rd Platoon was halted while I took one man with me and went forward to recon the area. We located a number of enemy positions and were almost immediately taken under fire by a larger, well-entrenched enemy force.

Both my partner and I were wounded but managed to fight our way out in spite of our wounds. I ordered my partner to return to 3rd Platoon positions while I covered his withdrawal by fire. In spite of my efforts to suppress the enemy fire, my partner was under heavy fire from the enemy. As he neared the 3rd Platoon positions, I saw Sp Berry leave his position and go to the aid of my comrade.

## Malcolm Crayton Berry

Private First Class

HHC, 2ND BN, 503RD INFANTRY, 173RD ABN BDE,  
USARV

Army of the United States

November 22, 1945 to June 29, 1966

(Photo unavailable)



# 2/503 SEARCH & DESTROY

## OPERATION CEDAR FALLS



2/503 on the move

**Operation: Niagara/Cedar Falls**

**Date: 5 January thru 25 January 1967**

**Location: Binh Duyong Province, Thanh Dien Forest Reserve, The Iron Triangle (west of Ben Cat, and the Cau Dinh Jungle.**

**Unit – CMHQ: 173d Airborne Brigade (Sep)**

**Reporting: BG John R. Deane, Jr., CG**

**GENERAL MISSION:** The operation Niagara/Cedar Falls, was one of the largest, most complex and of the most effective operations of the Vietnam War. Intelligence reports indicated that the location of the VIET CONG MILITARY REGION IV HEADQUARTERS was in fact located in the Iron Triangle, North of Saigon. The Mission of Operation Niagara/Cedar Falls, *“to seal off the Triangle and annihilate the enemy within, destroying his fortifications and generally crushing the power of the MR IV Headquarters.”*

The operation was the first planned multi-division operation in Vietnam, employing the 1st Infantry Division, the 25th Infantry Division, the 196th Light Infantry Brigade, the 5th ARVN Division, elements of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, the 18th Engineers Brigade, and the 173d Airborne Brigade (Sep).

**MISSION FOR THE 173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEP):**

The task given to the 173d Airborne Brigade (Sep) was to conduct a deception or feint from a staging area near PHU LOI into the CAU DINH JUNGLE, an island of Dense Forest North of a Rubber Tree Plantation, between National Highway 13 and the THI TINH River.

The Mission of the 173d ABN BDE (SEP) during this operation was two-fold, as follows: The Brigade Command Post deployed directly from operation Canary/Duck, a Road Security Operation astride Highway 15 to PHU LOI. On 4 January 1967, the Brigade passed from the Operational-Control of II Field Force V, to the 1st Infantry Division.

On 5 January 1967, the Brigade deployed the 1/503d Infantry on Operation Niagara Falls. The mission was to conduct a deceptive feint into the CAU DINH JUNGLE AND CONDUCT SEARCH AND DESTROY OPERATIONS IN PREPARATION FOR THE LARGER SCALE, MULTI-DIVISION OPERATION CEDAR FALLS.

**WEATHER CONDITIONS:** The Northeast Monsoon influenced the weather during operation Niagara Falls. Precipitation during the operation was light and was normal for the season.



Op Cedar Falls. (web photo)

(continued....)





(Web image)

**TERRAIN:** The AO was characterized by flat land with minor changes in elevations. The Song Saigon River and the Song Thi Tinh formed the major drainage pattern for the AO. There were lots of streams running throughout the AO. The two Larger Rivers formed major obstacles to the West and portions of the South.

**ENEMY SITUATION DURING THE OPERATION:** From 5 - 25 January 1967, elements of the 173d Airborne Brigade (Sep), and the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment (-) maintained daily contact with the enemy. The sporadic contacts were usually initiated by friendly forces and terminated by VC withdrawals.

**D – DAY** (8 January 1967). Operation Cedar Falls began for the 2/503d Infantry and the 4/503d Infantry when they departed Bien Hoa at 1100 hours, and were flown by Airforce aircraft to PHU LOI, closing at 1138 hours. At 1300 hours, the 2/503d Infantry and the 4/503d Infantry began a helilift to position Blue. The 2/503d Infantry closed at 1333 hours.

**D – DAY +1** (9 January 1967). Operation Cedar Falls continued. The 2/503d Infantry initiated a heliborne assault into LZ 4 from position Blue, beginning at 1055 hours. The assault was completed at 1115 hours and the 2/503d Infantry linked up with the 1st Infantry Division elements to the North approximately ½ hour later.

The 2/503d Infantry and the 4/503d Infantry established blocking positions in their respective LZs and conducted limited search and destroy operations in their zones. At 2105 hours, elements of C/2/503d Infantry engaged 5 VC moving East. Two more VC were engaged in the same area shortly thereafter. The action resulted in 2 US WIA, SP/4 Walter Johnson, and PFC Joseph Russo, Jr.

**D – DAY +2** (10 January 1967). Operation Cedar Falls continued. At 0823 hours, C/2/503d Infantry engaged 2 VC. This contact took place near the ambush site employed the night of the 9th of January. Four US Troopers were WIA. SSG David Konen, PFC James Fluck, PFC Wynn Tuttle (should have read “Wayne Tuttle”. Ed) and PVT Pervis Valentine, Jr., with VC casualties unknown. Later that afternoon, after being relieved from Security duty at LZs 4 and 6 by the 1/4th Cavalry, the 2/503d Infantry went into Harbor position (night defense) in preparation for an attack South into the Iron Triangle. This was accomplished by 1645 hours.

**D – DAY +3** (11 January 1967). Operation Cedar Falls continued. On this day, the 173d Airborne Brigade (Sep) (Task Force Deane) commenced its attack South into the Iron Triangle at 0900 hours. The 2/503d Infantry initiated search and destroy operations in the Western portion of the Iron Triangle while the 4/503d Infantry crossed into the AO on the East, also conducting search and destroy operations while moving to the South. B/2/503d Infantry conducted search and destroy operations with platoon-size operations with negative contact.

(continued...)





**"Members of Co B, 2nd Bn, 503rd Abn Inf, 173rd Abn Bde move through Thanh Dien Forest on patrol in the southern section of the 'Iron Triangle' during Operation 'Cedar Falls.'" (National Archives)**

**D – DAY +4** (12 January 1967). Throughout the day, the 2/503d Infantry and the 4/503d Infantry (-) C/4/503 Infantry, went into harbor position (night defense). Ambush patrols and LPs was sent out at or about 1915 hours. Command for the two Battalions ceased combat operations at that time.

**D – DAY +5** (13 January 1967). Operation Cedar Falls continued. The 173d Airborne Brigade (Sep) and Operation Control Units continued to comb the Iron Triangle, destroying NVA/VC, their installations and supplies. The 1st and 2nd/503d Infantry continued their detailed search of the operation area, making no significant contact.

**D – DAY +6** (14 January 1967). Operation Cedar Falls continued. The Brigade's Task Force Deane continued a detailed search of the Iron Triangle, destroying VC and Viet Cong Installations and supplies through the day. The 2/503d Infantry, while conducting search and destroy operation in the Central portion of the Iron Triangle found and destroyed several small bunkers, Tunnels and a Base Camp area. Within the camp, a hand grenade factory/shop was found and 25 grenades was confiscated. The 2/503d Infantry suffered 4 US Troopers WIA; SSG Elbert McGilton from Co. "A", and three from Co. "C" whose names I don't remember.

**D – DAY +7** (15 January 1967). Operation Cedar Falls continued. The 2/503d Infantry moved South through the Central portion of the Iron Triangle. Booby-traps wounded 4 troopers on the day's operations (2 men from Co. "C" and 2 from Co. "A"). I can't remember their names. The 2/503d Infantry located and destroyed 11 huts, and 4 bunkers. At 1210 hours, Bravo Company 2/503d Infantry engaged 2 VC who were busy emplacing a mine in the road at location 9. The men

fired at the enemy resulting in 1 VC KIA (BC) and 1 US M-2 Carbine being captured. At or about 1825 hours, the 2/503d Infantry ceased combat operation and went into night defensive position. At 1900 hours B/2/503d Infantry sent out its 1st Platoon on ambush patrol.



**A member of "A" Co., 1/26th, 1st Bde, 1st Inf Div crouches near a tree while waiting for the area ahead to be cleared of mines, during Operation Cedar Falls in the Iron Triangle. (National Archives)**

*(continued....)*



**D – Day +8** (16 January 1967). Operation Cedar Falls continues. The Companies of the 2/503d Infantry, continued to conduct search and destroy missions, sweeping to the Southeast. Company “B” encountered 1 VC at XT 698262, shortly after 1100 hours, the company had stopped for short break. Fire team “B” of the 1st platoon, 3rd squad was the team that I was assigned to, along with Raymond Daughtery, Jerome Zerfass (M-60 Machine-gunner), along with 12 other troopers. Raymond Daughtery was shot in the hand as he reached for his rifle, after Jerome Zerfass has been shot in the head and killed. I was about 5 to 6 feet away to his right side when he was shot in his head. Raymond was about the same distance to his left when the first shot was fired. The Jungle was too dense for me to fire my M-79



**Raymond Daughtery in his hooch at Camp Zinn.**

(Photo by Ted Roybal, B/2/503)

grenade Launcher. I used my .45 Caliber semi-automatic side arm to fire in the direction the shots came from, with unknown results. The second shot hit Raymond in his right hand. We had been sitting there talking about what we were going to do when we got back to the world (USA). In what seemed like a few heartbeats later, Jerome lay dead on the ground. I have kept wondering through the years, whether it was something more I could have done to keep/prevent Jerome from being killed, and Raymond from being wounded. Two of my friends and comrades taken away because of the contact of 1 enemy soldier, who escaped to the Northeast.



**Jerome Zerfass  
1937 ~ 1967**

The Dust-off helicopter received small arms semi-automatic weapons fire during the evacuation, resulting in one medical personnel being wounded. C/2/503

Infantry killed 1 VC (BC) at 1200 hours while operating in the area. The VC was found hiding in a tunnel. The Recon platoon of the 2/503 Infantry operating in conjunction with E/17th Cavalry, captured 1 VC.

**D – DAY +9** (17 January 1967). Operation Cedar Falls continued. The 2/503d Infantry and the 4/503d Infantry with D/16th Armor (OPCON) operated in the center and East respectively of the Iron Triangle. The 2/503d Infantry located a Tunnel complex containing two Chicom Carbines and one (1) US Carbine. At 1120 hours Bravo Company, 2/503d Infantry engaged 2 Viet Cong at location 16, killing one of the enemy. A trench 1,800 meters in length was later located.

**D – DAY +10** (18 January 1967). Operation Cedar Falls continued. The 2/503d Infantry continued its search in their assigned area of operations, progressing toward the Eastern area of the Iron Triangle. At approximately 1145 hours, C/2/503d Infantry discovered an old .45 Caliber pistol (US) at location 3 during the search of the area. 5 Paratroopers were wounded by an enemy booby-trap.

**D – DAY +11** (19 January 1967). Operation Cedar Falls continues. The 2/503d Infantry searched the central portion of the Iron Triangle, progressing Eastward. At 1530 hours, 4 VC were detained by elements of the 2/503d Infantry, one of whom died of a heart attack.



**“South Vietnam, January, 1967: The bulldozers are finally idle as a UH-1D helicopter extracts wounded soldiers from a landing zone carved out by Bravo Company, 4th Battalion, 503rd Parachute Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade during Operation Cedar Falls in the ‘Iron Triangle’ near Saigon. More than 30,000 U.S. troops and several South Vietnamese infantry brigades took part in Cedar Falls, the largest assault of the war to that point.”** (web photo)

(continued....)



**D – DAY +12** (20 January 1967). The 173d Airborne Brigade (Sep) continued Operation Cedar Falls in the Iron Triangle. At 0815 hours, Companies “A” and B/2/503 Infantry conducted a heliborne assault employing 8 helicopters to an LZ vicinity XT699270. Company “C” remained as Security for the Battalion Command Post and Fire Support Base. After completion of the lift, Companies A and B/2/503 Infantry conducted local saturation patrolling in the vicinity of the Command Post. Company “A” encountered 3 VC at 1350 hours, killing 1. Shortly after 1800 hours, the two Companies were helilifted to the Battalion Command Post, closing at 1845 hours.

**D – DAY +13** (21 January 1967). Task Force Deane continued operation Cedar Falls, conducting intensive search and destroy operations within the Iron Triangle. The 2/503d Infantry continued its operations in the East/Central portion of the Iron Triangle, West of the Thi Tinh River. At 1210 hours, A/2/503d Infantry spotted 3 VC at location 2, the enemy fires 10 – 12 rounds of automatic weapons fire then subsequently fled, and the pursuit was taken up by elements of Alpha Company. One US Paratrooper was KIA in the process, Pfc Steven Dydyski. The Dust-Off ship that was summoned to the scene also received fire during its departure.



**Steven Dydyski**  
1947 ~ 1967

**D – DAY +14** (22 January 1967). Operation Cedar Falls continues.

Commencing at 0700 hours, the 2/503d Infantry became under Operational-Control of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. There were no contacts made with elements of the 2/503d Infantry by NVA/VC Forces. However, several company-size base camps were located during the days sweep. None of the encampments showed indications of recent use. The Cavalry Troops served primarily as blocking forces for the



**Eric Zoller**  
1944 ~ 1967

Infantry maneuvers. B/2/503d Infantry suffered one (1) WIA, Pfc Robert Elgin.

**D – DAY +15** (23 January 1967). Operation Cedar Falls continued in the Iron Triangle. The 11th Armored Cavalry with the 2/503d Infantry continued Mechanized and foot operations in the Southern tip of the Iron Triangle. They explored Tunnels, conducted patrolling along lines of communications and secured the Engineer’s work-parties who were clearing the area.

**D – DAY +16** (24 January 1967). Operation Cedar Falls continued in the Iron Triangle. The 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment and the 2/503d Infantry departed the area of operations at 0930 hours, clearing the Iron Triangle at 1229 hours. The element then proceeded to their respective Base Camps at Xuan Loc and Bien Hoa.

**D – DAY +17** (25 January 1967). The 173d Airborne Brigade (Sep) terminated operation Niagara/Cedar Falls at 0700 hours, when it was released from the OPCON of the 1st Infantry Division. The Brigade returned to Base Camp in three Serials, clearing the Cedar Falls AO at 0945 hours. The final elements of the Brigade closed at Bien Hoa at 1327 hours. The movement was executed without incident.

**US LOSSES:** KIA 3; WIA 23; MIA 0

**Note:** This report was sent in some time ago by one of our Sky Soldiers of Bravo Company, a grenadier during Operation Cedar Falls. Attempts to identify the trooper have failed. It appears his report may be a combination of his personal recollections of the operation plus excerpts from an After Action Report. All photos added. Ed



“Operation Cedar Falls”. (web photo)



HEADQUARTERS  
UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM  
APO San Francisco 96307

GENERAL ORDERS  
NUMBER 1064

12 March 1967

AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS  
**1LT Daniel J. Severson, B/4/503**

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

SEVERSON, DANIEL J. OF103XXX  
FIRST LIEUTENANT INFANTRY  
United States Army, Company B, 4th Battalion  
(Airborne), 503d Infantry, 173d Airborne Brigade  
(Separate), APO 96250  
Awarded: Distinguished Service Cross  
Date action: 16 January 1967  
Theater: Republic of Vietnam

*Citation:*

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross to Daniel J. Severson (OF-103XXX), First Lieutenant (Infantry), U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Company B, 4th Battalion (Airborne), 503d Infantry, 173d Airborne Brigade (Separate). First Lieutenant Severson distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 16 January 1967 while serving with elements of the 503rd Infantry on a search and destroy operation near Ben Cat. As company Executive Officer, Lieutenant Severson was accompanying the point platoon when it made contact and assaulted a hostile bunker complex. During the intense fire-fight that ensued, several friendly casualties were sustained, including the platoon leader. Lieutenant Severson immediately assumed command and, exposed to the devastating fire, moved along the line shouting encouragement, distributing ammunition and directing fire into the insurgent emplacements. Inspired and calmed by

his gallant leadership, the platoon quickly regrouped and killed four Viet Cong before being ordered to withdraw. As the unit started to pull back, it suddenly received murderous fire from a hidden gun on the right flank. Lieutenant Severson dauntlessly advanced toward the Viet Cong position, until he was knocked unconscious by an exploding grenade, which killed his radio operator and disabled his weapon. Regaining consciousness, and armed only with grenades, he single-handedly assaulted the hostile emplacement, but was painfully

wounded in the leg. With complete disregard for his safety, he continued to crawl forward and silenced the weapon, killing one insurgent. Refusing medical treatment, Lieutenant Severson covered the platoon withdrawal and returned to the company perimeter only after ensuring that none of his dead or wounded were left behind. Demonstrating boundless courage and aggressive determination, he further assisted the commander in directing air strikes which routed the hostile force. First Lieutenant Severson's extraordinary heroism 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.

Headquarters, US Army, Vietnam, General Orders No. 1064 (March 12, 1967)



Major Robert B. "Bob" Carmichael, (LTC retired), served in Vietnam as our 2/503 Battalion Executive Officer in '65/'66, and took command of the battalion in February '66, when Battalion Commander LTC George E. Dexter (COL retired), was severely wounded in combat during Operation Phoenix. LTC Carmichael would serve a second tour in Vietnam which included command of another combat battalion, the 3/22, 25th Infantry Division. Sadly, Bob passed away last year.

While going through files of records he had sent me over the years in preparation of returning them to his family, a number of writings of his were found, including the report which follows. This particular study was undated, but is suspected to have been written by Bob in the mid to late 70's for presentation in a military-related publication, possibly *Infantry* magazine in which other articles of his were published. Bob's report should be of particular interest to combat and military history enthusiasts. Ed

# FORCE ORIENTED DEFENSE

LIEUTENANT COLONEL ROBERT CARMICHAEL



We are currently faced with the analysis and evaluation of tactics, techniques, and technology that have developed during the Vietnam War. It is important that we determine their implication on future doctrine and tactics.

This need becomes all the more urgent in view of our current field manuals on defensive operations. They reflect a Korean/World War II attitude and obvious shortfalls are easily discerned. Field manual operations are based on an assumption that can best be described as the "normal situation" where the combat-power ratio, friendly to enemy, is only slightly less than that encountered while conducting offensive operations. In reality, most everyone will agree that the "normal situation" for the defense is one where the attacker has the defender vastly outnumbered and out-gunned -- with little or no hope for immediate improvement.

Admitted, if the combat power ratio precludes defense, current doctrine allows delaying retrograde operations to trade space for time. Unfortunately, a retrograde operation is a complete tactic; the question arises, what is to be done after space is traded for time and the combat-power ratio is not significantly different? What to do under these circumstances is not specified. The "normal situation" presupposes that

each Infantry battalion in the forward defense echelon will be assigned no more than 3000 meters which they have the stated capability of defending under ideal conditions. It is further assumed that the troops will be available to conduct one of two current forms of defense: the brigade operating as part of the division mobile defense, or the brigade conducting a separate area defense.

Analyzing those two forms of defense, we find that if easily defensible terrain is initially selected, terrain which maximizes our firepower and organized forces, the enemy will be defeated in the ensuing battle. The mobile defense is only conducted at division level because Infantry brigades will not normally have sufficient combat power available to defend and counter-attack. The basic idea is to allow enemy forces to penetrate the battle area at selected locations, then destroy them with brigade-sized counterattacks.

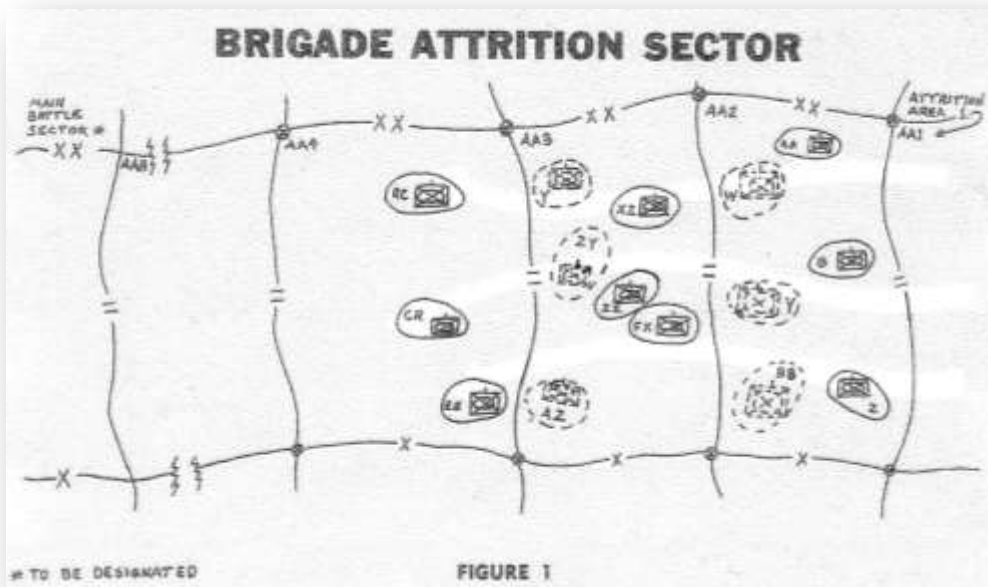
Unfortunately, this tactic plays into the doctrinal hands of our most formidable potential opponent. Considering the number of penetrations he can make with the quantity of armored forces he has available, it is foolish to believe that we will be able to defeat him in detail with brigade-sized World War II style counterattacks. In fact, considering the enemy armored capability and doctrine, both the area and mobile defenses offer little chance for success. Additionally, the present mobile and area defense concepts primarily tie us to terrain, and are not based on reality -- a euphoric perception of a situation that never exists. It is past time for us to develop tactics that permit maximum use of all our present and future capabilities against very animate and perceivable potential enemies.

(continued....)



The underlying principle of the force-oriented defense is that the defender offers a degree of resistance appropriate to the existing combat power ratio. Terrain is considered only in the context of how it will facilitate destruction of the enemy. The objective is to create vulnerabilities that can be exploited to gain maximum returns with the minimum expenditure of assets. Terms such as *general outpost*, *combat outposts* and *forward edge of the battle area* lose much of their significance; they represent fixed lines and a defense that depends on the enemy attacking according to a predicted plan.

In a force-oriented defense against sophisticated enemy armor, the enemy's avenues of approach are our first interest. Consequently, potential kill zones, indicated by forward battalion positions (FBP) and unit boundaries, are designated for control purposes. Alternate positions are indicated to provide flexibility. Note that the security area of the mobile or area defense become an attrition sector in the force-oriented defense (figure 1).



The exact number of selected and designated attrition area and FBP's are related to the number of tank/APC kills the brigade commander believes his forces must achieve before decisive combat can reasonably be initiated. Battalions are deployed in depth rather than laterally. The enemy armor thrust will be quick and sure, with an assigned mission to maintain momentum. It is imperative that attriting forces not be deployed to cover the entire front along every conceivable enemy avenue of approach. They should be deployed only where the terrain offers good firing positions and where the attacker is forced to mass by restricted maneuver space.

Only our long-range anti-armor weapons, to include aerial anti-armor platforms, should be used in those areas which strongly favor massive and rapid armor thrusts, and in those which offer scant cover and concealment for the defender. In those gaps which are left uncovered by ground forces, STANO devices must be employed to alert the defender as to the size and location of the enemy thrust and, in some cases, to an unanticipated attack. The STANO capability should also be used to provide flank security where possible, and to cover surveillance gaps that will occur.

After receipt of the brigade overlay containing assignment tasks, the attrition area task force commanders begin the sequence of staff and command actions to specifically plan the execution of the combat missions envisioned for their particular attrition area.

As the battle progresses, their completed operation orders and overlays provide the basis for subsequent command and control decision by the brigade commander. A schematic organization of a battalion attrition is found in figure 2 (following page). Note that the attrition areas are planned in great detail.

The force-oriented defense concept requires far more comprehensive planning than either a mobile or area defense; it deals with the specific use/ allocation of all combat assets.

