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Former Commanders

101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and Fort Campbell, Kentucky

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"Pride in being a Screaming Eagle"

Looking through the many publications I have collected over the years from my own tour of duty in Vietnam (1967/68) to the division's last days in Vietnam, I found numerous statements by former Screaming Eagles at all ranks and command. I thought it appropriate to share some of them with you. A good place to begin is with our Division Commanders. In upcoming issues, I will include letters and statements by our battalion and company commanders, platoon leaders, and others. I had my first opportunity to hear one of our division commanders deliver a tribute to his troop at Ft. Campbell, Kentucky in October 1967, just prior to our deployment to Vietnam.

On the afternoon of October 1, 1967 at Ft. Campbell, Kentucky, the entire Battalion gathered at Johnson Field, dressed in combat gear in a final ceremony for deployment to Vietnam. The Division Commander, Major General O. M. Barsanti, watched as the Division Band provided the cadence for the Currahees of the 3-506 as they marched in unison.

Some of the “shiniest” brass at Fort Campbell was present in celebration of the combat readiness of the 3-506. Gen. Barsanti gave an eloquent tribute to the 3-506 as he quoted a speech given by Lt. Gen. Robert C. Richardson, Jr. of the commanding army forces in the Central Pacific area at the 7th Infantry Division Parade at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii on May 11, 1944. In his address to the men of the 7th Army Division, General Richardson said, “Despite all the modern weapons of war, we still have to depend on the infantry for victory. There is something very ennobling in seeing infantry en masse. There is something about the humility of infantry that exalts the heart.”

After completing his quote, Gen. Barsanti declared, “I am so proud of you soldiers, and I know that America is too. I consider it a great honor and a high privilege to be your commander. You have chosen to be paratroopers, and in doing so accept the dangers and grandeur that goes with the job. Some of you will not come back alive, and that is part of war. I wish all of you a safe journey and a safe return. May God bless all of you.”

O. M. Barsanti, Major General, USA Commanding (June 1967 - July 1968)

In a farewell letter to all Screaming Eagles in the Division in 1968, Gen. Barsanti wrote:

"As I reminisce back over my years as Commander of the 101st Airborne Division, I ask myself, "What greater heights can a man reach?" The opportunity to command the famous "