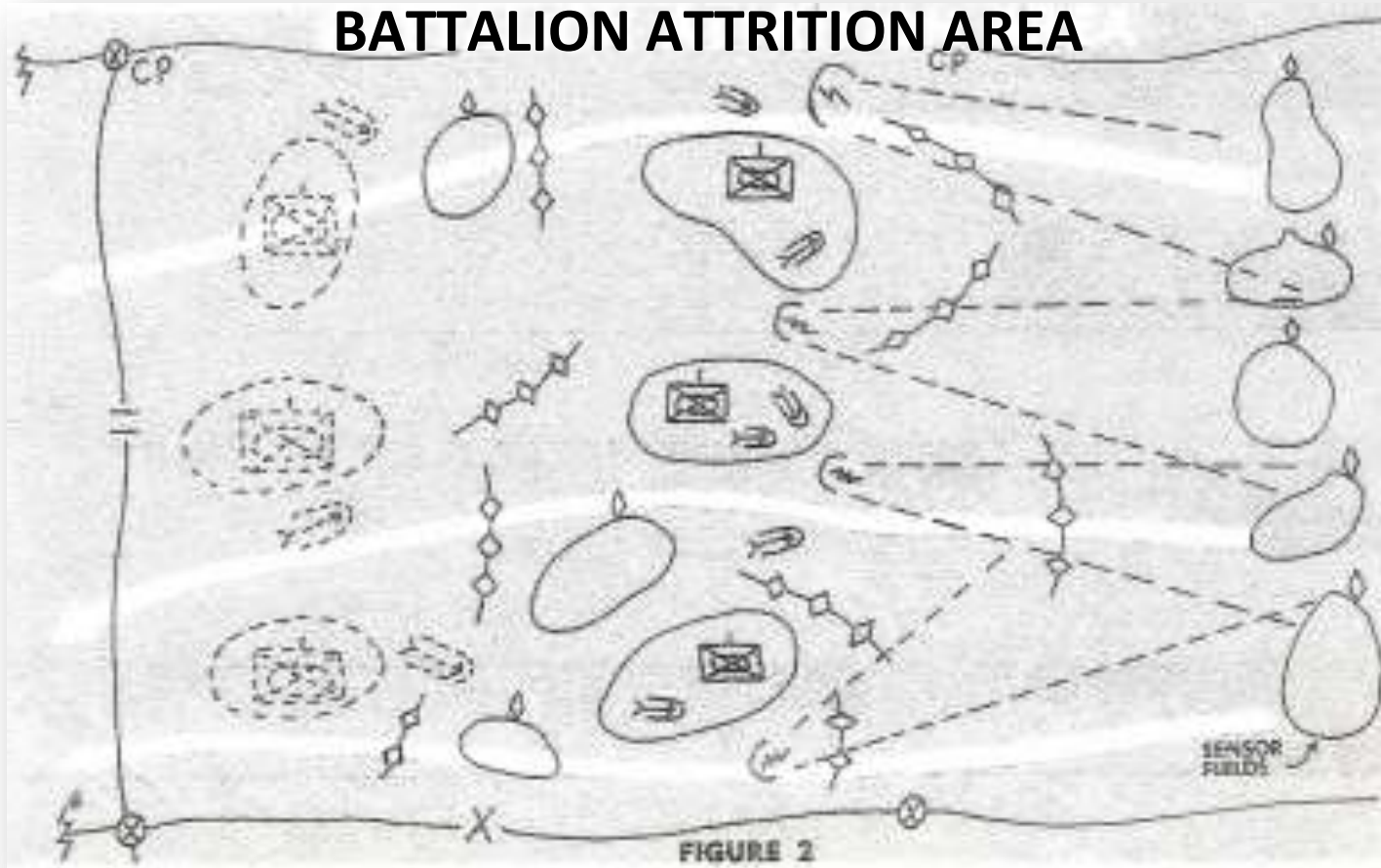
In order to attain the in-depth planning required, war game results indicate that aligning a brigade staff into the functional areas of command and control, fire-power, mobility, intelligence, and support, may have considerable merit. It permits the use of one "project manager"

staff officer for each attrition area. For example, if the primary combat actions expected in an attrition area are indirect fire ambushes, then the fire-power staff officer is the project planner for that attrition area. The second attrition area may favor maneuver and consequently is planned by the mobility staff officer. Each officer is responsible for the total "package" for his area. The number of attrition areas planned in detail is related to the expected speed of the enemy movement and the emerging situation.

(continued)



# BATTALION ATTRITION AREA



If we are to realize the maximum potential for the force-oriented concept, we must alter our current thought regarding combat service support. We must arm and train all our soldiers as elements in armor-killing teams, capable of being assembled in a modular organization adequate to meet an emerging enemy threat. Our paucity of forces, the absence of lines of contact with friendly rear areas, and the obvious improvement in enemy airmobility makes this mandatory. Our command and control concepts must also shift from a fixed installation command post, to area control elements capable of intelligently using all firepower means that may become immediately available.

Regardless of the staff organization and procedure implications, the force-oriented defense offers a realistic solution to the requirement for more flexibility and better use of our new combat assets. Unlike the delay, it trades space for primary enemy combat power assets, whether they are foot soldiers or armored vehicles. It frees us from terrain domination, and under present day circumstances is a far better answer to the potential enemy threats than either the mobile or area defense. A improved electronic STANO assets, antitank missiles and airmobility methods are phased into the inventory, it will undoubtedly supplant both the area and mobile defenses.

*“Lieutenant Colonel Robert B. Carmichael, Infantry, is currently chairman of the Defense Committee, Brigade and Battalion Operations Department, USAIS. A 1952 graduate of the University of Texas, he served as battalion XO with the 173d Airborne Brigade, and as a battalion commander with the 25th Infantry Division during two tours in Vietnam. He completed the Command and General Staff College in 1966.”*



1929 ~ 2016



# She Never Knew Her Father



“James C. Fluck served with the Army in Vietnam with C/2/503 of the 173d Airborne Brigade, from December 1966 to December 1967. He returned home to Pennsylvania where on January 3, 1976, he took his own life. James was a father who his children never got to know.”

We received the following request for information which was forward to all C/2/503 troopers on our email list. If you knew James or have a photo of him, please contact the lady below. Thanks! Ed

## Request

As someone who works for a non-profit that helps veterans, my heart breaks for all who have lost a loved one. I recently discovered that a friend of mine never had the opportunity to meet her father. He served in Vietnam and committed suicide in 1976--she was just a baby. Her family would later realize that he suffered from severe PTSD. The man who returned from Vietnam was not the same man who had left one year earlier.

My friend only has one photo of her father. Because of the situation surrounding her father's death, her mother never spoke of him or gave her any other photos of him. The photo she has is of him in Vietnam, and I was hoping that you could give me some ideas on

tracking down people who served with her father. It is my hope that there may be other photos of him that could be given to her. I feel like it is the least I can do for her.

His name was James C. Fluck. He served in 1967 in the 173rd Airborne, Co. C, 2d Bn Abn 503d. He was one of the combat jumpers in Operation Junction City.

Thank you in advance for any assistance you may be able to give me.

**Christine Graf**  
Finance and Development  
Soldier's Heart  
[nychris@nycap.rr.com](mailto:nychris@nycap.rr.com)

## Update

Upon receiving the original request from Christine, and forwarding it to all C/2/503 troopers on our email list, we received the following note from her. Ed

*I received a wonderful email from a man who served with Jim, and he offered some insight into his character—it is obvious that he was a good man and a good soldier. THANK YOU SO MUCH for making this happen! Honestly, I can't thank you enough for your willingness to help*

*I also heard from another person whose husband served with Jim. I will pass both on to my friend and leave it up to her if she wants to contact them. I'm sure this will be overwhelming since she doesn't know that I'm doing this.*

*Thank you again for reaching out. Blessings to you and your family,*

*Chris*

*P.S. My boss, Dr. Edward Tick, has written a book that has been very helpful to many Vietnam vets. He also leads healing journeys to Vietnam. This year's trip will be his 17th!*

<https://www.amazon.com/War-Soul-Veterans-Post-Traumatic-Disorder/dp/083560831X>

<http://cemproductions.org/documentaries/soldiersheart.html>



From....



Hi. Thought I'd send you this Aussie poem and hope it puts a smile on your face. Maybe put it in your magazine so you guys can have a good old laugh at our expense. I always look forward to receiving the 173d Airborne news. Take care and stay safe.

Jack Panossian

C Coy, 1RAR, 1965-1966

A Great Aussie Poem...

### "EWE, YOU'RE DRIVING ME CRAZY"

The sun was hot already - it was only 8 o'clock  
The cocky took off in his Ute, to go and check his stock.  
He drove around the paddocks checking wethers, ewes  
and lambs,  
The float valves in the water troughs, the windmills on the  
dams.  
He stopped and turned a windmill on to fill a water tank  
And saw a ewe down in the dam, a few yards from the  
bank.  
"Typical bloody sheep," he thought, "they've got no  
common sense.  
They won't go through a gateway but they'll jump a bloody  
fence."  
The ewe was stuck down in the mud, he knew without a  
doubt.  
She'd stay there 'til she carked it if he didn't get her out.  
But when he reached the water's edge, the startled ewe  
broke free  
And in her haste to get away, began a swimming spree.  
He reckoned once her fleece was wet, the weight would  
drag her down  
If he didn't rescue her, the stupid sod would drown.  
Her style was unimpressive, her survival chances slim  
He saw no other option, he would have to take a swim.  
He peeled his shirt and singlet off, his trousers, boots and  
socks  
And as he couldn't stand wet clothes, he also shed his  
jocks.  
He jumped into the water and away that cocky swam  
He caught up with her somewhere near the middle of the  
dam.

The ewe was quite evasive, she kept giving him the slip  
He tried to grab her sodden fleece but couldn't get a grip.

At last he got her to the bank and stopped to catch his  
breath  
She showed him little gratitude for saving her from death.  
She took off like a Bondi tram around the other side  
He swore next time he caught that ewe he'd hang her  
bloody hide.  
Then round and round the dam they ran, although he felt  
quite puffed  
He still thought he could run her down, she must be nearly  
stuffed.

The local stock rep came along, to pay a call that day.  
He knew this bloke was on his own, his wife had gone  
away.  
He didn't really think he'd get fresh scones for morning tea  
But neither was he ready for what he was soon to see.

He rubbed his eyes in disbelief at what came into view  
For running down the catchment came this frantic-looking  
ewe.

And on her heels in hot pursuit and wearing not a stitch  
The farmer yelling wildly, "Come back here, you lousy  
bitch!"

The stock rep didn't hang around, he took off in his car  
The cocky's reputation has been damaged near and far.  
So bear in mind the Work Safe rule when next you check  
your flocks

Spot the hazard, assess the risk, and always wear your  
jocks!

THANK EWE! ☺

**Note:** One must wonder if Jack's submission of this poem to  
ewe was motivated by 2/503 Bn Cmdr Col. George Dexter's  
story about his taking a 'helmet bath' in the tall reeds during  
Operation Marauder in the Mekong Delta (see Issue 72, Page  
45), only to have his clothes blown away by a landing  
chopper, leaving him to run around in the all-together on a  
search and find mission, thereby totally confusing the VC?  
*Could be.* Ed

**VC Won Hung:** *Do you see that?!*

**VC Lo:** *Yeah. I think it's their commander.*

**Won Hung:** *Why is he running naked in the rice paddy?*

**Lo:** *I'm really not sure.*

**Won Hung:** *Should we shoot him?*

**Lo:** *Let's wait a minute and see what happens.*

**Won Hung:** *Those are reporters getting off that chopper.*

**Lo:** *They're laughing too.*

**Won Hung:** *Maybe it's a paratrooper drill?*

**Lo:** *Could be. Paratroopers are crazy.*

**Won Hung:** *I can take him out with one shot.*

**Lo:** *Better not. He's a 'Sky Soldier'.*

**Won Hung:** *Good point, let's di di!!*

**Lo:** *Hope he finds his clothes.*





## Another Day at the Office, Vietnam Style - 1966

**I**t was just another routine day at the office in beautiful Vietnam – March 16, 1966 – sitting in the cockpit of my Huey early in the morning. Routine - every day started and some even ended that way. Today would be different.

Two brigade cooks quickly loaded cans of hot chow and coffee onto our bird. Fully loaded and carrying a sling load of ice, we headed for War Zone “D” to some LZ we later learned was called “Zulu-Zulu”. The 2nd Bat had been on a steady diet of C’s for several days. They were badly in need of hot chow. In addition to being a taxi service where we brought our sky troopers to and from work, we Cowboy pilots were more than happy to provide resupply of ammo, hot C and A-rats, water, mail and on some occasions – ice.

A few miles out, we called for smoke. When I called out the color, the RTO said, “Roger, red smoke, Cowboy.” We slowed up and did a slow pass over the hole in the jungle to see how best to drop in and deliver the grub. We finally came to a hover over the hole, maybe a hundred feet or so over the jungle treetops. Both the gunner and crew chief were standing on the skids to see that we didn’t put our tail rotor in the trees. That’s when it happened.

**“Holy shit, Mac, machine gun  
tracer rounds, two o’clock!  
Pull pitch! Pull pitch!”**

Mac saw the basketball-size .51 cal tracer rounds passing in front of us. He started to pull pitch, but we started losing rotor RPM. “Mac, punch off the ice, punch off the fucking ice!” Mac either didn’t hear me or didn’t know where the release button was on his stick. Not waiting to find out what his problem was, I kicked the manual release with my foot which released our heavy sling load of ice and gained us some badly needed rotor RPM.

Just as Mac was getting the aircraft under control the Dink gunner realized we weren’t going to fly into his .51 cal fire, so he adjusted his aim and hit our tail rotor and parts of our tail section. “Fuck!” Helicopters don’t hover worth a shit without a tail rotor. We started to spin and head for the ground. All the way down, I was thinking, *just level the skids, be cool and you won’t get seriously killed.* It worked.

The trees cushioned our fall some, but the rotor blades nearly shook us to death as they tried to chop the trees into kindling.

“Anyone hurt?” I yelled out. Even the crew chief, who nearly had his back broken in the crash, said he was OK. We were climbing out of the right cargo door over spilled eggs, OJ and coffee when we saw someone running at us. Our gunner held his fire when we saw a beautiful round-eyed sky trooper. I don’t know who he was, but after we were all out of the dead bird, he said in the best infantry tradition, “Follow Me!” We did without the slightest hesitation.

I could write a book on what happened in the next four hours, but people more eloquent than I will fill in that space. I was in charge when it came to helicopter operations like this one, but on this day we were happy to be guests of the best damn combat fighting unit I’d ever seen beat back an enemy three times its size.

Thanks for saving our bacon 2nd Bat, 503d, 173d Abn Bde on the day we were trying to bring the bacon to you.

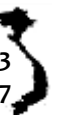
**Tony Geishauser, WO (Maj. Ret)  
Cowboy Pilot  
335th Assault Helicopter Company**



**Cowboy pilots L-R Tony  
Geishauser & Joe McHenry**



**The breakfast bird’s final resting place at LZ Zulu-Zulu.**  
(Photo by Tom Goodwin, HHC/2/503)



# Daniel J. Johnson

August 7, 1946 – March 11, 2017

Daniel Joseph “Dan” Johnson, 70, of Oxford, Kansas died Saturday, March 11, 2017, at Lawrence Memorial Hospital, surrounded by his family.

A celebration of life was held April 1 in the Lions Club Building in Oxford, where stories were shared celebrating a man who lived life to the fullest.



Dan was born on August 7, 1946, in Igloo, S.D., to Jesse and Anna (Davis) Johnson. The Johnson family lived in several places before settling in Oxford in 1957, where Dan lived the rest of his years. His early life was spent helping on the family farm and creating memories with friends.

Dan enlisted in the Army in 1965 and served in HHC/2/503 with the 173d Airborne during the Vietnam War, where he made lifelong friends. After returning to the United States, he met and married his lifelong companion, Mary (Nutter) Johnson, on December 31, 1972.

After working as a roughneck and cable installer, Dan got a job at Boeing, where he worked for 23 years. He invented several tools that Boeing patented and still uses today. He was able to travel all over the world, spending three years living in Italy.

Dan had a wit that is hard to match and was one of the most kind-hearted people. He enjoyed grilling for large family gatherings and spending time with his grandkids. He spent a lot of time in his wood shop, turning pens and making puzzles that he sold in a shop in Oxford. Dan was loved by his family and friends and will be deeply missed.

He was preceded in death by his father, Jesse Johnson; his mother, Anna (Davis) Johnson; and his three brothers, Kenneth, Art and Bill Johnson. He leaves his wife of 44 years, Mary (Nutter) Johnson; his daughter, Elizabeth (Johnson) Cockram; his daughter, Anna (Johnson) Mercer; four grandchildren, Sadie, Caleb, Alastair and Norah; his sister, Sally Lawson; his sister, Jeannie Kay Johnson-Keiter; and many nieces, nephews and friends.

Please consider a donation to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Foundation in memory of Dan.

*All The Way, Dan!*

## 173d Memorial at Campbell

This is on display at Ft. Campbell, KY.

This is one of my JROTC students and his son.

**John W. Searcy, Sr.**

**“Top”**

**HHC/2/503**



*Inscription reads:*

**AIRBORNE-ALL THE WAY**

**THIS MEMORIAL IS DEDICATED  
TO THE 173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE  
(SKY SOLDIERS)**

**THOSE WHO SERVED  
THOSE WHO HAVE FOUGHT,  
THOSE WHO HAVE FALLEN,  
AND THOSE WHO CONTINUE TO SERVE.**

**“TIEN BIEN”**

**25 JUNE 1963 TO 14 JANUARY 1972**

**REACTIVATED**

**12 JUNE 2000**

**VICENZA, ITALY**



**“TIEN BIEN”**

**“The 173d Airborne Brigade (Sep) was the quick reaction force for the Pacific Command, known as ‘Westmoreland’s Fire Brigade’. The unit trained extensively making mass parachute jumps and they earned the nickname ‘Tien Bien’ or ‘Sky Soldiers’, from the Nationalist Chinese paratroopers.”**



**2/503 Drop Zone in Taiwan, circa ‘64/’65.**

(Photo by: Tom Goodwin, HHC/2/503)



## ~ Buckets of Blood ~

**By: Wambi Cook**  
**A Company 2/503d**  
**February 1967 - February 1968**  
**Survivor of The Slopes**



**RTO Cook during a reflective moment in Vietnam**

**A**fter 44 years, I remain perplexed as to why A Company, 2nd Battalion's clash on 6/22/67 (or more popularly labeled, Battle of the Slopes) has yet to receive the recognition it most justly deserves in the annals of the 173d Airborne's illustrious pantheon of historical battles. This statement is by no means my personal crusade to disparage the many and wide-ranging gallantly fought encounters by our Vietnam era or the present day Herd personnel. So, I query: has any other singular American unit suffered as many casualties (KIAs 76, WIAs 30+) in a solitary day's skirmish as that of Alpha?

I advance three personal theories: 1. High profiling the unspeakable losses by elite American troops is not good copy for liberal and conservative pundits alike; 2. Many survivors continue to deal with their inescapable demons on a regular basis, and wish not to relive, in all likelihood, the worst day of their lives; and 3. Some influential, but non-combatant individuals who orchestrated crucial aspects of the day's events from afar, do not want their dubious military battle strategies second guessed.

## ~ AFTER THE BATTLE IS OVER ~

Early on the morning of June 23, 1967, a half dozen five-gallon water buckets were strewn about the makeshift hex-tent morgue, hastily assembled earlier that morning to ostensibly take delivery of an untold number of KIAs from the previous day's conflict. The depot was located about 25 meters or so just off the Dak To airstrip. In next to no time, the buckets would soon comele with the blood of my 76 brothers of Alpha Company, 2nd 503rd Infantry, 173d Airborne Brigade.

History tells us we were hit by a battalion size, elite NVA strike force -- an unfathomable 15-1 ratio. At the time, it felt like it was Alpha against a power of determined evil bent on annihilation and nothing less. I can't recall if I was "asked" to be a part of the group assigned to identify my Alpha comrades slaughtered 24 hours earlier, or did I presume this responsibility by default. I'd only recently returned to duty from a month's stay in Long Binh's 93rd Evacuation Hospital recuperating from a grenade wound suffered on Mother's Day the month previous.

Yes, I could readily identify by name and/or face the majority of the rank and file of A Company, but there were at least a half-dozen or so FNG replacements since I left -- a handful of whom arrived to the field just a day or two before June 22. Or, perhaps, because of my time in country, I was the logical choice for the duty. In any case, someone had to do it, and why not me?

If memory serves, 2nd battalion's Bravo and/or Charlie companies assumed the unenviable task of policing the battle site. What this experience has done to their psyche is beyond imagination. Besides me, and possibly another Alpha volunteer, our team also consisted of a half-dozen B-Med personnel. From a letter I'd written my wife later that day, three quarter ton truckloads containing the bodies began arriving early on the afternoon of the 23rd.

Throughout our obvious tribulation, I doubt if any of us explicitly questioned what the body count would ultimately tally. We worked in pairs: two of us per deceased would align each body bag neatly two abreast, leaving just enough space between to perform a tip-toe maneuver to avoid stepping on our fallen brothers. This configuration allowed for perhaps a dozen bodies per tent-load.

One of us would unzip the bag just enough to expose the face. On occasion, we were instructed to expose the entire body. Why some and not all, I don't recollect.

*(continued....)*



The majority of the contorted bodies were grossly bloodied as a result of multiple pre and post-mortem head wounds. All were soiled due most likely to their overnight exposure to the harsh Central Highlands' elements. Often times a sponge was needed to wash off enough of the dried, caked-on blood to confirm positive identification.

Some faces were so battered and unrecognizable, it was necessary to use their dog tags for identification. No sooner would we conclude with one group, when another incoming consignment would appear...the process would start again.

When a bucket became too flushed with blood, it was quickly refreshed, and we continued our work in an orderly "military fashion."

In the course of most of the afternoon, there was little beyond perfunctory exchanges between us while going about our work. To some, our efforts may have appeared detached or matter of fact. However, we couldn't cloak the obvious -- our hearts grew heavier as the day drew longer.

Each time I came across a comrade who I'd known intimately, and not just in passing, my task became more untenable. I considered begging off several times during the progression. I took a moment to ponder my dilemma pragmatically, and continued to execute my duty not only as a fellow grunt, but as a friend who would expect nothing less were the circumstances reversed. I had to bring a satisfactory conclusion to what I'd started...for them, and for my own mental wellbeing.

Just when I thought I'd made it through this aberration, I wearily unzipped a bag containing John "Mac" McEachin, my closest and dearest friend from the day I first set foot in Camp Zinn. I was positioned a few feet from Mac when he got hit. The wound was in his lower leg or thigh region. Nothing fatal, I thought at the time. He was still conversant when a handful of us started belly crawling back up the hill. I didn't realize it until our extraction later that afternoon when mustered for a head count, that Mac was not among us. Just after what would be the third and final human wave assault, I witnessed what appeared to be a mortally wounded brother feigning death in hopes Charlie would bypass him. Mac was savvy enough to pull it off. My heart ripped when it hit me, that I'd not only lost a dear friend, but a kindred spirit to eternity. I made a hasty retreat a step or two outside the rear of the tent. There, I cried as I never had before and never would again.

Of course, I could name a dozen troopers in Alpha with whom I'd become extremely close -- several beginning as far back as AIT. McCray, from Miami, Duffy, Mika, Sharber, Kelly -- we would never again

coexist. My treasured friends -- my boys, would cease to exist. With Mac, I lost not only a true friend, but a nicer human being you'll never find.



**John "Mac" McEachin, A/2/503  
KIA 6/22/67**

There remained another seven months of my tour of duty, but from that day on, I rejected any and all attempts for anything more than casual friendships. I was convinced, I could not emotionally handle the loss of another Mac.

Mention of an actual body count didn't surface until the following day. Survivors gathered on the 24th to convey our stories "for the record" to the Brigade's historians. I chose to man a position on the perimeter -- just me and my thoughts. I was "ordered" to relinquish my foxhole to assemble en masse with my fellow Alpha survivors; General Westmoreland wanted to personally award our "unofficial" Presidential Unit Citation to each of us, a civilized gesture, I mused.

Most of us expected rear duty for a couple weeks before we saddled up again. According to a letter I'd written my mother days after 6/22, our ranks were hurriedly replenished, and we were back operating in the hills of Dak To not far from the **Slopes** as early as June 27.

-----

**Note:** Wambi's sad and touching story first appeared in Issue 29, June 2011, a *Special Edition* of our newsletter dedicated to the men of the 173d lost during *The Battle of the Slopes* in June 1967.



From the archives....

# Red Mortars Destroy 2 C130s at Dak To

By John Lengel, Associated Press



**"The enemy had blown-up the ammo dump and C-130 aircraft on the airstrip."** (Photo added, by Earle "Doc" Jackson, B Med)

**DAK TO, Vietnam** (AP) – The first four or five shells of scores fired at Dak To by North Vietnamese mortar crews Wednesday blew up two C130 transport planes.

Major Gilbert Kirchoff, 27, was preparing to take off in one loaded with equipment and 38 South Vietnamese rangers when the attack started.

In the cockpit with Kirchoff were Lt. Col. Val W. Krug, 47, who was taking instruction in flying C130s; Capt. Ray E. Monkell, 28, the navigator; and a South Vietnamese battalion commander, a major.

*"There was some mechanical trouble in starting the engine," Kirchoff said, "and we had just stepped out of the plane while my mechanic had a look. Suddenly, the first round hit just beyond the plane."*

*"Just then the second round hit the tail of another C130 next to us and I saw the debris flying. I yelled 'Mortar attack'. Everyone started running. We found holes and bunkers and dove in."*

Kirchoff said the Vietnamese major was directing his men off the plane when he was wounded in the abdomen with a piece of flying shrapnel. Two of his aides were also injured.

Two Americans were reported wounded.

The first plane to be hit was empty at the time.

A third plane standing nearby was struck and its fuel tanks started spewing volatile fluid over the runway.

The flames spread to a pile of 105mm artillery shells standing on a wooden pallet and the shells went off, blasting hot splinters of metal up to 200 yards away.

The third plane, its fuel gushing out, could have blown at any moment. But, the pilot, Capt. J.K. Glenn, jumped into the vulnerable craft and started the engine.

With explosions and flames all around him, Glenn taxied the transport off the runway and out of danger. It was reported later that he managed to fly the plane, with fuel still leaking from its tank to a nearby air base.

*"That man was thinking of only saving that plane," Kirchoff said of Glenn. "I'm sure he thought we'd need that plane for getting out of here. He deserves one of the highest awards the Air Force can give him."*



# Charlie Company at Camp Zinn Near Bien Hoa AFB, RVN



2/503 battalion firing range berm on the right outside "C" Company perimeter.  
Alpha Company hooches in background.



C/2/503 mess hall.



Chargin' Charlies between ops.

(Source of photos unknown. Likely circa '65/'66)



# AUSSIE SLANG DICTIONARY

## Chapter 23 – The Queensland Chapter

### Welcomes You To Australia

“Welcome to Australia. We want you to have a great time. This short dictionary has been put together by the members of Chapter 23 -- The Queensland Chapter. Hopefully, it will help you understand us Aussies just a little bit better. There will be other bits of slang that you will hear during your stay. If you are not sure what it means simply ask. Because slang is used in general conversation you'll find that you'll catch on quite quickly and by the time you go home you'll be taking with you a whole new language.”

**Amber fluid:** beer  
**Ankle biter:** small child  
**Ball out:** depart, usually angrily  
**Boozer:** a pub  
**Cark it:** to die, cease functioning  
**Crack a fat:** get an erection  
**Daks:** trousers  
**Drongo:** a dope, stupid person  
**Dunny:** outside lavatory  
**Exy:** expensive  
**Fair dinkum:** true, genuine  
**Furphy:** false or unreliable rumour  
**Good onya:** good for you, well done  
**Grouse:** great, terrific, very good  
**Gutful of piss:** drunk “he’s got a gutful of piss”  
**Hooroo:** goodbye  
**Hotel:** often just a pub  
**Knocker:** somebody who criticizes  
**Knockers:** women’s breasts  
**Lollies:** sweets, candy  
**Longnect:** 750ml bottle of beer  
**Mozzie:** mosquito  
**Mystery bag:** a sausage  
**Not the full quid:** not bright intellectually  
**Nuddy, in the:** naked  
**Old fella:** a penis  
**Oz:** Australia  
**Pig’s arse!:** I don’t agree with you  
**Piss:** beer  
**Quid, not the full:** of low IQ  
**Ratbag:** mild insult  
**Ripper:** great, fantastic  
**Sheila:** a woman  
**Spit the dummy:** get very upset at something  
**Slab:** a cargo of 24 bottles of beer  
**Tucker:** food  
**Two up:** gambling game  
**Ute:** utility vehicle, pickup truck

**Veg out:** relax in front of the t.v.  
**Whacker, whacka:** idiot, someone who talks drivell  
**XXXX:** pronounced Four X, brand of beer in Queensland  
**Yakka:** work (noun)  
**Yobbo:** an uncouth person  
**Zack:** sixpence (5 cents)



**Note:** We’re not sure, but we think this dictionary (only excerpts of it shown here), was brought back from our visit to Australia in '05 and the 173d reunion there.

Wish I would have had this upon arrival in Sydney when A.B. Garcia (HHC/2/503), the “Aussino” (cross between an Aussie and an American Chicano), picked me up at the airport. I still recall our conversation: Ed

**A.B:** *Hey mate! Welcome to Oz!*  
**Me:** *How you been A.B?! Haven't seen you in years.*  
**A.B:** *Not planning to cark it soon. Sorry I was late, was in the dunny. Wanna get some amber fluid?*  
**Me:** *Huh? Yeah, sure...I guess.*  
**A.B.** *Might be some Sheila's at the boozer, so don't crack a fat! Ha Ha!*  
**Me:** *No way, I'm down to about 185 pounds now.*  
**A.B:** *Huh? Oh. Good onya.*  
**Me:** *How's your bride?*  
**A.B:** *She's exy, man, and always spitting the dummy.*  
**Me:** *Really? That's great?*  
**A.B:** *We're here, let's get some piss.*  
**Me:** *I'm o.k.*  
**A.B:** *You're not gonna drink piss with me?*  
**Me:** *No way!! Let's lickity-split.*  
**A.B:** *Hey, don't talk dirty to me yobbo!!*



A.B. & Smitty outside Caravelle Hotel in Saigon, in '01



Reference: 2/503d Vietnam Newsletter, Issue 72, dated Mar/Apr 2017, Page 9, top, left hand column.

Entry reads:

**Malcolm Bruce McQualter, 5RAR, 3/5/67**

I noticed the above referenced entry and, as I knew the officer concerned personally, I thought you might care to know the circumstances of his demise, ergo, I contacted the 5 RAR Association for the details of his death.

The attachment (below) is provided and graphically tells the story further, a photo of the officer is shown on the last page of the attachment. I trust that it may provide a little more information for your readers.

I served with 1 ALSC, 1 RAR Gp., attached 173d Airborne in 1966 and am proud to be a Life Member of 173d Airborne Association, although I don't get to attend meetings very often.

Thanks to great mates in San Antonio I receive the Newsletter as soon as they receive it – GOOD reading.

Greetings from the Land Down Under to all 173d members and their families!

All the Way!

**L G 'Darky' Edwards, Sgt, RAE, (retd)**

## Honoring The Boys Down Under....(Ed)



### THE LONG HAI HILLS INCIDENT

It was on the afternoon of February 21, 1967 when B Company riding in Armoured Personnel Carriers hit mines and booby traps killing nine and wounding 22 others. This article was from an interview by Tony White who was the Regimental Medical Officer of the Battalion 1966-67 and was published in the *Canberra Times* 22 February 1997.



Captain Tony White treating a wounded Viet Cong during Operation Sydney

It was hot and dusty, the height of the dry season. After nine months in country and with three months to go, the troops were weary. They had effectively been on duty 24 hours a day seven days a week apart from five days R&R.

They were also intensely wary. Wary from the sporadic inconclusive fire-fights and encounters with mines and booby traps. The jokes were more sardonic. "Lets get a shot of you where you still have two legs," were to be heard from the diggers as they lined up for a photo shoot before setting out on patrol. The boys were only half joking when they talked wistfully about getting a "Homer" a wound decent enough to ensure their evacuation to Australia but not resulting in any great permanent incapacity.

On this day's patrol there was to be a sweep through the Long Hai Hills, a Viet Cong stronghold known to be full of bunkers and well defended with mines. Mounted on APC's (Armoured Personnel Carriers), the Battalion HQ group and B Company ground out of the village and halted on a gravel road to 'bolt' down a quick lunch and finalise plans. Around us stretched rice paddies, grey-brown and quivering with heat haze. Six months ago they were green and brimming with water.

B Company set off across the paddies into the scrub at the base of the hills. 15 minutes later, just as we were about to follow, we were startled by the sound of a massive explosion. A dark mushroom had formed over the bush in the direction of B Company's line of travel. Four minutes later there was a second, smaller explosion. A radio report of casualties followed but there was no clear picture as to what had happened. By chance an army Sioux helicopter was in the area. The Battalion CO called me over, "Tony get over there and see what you can do." I grabbed my medical backpack and climbed into the Perspex bubble of the Bell 47 helicopter.

It was a two minute skim to catch up with B Company. Banking to find a cleared area to land we saw the astonishing sight of the lead APC on its side. I jumped out on touchdown and the sound of the rotor blades faded, only to be replaced by a soundtrack of suffering, groans, cries and mutterings. I was led over to Major Bruce McQualter, officer commanding B Company. He had a head wound. With a rifle in one hand and a map case in the other, he was appealing for a hand to help him to his feet, but his eyes were closed and he could not respond to either questions or instructions....

(continued....)



....Close by, also with a head wound, lay the lanky form of Lieutenant Jack Carruthers. He was unconscious, stretched out on his side. His trademark ginger moustache was drenched in blood. The third member was Sergeant 'Tassie' Wass, sitting propped up against his backpack in great pain. Both arms outstretched, both elbows were smashed and his forearms dangled from the butchered joints. Acutely aware that I had seen only a fraction of what lay around, I made him as comfortable as possible, with dressings, splints and morphine.

Ten metres away the APC lay on its side. The back door had been blown off and nearby lay what at first glance seemed to be a pile of discarded uniforms blackened and dusty. Getting closer I could see that the heap was composed of dead and wounded soldiers. In amongst the carnage, I came across the body of Mick Poole. He had just turned 20 and was a favourite of the village kids because of his cheeky good humour. He played the tenor horn in the Battalion Band.



**"Equipment being removed from totally destroyed APC."**

On patrol, bandsmen acted as stretcher bearers and provided first aid. I caught up with the B Company medic and three more stretcher bearers all dazed and wounded but getting on with the task at hand. The task was to make a rough order of priority, identifying those in need of first aid and those not in acute need. There was a third group, those mortally wounded and beyond any help. The situation was out of control. The number of casualties was overwhelming. Horror was piled on horror. Close to the APC lay the torso of its driver. The lower part of his body was missing. Protruding from under the APC was a detached arm, its hand still grasping an M16 rifle.

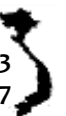
While moving around this slaughter house, I was powerfully aware that we were stalled in a mine field. At any instant I could find myself joining the dead or, even worse, the living mutilated. At one time I spotted the three prong wires of a "Jumping Jack" mine close to my foot. My heart stopped and I felt a bitter chill despite the stifling dusty bush around us. Pathetically I found myself moving among the wounded with one hand over my balls even though I knew these mines could destroy not only the genitals but the legs and more – I was amazed by the torrent of weird thoughts that surfaced as I worked.

People who are dying or who are terrified are said to see their past life rushing by like a speeded up movie. My mind raced with a stream of images of childhood, home and family. Mixed with these were other bizarre reflections. I thought of 'Tassie' Wass and his shattered, dangling forearms. The absurd line "*Look Ma no hands*" kept revolving through my head. I had carbonized the distinctive features of Barney Gee the

only soldier of Chinese extraction in the battalion. He was quite calm as I got him to press on a dressing I applied to the spurting artery in his arm. His skin was blackened by the explosion. "Red on black — very Chinese" I thought. I recalled a movie that I had seen as a child in which the minister was trying to halt the alien invaders. With his congregation covering behind him, he advanced with an open Bible, reciting Psalm 23. He had just mentioned "*Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil*" when he was carbonized by the alien ray gun.

After an eternity, sappers were choppered in. They quickly went to work with mine detectors, laying white tape on cleared pathways through the mine field. One sapper spotted me "*Do you want to get us all killed? For fuck sake stick to the cleared areas!*" he screamed. I had to bite my tongue to avoid pointing out that I had been walking around here for the previous half hour or so.

*(continued....)*



A landing zone was cleared for the 'Dust Off' choppers. The critically wounded were shipped out first, then the lesser injured and finally the dead. The evacuation included a macabre audit, matching up corpses with missing parts as they were retrieved. Some parts were never found. Jack Carruthers died three days later and Bruce McQualter after two weeks never regained consciousness.

I remained with the shaken remains of B Company for a short while. On one afternoon's outing they had lost their company commander, a platoon commander and numerous comrades. It had been an entirely passive event, with no trace of the enemy and no opportunity to strike back. A more potent prescription for anger and despair could not be imagined. On getting back to BHQ I was too shaken to hold a cup of coffee.

I tried to describe the scene and discovered the futility of words for communicating such an experience.

What had happened? It appears that the lead APC had detonated a mine of enormous destructive power. There was a crater 2-metres wide by 1-metre deep. The 13 tonne vehicle had been



**Crater formed by the mine blast**

tossed 3 metres away and onto its side and there was a large hole in the hull under the drivers' seat. The patrol halted and prepared for an ambush. The officers dismounted and summoned the company medic and stretcher bearers. As they walked towards the wounded, there was a second explosion. One of the party stepped on a M16 mine causing more casualties to B Company.

For years, like a diminuendo drumbeat, February 21 was to spook most of those who had participated in this calamitous and futile episode.

Did any good emerge from that afternoon? I would offer three positive observations. First, the way the medics and stretcher bearers went forward to provide help for the first group of casualties. Their response was immediate and selfless, as evidenced by the fact that all of them were wounded. Second, the tattered remains of B Company continued to function in the immediate aftermath. Junior officers stepped in to fill the gaps. Morale and discipline were maintained. All this reflects very well on the quality of their training.

## **235136 Major. Malcolm B. McQualter, 29 Braidwood, NSW, Australia**



After Graduation from the Royal Military College Duntroon, Major McQualter served in Malaya before becoming Officer Commanding B Company. On February 21 1967, during a search-and-destroy operation in the Long Hai Hills, the leading APC hit a 500lb land mine killing eight and wounding several others. As Major McQualter came forward to take control a 'Jumping Jack' mine was tripped wounding him and others. He died of his wounds on March 5, 1967.

Official Commemoration: NSW – Northern Suburbs Crematorium Commemoration Position: Niche 173 – QH

The full death toll for this incident is listed below:

- **LCPL Kevin Mitchinson (3 Cav Regt)**
- **TPR Robert Wilsen (3 Cav Regt)**
- **LCPL George Green**
- **PTE Don Clark**
- **PTE Mick Poole (Stretcher bearer)**
- **PTE Richard Sandow**
- **PTE James Webster**
- **LT Jack Carruthers (DOW 24 February 1967)**
- **MAJ Bruce McQualter (DOW 5 March 1967)**

*Lest We Forget*



# Whodat?

Anyone recognize this young hard-chargin' 2/503 Trooper of Alpha & Delta Company fame?



**The watch belonging to Akito Kawagoe which stopped at 8:15, the exact time of the Hiroshima bombing in 1945.**



Sent in by Reggie Smith, Skysoldierette

## Vietnam Helicopter Crew Monument approved for Arlington



Those who have been part of the tremendous effort to get this approved will be glad to hear the news that a monument has been approved.

\*\*\*\*\*

The *Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association (VHPA)* is pleased to report a breakthrough in the effort to establish an appropriate and meaningful monument within Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) honoring the almost 5,000 pilots and crew members who died operating rotary-wing aircraft in the Vietnam War. By unanimous vote, the VHPA Executive Council on March 13, 2017 accepted an offer proposed by ANC management to place a tree commemorative monument incorporating the art and language found in the original Vietnam Helicopter Pilot and Crew member Monument design.

Background. Following lengthy negotiations with Ms. Karen Durham-Aguilera, Executive Director, Army National Military Cemeteries, Ms. Durham-Aguilera authorized a commemorative monument at the location of the VHPA-dedicated tree located in Section 35, bordering Memorial Drive. The negotiated dimensions, 22 inches high, 21 inches deep (front to back at the base), 32 inches wide across the front, and trapezoidal in shape, contain all design elements of the original Vietnam Helicopter Pilot and Crew member Monument proposed to the Secretary of the Army and found within H.R.877/S.315, the Vietnam Helicopter Crew Monument Act.

[Excerpt circulated by CCVVA Chapter 982]



## 2/503 COMPANY MANIFESTS

We welcome company manifests for inclusion in future issues of our newsletter. If you are in possession of your company's manifest during your time of service in Vietnam, please email to

[rto173@att.net](mailto:rto173@att.net)





**UNIT ROSTER**  
**HHC 2/503**  
**AS OF 31 JANUARY 66**  
**(Officers' names not listed on source document)**



Ada, Manuel, Jr., E-4  
Adams, Willie G., E-4  
Albecker, Larry J., E-3  
Ambriz, Pedro Garcia, E-5  
Armitage, Jeffrey Alton, E-4  
Ash, Zachariah, E-3  
Bagett, George W., E-4  
Balls, Edward H., E-3  
Barlow, Paul Dean, E-3  
Barron, Samuel E., E-3  
Baumgartner, Edward John, E-3  
Beachem, Gary L. E-3  
Bell, Rupert, E-3  
Benbenek, Paul Dennis, E-5  
Bennett, Laurin V. E-4  
Benton, Garey D., E-3  
Berry, Phillip, E-3  
Bethea, James Elton, E-3  
Blanton, Terry Lee, E-3  
Boone, George N., E-3  
Boostrom, James F., E-3  
Bradshaw, Robert Lee, E-4  
Braggs, Lee Roy, Jr., E-3  
Brooks, Calvin, E-3  
Brown, Andres Jackson, E-3  
Brown, Gary Ronald, E-3  
Brown, Gerald L., E-3  
Brown, Kelly G., E-4  
Brown, Stanley R., E-3  
Bryant, Stephen Gaston, E-1  
Buchanan, Charles M., E-3  
Burks, Benjamin, Jr., E-7  
Burnham, Thomas W. E-3  
Campbell, John K., E-3  
Carlisle, Raymond Moses, E-5  
Carter, Clarence, Jr., E-3  
Casey, Henry Earl, E-8  
Chaffins, Wed, E-5  
Chapman, Marvin Eugene, E-5  
Christopher, Roger, E-6  
Clark, Charles L., E-6  
Clark, John A., Jr., E-3  
Clausell, Steve M., E-3  
Clegg, James Andrew, Jr., E-7  
Coleman, Isaac, E-5  
Collins, Johnny Dorse, E-4  
Colson, George Scott, II, E-3

Conley, Thomas William, E-3  
Cox, Larry, E-3  
Crum, James Lawton, E-4  
Cruz, Sixto, E-3  
Davila, Efrain R., E-4  
Davis, Billy Eugene, E-6  
Davis, Sherman, E-4  
Dechiardo, Robert J., E-4  
Detrick, Lawrence A., E-4  
Deville, Earl K., E-5  
Diener, Joseph A., Jr., E-3  
Dobbs, Willie, Jr., E-3  
Doiel, Patrick C., E-3  
Dotson, James Darrell, E-3  
Douglas, Leroy H., E-4  
Drozdownski, Theodore, E-3  
Earl, Wayne R., E-8  
Easton, Larry George, E-4  
Ellett, Ronald, E-4  
Engle, Roy Richard, E-4  
Estep, John D., E-5  
Fennessey, David Lee, E-5  
Flowers, Marion John, E-6  
Floyd, Frank Coulbeth, E-5  
Forester, Jerry Don, E-5  
Fred, Richard C., E-4  
Gambel, Theodore R., E-6  
Garcia, Amador B., Jr., E-4  
Godwin, James William, E-4  
Gonzalez, Valentine B., E-4  
Green, Joe Henry, Jr., E-3  
Griffin, Larry Earl, E-5  
Griggs, Terry Oliver, E-5  
Guerreo, Francisco Taitao, E-4  
Guy, Charles E., E-5  
Hall, Sidney A., E-3  
Hampton, Ronald J., E-4  
Hardy, Gerald L., E-3  
Harrover, John Edward, E-5  
Harvey Edwin Austin, E-3  
Harvey, Robert Lawson, E-3  
Hayhurst, Soloman C., Jr., E-3  
Haynes, William Johnson, E-3  
Henson, Paul E., E-3  
Hernandez, Cayetano, E-3  
Hicks, Arvill Mitchell, E-5  
Higgerson, Amos F., E-4

Hoitt, Robert Wayne, E-4  
Hoke, Roger Sherwin, E-4  
Hokerson, Donald Edward, E-4  
Holt, Buford Glendale, E-4  
Hopewell, Louis R., E-3  
Horton, John A, E-3  
Hudson, Donald Gene, E-4  
Humes, George Charles, E-6  
Humphreys, Melvin Dwain, E-4  
Ingram, Alton Douglas, E-4  
Ingvoldsta, Timothy Edward, E-4  
Jackson, Charles E., E-3  
Jackson, James Ezell, E-3  
James MacArthur, E-3  
Jamieson, David William, E-5  
Jimerson, Clarence, E-4  
Johnson, Donald F., E-4  
Johnson, Earnest N., E-3  
Johnson, Hjahmar Perry, Jr., E-5  
Johnson, Philip Alton, E-3  
Johnson, Robert Rakes, Jr., E-3  
Jones, Isaac C., E-3  
Joyner, Glascus, E-4  
Keyes, Elvin, E-6  
Kiyuna, Wallace Masayuki, E-5  
Knowlton, Philip Erwin, E-3  
Kumasaka, Stuart Shoichi, E-4  
Larve, Richard Allan, E-3  
Lakey, Jimmy Leroy, E-5  
Lane, James R., E-4  
Lanham, William Thowney, E-6  
Larkin, John David, E-3  
Lawton, Charles Edward, E-3  
Lewis, Clarence Pierre, E-3  
Lewis Robert Tillman, E-3  
Lewis, Walter R., E-4  
Lidyard, Thomas J., E-3  
Lively, Alvin, E-4  
Love, Theodore, E-3  
Mabry, Walter, E-3  
Machata, Rudolph George, E-4  
Magglos, Harry James, E-3  
Mailo, Sefo Vitale, E-5  
Mamsker, Melvin H., Jr., E-3  
Manus, Albert H., E-4

(continued...)



Marcum, Andy, E-3  
Marsh, Cleveland, Jr., E-3  
Martinez, Roberto, E-4  
Marynowicz, Edward, E-4  
Massie, Jerry C., E-5  
Mays, Chester, E-4  
McClellan, Walter, E-5  
McCoggle, Joseph, E-3  
McCormick, Terrance J., E-3  
McDevitt, Bernard Aloysius, E-4  
McGraw, Charles Max, E-3  
McGlone, Walter H., E-5  
McIver, John A., E-3  
Melancon, Carroll J., E-5  
Michaud, Philippe A., E-3  
Mish, Edward, E-9  
Mobley, Ted S., E-5  
Moffett, Ezra, E-5  
Morrell, Keith C., E-4  
Morris, Frank Edward, E-3  
Morton, Ronald Paul, E-4  
Morton, Victor E., E-3  
Mullenax, Roger L., E-4  
Munroe, John Ernest, E-3  
Newsome, John Alvis, E-5  
Nix, John Paul, E-5  
Orme, Kenneth Lee, E-3  
Osberg, Peter C., E-4  
Osborne, Gary Vernon, E-3  
Osowick, Richard W., E-3  
Owens, John P., E-4  
Padrick, James Marshall, E-2  
Pantalone, George Darrel, E-3  
Parker, Gilbert Lavon, E-6  
Perdue, Tommy Wayne, E-3  
Perkins, Samuel, E-5  
Phillips, Harry, Jr., E-3  
Phillips, James Robert, E-8  
Pierce, George J., E-7  
Pineau, Norman Robert, E-3  
Plummer, Michael Lee, E-3  
Puckett, Jackie, E-5  
Quiroz, Abundio, E-5  
Ragland, Billy R., E-3

Ray, James Edward, E-3  
Razer, Clifford F, E-4  
Reaves, Jimmie Oneal, E-3  
Redding, Kenneth C., E-5  
Reeves, Billy L., E-3  
Reiken, Ralph W., E-3  
Reitz, Ronald Earl, E-3  
Reynolds, Homer Edwin, E-4  
Rhinehart, Edward, E-3  
Rice, Donald, E-3  
Rippee, Jerry Paul, E-3  
Ritchie, Jerry E. E-4  
Roberts, John David, E-5  
Robinson, Anthony, E-3  
Rodzen, Joseph John, E-3  
Ross, Halloween, E-3  
Rossetti, Michael W., E-4  
Russell, Edwin John, E-7  
Sanchez, Martin, E-4  
Sanchez, Raymond Paul, E-3  
Saylor, Robert Lee, E-4  
Searcy, John W., E-5  
Segal, Norton Howard, E-3  
Segler, Christopher L., E-3  
Sexton, Willie Nelson, E-5  
Shelton, Charlie R., E-3  
Smith, David R., E-4  
Smith, Donald Lewis, Jr., E-3  
Smith, John W., E-3  
Smith, Michael Vernon, E-5  
Smith, William E., E-3  
Soffa, Stanley Andrew, E-3  
Stevenson, Eugene W., E-8  
Stinson, Vernon Leroy, E-5  
Stines, Larkin Roosevelt, E-4  
Sullivan, John L., E-5  
Sweck, Michael Henry, E-3  
Syrjala, Richard Vaima, E-3  
Talbert, Alex, E-4  
Taylor, Douglas, E-4  
Thomas, Donel, E-5  
Thomas, Earl Z., E-3  
Thomas, Oliver A., E-3  
Thomas, Truman R., E-3

Thomason, William Alonzo, E-5  
Thompson, Ronald J., E-5  
Tobar, Cruz, E-3  
Todd, Marion M., E-4  
Trudeau, George Harry, E-4  
Turner, William, E-5  
Unkel, August Joseph, E-6  
Valdez, Avelardo, E-3  
Van Leeuwen, Daniel L., E-4  
Vaughn, Richard Dyer, E-4  
Vertichio, Joel A., E-3  
Voorhees, Donald L., E-7  
Waeldner, James Robert, E-4  
Walker, William Ray, E-5  
Wall, Peter J., E-3  
Walsh, Richard Thomas, E-3  
Wangler, Fred P., E-6  
Ward, David Lee, E-4  
Washington, Cleveland, E-5  
Washington, Clifford, E-6  
Wagh, William F., E-4  
Waycott, Michael R., E-1  
Webb, Russell R., E-3  
Webster, Jessie Lee, E-3  
Webster, Walter, E-3  
White, Calvin G., E-4  
White, Charlie L., E-5  
Whitmore, Charles E., E-6  
White, Charles W., E-2  
Williams, John H., Jr., E-5  
Williams, Warren Lee, Jr., E-3  
Wilson, Floyd R., E-5  
Wimer, Anthony Wayne, E-5  
Wise, Roy, E-7  
Wiesmore, Clarence W., E-4  
Wolcott, David W., E-4  
Wood, Donald A., E-4  
Worthington, George, E-5  
Wright, Benny L., E-5  
Wright, Robert E., E-3  
Wyns, Jessie J., E-5  
Yamaoto, Robert Sadami, E-4  
Young, Raymond, E-4  
Zorick, Paul S., E-4



HHC hooches at Camp Zinn (circa '66)



## 2/503 BATTALION OFFICERS ROSTER AS OF 15 JULY 66

### Headquarters Company

Bethke, Gerald H. CPT, Bn S-1  
Boykin, John T., CPT, Bn S-2  
Carns, Edwin H.J., Jr., CPT, Recon Plt Ldr  
Carney, Thomas P., CPT, Mtr Plt Ldr  
Christenson, Willard, M., MAJ, S-3  
Johnson, Clarence, CPT, TDY  
Havercroft, Roger V., CPT, Bn S-5  
Jones, Joseph B., Jr., 1LT, Bn Commo Off  
Klinestiver, Donald G., CPT, Bn Surgeon  
Long, Donald E., Maint Off  
Nichols, Steven E., MAJ, Bn XO  
Nunes, Abner, H., Jr., 1LT, AT Plt Ldr  
Phillips, Don, CPT, S-3 Air  
Ray, Thomas L., CPT, Co Cmdr  
Rhode, LeRoy E., 1LT, LNO  
Snowden, Dewey K., WO1, Prop Bk Off  
Sweeney, Robert, CPT, Asst Bn S-4  
Walsh, John J., Jr., LTC, Bn Cmdr  
Wolff, Robert R., CPT, Bn S-4

### Alpha Company

Allgood, Larry D., 1LT, Plt Ldr  
Guy, Robert A., 2LT, Plt Ldr  
Kelley, Jack T., CPT, Co Cmdr  
Southard, Ralph C., 1LT, Plt Ldr  
Stickler, Rexford W., 1LT, Plt Ldr  
Vendetti, Augustin, 2LT, Plt Ldr

### Bravo Company

Dooley, Thomas F. 1LT, Plt Ldr  
Feedham, Donald F., 2LT, Plt Ldr  
Gardner, James E., 1LT  
Keaney, John P. CPT, Co Cmdr  
McGill, William F., 2LT, Plt Ldr  
Mulroy, Michael J., 1LT, Co XO  
Pinsky, Martin J., 1LT, Plt Ldr  
Vose, William C., 2LT, Plt Ldr

### Charlie Company

Dollar, William M., 1LT, Co XO  
Leide, John A., Cpt, Co Cmdr  
Mahar, Harold W., 1LT, Plt Ldr  
Mozden, James P., 1LT, Plt Ldr  
Nesse, David C., 2LT, Plt Ldr  
Wenzel, Thomas J., 1LT, Plt Ldr

### Company Not Listed

Fox, Robert, C., 2LT

Report changes and/or corrections to this headquarters,  
ATTN: AVAB-BBA (Paragon 1 – S-1)

### FOR THE COMMANDER:

Gerald H. Bethke, Captain, Infantry  
Adjutant

## A Few Pics of Camp Zinn



Camp Zinn at the beginning, 1965



Entrance to Camp Zinn, circa '65/'66



Camp Zinn's Milton Olive Church from Alpha gun tower



PX at Camp Zinn



# PFC David Junior Heller

South Boone, Colorado

Born 4/19/47

MOS 91A1P Medical Corpsman

HHC 2nd Battalion, 173d Airborne

Start Tour 4/8/67

Casualty Date 6/22/67



David Junior Heller saved my life. I state this unequivocally. Over the course of my 12 month tour with Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, there were several explicit occasions that were it not for the heroic efforts of my comrades-in-arms, I would not be contributing to this issue. I'm certain that Heller, without firing a shot, not only saved my desolate soul, but those of innumerable others during a latter phase of The Battle of the Slopes .

It was late morning on June 22. The last of three horrific NVA human wave assaults had finally ended. I and a couple others somehow managed to extricate ourselves from ground zero to the safe haven of our lines soon after. A momentary air of guarded tranquility and relief was evident by all as soon as we arrived. What was left of Alpha closed ranks into a small perimeter at the crest of Hill 1338. Even though

the NVA had temporarily ceased their relentless aggression, we remained vigilant. Over a period of an hour or so, another handful of fortunate, but seriously wounded survivors, were able to break away from the bloody battleground and link back with our main body. We were not about to let our guards down as Charlie, a formidable and cunning tactician, was sure to benefit from any display of our overconfidence. We chose to err on the side of caution and prepare for the worse.

Three and four man observation posts were deployed 15-20 meters to our immediate front, nearest the one and only trail to and from the battle site. Adjacent to the trail, I quickly manned a vacated M-60 position, and positioned a half-dozen frags within arm's reach. Sure, I was an RTO up until then, and I had not fired a 60 since AIT, but I also wanted as much firepower at my disposal as possible.

No sooner had I adjusted to my circumstances, when word came down that a wounded medic had made it out of the *killing field*. He'd suffered multiple bullet and fragment wounds, but had incredibly freed himself, then clawed his way within a mere 20 meters of our lines. Apparently, he could progress no farther, so volunteers were solicited to assist him the rest of the way. As I recall, Mortars FO Bill Reynolds and I "volunteered" for what we expected would be a routine recovery.

Seconds before heading down, we were blocked by platoon sergeants Sanchez and Alston. They ordered us to drop our M16s in order to better facilitate the medic's rescue. Their reasoning appeared sound at the time, but in hindsight, it was the worse decision we could have made. Three two-man teams were deployed some 15 -20 meters to our front (Deloach and Levart, as I recall) right (unknown) left (Paul Perkins) flanks. We hastily reached the company medic, Rick Patterson. We decided each would take hold of Rick's feet and shoulders, and then take the most practical route up the same trail.

Just as we were about to proceed, Deloach cried out, "*Here they come!*" I at once caught sight of the enemy's shadowy images breaking through the sunlit bamboo thicket. Levart and Deloach opened up instantaneously. Bill, Rick and I sat powerless as the fierce exchange ensued. Just as much incoming fire was visible as that of all three OP's outgoing torrent. It became obvious that the front pair could soon be overrun if help was not immediate.

(continued....)



Deloach's M16 probably jammed as he called out again appealing to Bill or me to either bring him a replacement rifle or get to them at once. We looked straight at one another with disgust. We had absolutely nothing to utilize toward their predicament. We began screaming that "Help is on the way!" I exclaimed to whoever was within earshot that our dilemma was perilous, and if we didn't get reinforcements at once, we're dead men.

Deloach and Levart's location became abruptly stilled. The flanks continued to cover us with barrage after barrage of automatic fire. Where was our help? At least five minutes had passed and still no help was discernible. Just when it seemed all hope was lost, someone from atop informed us that grenades were on the way. What they failed to tell us was the grenades would not be *hand-delivered*, but by way of rolling or pitching them individually down the trail. I pondered why a GI wasn't accompanying this ordnance?

I then accepted the obvious, that to do so, was suicidal, moreover, under the same circumstances, I might have done the same. We could only recover a portion of the couple dozen thrown. However, once they were in our hands, we were two hellacious, grenade heaving SOBs, make no mistake about it. Our efforts temporarily quelled the attack. We awaited our fate.

Just when we thought all was lost, there came a welcomed sight: A hard-charging M60 toting grunt came lumbering down the trail directly towards us. I recognized Heller instantly. He'd only been in-country a couple months, and his happy-go-lucky attitude about life in general had been a welcome relief for many of us seasoned soldiers. But wait! Heller was a medic! Why wasn't an 11B assigned this mission? I remember thinking I'd have a stinging piece of sarcastic humor awaiting his arrival.

He'd gotten within a body length of us, when he took a lethal burst of AK 47 across his entire forehead. His body contorted 180 degrees, landing face up across the bodies of both Bill and Rick. Our demise was certainly next.

Heller never got off a single shot. No one can convince me otherwise, that without his selfless heroics of diverting the NVA's attack, our destiny was all but sealed. His actions confirmed to the enemy that those of us still alive were an awesome force, set to resist whatever they threw at us. Charlie had better think twice before continuing on with this brawl. Now, it was their turn to err on the side of caution.

We were able to eventually rescue Rick, but elected to leave Heller's body until we were certain of our outcome. For all intents and purposes, *The Battle of the*

*Slopes* had come to a vainglorious end. Relief finally arrived late that afternoon. I knew I personally had to be a party to the detail assigned the duty of retrieving Heller's body.

A squad escorted me back to his body where I insisted on hauling my friend's body without any assistance. It was the least I could for the man who saved my life.

Dave Heller's statistics and photo were extracted from the *Virtual Wall* website. Anyone knowing of his surviving family members, please contact me at:

[WambiCook@aol.com](mailto:WambiCook@aol.com)

Over the years, I'd searched but could never determine what became of Michael Levart. His name was not listed on the ranks of the KIA, but there was no way he could have survived the onslaught of that encounter. Luckily I persisted, and after an exhaustive internet search, I finally made contact with Mike's family in the spring of 2009. Mike's account, as told to his family; He was shot several times on the 22nd. Too critically wounded, Mike could hear the enemy all about, and elected to take his chances, and spent the night sheltered by Deloach's body. The next morning he began his escape when he was shot again and left for dead by a still present NVA contingent. Mike fully recovered and eventually returned for a second tour. He died of heart failure in January 2009.

**Wambi Cook, A/2/503**



**A/2/503 RTO, Wambi Cook, survivor of The Slopes**



**Note: This tribute originally appeared in Issue 29, June 2011, the *Special Edition* of our newsletter on The Battle of the Slopes. *By honoring one, we honor all.* Ed**



Westy visits the 2/503 in the boonies for a spot of tea....



Col. Bob Sigholtz, CO 2/503 '66/'67, sent in this photo years ago. His inscription reads: *“General Westmoreland visits CP a few hours after jump – Junction City. In photo, me, Westy, Major Watson (later General), Don Phillips (S-3) back, and Westy’s pilot.”*

On an earlier visit to the boonies by Westy in '66, while serving as the Bn XO's RTO, I recall them also bringing in tables, chairs, coffee cups and no doubt other conveniences of home, thinking, *“Can I get you another cup of coffee, General? More sugar Commander? Can I take one in the chest for you sir?”* My recollection of Don Phillips is, he was a good man who cared for the well-being of his troops. Ed



# VA and GAO Agree: Appeals Reform Needed



*Current legal process detrimental to Veterans*

March 23, 2017: WASHINGTON — In response to a report released by the Government Accountability Office's (GAO), "VA Disability Benefits: Additional Planning Would Enhance Efforts to Improve the Timeliness of Appeals Decisions," the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) released the following statement:

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) appreciates the work of the Government Accountability Office (GAO). This report confirms that the current law and process for adjudicating appeals is not consistent with the commitment we have made to our nation's Veterans.

*"Veterans are waiting far too long for decisions in our current appeals process,"* said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. David J. Shulkin. *"We have made bold changes to remove the bureaucratic red tape that has caused Veterans to wait an average of three years before they get a decision."*

VA has developed sound and aggressive plans regarding hiring, training and mitigation strategies that are already being aggressively implemented. In addition, VA recognizes the importance of effective management practices for the development of information systems to help integrate and streamline the appeals process. Our new Caseflow system will help us anticipate new information requirements, allowing us to quickly address challenges and provide our employees the support they need.

There is broad consensus that the current VA appeals system is broken and in urgent need of reform. Our proposal for a new appeals process was designed in conjunction with Veterans Service Organizations and other key stakeholders. VA strongly disagrees with GAO about the need for any type of piloting, which would only unnecessarily delay the implementation of the bold changes Veterans expect us to make.

*"We have a number of reports and studies, including this one from GAO, which have helped us clearly identify the problems in the current system,"* said Acting Under Secretary for Benefits Tom Murphy.

VA is working to make as many changes to the system allowed by current law.

*"We need our partners in Congress to act swiftly, so we can implement the changes we all agree need to be made,"* Secretary Shulkin said. *"I am personally committed to work with Congress over the coming months to get this done."*

# Putting 'choice' in context



By Mary Dever, March 21, 2017

## What isn't being said about veterans' 'choice'

After three years of crisis and controversy, decisions about how to strengthen and reform the Department of year. Central to that debate will be designing a system that creates new options for veterans who currently have access challenges while not reducing access or quality for veterans who choose and rely on the VA for most or all of their care. As that debate is taken up by the 115th Congress, DAV continues Operation: *Keep the Promise and its Setting the Record Straight* campaign to ensure veterans' voices, particularly those of ill and injured veterans, are heard.

Since the waiting-list scandal at the Phoenix VA medical center exploded in the spring of 2014, the idea of providing veterans with more choice has been at the center of the debate over how to improve veteran's health care. However, some politicians and partisan interest groups seem more interested in providing veterans with "choice" than the best possible health care outcomes.

Unfortunately, the frequent use of the term "choice"—without any clear definition or specifics—has added to the complexity and confusion of this debate. To help clarify matters, DAV recently launched a new video, *"Putting Choice in Context,"* along with accompanying social media and grassroots efforts, to educate veterans and policymakers about what choice could really mean.

For example, some people have said that choice would allow veterans to pick their own doctors. But since many doctors don't accept choice payment rates, relying on choice could leave veterans without the ability to find a qualified physician. Some have claimed that providing all veterans with choice would lead to better quality health care. However, independent studies by RAND Corp. and others have consistently shown that the VA already provides equal or better care than the private sector and that choice will lead to more fragmented care, which correlates with worse health outcomes.

Finally, some say that choice will increase access for veterans, but for millions of veterans the opposite would be true. If choice expands and moves more veterans to the private sector, the VA would be forced to close some hospitals and clinics and curtail medical services in others, meaning less access and less choice for the millions of veterans who rely on the VA for most or all of their care. Further, the private sector is not capable of handling a large influx of veterans and often lacks the level of specialized care required by service-connected veterans.



# G.I. KILLED IN WAR PLANNED DELAYED HONEYMOON JULY 25

Pfc. Edwin Williams died in the sweaty combat of Vietnam last Thursday, one month before he was to begin the honeymoon denied him a year ago by the induction into the Army.

His wife, Wilma, of 13882 Anglin, received the Defense Department telegram Saturday.

The couple had planned to meet in Hawaii on July 25 for the honeymoon they never took. He was to fly in from Vietnam and she from Detroit.

*"Ed was drafted into the Army as soon as we were married and so we didn't have a honeymoon," she said. "We were looking forward to July 25."*

Almost all the plans were made. Their baby son, Raymond Orson, would have stayed with her parents and Ed was sending her the money for the plane fare.

On Monday morning, two days after Mrs. Williams was notified of Ed's death, she received her last letter. It has been written June 18 in a foxhole.

**ED HAD BEEN** in the Army since August 26, 196x, and in Vietnam for three months.

Born in Detroit, he graduated from Pershing High School in 196x, and worked a year to save money for college. His wife said he was preparing to register for classes when he was drafted.

*"He used to write and tell me he didn't know why he was over there," Wilma Said. "He used to say if he died it would be for nothing. He used to wonder if God would forgive him for killing another human being," she said.*

**Detroit Free Press**  
28 June 1967



**PFC EDWIN Williams, a lonely Detroit soldier dies in Vietnam.**



**Edwin Jerome Williams, 20**  
Detroit, MI  
**PFC, A/2/503, 173d Abn Bde**  
**KIA 6/22/67**

## ~ Farewell 2/503 Trooper ~

It's always a pleasure to read all that has happened since the last Newsletter.

I noticed in the report of deaths during 2016 (Issue 71, Pages 74-75) there was one trooper not on the list who was a member of "A" Company 2/503 (Sep). **SFC (Ret) Dale Schram** passed away in November 2016. I attended his funeral in Fayetteville, North Carolina. It was requested that I honor Dale by joining the members of his family and become one of the alternate pallbearers. I was treated with very much respect.

I also received a challenge coin from the Command Sergeant Major of thirty-two (32) years of service who awarded the flag to Dale's Widow.

Thank you,

**Jim "Top" Dresser**  
**A/HHC/2/503, '65/'66**



**SFC Dale Andrew Schram**

**A/2/503**

**1943 ~ 2016**



Sergeant First Class Dale Andrew Schram, US Army Ret., 73, died Saturday, 19 November 2016 at Cape Fear Valley Medical Center. He is survived by his loving and committed wife of 47 years, Jean, his daughter, Deborah S. Haywood and husband, Chris and his granddaughter, Sarah Jeanette Haywood of Eastover, and an extended family.



Dale was born on 3 February 1943 in Algonac, Mich. Sergeant First Class Dale A. Schram joined the Army on 31 August 1961 and retired on 22 October 1973 after a disabling parachute accident on Holland Drop Zone in Ft. Bragg, NC on 2 June 1972. During his career, he was honored with numerous awards including the Bronze Star for Valor and 3 Oak Leaf Clusters, Purple Heart, Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal for Valor, Good Conduct Medal 3rd award, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with 3 campaign stars, Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star for heroism, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, Meritorious Unit Citation, and the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation with Palm. He was a Master Parachutist and earned his Combat Infantryman's Badge while serving with the 173d Airborne in Vietnam from 5 May 1965 – 25 May 1966. He fought for his country with honor and valor.



## Son Killed in Ambush

# Mother Mails Cookies To Platoon in Vietnam

Mrs. Louis Bowman, of McDaniel Crest, near Wilmington, Del., followed the advice of postal officers and mailed her Christmas package to Vietnam.

It would have been better had she been able to address the small bundle to her son, Pfc. Robert Bowman, of the 173d Airborne Division, Company A, Third Platoon.

But instead, she sent it to platoon leaders, Lt. John J. Owen, whom she has never met.

### **'JUST A TREE'**

Her son died during an ambush while on patrol in Vietnam last June.

*"But I wanted to send the package anyway," Mrs. Bowman said. "It wasn't much – just a small Christmas tree and some cookies and candy. But I know from what my son had told me that the men love to get letters and packages. It doesn't matter who they come from."*

Mrs. Bowman, who lives at 315 Goodley Rd., plans to contact students at Metropolitan College near Kansas City, Kan., who have collected 1500 pounds of cookies for servicemen in Vietnam but cannot find out where they should be sent.

### **FEAR CRANK LETTERS**

Military authorities will not disclose the addresses of servicemen in Vietnam, fearing "crank letter" from those opposed to the war.

*"It would be a shame to waste the cookies," Mrs. Bowman said. "I hope they get to some platoon over there. It would be nice if it could be my son's. I would feel very good if I could do this."*

### **Following Excerpt from Paul Harvey News December 5, 1966**

A Christmas tree. . . is in the mail. . . on its way to Vietnam. A small tree. . .

But PFC Bob Bowman wrote home to mom that his buddies love letters and packages from whoever. . .

So Mrs. Bowman, in Wilmington, Delaware. . . wrapped. . . several Cookies and candy. . . and this small, decorated Christmas tree. And sent the parcel to her son's outfit, 173rd Airborne, Company A, Third Platoon.

She addressed it to the platoon leader, Lt. John Owens. Mrs. Bowman had never met Lt. Owens, except through the letters from her son. . . before her son was killed last June.

[Sent in by a Sky Soldier, source unknown,  
but likely a local newspaper of the time.]



## **Robert Michael Bowman**

**Private First Class**

**A CO, 2ND BN, 503RD INFANTRY**

**173RD ABN BDE, USARV**

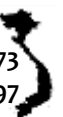
**Army of the United States**

**Wilmington, Delaware**

**November 06, 1947 to June 29, 1966**

**ROBERT M BOWMAN is on the Wall**

**at Panel 8E, Line 107**



# Columbus Soldier Drops Viet Cong Like Dominoes

By Tom Tiede  
NEA Staff Writer

BIEN HOA, Viet Nam – (NEA) – The Viet Cong caught Mark Mitchell with his pants down recently, right in the middle of the war.

It happened in a nearby jungle.

**MITCHELL, A** Pfc. from Columbus, was operating a machine gun at the time. He and several hundred others from the 503d Infantry were holed up in a circular defense while a regiment of twig-and-trigger-snapping enemy soldiers picked at their perimeter.

It was shortly after dawn. And the battle was already an hour old.

**Pfc. Mark Mitchell is scheduled to depart Viet Nam May 15 on a leave to the United States. His mother, Mrs. Everett E. Hartley, of 1483 Seilirk Rd., expects him home May 17 or 18. Mrs. Hartley said her son intends to leave military service in Feb., 1967, on completion of four years in the Army, which includes a re-enlistment. The 20-year-old soldier has been overseas more than two years and in Viet Nam a full year May 1.**



**MITCHELL, WAS** working behind a dead stump. His targets were trembling trees and shifting shadows. He shot at anything that moved – in other words, vermin, vegetation, or Viet Cong.

But the other side also was active. Several of their big guns cracked, Sniper fire was continuous. Now and then a grenade would thump in front of a GI, take a couple of hops, and pop with fury.

**ONE SUCH** grenade exploded a few feet from Mitchell. A piece of it dug into the back of his head. But he was lucky. Another guy's arm and chest were shredded by the fierce fragments.

*"Dammit, anyway!"* the guy grumbled.

**THE PROFANITY** was welcome; it meant he was still alive.

Another time, a rifleman on Mitchell's flank let out a yelp. A bullet had pierced his helmet, opened the scalp, changed directions on the bone, slid a few inches under the skin, and dropped to the ground.

**THE VICTIM** felt his head and then he swore also. It went on like this. Shattered branches fell like clods of rain. Smoke canopied the battlefield with a 10-foot cloud ceiling. A disputed strip of earth was charred, smoldering and desolate.

**AT LENGTH**, however, the shooting stilled and the jungle grew quiet. There was some brush movement, but no noise. Mitchell stood up carefully. He surveyed his front with sweat-scorched eyes. Nothing.

He became conscious of his own misery now. His body itched, his legs were cramped and his clothes were heavy and wet.

**HE RUBBED** his shoulders and stretched the elastic in his back. What a relief. He spit, blew his nose, wiped his eyes and cleaned his teeth with the edge of his tongue.

Then, half thinking, he unbuttoned his pants, and in a moment of comfort known only to the very hot and very weary, he began to scratch his sweltering and stinging loins elaborately.

But, suddenly, a noise! The Viet Cong, of course.

**NOT 25 YARDS** away, a dozen guerrillas began to break from behind a large clump of foliage into a small clearing. They were wearing dirty green fatigues and ran at the trot, with rifles on their shoulders.

Mitchell froze, his trousers at half-mast.

**QUICKLY HE** snapped to. His pants flew up, his legs out, and he landed on top of his weapon. In a single motion he grabbed it and opened fire.

His burst was about 150 shells long and it was enough. The line of enemy dropped like dominoes. A few of them screamed. Some others called back and forth in terror.

**THERE WAS** a brief flurry of movement and some weak return fire. Then nothing. Not a sound. It was over in half a minute.

Mitchell sagged to his knees and breathed heavily. He took inventory of his limbs. All there. He felt for blood. None.

**"YOU GET THEM ALL?"** a buddy called. *"Hope so,"* he answered.

Then he sank deeper into the dirt and glanced around. And when he was sure nobody was looking, Mark Mitchell hastily began to button up his trousers.



Mark

[This article appeared May 12, 1966, in the *Citizen-Journal*, sent in by a Sky Soldier]



## JAPS IN AMERICAN CLOTHING - THE HEROIC DEATH OF S/SGT JOHN M. GUTHRIE

By Chet Nycum  
with Paul Whitman

### INTRODUCTION:

**W**hen things stick in your  
craw, then by definition  
it's hard to dislodge  
them - in this instance, not even  
65 years has been able to help me.

Arriving on Negros we boarded trucks and were moved inland. The 40th Div. was already in combat on the island, and we were moved to their left flank to engage the troops that were flanking the 40th Div. Our fighting was always uphill, the Japanese were dug in, so we had to rout them out. Paratroopers have no heavy weapons so it all had to be done with small arms. I have no idea how many men were killed as we moved forward, but one I will never forget....

On the 22nd of May 1945, under the command of Lt. Whittig, I was lead scout of a "G" Company, third platoon patrol into an area feeding a trail which went by the name of "the Secret Trail." The patrol, ordered by Lt. Whittig, was of squad strength, with Staff-Sergeant John Guthrie in charge. My second scout was Andy Pacella.

Now, whether this "Secret Trail" had ever been a genuine secret, I cannot say, but certainly by the time I was scouting the area, it was no secret at all, especially from the Japanese. I had been told that there were no friendly troops between our positions and the river, the course of which was not far away to our left flank. Our patrol was to check the extreme left flank of the 503d PRCT's position, and to deal with any Japanese forces which might attempt to out-flank our line.

The mountains in the interior of Negros were steep, varying from two thousand to six thousand feet, and the Japanese had had ample time to choose their battlefields ahead of us - some positions were covered

by as many as two dozen pillboxes aligned in three supporting lines, and always above us. Nor did they appear to have any shortage of automatic weapons, heavy machine guns or mortars.

There were Japanese forces still occupying Hill 3355, many dug into positions where it was impossible, because of the terrain, to flank them. Throughout the sector, they had chosen their positions in such a way as to ensure that only means we had of dealing with them was to attack them, day after day, from lower ground.

The patrol had gone off without any contact being made, and we were still proceeding on an outward leg. It was mid-morning when I saw a few men crossing from my left to my right, some two-hundred yards away. They were on the "Secret Trail" moving towards my right. The trail itself sloped upward towards the left of our positions steadily increasing grade. At some point before my patrol had made it to that very spot, this 'lost' patrol had crossed in front of us traveling to my left, and presumably were returning whence they had come. They shouldn't have been there between us and the river.

I was damn surprised to see a patrol of Americans come from the left across our front, crossing to my right, on higher ground. Being of the 3rd Battalion, and situated at the far left of the entire front occupied by the 503d and the 40th, they had no business being there.

I could see them clearly. They were in US fatigues, wearing US helmets, and were carrying M-1's, and I assumed they were from our second battalion who had strayed out of their area following the clear trail through the dense rainforest. They must have crossed our path some hours before we had gotten to our position, following along the trail. I held my tommy-gun in my left hand and raised my right arm in a wave signal and called to them,

***"Hey, we're Americans!"***

Simultaneously, they started shooting - their guns were going off and bullets were flying towards our position. Two or three of the men of my patrol were bunched up near me, and had raised up about to wave. *"Americans! We're Americans!"* The distance between us was approximately 200 yards, visibility good. It all happened in less time than it takes to blink an eye. Instead of any response, our patrol attracted an instant hail of gunfire. When we'd raised up to identify ourselves, they'd started opening fire, it was just that fast.

*(continued....)*



I knew all too well the sound of the Jap 25's, and I was hearing M-1's. There's a big difference in the way they sound. They turned tail and ran to the right, and even though they had the advantage over us, they were running from further contact. When they started to run, we stood again.

As I faced the men near me, we all heard the good-solid bang of a hand-grenade detonator igniting. It had been on John Guthrie's webbing, close to his left shoulder, and I figured in that instant of a second that one of their rounds had dislodged it and set it off. We were bunched up, standing with him, and he was no further away from me than four feet. We exchanged glances, and everybody scattered and hit the dirt. Guthrie had a very short delay before making his decision, it must have been an eternity for him, but it was an instant for me, and he then dived upon the grenade to protect the rest of us.

There was nothing more clear to me, nothing in my life, not before, not since, than that he had made the conscious decision to protect us.

None of us were hit, not by the patrol which had fired on us, nor by the grenade which destroyed Guthrie's life. It had all happened so quickly, and we had not fired a shot.

We carried Guthrie home.

-o-0-o-

We talked it over since, and came to the view that the 'lost' patrol had been from "E" Company, which had been at our immediate right flank. At some point earlier in the morning, their patrol had crossed in front of us, and were returning to their perimeter when we surprised them. We reported the contact as Americans who had fired on us, and run.

Later, word came down to me that the contact had been "with Japanese in American clothing." This was completely false in my eyes, but I figured that there might be some justice in the way that the Army would recognize Guthrie's heroic act of self-sacrifice. Maybe, I thought, that if the patrol was identified as Japs, then the contact was a contact with the enemy, and not just a friendly-fire incident, and Guthrie could get recognition. It didn't happen.

Fate had decreed that there wasn't an officer around who witnessed it, or any officer who could write a commendation supporting Guthrie. If anything was ever written down, then it was sure to be wrong.

What makes it worse through the years was that "E" Company claimed that on that day they had a contact and had killed "one Jap". That's just another bit of the official record that Regimental HQ got wrong, for posterity's sake, maybe not even knowing either way. If only for his family, his bravery should be recognized.

There's no doubt in my mind that S/Sgt. John M. Guthrie, late of Arkansas, who died on 22 May 1945, saved my life, and the lives of others, and got not enough recognition for his selfless act. I recall him often. Like I said, it sticks in my craw, and it'll stay sticking there until I am gone to meet him again.

Chet Nycum

## John M. Guthrie

Staff Sergeant  
G Company, 503 PRCT Inf Regt  
Enlisted from Arkansas  
KIA 5/22/45, Negros



John's gravesite at the Manila American Cemetery,  
Section G, Row 1, Grave 36.

**Note:** Chet made the famous combat jump onto Corregidor, and was one of our special guests from the WWII 503rd PRCT who attended and spoke at our 173d reunion in Myrtle Beach, SC in 2010. Chet passed away on September 2, 2013. Ed



*"You could hear a pin drop during Chet's account of combat on Corregidor and throughout the Pacific theater."*



An arty pic from the past...



**“Vietnam...Sgt. Samuel Barnes, gunner on the 105mm howitzer, checks the sighting of the artillery piece in the built-up firing position. On October 7, 1966, Btry. B, 3rd Bn., 319th Arty., 173rd Airborne Bde. (Sep), moved from Bien Hoa by U.S. Air Force C-130 Hercules aircraft to a defensive position 5 kilometers north of Da Nang, replacing Btry. B, 1st Bn., 13th Marines, 3rd Marine Div., who were moving north to the Demilitarized Zone to engage PAVN divisions from North Vietnam.”**

(Official U.S. Army photo)





# Presidential Unit Citation ~ Navy



**The history of the 173d Airborne Brigade (Sep) is full of many “firsts” such as:**

- The 1st US Army ground combat unit deployed to Viet Nam,
- The 1st US Army ground combat unit to operate in the Iron Triangle, Ho Bo Wood, Bo Loi Woods, War Zone “D”, War Zone “C”, the Rung Sat Special one, and the My Tao Secret Zone,
- And some of the 1st Medals of Honor earned by members of the Brigade were awarded to Afro-Americans,
- Conducted the only mass US Army combat parachute assault in Viet Nam.

The Brigade also earned its share of unit and individual honors and Presidential Unit Citations or PUC’s, but one award has also been forgotten by time and other circumstances. On October 7, 1966, Task Force Healy was created from various elements of the 173d Airborne Brigade, and the 4th Battalion (Airborne), 503rd Infantry under the command of LTC Michael D. Healy. This task force was pulled out of Operation Attleboro being conducted in the area of Dau Tieng and the Michelin Rubber Plantation and deployed north to reinforce the Third Marine Division in the Da Nang area.

Joining the 4th Battalion were five helicopters of the 335th Aviation Detachment, B Battery, 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 319th Artillery, and elements from 1st Platoon of E Troop, 17th Cavalry, a platoon of the 173d Engineers, a squad of 173d Military Police, members of the 173d Military Intelligence Detachment, 173d Scout Dog Detachment, and the 505th Forward Air Control Team.

Task Force Healy made history on October 7, 1966, becoming the 1st US Army ground combat unit to operate in the “I Corps” area of Viet Nam. The task force was under the OPCON of the Third Marine Amphibious Force (111 MAF) with headquarters in Da Nang and under the command of General Lewis Walt.

Line elements of the task force conducted squad size and platoon size patrols, ambushes, mountain top security for Marine Hawk missile batteries and bridge security on the Mao Bridge on Highway 1. During their tour in I Corps, the paratroopers of the 173d lived in old French forts, fishing villages, the Hai Van Pass, Flames OP, Burnt Hill and Marble Mountain where they protected a Heisman Trophy winner from the Naval Academy.

Sadly to say that a few Sky Soldiers were killed in action during the time in the Da Nang region. A member of the Military Police squad was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action when he broke up a roadside ambush and the Headquarters S-2 Clerk/Driver was instrumental in stopping a daylight VC Sapper attack on the Naval Supply

Activity (Ammo dump) in downtown Da Nang. The S-3 Clerk/Driver killed and wounded the VC sappers and helped the Marines and Air Force Police capture the rest of the VC Sappers, and for his heroism the S-2 Clerk/Driver was awarded the Silver Star for saving lives and large amounts of equipment and ammunition. The Marine command was very upset that a Sky Soldier had done the job that should have been done by the Marines in their Area of Operation.

While the Sky Soldiers provided protection to the Da Nang region, no mortar or rocket attacks were launched against the sprawling Da Nang Air Base, or the oil tanks in the Hai Van Pass, and the Namu Bridge remained intact. Upon departure of the paratroopers of the 173d Airborne Brigade, the VC quickly blew up the Namu Bridge causing a major traffic jam to the south, and rocket and mortar attacks resumed on Da Nang Air Base.

For extraordinary heroism and outstanding performances of duty in action against the North Vietnamese Army and the Viet Cong forces in the Republic of Viet Nam from 7 October 1966 to 4 December 1966, the award of the PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION (NAVY) is made to the following United States Army units for the period indicated as confirmed in accordance with paragraph 194, AR 672-5-1:

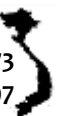
**4th Battalion (Airborne), 503rd Infantry, 173d Abn Bde  
B Battery, 3rd Bn (Airborne), 319th Artillery, Abn Bde  
1st Platoon, E Troop, 17th Cavalry, 173d Abn Bde  
335th Aviation Company Detachment, 173d Abn Bde  
Platoon from 173d Engineer Company, 173d Abn Bde  
Squad from 173d Military Police Detachment  
173d Military Intelligence Detachment  
173d Scout Dog Detachment  
505th Forward Air Control Team**

**GENERAL ORDER NO. 32  
HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
WASHINGTON, D.C.  
24 September 1973**

*“The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION (NAVY) to elements of the 173rd Airborne Brigade for distinguished service with the 3rd marine Division (Reinforced).”*

**Source:**

From (then) Society President Ken Smith: *“Thanks to Ray Ramirez (Recon/HHC/D/4/503) for his research and valuable contribution to our unit heritage.”*



# West Virginia Secretary of State Mac Warner's Son Honored with Purple Heart

JANET METZNER

Legal Reporter

[jmetzner@theintelligencer.net](mailto:jmetzner@theintelligencer.net)

March 25, 2017



**Debbie Warner, wife of West Virginia Secretary of State Mac Warner, pins the Purple Heart award on her son, retired U.S. Army Capt. Steven Warner, Monday in Charleston. Looking on is U.S. Rep. David McKinley, R-W.Va.** (Photo Provided)

CHARLESTON — West Virginia native Steven Warner and his engineering unit were clearing a dirt road of improvised explosive devices in April 2010 in Afghanistan when their vehicle was hit by a Taliban IED. Almost six years later, the retired Army captain — and the son of new West Virginia Secretary of State Mac Warner — received his Purple Heart at the state Capitol in Charleston.

IEDs are a major threat to troops in Afghanistan. In the loose soil, insurgents can bury such a bomb underneath the soil surface and attach a wire in order to detonate it.

Steven Warner was a platoon leader assigned to the 173rd Airborne Brigade at the time of his injury. He suffered a severe concussion in the incident.

He was off-duty for a week in recovery, but eventually rejoined his platoon.

The Purple Heart is the oldest U.S. military award that is now given to those who are wounded in action, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Most soldiers get the Purple Heart when they're in-theater, Steven Warner explained. But because he wasn't evacuated, and stayed south of Kabul, where the accident occurred, things got delayed.

In all, Warner served seven years in the Army, earning his Ranger and Sapper tabs, Airborne wings, Pathfinder Badge and Combat Action Badge, among other honors. Since leaving the Army, he's been

working on his MBA at Wharton Business School.

Meanwhile, the paperwork for the Purple Heart honor was already completed, yet Warner had yet to receive the medal.

On Monday, U.S. Rep. David McKinley, R-W.Va., completed the process.

*"It's great that Congressman McKinley cares enough about soldiers to follow up on something like this,"* Steven Warner, who is also a graduate of University High School in Morgantown, said.

Monday was an important one for the Warner family, beginning with Mac Warner's official swearing-in as West

Virginia secretary of state at 12:01 a.m. He was sworn in again, ceremonially, as part of Gov. Jim Justice's inauguration ceremony that began at 1 p.m.

But to Mac Warner, who is an Army veteran himself, it was his son's day.

*"It's this kind recognition of service that Vietnam veterans did not get,"* Mac Warner said. *"It's nice seeing soldiers being recognized."*

The Purple Heart ceremony *"was particularly moving for a number of reasons,"* Mac Warner said. *"First, because (Steven) told stories today about when he was hit that we haven't heard about. He had a difficult time talking about it."*

And secondly, Warner said he was moved by the support from family and friends who came to celebrate the honor.

Steven Warner plans to graduate from Wharton in May.

[Reprinted courtesy of the *Wheeling News-Register*]



# Long-Range Patrol

By Steven F. Vargo  
C/2/503 & Co. "F" 51st Inf., LRP



Steve Vargo, "Sgt. Rock"

Vietnam in 1968 kicked off the New Year with the start of TET 1. It was to be a crucial battle that would prove to have a profound effect on the war effort both in battle and on the homefront. Young paratroopers highly trained into six-man teams comprised Co. "F" 51st Infantry Long Range Patrol, Airborne and Ranger Company. The unit had drawn primarily on infantry companies for the manpower needed to form the special unit.

**Mission:** To travel a designated route gathering information to monitor a large trail deep in enemy territory and to report on any enemy trooper and supply movements.

The team leader nodded as the chopper pilot motioned thumbs-down to indicate that the chopper was going in. Faces held the truth of it all as beads of perspiration formed on the skin of the men. Young men with deep, serious eyes grew older by the moment.

Sergeant Rock stood on the landing skid and braces himself for the fall. It wasn't safe to have the helicopter fly too low, so it was mandatory to jump from it as it hovered five to fifteen feet above the ground.

The world was still and silent as the beating of the chopper's blade faded into the distance. This was a critical period for the team as they sat waiting in the bushes. The sergeant thought briefly to a previous mission when the tree line had erupted with gunfire as the team hit the ground.

There was a radio check back to base by the team leader who then, by use of a non-verbal hand signal, ordered the six men into the jungle. They formed a human snake that moved as one with each man having a specific job to do – the point man, left security, radio man, team security, and rear security. The point man led the way and so it went for three uneventful days until they arrived at the trail.

Two men moved out to scout it and signaled that they found fresh footprints and a second path that entered the other from the north. The area was sparse in vegetation, making it necessary for the men to set up behind an extremely scrawny bush.

This was a good vantage point as the team could watch the trail from a few short yards away. The first night passed sleeplessly but without incident. During the day they remained in a prone position, not moving or speaking because noise discipline was the key to their survival. Drinking water from a canteen, ordinarily a simple task, would be done in slow motion by the men to prevent any unnecessary noise.

By midday the men were as well-done as most lobster one dines on. The oppressive temperatures reached over one hundred degrees. Sergeant Rock gazed at his companions while he reflected on moments of "contact". The eternity of eternities is combat. Surrealism and at times *Dante's Inferno*, complete with the deafening drone of gunfire: Death for some.

**Reality:** Two Vietnamese soldiers walked slowly and carefully up the trail, moving from right to left in front of the team. Frozen in place, the men watched the soldiers cross out of their sight. This information was radioed back to base. They had a feeling that the night would bring activity on the trail.

(continued....)



Another sleepless night, again due to the extreme tension of the situation. Ghosts and figures occasionally appeared as the sergeant blinked them out of sight and mind.

A light suddenly appeared in the distance. The full moon made it difficult to tell what it was. Closer and closer the light came, getting brighter as it did so. The sound of equipment banging together broke the silence of the night as a group of thirty or forty men, along with a large cart being pulled by the soldiers made its way slowly from the north trail south toward Saigon. This important information indicated troop and supply movements in obvious reinforcement of the large enemy offensive.

On their knees the team remained motionless with M-16s in hand, watching the soldiers moving to their front. Staying close to the path the column moved slowly while the hearts of the young men pounded against their chests. The team could quite possibly escape in the bushes but the thought of taking on this large force didn't appeal to anyone. A cough, sneeze or other noise could mean the death of all as the men sat with sweaty palms. The adrenalin rush created anxiety which pushed each man to his individual endurance point.

This was worse on the nerves than actual shooting because firing at least has a way of releasing tension. Just sitting and waiting was unbearable pressure. Men could stand pressure but how much could anyone take? Who might be the first one to snap out? One never knew.

Faceless silhouettes moved without speaking and without pausing. Finally the last soldier moved out of view. Stillness once again resumed as the team leader radioed the information back, utilizing a method of non-voice communication by clicking the voice control lever to produce a type of Morse code.

Slowly the team members sat back and relaxed. Relaxed? A pile of grenades sat in front of each man which fate had decreed they didn't have to use. Green-faced zombies with wide-open eyes kept the night vigil.

Morning came slowly with everyone wet from the heavy mist. Although shivering they were unable to light a fire, so they gritted their teeth and awaited the

warmth of the cursed sun which would later fry their brains.

After two hours on the move a small opening in the jungle suddenly revealed itself to the team. They carefully moved around the landing zone to insure no enemy were in the area. A radio call to base had a helicopter coming to pick up the men.

This time they had made it. One by one the men ran to the hovering bird and jumped on. The door gunner scanned the tree line with his machine gun as a rear security, the last man to come aboard, scrambled on. The chopper rose quickly, accelerating as the men took a final look below. Exhaustion, fatigue, spent nerves, eyes that looked like the eyes of all men in all wars. They were heading back to base over a green sea which raced by below.

Soon they could sleep. Until the next mission . . .

###



**“L-R: Mannie Moya (deceased) was point. Bruce Baughn RTO and me. Photo taken same time by Co Reentmeister as the one that seems ubiquitous. Got inserted about a km from Cambodia into what turned out to be a battalion or larger base camp. We had four or five hours of interesting times. This was at Katum where 2/503 plus assorted ash and trash made the drop. This was four days after the jump so sometime in late Feb 1967.” Reed Cundiff, 173d LRRP**



June 17, 2014

## LIVING IN THEIR MEMORY

The nights in Nam were cold, damp and extremely wet. All day we slogged through the jungle, with the heat almost unbearable and humid. Uncomfortable, dangerous and hard. The rain would pelt down starting around 3 pm most days in the wet season. We'd be saturated but continued to plod along to our next night's position.



**A.B. Garcia, loaded up for for next operation**

We'd make our hooches and there were three of us in one. We'd place firing stakes on either side of our position to keep us from firing on our brothers who had their positions next to ours. I remember it was mostly my assistant gunner, Melvin Mansker, in the hoochie with me, but the other brother's name with us I cannot recall.

The nights were extremely dark and cold. We didn't have a change of clothes, but had brought extra socks to change into. The mosquitoes were always bad making it difficult to sleep. The mosquito repellent stank and would melt plastic. We would have to squeeze some on our hands, rub them together and smear it on our clothes so the mosquitos wouldn't penetrate our fatigues. If you had to 'use the latrine', a slit trench, you'd have to smear your ass with the repellent to keep them from biting your behind.

We would each pull guard duty at night. Each one of us would do 2 hours on and 4 hours off. After our two hours, we'd wake who was next and he would start his time on guard. Every night was the same old thing. It was so hard to stay awake after humping all day up and down hills, up, around and through streams or canals carrying about 90 or so pounds on your back and around your waist with grenades and extra ammo. And every so often getting sniped at. That was the norm.

The nights as I said were most always very cold and I would shiver throughout most of the night. We'd use our poncho liners as blankets, the material was like a rubber substance. At times it would rain all night which made sleeping nearly impossible, and we would sweat under the liner it was so uncomfortable.

When it was my turn on guard duty, I struggled to stay awake -- I would bite my tongue and pinch my cheeks to basically cause pain to keep myself awake, inflicting pain on myself to keep from falling asleep.

The next morning we would open a can of C Rations, eat it cold, saddle up with our gear as the command came down the line, and continue on our mission. Some operations would last weeks, and other missions only days. It never seemed to alter. So many missions. And every mission we would be briefed on what to expect. Often I would say to myself, I'll never make it this time.



**A.B. (in T-shirt) along with fellow troopers carrying a wounded buddy to the LZ for Dust Off.**

We were told to expect tanks, anti-aircraft equipment, thousands of North Vietnamese regulars. Scared, you bet. But, I had to go and try to look after my brothers whose lives I considered more important than my own. That was my main concern -- my brothers' safety.

The chopper rides to and from the battlefield were the highlight for me. I loved them. I loved having my feet dangle from the floor almost touching the skids. At times I would hear thuds on the belly of the Huey, I immediately knew they were bullets. I would then bring my legs inside and just smile at my brothers inside the chopper. This happened often.

Once we were in some rice paddy and were attacked with rifle fire by a small Viet Cong force. Bullets whizzed past our positions. All mortars (4.2 inch) were out on this paddy. There were no troops guarding our position and we just held our own.

*(continued....)*



At the end of this particular mission, Chinooks came and extracted us and our mortars which were loaded onto small motorized vehicles, we called them mules. They were like a small ute completely open and no roof but with big wheels. These mules could carry all our weapons and equipment, plus ammo.



A.B.'s buddy, John "Top" Searcy "taking 5" sitting on a Mule.

The four mules were loaded onto the rear of the chopper while the rotors were churning, heat coming from them and once on, the door closed. As we were preparing to lift off, I stood up and glanced out a portal window. I could see small men holding what appeared to be a stick, but that stick had smoke coming out of the barrel. The bullets pierced the belly and whizzed past me, but a lot of my brothers were wounded by flying shrapnel as they sat on the floor of the Chinook. I prayed for the chopper to keep lifting, beckoning it to keep going. Smoke filled the cabin and somehow, by God's grace, the chopper kept flying. Again, another time I was going to bite the bullet.

I often sit and wonder on how I was so bloody lucky to have come out alive after having been so close to dying, getting killed; but for some reason, I'm still here, I survived. The Vietnam War for me often seems like a dream that never happened, but it did almost 50 years ago. Half a century. All my other brothers who didn't make it, I am here for them. I am here to celebrate their lives, and the memories of them -- to never forget them. And I never have. I talk to them a lot. I play my flute for them a lot. I sit and pray with them a lot. I live in their memory.



A.B. remembers his buddies

A.B. Garcia  
HHC/2/503  
4.2 Platoon, '65/'66

## Latest Novel by Bravo Bull John Taylor



*"June 6th, 2014, the 70th anniversary of D-Day. A platoon of American paratroopers from the 173d Airborne Brigade jumps into Normandy to commemorate the historic WWII airborne assault. In the blink of an eye, the bright, sunny day astonishingly turns to night. They become helpless targets for small arms and machine gun fire as they descend. Platoon Leader Spike Wilson is thunderstruck. Is this a nightmare? Some sort of delusional hallucination? Wilson has a prophetic revelation that stuns him. A rift in the space-time continuum forced them from the present-day time dimension back into the actual D-Day Invasion. How? Why? Will their actions change the future? Will they ever return to 2014? These are the dilemmas the time-traveling platoon face as they fight to stay alive long enough on the battlefield to find their way home."*

(Available on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) books]



# ~ 2/503 Sky Soldier Extraordinaire ~

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS 173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEPARATE)  
APO San Francisco 96250

GENERAL ORDERS  
NUMBER 591

1 December 1966



## AWARD OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL FOR HEROISM

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

**BOBOWSKI, JAN RA1051XXXX STAFF SERGEANT E6 USA Co A 2nd Bn (Abn) 503d Inf**

Awarded: Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device

Date action: 7 October 1966

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force:

Staff Sergeant Bobowski, distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 7 October 1966, in the Republic of Vietnam. On this day while conducting a search and destroy operation, the lead platoon of Company "A" made contact with a well-entrenched Viet Cong force, and immediately became pinned down by two well-emplaced heavy machine guns. Throughout the fierce battle that ensued for two hours, Staff Sergeant Bobowski, with complete disregard for his own personal safety, exposed himself continually to tremendous volumes of machine gun fire and a hail of rifle grenades to personally direct the fire of his platoon, redistribute ammunition and encourage and inspire his men to hold their ground. In one particular instance Staff Sergeant Bobowski displayed an utter disregard for his own life when he crawled forward placing suppressive fire on one of the enemy machine gun bunkers while assisting one of his men in positioning a claymore mine directly in front of the bunker. In doing so he exposed himself not only to enemy fire but friendly fire coming from the rear. Inspired by Staff Sergeant Bobowski's example of courage the first platoon fought on overrunning the entire Viet Cong complex. Staff Sergeant Bobowski's outstanding display of aggressiveness, devotion to duty, and personal bravery were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.



SSG Bobowski

Authority: By direction of the President under the provisions of Executive Order 11046, 24 August 1962 and USARV Message 16695, AVA-S, 1 July 1966.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

J.R. MAILLER

MAJ, AGC

Adjutant General



# Sky Soldiers unveil new official website

By Maj. Juan Martinez  
(The 173rd Airborne Brigade) January 24, 2017

The 173rd Airborne Brigade website has been completely revamped to make it more user friendly and updated to reflect the new U.S. Army interface.

The new mobile-friendly website, [www.skysoldiers.army.mil](http://www.skysoldiers.army.mil) provides access to all Sky Soldier related news and information.

Links to all social media platforms, as well as links to current news stories are easily accessible on the new website. Each battalion has their own homepage with command bios, history, newcomer's info and a window to the battalion Facebook page. Leadership team bios for the entire brigade are also available online under the leadership button. Under each set of battalion command team bios you'll find a link to that battalion's homepage.

The entire Sky Soldier family benefits from the revamp. The FRG page has easily accessible buttons to contact the brigade family readiness support assistant or specific company's FRG leader.

Additionally, the new Medal of Honor page that highlights all the brave Sky Soldiers that have received our nation's highest honor.

Check it out today and let us know what you think!



## MISSION

The 173rd Airborne Brigade (Sky Soldiers) is the U.S. Army's Contingency Response Force in Europe, providing rapid forces to the United States European, Africa and Central Commands areas of responsibilities. Forward-based in Italy and Germany, the Brigade routinely trains alongside NATO allies and partners to build interoperability and strengthen the Alliance.

# Soldiers in Europe chart a course as Pathfinders

By SSG Kenneth D. Reed, 7th Army Training Command  
February 21, 2017

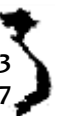


A Soldier, assigned to 173rd Airborne, plots an area where his team will prepare a landing zone for cargo drops during the Pathfinder Course, Feb. 14, 2017, in the Grafenwoehr Training Area. The Pathfinder Course prepares Soldiers to establish day and night landing zones for cargo drops, and provide air traffic control and navigational assistance to rotary and fixed wing aircrafts. (Photo Credit: Staff Sgt. Kenneth D. Reed, 7th Army Training Command)

**GRAFENWOEHR, Germany -- 47 Soldiers completed the U.S. Army Pathfinder Course here, Feb. 14, 2017.**

The course -- which is normally only available in the U.S. -- was offered to Europe-based Soldiers in Germany through a special mobile training team from Ft. Benning.

The Pathfinder Course prepares Soldiers to establish day and night landing zones for cargo drops, and provide air traffic control and navigational assistance to rotary and fixed wing aircrafts. Inspecting equipment loaded on and strapped beneath aircrafts and help their command plan airborne assault operations are among other duties they will also assume.



# GI Defenders of Viet Nam Shocked By Anti-American Demonstrations

By **DON DEDERA**  
*The Arizona Republic*  
Written for  
**The Associated Press**



**In February 1966, Buddhists demonstrate against the Vietnamese government on the streets of Saigon.**  
(Web photo)

BIEN HOA, South Viet Nam (AP) – They are shocked, hurt and perplexed by their friends, but still willing to go out and fight the enemy.

This is the spirit of the paratroopers of the 173rd Airborne Brigade, which has seen as much bitter combat in Viet Nam as any other U.S. unit in the past year.

*“We’ve lost too many good men to bug out now,”* said Pfc. Edward Odom, 22, a squad leader from Newark, N.J.

The gravity of the crisis was announced last week in terms every soldier could understand: Saigon, 15 miles to the southwest, was declared off limits to soldiers not on duty.

Anti-American sentiment of the rioters has been exasperating to the troopers. They shake their heads over pictures of Jeeps blazing in downtown Saigon and of school children bearing signs in English directed against the Americans.

*“Sure, it irritates me,”* said Spec. 4 John Panella of North Plainfield, N.J. *“Our outfit has been over here since May, fighting for this country’s freedom. We don’t like to be insulted.”*

*“Then, we think about it. I mean, who’s behind the anti-American slogans? Look close enough, and you’ll see the Communists, taking advantage of the unstable political situation.”*

## City Man Commands Unit

BIEN HOA, South Viet Nam (AP)  
The accompanying interviews were encouraged by Capt. Thomas E. Faley, C Company commander, West Point Class of ’62 and resident of Harrisburg, Pa. He said:

*“Ninety per cent of my men are high school graduates and many have some college. As volunteer airborne troops, they are self-motivated. They are thinkers. They’re not fooled by a Jeep burning downtown. Now excuse us. We’ve got a war to fight.”*



Panella, wounded by a Viet Cong grenade in December, said his morale was high despite the demonstrations.

Another trooper who recovered from wounds is Pfc. Richard M. Hawkins, 21, of Salt Lake City, Utah.

*“I figure the Vietnamese people aren’t getting the truth about us. The things we do right go unnoticed. Everything we do wrong is exaggerated,”* Hawkins said.

*“Like March 16. We take on a regiment of Viet Cong in Zone D and kill 310. Then we come in for a rest, and maybe a few of the boys go downtown and get drunk and say something to somebody’s sister. That’s bad, but men are men, and I feel proud to be over here. The best politics I know is to kill VC.”*



**Dust Off of our wounded following the battle on March 16, 1966, Operation Silver City.** (Photo by Wayne Hoitt, HHC/2/503)

*(continued....)*



Spec. 8 Lemuel Lee Hymes, 19, of Beardstown, Ill., has received the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry and has been recommended for the U.S. Bronze Star.

*"The Buddhists are playing right into the hands of the Communists," he said. "If the Buddhists think they are going to be well treated by Hanoi, they should be invited out on our next field problem."*

Another recipient of the Vietnamese gallantry medal is Sgt. Richard H. Homes, 19, of Phoenix, Ariz. After action in Phu Loi in the Mekong Delta, and in Zone D, he is due for rotation next week.

*"Actually, I don't see the demonstrations as the worst thing. What worries me is – what comes next? If Premier Nguyen Cao Ky's government falls, who comes next? Who's going to take over? Who's around that doesn't need America to help them stay alive?"*



A soldier with memories of Korean combat, Sgt. Benjamin Benavides, 33, of Las Vegas, N.M., takes the longer view. In the 1st and 2nd Battalion's last action, Benavides was cited for restoring spirit, under intense enemy fire, to a badly hit squad.

*"The word of our cause has not reached the peasants yet. This country can't have elections. The people don't really have a choice. In wartime, the picture is too confused," he said.*

*"The way I see it, the VC are losing the war. We've been rapping his hard. So this is his newest technique. If this fails, he will try something else."*

*"In general, the Vietnamese people like us," he said. "I'd be willing to take a vote on that. I'll bet that those little kids holding anti-American banners are being paid 100 piastres a night to riot, and I've got a pretty good idea who's paying."*

Spec. 4 Jimmy L. Spence, 20, of Spokane, Wash., bearer of a gallantry medal and shrapnel wounds from the battalion's last fight in Zone D, said: *"It seems to me this country just doesn't know how to achieve what it wants. Democracy is responsibility, not anarchy. Freedom doesn't come out of riot. You create a mob and you can do anything with it. I see the hand of Charlie, the Viet Cong, in this thing."*



## VA Secretary Praises Congress for Extending Choice Program

***Calls legislation major step toward increasing access to care***

WASHINGTON — Today, following the U.S. Senate's passage by unanimous consent this week, the U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation that extends the Veterans Choice Program (VCP) until the funding dedicated to the program is exhausted. The VCP is a critical program that increases access to care for millions of Veterans. Without this legislation, the ability to use VCP funding would have ended abruptly on Aug. 7 of this year. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. David J. Shulkin released the following statement of support:



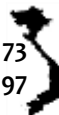
Secretary Shulkin

*"Congress has once again demonstrated that the country stands firmly united when it comes to supporting our nation's Veterans," Secretary Shulkin said. "The Department of Veterans Affairs truly appreciates the quick bipartisan resolution Congress provided with the extension of the Veterans Choice Program."*

*"I want to thank Chairman Johnny Isakson, Ranking Member Jon Tester, Chairman Phil Roe, Ranking Member Tim Walz and all the members of our committees for their leadership as we continue to make improvements to increase Veterans' access to care," Secretary Shulkin continued. "I also want to thank Senator John McCain, who has championed choice for Veterans and whose work on this issue allowed for swift and successful resolution."*

*"VA looks forward to continued bipartisan support as we partner with Congress to not only develop a long-term solution for community care, but also work toward other critical legislation, such as accountability and appeals modernization to ensure Veterans receive the highest quality of care, benefits and support they have earned."*

[Sent in by a Sky Soldier. All photos added]



# A Day in June 1966

**H**ere we are some thirty-nine years later, trying to remember events best forgotten. This particular event is during Operation Yorktown, June 23rd to July 8th, 1966, in Xuan Loc Province, approximately 37 miles each of Bien Hoa.

We had been having sporadic contact with Charlie, with light resistance. On June 29th we of "A" Company loaded up on a sortie of Hueys and landed in an open field area. In dispersed company columns we entered the jungle area. We were traversing into a 200 ft. canopy of mahogany trees; beautiful under other circumstances. I was with the Headquarters platoon with the First Sergeant, Capt. Kelly, Chaplain Walker, the RTO, and the rest of the company, with Third Platoon in the lead.

The jungle was quiet and peaceful except for the footsteps of us going through, and the strands of sunlight fighting through the canopy. Then the shit hit the fan. Suddenly, in the blink of an eye, the silence was broken by gunfire, grenade explosions, and the unmistakable chatter of a Chicom fifty. Third platoon was hit; they had walked up on a company position of trenches (376 Viet Cong Regulars) well camouflaged with a Chicom fifty position. It cut the platoon to pieces, killing several men including the platoon medic, Malcom Berry.

The call went out for "Medic!" and I ran past the company following the guys ahead of me until I reached third platoon; it was a terrible scene. Two medics dead along with ten others of the third platoon. The wounded lie scattered around, mixed with the dead. Charlie withdrew taking their dead and wounded with them.



**Bob "Doc" Beaton**  
**29 Jun 66**  
**Xuan Loc Province**

The silence returned temporarily, then the artillery started. The canopy was so high the rounds were detonating on top of the canopy with little or no effect. The call went out for timed fuses, then the shells would fall through the canopy, hopefully doing damage to Charlie.

I had work to do -- the unmistakable stench of blood and mud reeked the air. I began separating the dead and wounded and caring for the wounded. A call for the engineers to blow an opening though the mahogany trees went out and they did their job of clearing the trees.

Then the choppers started coming; they couldn't land so they lowered basket stretchers on cables down to the ground where we would load one wounded trooper at a time. They would fly up and out, land and come back for another. This went on all afternoon -- very time consuming. We did get assistance from a Navy double-propped rescue helicopter which helped greatly. We were able to get all the wounded out before dark, all 36 WIA.

As darkness fell we all picked a spot to sleep in and amongst our fallen troopers, most lay where they fell. Two medics lost, Malcolm C. Berry and James T. Noss of "C" Company. The next morning all our fallen brother troopers were removed the same way we got our wounded out through the trees. No trooper was left behind.

*"Airborne!"*

This is my story some 39 years later; it's the way I remember it. Others may disagree or agree; we all remember things in different ways. Thanks,

**SP5 Robert "Doc" Beaton**  
**Senior Medic, HHC & Alpha Company**  
**2/503d, 173d Abn Bde (Sep)**



**What's left of Third Platoon**

**[Tributes to the men we lost on June 29, 1966, appear  
in our May-June 2016 Newsletter, Issue 67]**





(web photo added)

The Commander in Chief

# President signs resolution authorizing National Desert Storm War Memorial

March 31, 2017 by Megan Moloney

Veterans of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm will soon have their own memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., thanks to legislation signed today by the president.

President Trump signed Senate Joint Resolution 1, “A joint resolution approving the location of a memorial to commemorate and honor the members of the Armed Forces who served on active duty in support of Operation Desert Storm or Operation Desert Shield.” The resolution was sponsored by Indiana Sen. Joe Donnelly and Arkansas Sen. John Boozman and designates the location of the memorial on the National Mall.

The legislation was introduced and passed by Congress this month and signed in the White House by the president. “I appreciate the commitment of my colleagues in the House of Representatives to swiftly approve this resolution so our Gulf War Veterans are appropriately honored for their service and sacrifice in our nation’s capital,” Sen. Boozman said.

“This resolution is the final step in Congress to create a memorial in our nation’s capital that loved ones and future generations can visit to honor the men and women who fought and died for our country in the First Gulf War,” Sen. Donnelly added.

The National Desert Storm War Memorial will honor those Veterans who served in the Gulf War in 1990 and 1991. Now that legislation to create the memorial has been approved, the memorial’s sponsors will begin the process of fundraising and working with the National Capital Planning Commission to select a location on the National Mall and a final design.

Funds for the construction of the memorial will be raised privately by the National Desert Storm War Memorial Association.

Source: [www.blogs.va.gov/VAnTage/36651/president-signs-resolution-authorizing-national-desert-storm-veterans-war-memorial/](http://www.blogs.va.gov/VAnTage/36651/president-signs-resolution-authorizing-national-desert-storm-veterans-war-memorial/)





## 75th Ranger Regiment Celebrates 75 Years in 2017

By 75th Ranger Regiment Public Affairs, October 19, 2016

**M**odern Day Rangers trace their lineage to World War II when Maj. William O. Darby stood up 1st Ranger Battalion June 8, 1942 at Carrickfergus, Northern Ireland. The 3rd and 4th Ranger Battalions were activated and trained by Col. Darby in Africa near the end of the Tunisian Campaign. 2nd and 5th Ranger Battalions participated in the June 6, 1944 D-Day landings at Omaha Beach Normandy. The 6th Ranger Battalion was the first American force to return to the Philippines with the mission of destroying coastal defense guns, radio stations, and other means of defense communications in Leyte Harbor.

The 75th Infantry Regiment (5307th Composite Unit) was the first United States ground combat force to meet the enemy on the Continent of Asia during World War II. It was during the campaigns in the China-Burma-India Theater that it became known as "Merrill's Marauders," after its commander, Major General Frank D. Merrill.

The outbreak of hostilities in Korea, June 1950 again signaled the need for Rangers. The first cycle completed their training November 13, 1950. The 1st, 2nd, and 4th Ranger Companies prepared for overseas shipment. The 3rd Ranger Company prepared to assist in training the second cycle, which consisted of the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th Ranger Companies. The Rangers went into battle by land, sea or air.

With the growing United States involvement in the Vietnam War, Rangers were again called to serve their country. The 75th Infantry was reorganized once more on January 1, 1969, as a parent regiment under the Combat Arms Regimental System. Fifteen separate Ranger Companies were formed from this reorganization. Thirteen served proudly in Vietnam until inactivation on August 15, 1974.

The outbreak of the 1973 Middle East War prompted the Department of the Army to be concerned about the need for a light mobile force that could be moved quickly to any trouble spot in the world. On January 25, 1974, Headquarters, United States Army Forces Command, published General Orders 127, directing

the activation of the 1st Battalion (Ranger), 75th Infantry, with an effective date of January 31, 1974. On July 1, 1974, 1st Battalion (Ranger), 75th Infantry, parachuted into Fort Stewart, Georgia.

2nd Battalion (Ranger), 75th Infantry soon followed with activation on October 1, 1974. These elite units eventually established headquarters at Hunter Army Airfield, Georgia and Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, respectively.

3rd Battalion, 75th Infantry (Ranger), and Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 75th Infantry (Ranger) received their colors on October 3, 1984 at Fort Benning, Georgia.

On February 3, 1986, World War II Battalions and the Korean War lineage and honors were consolidated and assigned by tradition to the 75th Infantry Regiment. This marked the first time that an organization of this size had been officially recognized as the parent headquarters of the Ranger Battalions.

After our nation was viciously attacked on September 11, 2001, Rangers were called upon to lead the way in the Global War on Terror. Due to the changing nature of warfare and the need for an agile and sustainable Ranger force, the Regimental Special Troops Battalion (Provisional) was activated July 2006 and made a permanent part of the 75th Ranger Regiment October 16, 2007.

The 75th Ranger Regiment continues to take the fight to the enemy, in denied areas, every day, living the Ranger Creed....

***RANGERS LEAD THE WAY!***

Source:

[www.army.mil/article/176946/75th\\_ranger\\_regiment\\_celebrates\\_75\\_years\\_in\\_2017](http://www.army.mil/article/176946/75th_ranger_regiment_celebrates_75_years_in_2017)



*Hometown honors one of our 2/503 troopers....*

# Pat Bowe: a heroic life of service

By Craig Rullman

[NuggetNews.com](http://NuggetNews.com) 2/7/2017

Sisters, Oregon resident Pat Bowe is no stranger to sacrifice. Raised in Beaverton, Oregon, Bowe volunteered for the U.S. Army as a young man, and served two tours in Vietnam with an Infantry Reconnaissance Platoon, as part of the 173rd Airborne. In Vietnam, Bowe was severely wounded twice, received a Bronze Star with a combat V device for valor, and ultimately returned to Oregon where he served 33 years in law enforcement.



Pat Bowe in Vietnam (photo provided)

Soft-spoken, and admirably humble, Bowe recently sat down with *The Nugget Newspaper* to discuss his extraordinary life of service and sacrifice. "You get to the point where you don't even care about the enemy, you are just trying to survive the living conditions," Bowe said of his time in Vietnam, where the 173rd Airborne initially operated out of Bien Hoa.

In addition to monsoons - great deluges of seasonal rains that defeated all attempts to stay dry - the southern portions of Vietnam where Bowe was deployed were thick with leeches, poisonous snakes, and triple canopy jungle that made every aspect of fighting, and everyday survival, more difficult.

Between 1966 and 1967, Bowe and his 40-man platoon of reconnaissance soldiers were charged with conducting long-range patrols into the jungle and bush, where they set up ambushes, scouted enemy positions, and engaged in sustained combat against a hardened and determined enemy. "We were always engaged," Pat said.

Bowe, speaking of his time in Vietnam, noted that during World War 2 the average veteran served 30 days a year in combat. In Vietnam that average jumped to 265 days. "The guys we were up against were strike troops," Bowe said. "The elite of the North Vietnamese Army. They really knew how to fight. It was nothing like World War 2. It was all jungle fighting. It was hell in a hand-basket," Bowe said.

The 173rd Airborne, a storied outfit, also accomplished the first combat parachute jump since the Korean War. Bowe and his comrades were dropped in an area near the Cambodian border, where there was a large North Vietnamese Army presence, and where the 173rd was meant to set up a blocking position while the 4th U.S. Infantry Division, the "legs" in paratrooper parlance, attacked from a different direction.

Bowe was severely wounded in combat. He sustained his first wounds after being struck by shrapnel from a grenade while attacking a Viet Cong basecamp. After convalescing and returning to the field a second time, Pat was ultimately shot in the stomach, the bullet tearing through his body and damaging his lung, liver, and blowing out a rib. The second wound was critical, and took him out of the war. He spent nearly 8 months in convalescence. Pat shared a photo of himself, recovering in the hospital, with the inimitable and smiling Martha Raye.



Martha Raye ('Colonel Maggie') visits Pat in hospital.

*(continued....)*



For his actions in combat against the enemy, Pat was awarded a Bronze Star for Valor. Typically modest, Bowe told *The Nugget*, "Well, the citation says a lot of things, but it never looks like what actually happened."

Bowe still carries shrapnel in his body from his time in combat, which also means that should he need it, he can never make use of an MRI.

When Bowe left the U.S. Army he returned to Oregon and became a sheriff's deputy in Marion County. He served Marion County in a number of capacities, from patrol deputy, to detective, before laterally moving to the newly formed Keizer, Oregon Police Department. Bowe was among the first officers hired by Keizer, and worked as a Patrol Officer, Detective, Patrol Sergeant, and Detective Sergeant. He retired from the Keizer Police Department as a Lieutenant, and for a time served as the Interim Chief of Police.

But Pat Bowe's service to his fellow citizens wasn't finished. After retiring from the Keizer Police, he returned to Marion County and served 10 more years as a Sheriff's Deputy. And he still wasn't finished. Bowe served on the planning commission for five years, the City Council for 2 years, and after moving to Sisters several years ago with his wife of 48 years, Sandy, he has served on the Sisters School District budget committee, and remains active in an assortment of Veterans groups, from the Sisters Band of Brothers, to the VFW, and was a key player in helping Sisters earn its designation as a Purple Heart City.



**Pat Bowe has had a long and distinguished career in public service.** (Photo by Jim Cornelius)

Bowe is an active member of the 173rd Airborne Veterans Association, and has enjoyed reunions with his comrades in Australia, Alaska, and Fort Bragg. He and Sandy are looking forward to another reunion in May, in Oklahoma City.

Pat and Sandy, who were engaged prior to his departure for Vietnam, raised two sons together -- both U.S. Army veterans -- and enjoy 5 grandchildren. "All of the credit goes to Sandy," Pat said, for keeping the family running and enduring through the years of deployments, shift work, and frequent absences.

The Bowes love their life in Sisters. "It's been a real fun 7 years," Pat says. "The people here are courteous. We are blessed to live here."

When asked what has driven him to such a remarkable career, Pat thought for a moment. "It's a cliché," he said, "but I like to help people, and I like to be in a position to give back." After 48 years of service, it seems quite clear that Pat Bowe has given back, and lived an exemplary, and without question heroic, life of sacrifice.

[Reprinted courtesy of Mr. Craig Rullman, USMC, and [NuggetNews.com](http://NuggetNews.com)]



**Pat and his 2/503 Recon Platoon buddies on patrol in Vietnam, early '67.**



# Commander-in-Chief Tasks Son In-Law Jared Kushner, 36, With Overhaul of Department of Veterans Affairs

By Lew "Smitty" Smith, HHC/2/503, '65/'66  
Editor, 2/503d Vietnam Newsletter



President Trump, daughter Ivanka, and son in-law Jared Kushner. (web photo)

Merritt Island, FL -- For eight years we've done our learned best to include out of the pages of our newsletter everything political, instead only reporting on Pols when their actions or lack thereof promise some actual positive or negative impact on our Sky Soldiers and other vets – i.e. the VA, DoD, war-making and such. Case in point -- the young Mr. Kushner and his new role in the Administration, of which he has many, who is now charged with recommending to the president the means and methods of overhauling the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Like any large organization we accept the fact the VA is worthy of improvement in certain areas; reducing wait times for treatment of Vets, an increase in more skilled medical professionals on staff, and more expedient processing of Vet claims are a few obvious examples where the VA has fallen a tad short, certainly in some communities but not necessarily all. The recent appointment of Secretary David Shulkin, a medical professional himself and former Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs, might be considered by some as one positive step in the right direction. Others might argue he is part of the swamp we've heard about. One can only hope his past experience at the VA will bode him (and us) well as he takes on his new responsibilities. But, back to Mr. Kushner.



Sec. Shulkin, M.D.

Aside from having married the daughter of our president, and building a financial portfolio of over \$700 million (of which we can be jealously impressed), much of it inherited from his father whom it is reported was imprisoned due to financial and political mischief, what qualifies the lad to oversee our very own VA system, the second largest department in the U.S. government behind DoD? We might hope it's his work ethic....

*"I spend probably about 80 percent of my time on Kushner Companies, and the other 20 percent on different companies I'm involved with or different projects I work on. I always try to focus on what needs the most attention. The good thing about being involved in a lot of things is that my experiences in all the various businesses inform my perspectives and views on all the other ones. The No. 1 thing that my father always taught me was just treat everyone with respect and treat everyone fairly."* --Jared Kushner

That sounds like a commendable foundation and business philosophy on which to base his studies and render recommendations to improve on the weighty and diverse challenges he's confronted with by the VA. Maybe he had *two* fathers? However, as solely a real estate mogul, one must question whether Mr. Kushner, or anyone with such a narrowly-focused background is qualified to hold such an overwhelming, important and impactful government position?

In the musical, *Fiddler on the Roof*, Tevye, the poor, hard-working milkman prays of being a rich man and building a grand home with stairways which lead up and down to nowhere 'just for show', with the scholars and influential religious leaders sitting at his wealthy feet leaning in to hear his astute proclamations on all matters of significance, as his sings....

***"The most important men in town would come to fawn on me!  
They would ask me to advise them,  
Like a Solomon the Wise.  
'If you please, Reb Tevye...'  
'Pardon me, Reb Tevye...'  
Posing problems that would cross a rabbi's eyes!  
And it won't make one bit of difference  
if I answer right or wrong.  
When you're rich, they think you really know!"***

And so, the jury remains out on the young Mr. Kushner and how he might affect the clients of the VA...how his decisions may affect... us. Let's hope he really knows.



# Wilson '87 Receives the Legion of Merit at Retirement

3/3/2017



(Photo: Courtesy of Marla Hurtado)

COL(R) Darrell T. Wilson '87 is congratulated by BG(P) John A. George '88 (Director, Force Development Directorate) after receiving The Legion of Merit during a ceremony marking his retirement after 30 years in the Army at the Pentagon on March 2, 2017.

During his career, Wilson's assignments include Scout Platoon Leader, 3rd Infantry Regiment; Company Commander/Assistant Brigade Operations Officer Commander, 82nd Airborne Division; Ground Liaison Officer, 31st Fighter Wing, Aviano, Italy; Secretary of the General Staff, Southern European Task Force, **Battalion Operations Officer, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade;** Commander, Headquarters Support Company, Southern European Task Force, Vicenza, Italy; Brigade Operations Officer, 3rd US Infantry Regiment; Brigade Military Transition Team Chief, 2nd Brigade, 205th Corps, Zabul Province, Afghanistan; Chief, J8 Capabilities and Assessments Division, United States Forces Korea, Yongsan, Korea; Director, G-3/5/7 Force Integration, United States Army Forces Command. Wilson's last assignment was Chief, Joint/Army Requirements and Assessments Division which reviews and coordinates Army warfighting capabilities to support the Joint Force for Headquarters Department of the Army, Deputy Chief of Staff G-8 and Force Development Directorate.

Source: West Point Association of Graduates  
[www.westpointaog.org/GradNews](http://www.westpointaog.org/GradNews)

## Army Veterans Jump Into 173rd Airborne Brigade 50th Anniversary Celebration

It was a big anniversary for dozens of army retirees in Frederick.

Retired Army members came together today at Frederick Army Air Field for a big anniversary.

Instructors are giving some final tips before these Sky Soldiers take flight. Days training, all for just 60 seconds of thrill. For a jump honoring the 173rd Airborne Brigade for their 50 years of service.

"People in the military who have served have that gut instinct, that heart, it's really the only way we can pay homage and tribute to our fellow service men and women," said Bill Jordan, from the WWII Airborne Demonstration team.

About 20 former soldiers came from all over the country to take an early morning ride in the sky on the World War II C47 used in the Normandy invasion, only to find their way back down to the ground.

But their exit strategy looked a little different. It's a feeling that's quite familiar to these folks, even though it's been about 30 years since many of them have found themselves in the air like this, but for 82 year-old Dayton Herrington, a retired Army Sgt. Major, the feeling and technique came rushing back.

"It's when you go out the door it's muscle memory and you just do it the way you are supposed to do it without even thinking about it," he said.

"It's a feeling, it's a yearning, it's almost like being patriotic, it's something that you can really not describe," said Jordan.

Mary Iskerka, a retired Army paratrooper, has a different way to describe her morning, now.

"To jump on that plane which was used in the Normandy invasion you'll never have another opportunity to do something like that," she said. An opportunity to remember, honor and serve for many more years to come.

More jumps will be conducted by the World War II Airborne Demonstration Team during their Open Hangar Day on July 27th.



**Chaplain (Maj) Sean Wead and 173d Airborne Brigade of veteran Charlie Lewie, who served with Medal of Honor recipient, Chaplain (Maj) Charles J. Watters in Vietnam.**

[Reprinted courtesy of KFDX. All rights reserved.]

(Photo added)



2/503d VIETNAM Newsletter / May-June 2017 – Issue 73

Page 79 of 97

# United States Army Parachute Team



**A Golden Knights demonstration parachutist**

The United States Army Parachute Team, nicknamed and commonly known as the Golden Knights, is a demonstration and competition parachute team of the United States Army. It consists of demonstration and competition Parachutist teams, drawn from all branches of the Army. Members must demonstrate excellence in parachuting.

The Strategic Army Corps Sport Parachute Team (STRAC) was originally conceived by Brigadier General Joseph Stilwell. The first STRAC team consisted of 19 military parachutists. This unofficial unit competed successfully in parachute competitions, provided assistance to the military in the development of modern parachuting techniques and equipment, and provided support for Army public relations and recruiting. In 1959, the team was formally organized and later redesignated as the Army's official aerial demonstration unit on June 1, 1961.

## **Unit organization**

The STRAC is part of the Army Marketing and Research Group, Accessions Support Brigade, headquartered at Ft. Knox, Kentucky. The parachute team is garrisoned at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina, and has several dedicated facilities in the area. These facilities

include an aviation support facility, a team headquarters facility, and a dedicated team drop zone. The team itself is composed of about 95 men and women and divided into several smaller task-oriented subunits, also called teams or sections. The support elements include an aviation section, a headquarters section, a media-relations section, and a supply section. The administrative and support personnel make up about half of the unit's end strength, and provide invaluable logistical support for the demonstrators and competitors as they perform their duties in the US and abroad. The team's operational elements include two demonstration teams, a four-way relative work team, a style and accuracy team, a tandem section, and most recently, a canopy swoop team.

## **Demonstration teams**

The two Golden Knight demonstration teams travel the United States (and occasionally overseas), performing for public audiences at venues ranging from relatively small civic events to nationally and internationally televised events (such as *Monday Night Football* games, NASCAR races, and large international airshows). The two, 12-member teams travel around 240 days per year, and use the team's two Fokker C-31A Troopship jump aircraft as their primary means of transportation, and sometimes the UV-18C Twin Otter Series 400 made by Viking.

The two demonstration teams are dubbed the Gold Team and Black Team, in reference to the official Army colors. Team members come from a variety of backgrounds in one of the 150 jobs available in the US Army. Each team has a team leader, who typically has the most time and experience performing demonstration jumps and typically holds the rank of an Army sergeant first class.

The 24 demonstrator positions on the team are typically held for at least three consecutive years. At the end of their tenure, soldiers then either rotate back to Army line units or they may request to stay with the team for an additional period in one of several specialty positions. These positions are usually reserved for tandem parachute instructors, videographers, team leaders, and competition parachutists.

The demonstration teams perform several types of shows; each is performed to exacting standards of practice, but can also be tailored to the specific venue.

**Read more about the Golden Knights at:**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United\\_States\\_Army\\_Parachute\\_Team](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Army_Parachute_Team)



# A visit to the William C. Lee Museum “Father of the Airborne”

November 4, 2014 · by Jedburgh · in uniform studies



Recently I visited the ‘Bill’ Lee museum here in North Carolina. The museum is quite small, being of his old house – purchased after his death to keep his memory alive. The museum had a ton of original artifacts that were amazing. The museum also had some serious flaws in their displays. Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed the visit.

**Original Infantry Journals and other artifacts from his inter-war years.**

*(continued....)*





A very exquisite display of the Generals' original early war Test Platoon 'balloon suit', mint M1941 Jump uniform, and Air Force Coveralls for training.



A mint M1942 Jumpsuit.



Original 325 GIR Ike Jacket



Early Riddell football helmet, the Generals' actual Helmet.

Overall it was a great visit, and there was a plethora of information on the General. I was most intrigued about his Inter-war visits to France. At one point he was considered the go-to man for European tank tactics. He eventually gave it up for the pursuit of vertical envelopment theory.

See all the author's photos at:  
<https://foxholefashion.wordpress.com/2014/11/04/a-visit-to-the-william-c-lee-museum-father-of-the-airborne/#respond>

The General William C. Lee Museum is located at:

209 W. Devine Street,  
Dunn, NC 28334

Web: [http://generaleeairbornemuseum.org/html/contact\\_us.html](http://generaleeairbornemuseum.org/html/contact_us.html)



# The Wall of Faces

## 2nd Battalion 503rd Inf Reg Fallen for Whom Photos are Needed for the *Faces on the Wall Project*



**LET'S MAKE SURE THAT ALL OF OUR SKY SOLDIERS  
KILLED IN ACTION IN THE 173d AIRBORNE BRIGADE  
HAVE THEIR PICTURES ON THE NEW WALL OF FACES.**

The Wall of Faces will be a part of an underground gallery near the Vietnam Memorial (sometimes called "The Wall") on the mall in Washington, DC.



The campaign to build the Education Center at The Wall is an effort to build an educational and honorific component to one of the nation's most powerful and moving memorials.

### The Education Center at The Wall will:

- Put a face to every one of the more than 58,000 names listed on The Wall.
- Share some of the hundreds of thousands of objects left at The Wall by families, military comrades, and others over more than three decades.
- Provide a historical account of the events that took place on the battlefield and the homefront during the Vietnam Era.
- Tell the story of The Wall.

The campaign to build the Education Center at The Wall is well underway. The land has been appropriated. Final design approvals are in hand. With each passing day, we lose more Vietnam veterans. Their stories must be preserved and told now so that future generations never forget the lessons of the Vietnam era.

There were 58,315 lost in the Vietnam War. Most have a picture to represent themselves but those on the list of missing pictures do not, so instead a "place holder" image is used that looks like this:



*(continued....)*



# WALL OF FACES

Thanks to a number of Sky Soldiers, an effort is underway to identify all troopers of the 173d Airborne Brigade and attached units killed in action in Vietnam for whom a photograph is missing. Following is a list of 2/503rd Sky Soldiers for whom we are seeking photos. If you have a photograph of one or more of these troopers, please email or mail it to **Ken Smith, Col. (Ret), 124 Tugboat Lane, Summerville, SC 29486-6963** Email: [kvsmith173@gmail.com](mailto:kvsmith173@gmail.com) Photo(s) can be returned upon request.

Photos will also be sent to the Virtual Wall and the Wall of Faces on-line websites. Thank you.

## HHC/2/503

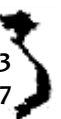
**ALSTON, Ruben Cleveland**, Feb 26, 1946 - Jan 2, 1966, Jacksonville, FL  
**DAILEY, Gerald Lee**, Nov 9, 1946 – Jan 11, 1966, Scottsville, NY  
**GOSSETT, William O.**, Aug 27, 1946 – Mar 16, 1966, Phoenix, AZ  
**CAMPBELL, Thomett Darthan**, Jun 5, 1966, Millington, TN  
**BERRY, Malcolm Crayton**, Nov 22, 1945 - Jun 29, 1966, Hartford, CT  
**GREEN, Moses**, Nov 29, 1945 - Mar 3, 1967, Jamaica, NY  
**PATTON, George**, Jun 4, 1948 – Jun 22, 1967, New York, NY  
**WARD, Rudolph N.**, Nov 1, 1945 – Nov 19, 1967, Portsmouth, VA  
**SPAIN, Ervin**, Mar 28, 1935 - Nov 20, 1967, Chicago, IL  
**FRANKLIN, Willie**, Nov 16, 1937 - Oct 14, 1967, Detroit, MI  
**LaVALLEE, Robert C. Jr.**, Oct 10, 1947 - Nov 19, 1967, Middletown, RI  
**WALKER, Richard Jr.**, Jun 19, 1948 – Nov 19, 1967, Chicago, IL  
**RINEHART, Joseph Lester**, Jun 26, 1948 - Dec 2, 1968, Washington, DC  
**STONE, Gregory Martin**, Sep 1, 1949 - Mar 24, 1971, Torrance, CA

## A/2/503

**BIRCO, Jose Gotera**, May 31, 1936 – Jan 11, 1966, Grover City, CA)  
**BELLAMY, Simmie Jr.**, Aug 16, 1946 – Feb 26, 1966, Conway, SC  
**MITCHELL, Clarence**, May 24, 1932 – Feb 26, 1966, Nashville, TN  
**HIMES, Jack Landen**, Aug 8, 1946 – Feb 26, 1966, Phoenix, AZ

**CLARKE, Irvin Jr.**, Sep 24, 1941 – Feb 26, 1966, New York, NY  
**FELDER, Jesse Clarence**, Mar 17, 1943 - Jun 29, 1966 Jersey City, NJ  
**STEVENS, Francis George**, Jun 18, 1945 - Jun 29, 1966, Ellsworth, ME  
**WILLIAMS, Billy**, Feb 8, 1945 - Jun 12, 1966, Charleston, SC  
**POTTER, Albert R.**, Dec 28, 1938 – Jun 29, 1966, Browns Mills, NJ  
**TUCKER, Willie James**, Sep 17, 1944 – Aug 20, 1966, Toledo, OH  
**KELLY, Stephen Allen**, Jun 27, 1947 – Jun 22, 1967, Atlanta, GA  
**HOOPER, Vins Ronald**, Jul 6, 1946 – Jun 22, 1967, Somerset, NJ  
**BUTLER, Albert Jr.**, Jan 26, 1943 – Jun 22, 1967, Tyler, TX  
**WALKER, Charlie Lewis**, Jan 30, 1947 – Jun 22, 1967, Munford, AL  
**JOHNSTON, David E.**, Feb 17, 1945 – Jun 22, 1967, Natchez, MS  
**JOHNSTON, Richard J.**, Nov 25, 1947 – Jun 22, 1967, Sacramento, CA  
**SANFORD, James W.**, Apr 23, 1947 - Jun 22, 1967, Orangeburg, SC  
**OROSZ, Andrew John**, Aug 19, 1946 – Nov 19, 1967, New York, NY  
**LESZCZYNSKI, Witold John**, Mar 16, 1948 - Nov 19, 1967, New York, NY  
**POWELL, Steven Reed**, Sep 25, 1947 – Nov 20, 1967, Danville, VA  
**BETCHEL, David Brooks**, Nov 18, 1947 - Nov 20, 1967, Los Angeles, CA  
**GREENWALD, Dennis**, Nov 23, 1948 – Nov 20, 1967, Southfield, MI  
**STOKES, Frank Edward**, Sep 7, 1947 – Nov 20, 1967, Monticello, NY  
**LAUREANO-LOPEZ, Ismael**, Aug 16, 1945 - Feb 21, 1969, New York, NY  
**DOMINE, Manuel DeLeon**, Jun 7, 1946 - Oct 25, 1970, Fort Sill, OK  
**PEGGS, Albert Lee**, Sep 10, 1945 – Dec 4, 1968, Chicago, IL  
**MOLTON, Kenneth Wayne**, Apr 9, 1948 - Dec 7, 1968, Birmingham, AL

(continued....)



### **B/2/503**

**HOWARD, David Lafate**, Mar 20, 1943 - July 7, 1965, Fountain Inn, SC  
**HATCHETT, Kyle Henry**, Aug 3, 1945 – Aug 23, 1965, New York, NY  
**ROBILLARD, Wilfred R.**, Feb 26, 1947 – Oct 10, 1965, Manchester, NH  
**WILLIAMS, Van**, Aug 3, 1946 - Oct 10, 1965, New York, NY  
**HARPER, Richard Earl**, Feb 21, 1944 – Jan 12, 1966, Birmingham, AL  
**MORRIS, Robert L.**, Jul 10, 1948 – Dec 2, 1967, Columbus, OH  
**WESTPOINT, Thomas Lee**, Oct 8, 1941 - Sep 30, 1966, Charleston, SC  
**TIGHE, John Roy**, Apr 22, 1947 – May 17, 1967, Lomita, CA  
**ROST, Leroy Alphas**, Nov 11, 1948 – Nov 13, 1967, Moline, IL  
**MURRAY, Wayne Paul**, Jun 25, 1947 – Nov 13, 1967, Potsdam, NY  
**HARDIMAN, La Francis**, May 2, 1948 – Nov 13, 1967, Wyandanch, NY  
**SIMMONS, Willie James**, Jul 8, 1948 – Nov 13, 1967, Detroit, MI  
**McCOY, Elec**, Dec 1, 1946 - Oct 25, 1967, Oswego, SC  
**MURRAY, Marvin Winston**, Jan 11, 1947 - Jun 3, 1968, New York, NY  
**WASILOW, John Stephen**, Jun 7, 1949 - Nov 24, 1968, Myrtle Beach, SC  
**ROMAN, Jeremias**, Apr 29, 1948 – Mar 4, 1968, New York, NY  
**GRAY, Warren**, Apr 5, 1947 - May 10, 1968, Inglewood, CA

### **C/2/503**

**JEWETT, Stephen Dyer**, Dec 14, 1942 – Dec 27, 1965, East Andover, NH  
**CARLONE, John Joseph II**, Dec 20, 1946 - Dec 27, 1965, Chicago, IL  
**BUTLER, Earlie James Jr.**, Apr 18, 1935 - Mar 14, 1966, Jacksonville, FL  
**SCHADDELEE, William D.**, May 22, 1943 - Feb 1, 1967, Chicago, IL  
**WILSON, Herbert Jr.**, Aug 26, 1947 – Mar 3, 1967, New York, NY  
**VASQUES, Selvester Joe**, Jan 26, 1944 - Mar 3, 1967, Los Angeles, CA  
**STRACK, Lawrence**, Jun 15, 1948 – Mar 3, 1967, Richmond Hill, NY  
**SAEZ-RAMIREZ, Angel Perfir**, May 4, 1934 - Mar 3, 1967, Orocovis, PR

**COX, George Tollover**, Jun 22, 1939 – Mar 25, 1967, Tampa, FL  
**CARPENTER, Douglas Joe**, Jan 11, 1947 - Mar 25, 1967, Bauxite, AR  
**ANTHONY, Lionel S.**, Dec 1, 1945 - Mar 4, 1967, Los Angeles, CA  
**EVANS, Waddel**, Jul 6, 1947 - May 11, 1967, Hopkinsville, KY  
**HARRIS, Nathaniel**, Jul 19, 1947 – Oct 18, 1967, Bessemer, AL  
**NORTHERN, James William Jr.**, Jun 6, 1947 - Nov 20, 1967, Clarendon, AR  
**WOOTEN, John Wesley**, Jan 26, 1943 - Nov 20, 1967, Garten, WV  
**TYLER, Lester**, Dec 6, 1943 - Nov 20, 1967, New York, NY  
**GRAY, Herbert Hoover**, Oct 23, 1946 - Nov 20, 1967, Gray, GA  
**QUINONES-RODRIGUEZ, Luis A.**, May 7, 1948 - Feb 25, 1971, New York, NY  
**ZIMMERMAN, Roger**, Aug 12, 1943 – May 10, 1968, Deerfield, IL  
**RIVERA-GARCIA, William**, May 13, 1946 - Feb 15, 1969, New York, NY  
**AYERS, Carl Bracy Jr.**, Sep 7, 1948 – Aug 29, 1969, Chicago, IL  
**HUDNALL, William Leon**, Sep 15, 1949 - Jun 29, 1970, Richmond, VA

### **D/2/503**

**POFF, Elbert Darrell**, May 17, 1948 – May 5, 1968, Mullens, WV  
**ORTEGA, Anibal Jr.**, Mar 9, 1948 – May 15, 1968, New York, NY  
**ROBERTS, Paul Michael**, Aug 2, 1950 – Aug 15, 1969, Melbourne Beach, FL  
**McNULTY, Charles Richard**, Jul 16, 1947 - May 16, 1970, McLean, VA  
**CABE, Paul Philip**, Apr 26, 1952 – Apr 5, 1971, Guild, TN

### **E/2/503**

**SPEARS, Jerry Wayne**, Oct 26, 1948 – Jul 6, 1969, Memphis, TN



# 11th Parachute Battalion

## (United Kingdom)

Utrinque Paratus  
(Latin for “Ready for Anything”)

**T**he **11th Parachute Battalion** was an airborne infantry battalion of the Parachute Regiment, raised by the British Army in World War II. The battalion was formed in the Middle East and was assigned to the 4th Parachute Brigade, 1st Airborne Division. As it was still training it was left behind when the rest of the brigade took part in the invasion of Italy. One company later parachuted onto the Island of Kos taking prisoner the large Italian garrison. The battalion rejoined the rest of the division in England. The only battle in which the battalion participated was the Battle of Arnhem in September 1944. The battalion sustained very heavy casualties and was disbanded following the battle and the men were used as replacements elsewhere.



“British paratroops inside a Dakota transport aircraft on their way to Holland during 1st Airborne Division’s operation to Arnhem, 17 September 1944.” (Web photo)

After the Second World War a reserve 11th Battalion was formed by the Territorial Army in 1947, but it was disbanded nine years later.

### Formation

Impressed by the success of German airborne operations, during the Battle of France, the British Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, directed the War Office to investigate the possibility of creating a corps of 5,000 parachute troops. On 22 June 1940, No. 2 Commando was turned over to parachute duties and on 21 November, re-designated the 11th Special Air Service Battalion, with a parachute and glider wing, and later became the 1st Parachute Battalion. It was these men who took part in the first British airborne operation, Operation Colossus, on 10 February 1941. The success of the raid prompted the War Office to expand the existing airborne force, setting up the Airborne Forces Depot and Battle School in Derbyshire in April 1942, and creating the Parachute Regiment as well as converting a number of infantry battalions into airborne battalions in August 1942.



“Prime Minister Winston Churchill of Great Britain (center) listens to an explanation by Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, (right), commander-in-chief of Allied forces in the European theatre, as they inspect a mortar during a tour of a base somewhere in England in March 1944 where American Airborne troops are preparing for the forthcoming invasion.” (AP Photo)

The 11th Parachute Battalion was raised in Kibrit, Egypt in March 1943. Assigned to the 4th Parachute Brigade, 1st Airborne Division the battalion was still in training when the rest of the brigade left to join the division for the Allied invasion of Italy.

(continued...)





The emblem of the Second World War British Airborne Forces, Bellerophon riding the flying horse Pegasus.

**(Further information: Battle of Arnhem and Operation Market Garden)**

When the battalion landed outside Arnhem on 18 September they were detached from the brigade and sent to reinforce the 1st Parachute Battalion and the glider-borne infantry of 2nd South Staffords, trying to fight through to the 2nd Parachute Battalion which had captured the northern end of the Arnhem road bridge. The two battalions were located in the town about 1,100 yards (1,000 m) short of the bridge. They were just about to start another attempt to break through to the 2nd Parachute Battalion. With no appreciation of the ground, the 11th Battalion was held in reserve playing no part in the attack.

In 1942 a parachute battalion had an establishment of 556 men in three companies (three platoons each) supported by a 3-inch (76 mm) mortar and a Vickers machine gun platoon. By 1944 a support company to command the battalion's heavy weapons was added. It comprised three platoons: Mortar Platoon with eight 3-inch (76 mm) mortars, Machine Gun Platoon with four Vickers machine guns and an Anti-tank Platoon with ten PIAT anti-tank projectors.

The only combat seen by the battalion in the Mediterranean, was in September 1943. 'A' Company and the mortar and machine gun platoons parachuted onto the island of Kos in the Dodecanese and captured the airfield. The Italian garrison numbered around 4,000 men did not put up any resistance. The company was withdrawn soon after and rejoined the battalion.

In December 1943 the battalion rejoined the 4th Parachute Brigade who by this time were in England.



**"Arnhem, Gelderland, The Netherlands, 17 Sep 1944.**  
(web photo)

Under heavy fire the attempt stalled and to relieve the pressure on the assaulting troops, the 11th Battalion was asked to carry out a left flanking attack on the German positions. Orders were being issued for the assault, when the divisional commander, Major-General Roy Urquhart, personally intervened, forbidding the battalion to take part in what he now considered a futile attack. The 2nd South Staffords had been decimated with only their 'C' Company surviving as a unit. The 1st Parachute Battalion were in an even worse state and only numbered about 40 men.



**MG Urquhart**



**"21 September 1944, Arnhem. British paratroopers continue to hold out."** (web photo)

*(continued....)*



The battalion was gradually worn down withdrawing through the city and casualties mounted. A move to gain some high ground to the north was discovered and the battalion was caught in the open and decimated, with only around 150 men left. One of the casualties being the commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel George Lea. The second in command Major Richard Lonsdale now took command of the battalion and the remnants of the 1st, 3rd Parachute and 2nd South Staffords battalions, forming them into an ad-hoc force which became known as Lonsdale Force. They were withdrawn to Oosterbeek where the division was forming a defensive perimeter, digging in on the south eastern side with their right flank on the river.

Lonsdale addressed the men before the Germans arrived:

***“You know as well as I do there are a lot of bloody Germans coming at us. Well, all we can do is to stay here and hang on in the hope that somebody catches us up. We must fight for our lives and stick together. We've fought the Germans before — in North Africa, Sicily, Italy. They weren't good enough for us then, and they're bloody well not good enough for us now. They're up against the finest soldiers in the world. An hour from now you will take up defensive positions north of the road outside. Make certain you dig in well and that your weapons and ammo are in good order. We are getting short of ammo, so when you shoot you shoot to kill. Good luck to you all.”***

The defenders were involved in a number of desperate actions, and hand-to-hand fighting keeping the Germans out of the divisions perimeter. One of the men, Lance-Sergeant John Baskeyfield of the South Staffords, anti-tank platoon, was awarded a posthumous Victoria Cross.



John Baskeyfield



By 21 September pressure from the German attacks had squeezed the perimeter to less than 1,000 yards (910 m) across.

On 22 September the bulk of the 1st Polish Parachute Brigade were dropped south of the river. This drew off some of the Germans from around the divisional perimeter to confront the new threat. The defenders now had to cope with over 100 German artillery guns firing onto their positions.



Polish paratroopers of the 1st Polish Parachute Brigade board planes during Operation Market Garden. (web photo)

On 24 September the decision was made by Lieutenant-General Horrocks commander XXX Corps to withdraw what was left of the division south of the Rhine. On the morning of the 25 September units of the 9th SS Panzer Division attacked the battalion in force, attempting to cut the division off from the river. The initial attack was stopped by bayonets and hand grenades. Following attacks were driven off by direct fire from the guns of the 1st Airlanding Light Regiment, Royal Artillery and the 64th Medium regiment, XXX Corps dropping their shells on the battalion's positions.

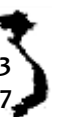
The remnants of the battalion were evacuated over the night of 25/26 September. The casualties sustained by the battalion were never replaced and it was disbanded after the battle of Arnhem and the men sent to the 1st Parachute Brigade.

### Territorial Army

When the Territorial Army was reformed following the war in 1947, a new 11th Battalion was raised. It was formed by the conversion of the 8th Battalion, Middlesex Regiment, and had Euston Baker as its Honorary Colonel. It was part of the reserve 16th Airborne Division. Following defence cuts it reverted to being the 8th Battalion, Middlesex Regiment in August 1956.

Source:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/11th\\_Parachute\\_Battalion\\_\(United\\_Kingdom\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/11th_Parachute_Battalion_(United_Kingdom))





# Reunions of the Airborne Kind 2017



**1st Battalion, 50th Infantry Association 2017 Reunion**, May 2-5, 2017, Hampton Inn and Suites, Phenix City, AL. Contact: Web: [www.ichiban1.org/html/reunion.htm](http://www.ichiban1.org/html/reunion.htm)



**173d Airborne Reunion in Vicenza, Italy**, July 4-8, 2017, hosted by Chapter 173. Contact: Web: [Skysoldier.net](http://Skysoldier.net)



**2017 National Convention, The 100th Anniversary of the formation of the 82nd All American Division**, Orlando Chapter, August 9-13, 2017, Rosen Center, Orlando, FL. Contact: Web: [www.paratrooperdz.com/2017-conventionregistration/2017reg](http://www.paratrooperdz.com/2017-conventionregistration/2017reg)



**Firebase Airborne Reunion**, May 12-14, 2017, Nashville, TN. Contact: <http://beardedarmenian.wix.com/fsbairborne>

“Firebase Airborne was a U.S. Army firebase located west of Huế overlooking the A Shau Valley in central Vietnam. FSB Airborne was constructed on 8 May 1969 by the 101st Airborne Div. approximately 42 km west of Huế and 5 km east of Route 547 which ran along the floor of the A Shau Valley as part of Operation Apache Snow. The base was occupied by elements of the 2nd Battalion, 501st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Battalion, 11th Artillery and 2nd Battalion, 319th Artillery when it was attacked by the People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) 6th Regiment and K-12 Sapper Battalion at 3:30am on 13 May 1969, resulting in 13 U.S. and 32 PAVN killed.”



**173d Airborne Association 2017 Reunion**, Hosted by Chapter 18, May 17-20, 2017, Oklahoma City, OK. Contact: Web: [Skysoldier.net](http://Skysoldier.net)



**4/503rd, 173d Airborne Brigade** will have a Reunion Dinner on Friday May 19, 2017, Renaissance Hotel during the 173d Airborne Reunion in Oklahoma City. Contact: Peyton Ligon Eml: [pligon3392@aol.com](mailto:pligon3392@aol.com) Phn: 205-746-5586



**Delta Co., 2nd Bn, 8th Cavalry (Airborne), 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), 2017 D.C. Reunion**, May 17-21, 2017 Crowne Plaza Dulles Airport. Contact: Angry Skipper Association, Inc. Web: [www.angrystickipperassociation.org](http://www.angrystickipperassociation.org)



**118th Military Police Company (Airborne) Association**, June 2-4, 2017, Fort Bragg, NC. Contact: Web: [www.118thmpcoabnassn.com/home.html](http://www.118thmpcoabnassn.com/home.html)



**335th A.H.C. - 2017 (Cowboys) Reunion** June 15-18 Golden Nugget Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, NV. Contact: Dom Fino (410) 302-2169, Eml: [falconfino@comcast.net](mailto:falconfino@comcast.net)



**Casper Aviation Platoon Reunion**, June 19-22, Nashville, TN. Contact Web: [www.casperplatoon.com/Reunion2017.htm](http://www.casperplatoon.com/Reunion2017.htm)



**503rd PRCT Association, WWII National Reunion**, September 13-17, 2017, Killeen, Texas. Contact: Rick Miller, Reunion Host, [treasurer@503rdprct.org](mailto:treasurer@503rdprct.org)



**2/501st Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Abn Reunion** is being planned to celebrate our departure to South Vietnam 50 years ago. December 13, 2017, Fort Bragg, Fayetteville, NC.



**11th Airborne Division Association Reunion**, to be held in Boulder, CO. Dates to be named.



**187th ARCT “Rakkasan’s Reunion**, September 2017, Boulder, CO. Contact: [www.rakkasan.net/reunion.html](http://www.rakkasan.net/reunion.html)



**B/2/501st Reunion 2017**, Great Falls, MT. Dates to be determined. Contact: Web: <http://b2501airborne.com/reunion.htm>



**509th Parachute Infantry Association Reunion 2017**, Shreveport, LA. Contact Web: <http://509thgeronimo.org/reunions/freunions.html>

## NOTE:

If you are aware of any upcoming “Airborne” or attached unit reunions, please send complete details to [rto173@att.net](mailto:rto173@att.net) for inclusion in our newsletter.

## Airborne...All The Way!





# 173d Airborne Brigade Association

2017 Oklahoma Reunion  
May 17, 2017 to May 21, 2017  
Oklahoma City, OK



This is the **1st Installment** highlighting attractions in the Oklahoma City area that 2017 Oklahoma Reunion Attendees must put on their bucket list of “Things to See” when attending our Reunion. I will be highlighting a different attraction weekly until our 2017 Oklahoma Reunion starting Wednesday May 17, 2017.

Even if you have already registered, you need to be aware of these attraction details so you don't miss them during your stay. Or even if you are not planning on attending, perhaps it will give you an idea on a future visit to Oklahoma City.

The Oklahoma City attraction highlighted today is:

## **BRICKTOWN**



Once a busy warehouse district, Bricktown is Oklahoma City's hottest entertainment and dining area, with numerous restaurants, nightclubs and shopping available. Other attractions include the Bricktown Ballpark, home to the Oklahoma Dodgers Triple AAA baseball team, a Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World store, 16-screen Movie Theater, horse-drawn carriage rides, the Spirit of Oklahoma Trolley, and water taxi boat tours on the Bricktown Canal.

The Bricktown Entertainment District is a popular area for foot traffic and is abuzz with energy into the night on a daily basis. Hail a pedicab or enjoy a romantic horse-drawn carriage ride through the district and downtown Oklahoma City. Catch a baseball game, a movie, a great meal, or an Oklahoma City Thunder NBA basketball game all within walking distance of each other. Take a cruise on the Oklahoma River or enjoy a boat tour of the Bricktown Canal.

Bricktown brims with public art including sculptures, murals and even performance art. In celebration of the historic land run of 1889 and in conjunction with the 100th Anniversary of statehood, renowned sculptor Paul Moore created a dramatic reenactment of the land run that opened Oklahoma for settlement. Moore's sculptures commemorate the spirit and determination of those men and women who rode in Oklahoma's five land runs. The work of art will be one of the world's largest bronze sculptures stretching a total of 365 feet. The pieces will include 45 people, 24 horses and riders, two covered wagons, a buggy, a buckboard, sulky, dog, rabbit and cannon.

This attraction is within 5 blocks walking distance from the Sheraton and Renaissance Hotels. **Free** bus rides to this attraction are also available on the Downtown Discovery downtown bus system that runs every 15 minutes from 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM Wednesday to Saturday and stops right in front of our hotels.

On the Downtown Discovery map, our hotels are located at **Bus Stop #Q** which is at the intersection of Broadway and Sheridan Avenues.

This attraction's Bus Stops are shown on the Downtown Discovery map as **Bus Stops #I, J, K, L, M, N, O and P.**

### **PLEASE MAKE YOUR REUNION AND REGISTRATION & HOTEL ROOM RESERVATIONS TODAY!!!**

**For Reunion information Registration, Hotels, Activities, Names of Registrants, Local Attractions and Bus Tour to Fort Sill (“Home of the Artillery”)**

visit:

<https://www.skysoldier.net/2017-Oklahoma-Reunion-Information>

*See you in Oklahoma City!*

Thanks!

**Jerry L. Cooper CPA**

**Webmaster and Assistant Treasurer for 173d Airborne Brigade Association**

**2017 Oklahoma Reunion Assistant Coordinator**

**Mobile 918-348-1060. [jerrylcooper@suddenlink.net](mailto:jerrylcooper@suddenlink.net)**



# 3rd BATT BULLETIN BOARD – Special Oklahoma City Reunion April 5th Edition

We are at --- stand-up, hook-up, check equipment, and sound off with equipment check . . . .

Time to get serious about attending the next National Reunion to be held in Oklahoma City (OKC) May 17-21, 2017. You will find below some hotlinks to register at the Reunion and to reserve a hotel room:

Registration for the Reunion:  
[www.skysoldier.net/event-2280895](http://www.skysoldier.net/event-2280895)

Hotel registration:  
[www.skysoldier.net/2017-Oklahoma-Reunion-Hotels](http://www.skysoldier.net/2017-Oklahoma-Reunion-Hotels)

**Rally Point Luncheon:** It looks like the best day to hold a luncheon is the FIRST DAY of the Reunion on Wednesday the 17th of May at 11:00 am to 2:00 pm (1400). So plan on arriving at the Reunion on the first day to join the best of 3rd Batt in a marvelous lunch to be held at Jazmo'z Bourbon St Café. The first day will be a "feast" day. Will have a 3rd Batt Cajun lunch at 1100 and a BBQ Picnic hosted by the Reunion organizers at 1800. So make plans to be there on the 17th and encourage other 3<sup>rd</sup> Batt Brothers to get out there and walk point in the direction of OKC.

The first day offers the best opportunity to gather at a Rally Point and see who might be in town and to make personal plans for the week. I know the National Reunion organizers state that Friday is available for Batt activity, however, that is also a major Tour day to the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum. After traveling to OKC everyone will be wanting to take in some "clover leaf" tours and secure our perimeter. We don't want our Rally Luncheon to have to compete with the Cowboys and Indians!!

Tim Austin volunteered his "boots on the ground" expertise and after some early RECON extraordinaire efforts, he initiated coordination with the Jazmo'z Bourbon St. Café. Check out the place at: [www.bourbonstreetcafe.com/](http://www.bourbonstreetcafe.com/) The management at Jazmo'z has been very gracious to offer their facility without a room rental fee or minimum guaranteed attendance fees. Join me in rewarding their generosity by giving them a full house of hungry and thirsty Vets.

Who would have "thank it" we're going to eat New Orleans Style in OKC. Jazmo'z offers us the opportunity to order off a Menu and pay individually.

Other Banquet facilities in OKC were expensive and not very accommodating. We were going to be charged \$35 plus per person and I was being required to commit

to a guaranteed number of meals and to pay them a minimum fee regardless of who might attend. Our menu was also going to be limited to a few choices. Not my kind of holiday. We just don't know how many will be present - - - and I am not prepared to pay for uneaten meals.

Speaking of attendance - - - kindly give me a "Reply" to this email and help provide a quick count just for general knowledge and planning. Thanks much in advance if you would do that.

Bring your Company Guidons – let's show our colors.

I am thinking of being a "Sooner Boomer" and arrive in the area a couple days early - before the cannons blast starts the land rush. Looking forward to seeing "Ya'll".

**Vicenza, Italy, 4-8 July 17:** I am headed back to the "old country" for several reasons. Of course the Reunion at the main "Bee hive" of Skysoldier activities – Caserma Del Din and the celebration of the 100th Birthday of the 177rd Infantry Bde is a major draw. I am looking forward to experiencing again that youthful and exciting atmosphere created by all that young Airborne testosterone. All the Way Sir!

On a personal note I served in Germany for 6 ½ years and I want to re-visit some of my old haunts while I am still looking down at the grass. I found that flying over through Iceland to be the same cost as flying directly to say Frankfurt. I will be staying over in Iceland for a few days just to check off a Bucket List item. Looks like a fun thing to do! In Frankfurt we pick-up a rental car and head south the Skysoldier Land. If you are going to drive over there, I recommend going to AAA here in USA with a passport photo and getting your International Driver's License. No test required.

Registration for the Reunion and Hotel Reservations was very painless and remarkable efficient at: [www.skysoldier.net/2017-Italy-Reunion](http://www.skysoldier.net/2017-Italy-Reunion)

With regards to Italy – don't let this be one of your "shoulda – coulda – woulda" moments. Leave life with no regrets.

All the Way !



**Mason Branstetter**  
Nov/D/3/503 Apr-Jun 70  
TOC Dty O/HHC/3/503 Jun-Oct 70  
CO/E/3/503 Oct 70-Apr 71  
[mason@silvertonrealty.com](mailto:mason@silvertonrealty.com)



# 173d Airborne Brigade 2017 Italy Reunion Information

**Chapter 173** is looking forward to hosting the "Sky Soldier Festa Italiana " in Vicenza, Italy from Tuesday July 4, 2017 thru Saturday July 10, 2017.

The 2017 Italy Reunion will be a little different than others in that the registration fee is only \$99.00 per person instead of the \$173.00 per person. This is restricting several things that have always been done. We will not be having a "goodie" bag when you sign in. The purpose is to lower the registration fee to encourage larger attendance. In the past, a lot of members complained that they didn't want a t-shirt or a challenge coin or a coffee mug or a baseball cap, etc., so we have made those items optional for those that would like to purchase them in addition to the basic \$99.00 reg. fee.

You are all invited to come celebrate the 100th Birthday of the 173rd Infantry Brigade. We will also be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of the Slopes, Dak To, and Junction City. 2017 also marks the 10th year anniversary of The Herd's deployment into AO N2KL, Afghanistan. The celebration will take place in Vicenza, Italy at the Vergilius Business Resort and Spa and on Caserma Del Din, home to nearly 3500 Sky Soldiers.

Vicenza is a city in northeastern Italy. It is in the Veneto region at the northern base of the Monte Berico, where it straddles the Bacchiglione River. Vicenza is approximately 37 miles west of Venice and 120 miles east of Milan. Vicenza is a thriving and cosmopolitan city, with a rich history and culture, many museums, art galleries, piazzas, villas, churches and elegant Renaissance palazzi. With the Palladian Villas of the Veneto in the surrounding area, and his renowned Teatro Olimpico (Olympic Theatre), the "City of Palladio" has been enlisted as UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1994.

**Spaced-Available (Space-A) Travel** is a privilege that may offer substantial savings for your leisure travel plans: [www.amc.af.mil/Home/AMC-Travel-Site/](http://www.amc.af.mil/Home/AMC-Travel-Site/)  
REMINDER TO ALL SPACE-A TRAVELERS: Please be aware that travelers must to be prepared to cover commercial travel expenses if Space-A flights are changed or become unavailable. Per DODI 4515.13, Section 4, Paragraph 4.1.a, Reservations; there is no guarantee of transportation, and reservations will not be accepted or made for any space-available traveler.

The DoD is not obligated to continue an individual's travel or return the individual to the point of origin or any other point. Travelers should have sufficient personal funds to pay for commercial transportation, lodging, and other expenses if space-available transportation is not available. ALL ASSOCIATED EXPENSES ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE TRAVELER.

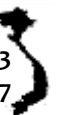
More information at:

[www.skysoldier.net/2017-Italy-Reunion-Info](http://www.skysoldier.net/2017-Italy-Reunion-Info)



City of Palladio

## Benvenuto Airborne!



# 2/503d Combat Service Citation

We show these Troopers of our battalion who served in Vietnam as having received their complimentary *2/503d Combat Service Citation*, issued and signed by four of our former battalion Commanders: COL George Dexter; LTC Bob Carmichael; COL John Walsh; and COL Bob Sigholtz. While not an official Army award, it's nice to have. To receive your Citation by email, please email your name as you wish it to appear on your Citation, along with the 2/503 unit with which you served in Vietnam to [rto173@att.net](mailto:rto173@att.net)

Steve Abdalla  
Felix Almestica  
Ron Amyot  
Andy Anderson  
Mike Anderson  
Ed Anthony  
Rogelio Ancheta  
Kevin Austin  
Ken Bagley  
Jim Bailey  
Jim Baker  
Don Ball  
Dennis Barbato  
John Barrett  
Gary Baura  
Jim Bednarski  
Bob Beemer  
Dennis Begley  
George Bembischew  
Bill Berry  
Jim Bethea  
Jerry Bethke  
George Bingham  
Bill Birdsong  
Tom Blankenship  
Phil Bodine  
Charles Boss  
John Bowers  
Wayne Bowers  
Lee Braggs  
Tom Branham  
Doc Brawley  
Walt Brinker  
George Brnilovich  
Jim Brockmiller  
Greg Bronsberg  
Les Brownlee  
John Bryant  
Al Buckholz  
Dominick Cacciatore  
Patrick Callaghan  
Rob Caldwell  
Ray Camarena  
Dave Canady  
Abel Candia  
Bob Carmichael  
Steve Carey  
Larry Carothers  
Rodger Carroll  
Jaime Castillo  
Carmen Cavezza  
Jim Chappell  
Lew Chappell  
Jim Chieco  
Butch Clark  
Harry Cleland  
Wayne Cleveland

Chuck Coleman  
Tim Cloonan  
Sidney Clouston  
Brent Clover  
Dave Colbert  
Tom Collier  
Scotty Colson  
Tom Conley  
Walt Cook  
Virgil Cooley  
Luther Corbett  
Mike Cosmos  
Alan Cote  
Wako Cotney  
Buzz Cox  
Larry Cox  
Don Cruce  
John Dallio  
Les Daughtridge  
Victor Davidson  
Charles Davis  
Woody Davis  
Bob De Young  
Mike Deeb  
Jeff Deckard  
Wayne DeGeere  
Bruce Demboski  
Bruce Deville  
George Dexter  
Roger Dick  
Rock Dickerson  
Dan Di Gregorio  
Jim Dobson  
Dave Doebele  
Jim Dresser  
Frank Dukes  
Mark Dunlap  
Tannor Dupard  
Troy Duran  
Alvin Ealey  
Ray Edwards  
Russ Ellenwood  
Mike Ellis  
Moe Elmore  
Chuck Engle  
Ray English  
Lonnie Ervin  
Tony Esposito  
Ken Eastman  
Hassan Fardan  
Pat Feely  
John Foley  
Bill Folk  
Joseph Fourbears  
Jerry French  
Art Frey  
Dan Fritzman

Pat Fruchtenicht  
Terry Fugate  
Les Fuller  
A.B. Garcia  
Rosendo Garcia  
Pat Garvin  
Bob Gerber  
Jim Gettel  
Bob Getz  
Kenneth Gilbert  
Paul Gillenwater  
Dave Glick  
Larry Goff  
Ismael Gonzales  
Tom Goodwin  
Bob Gore  
Jim Gore  
Earle Graham  
Johnny Graham  
Rick Grantham  
Mike Graves  
Joe Gray  
Jim Green  
Bernie Griffard  
Dave Griffin  
John Griffin  
Jim Grimshaw  
John Guilford  
Mike Guthrie  
Bob Guy  
Chuck Guy  
Steve Haber  
Mike Hargadon  
Bill Harper  
Bruce Harrell  
Mike Harris  
Barry Hart  
Jerry Hartman  
Jerry Hassler  
Jim Healy  
Fred Henschell  
Chris Henshoher  
Doug Hetler  
Bill Hill  
Robert Hill  
Eric Hitchcock  
Guy Hodges  
Bobby Hood  
Wayne Hoitt  
Dick Holt  
Dan Honore'  
Don Horger  
John Hosier  
Olaf Hurd  
Thomas Hurd  
Danny Hyatt  
Jake Jakovenko

Brad Jackson  
Ed Jackson  
Fred Jackson  
Jim Jackson  
Joe Jellison  
Wesley Johnson  
Johnny Jones  
Ray Jones  
Dave Kaiser  
Glenn Kapetanakos  
Ken Kaplan  
Jack Kelley  
Alvin Kemper  
Dave Kies  
John Kirk  
Bill Knapp  
Harvey Knapp  
Charlie Knecht  
Steve Kubiszewski  
Gary Kuitert  
Stu Kumasaka  
John Kyne  
Lynn Laid  
Joe Lamb  
Virgil Lamb  
Doug Larabel  
Terry Latham  
Bill Lavender  
Jack Leide  
Ron Leonard  
Pete Leonis  
John Leppelman  
Dave Linkenhoker  
Paul Littig  
Richard Lock  
Ray Lockman  
Joe Logan  
Roy Lombardo  
Ken Lorring  
Bob Lucas  
Joe Lucero  
Mike Ludas  
Alfredo Lujan  
Bill MacKenzie  
Bob Madden  
John Mallon  
Tatie Mandakas  
Craig Marcus  
Arthur Marquess

(continued....)



2/503d **VIETNAM**  
Newsletter  
May-June 2017  
Issue 73  
Page 93 of 97

Art Marquez  
Michael Marsh  
Wayne Martin  
Art Martinez  
Richard Martinez  
Jim Matchin  
Bob Mathews Bruce  
Matthews  
Bud Mattingly  
Dave Maxey  
Larry McCorkle  
Bob McDonnell  
Tommy McFaddon  
Tommy McMahan  
Mike McMillan  
Jerry Mellinger  
Billy Dean Miles  
Jim Miller  
Johnny Miller  
Stephen Miller  
Dave Milton  
Jim Miskel  
Lonnie Mitchell  
Mark Mitchell  
Clay Mobley  
Ted Mobley  
Larry Monk  
Jim Montague  
Tom Morgan  
Jim Morton  
Phil Moulaison  
Richard Mozingo  
Jack Munroe  
Herbert Murhammer  
Craig Murphy  
Fred Murphy  
Dick Nason  
Rick Navarrete  
Leslie Newland  
Bill Nicholls  
Jim Niles  
Jerry Nissley  
Dave Norman  
Ben Oakley  
Bart O'Leary  
Dale Olson  
Jack Owens  
Larry Paladino  
Preston Parrott  
Tom Parrott  
Jerry Patterson  
Pat Patterson  
Rick Patterson  
Alfred Paul  
Dennis Paul  
Leo Pellerin  
Enrique Perez  
Ed Perkins  
Stephens Perkins  
Ed Peters  
Pete Peters  
Dave Peterson  
Mike Picklesimer  
Lou Pincock  
Norm Pineau  
William Pinney  
Lou Pizzone  
Bruce Porter  
Jack Porterfield

Marcus Powell  
Jack Price  
Gary Prisk  
Ed Privette  
Dick Prosser  
Jim Quick  
Ed Ramirez  
Paul Ramirez  
Richard Rardin  
John Ratliff  
Ken Redding  
Dan Reed  
Ron Reitz  
Tom Remington  
Robert Rychlec  
Bill Reynolds  
Rick Reynolds  
Jack Ribera  
Eric Ribitsch  
Don Rice  
Paul Richards  
Clark Rickie  
Harold Riggs  
Efren Rivera  
George Rivera  
Gordon Roberts  
Dan Robinson  
Jim Robinson  
Lee Robinson  
Don Rockholt  
Luis Rodriguez  
Graham Rollings  
Charlie Rolon  
Victor Rosales  
Gary Ross  
Tome Roubideaux  
Andy Russell  
Terry Sabree  
Barry Salant  
Joashua Salazar  
Dan Sampson  
Jerry Sanders  
Robert Saylor  
Augie Scarino  
Jack Schimpf  
Bob Schnekenburger  
John Searcy  
Roy Seiders  
Gary Seiler  
Steve Senseney  
Hubert Sheffield  
Bob Sigholtz  
Jim Simpson  
Lee Simpson  
Jackie Singer  
Jim Skidmore  
Dave Smith  
John Smith  
Ken Smith  
Lew Smith  
Ron Smith  
Russ Smothers  
Bud Sourjohn  
Ralph Southard  
Chuck Spagnola  
Mike Sparr  
Jimmy Spence  
Jim Stanford  
Jim Starrett

Dave Steffen  
Paul Stike  
Rex Stickler  
Leon Strigotte  
John Sullivan  
Steve Steets  
Micky Stephens  
John Stepisnik  
Kaiser Sterbinsky  
John Stevens  
Sam Stewart  
Tim Stout  
Mike Sturges  
Tom Sudano  
Ed Swauger  
Ray Tanner  
Jerry Taylor  
Mike Taylor  
Randy Tenney  
Mike Thibault  
Bill Thomas  
Jim Thomas  
Craig Tompson  
John Thompson  
Ted Thompson  
David Tice  
Bob Toporek  
Joel Trenkle  
Bill Tuma  
Billy Joe Turpin  
Alton Turner  
Billy Joe Turpin  
Marc Thurston  
Wayne Tuttle  
Steve Vargo  
Jim Velky  
Gus Vendetti  
Stan Verketis  
Mike Vick  
Bill Voll  
Dave von Reyn  
Bill Vose  
Bill Wade  
Connie Walker  
Mike Walker  
John Walsh  
Russell Walter  
Bob Warfield  
Ferrell Weatherman  
Russ Webb  
Steve Welch  
Rich Whipple  
Bill White  
Jo Jo White  
Ed Wilby  
Jerry Wiles  
Bill Wilkinson  
Emmitt Wilson  
Jim Wilson  
Rex Wiseman  
Roger Wittenbrook  
Ron Woodley  
Pat Wright  
Bill Wyatt  
Reggie Yates  
Eliot Young  
Ray Zaccane  
Concepcion Zarazua  
Louie Zucco





# Farewell to Troopers of the 173d Abn & 503rd PRCT



## Charles Emory Adams, SFC, 78

January 14, 2017  
Florence, SC

## Lowell Edwin Jamison, SFC, 69

Colorado Springs, CO  
February 5, 2017  
173d Abn Bde

## Lawrence (Larry) Ashton, Sr., 75



Fayetteville, NC  
March 20, 2017  
173d Abn Bde

## Neil O. Jones, 70



Columbia, TN  
January 31, 2017  
4/503

## Herman Lester Benton, 82



Martinsville, VA  
December 9, 2016  
503rd PRCT

## John Kelner, 72



Onaway, MI  
January 1, 2017  
173d Abn Military Police

## John R. Chaney, Jr.

Fayetteville, NC  
January 20, 2017  
SGM, 173d Abn Bde



## William (Bill) Kinney, 66



Tempe, AZ  
December 18, 2016  
173d Abn, Casper Platoon

## Ralph A. Cirscito, 68

Irwin, PA  
February 17, 2017  
173d Abn Bde

## Terry L. DeBoer, 66



Prineville, OR  
December 27, 2016  
173d Abn Bde

## Stanley John "Steve" Kuzminski, 90



Pinebluff, NC  
March 15, 2017  
CSM, 3/319th

## Ronald W. Grecnik, 70

Tinley Park, IL  
February 2017  
173 Abn Bde

## Mark Simpson Laurie, 73



Staten Island, NY  
March 15, 2017  
173d Abn Bde

## Donnie Webster Hamilton, Jr., 79



Lee's Summit, MO  
February 18, 2017  
173d Abn Bde

*(sadly continued....)*



**Clifford Jake Meyer, 71**

Mitchell, NE  
February 12, 2017  
173d Abn Bde

**Jerry Peconi, 68**



Jefferson Hills, PA  
March 8, 2017  
173d Abn Bde

**William J. Reh, Jr., LTC USAF (Ret), 66**



Omaha, NE  
March 9, 2017  
173d Abn Bde

**Larry Joseph Ross, 71**



Morganton, NC  
February 10, 2017  
173d Abn Bde

**Stephen Eugene Reed, 68**



Reidsville, NC  
April 1, 2016  
173d Abn Bde

**Mitchell Robert Ruble, 66**



Lowell, OH  
February 18, 2017  
173d Abn Bde



**Gregory Paul Smith, 27**



Springboro, OH  
February 4, 2017  
173d ABCT

**William Bernard Stabler, 76**



Winter Haven, FL  
February 23, 2017  
173d Abn Bde

**Tom Allen Veitch, 68**



Longwood, FL  
February 11, 2017  
173d Abn Bde



**Chuck Wear, 68**



Gilroy, CA  
January 14, 2017  
173d Abn Bde  
RLTW

*Our dead brothers still live for us and bid us  
think of life,*

*not death-of life to which in their youth  
they lent the passion and joy of the spring.*

*As I listen, the great chorus of life and joy  
begins again*

*and amid the awful orchestra of seen and  
unseen powers*

*and destinies of good and evil our trumpets  
sound once more.*

*A note of daring, hope and will.*

*I see them now, as once I saw them on this  
earth.*

*They are the same bright figures that come also  
before your eyes and when I speak of those*

*who were my brothers,*

*the same words describe yours.*

~ Oliver Wendell Holmes ~



# 173d Airborne Association Membership Application Form

PLEASE PRINT AND FILL-OUT THIS APPLICATION

Mail Application and Payments to;

Please **circle** the appropriate boxes below

Membership Secretary, Dennis Hill  
97 Earle Street  
Norwood, MA 02062-1504

New	Renewal	Change of Address, <i>Change of Chapter</i>	
<b>Annual Membership</b>			
<b>Ends on 31 December of each year - \$ 24.00</b>			
<b>Regular *</b>		<b>Associate</b>	
Sky Soldier	Veteran	Gold Star	Spouse of deceased Sky Soldier
<b>Life Membership \$ 173.00</b>			
<b>Regular *</b>		<b>Gold Star (Parent or Spouse)</b>	

-----  
Make checks payable to:  
173d Airborne Brigade Assn

*\*Regular Membership open to those assigned or attached to the 173d Airborne Brigade*

Please print current or updated information below:

Service Number (B446349): \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Use first Letter of last name and last 6 of service number)*

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Initial: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

State or AE: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_

173d Service Dates (02/2003-02/2005): \_\_\_\_\_

Unit while with the 173d: (A-1-503rd or Co A/Support BN): \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter Affiliated to: (4, 18, At Large): \_\_\_\_\_ Send Magazine: [ ] U.S Mail or [ ] Via Email

Gold Star Relationship (Wife, Mother)(PFC Mike Smith 11-08-67): \_\_\_\_\_

My Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

After we receive your payment (\$ 24.00 or \$ 173.00), please allow two weeks for processing.



Please make check payable to:  
173d Airborne Brigade Assn.

Mail Application & Check to:  
Membership Secretary, Dennis Hill  
97 Earle Street  
Norwood, MA 02062-1504

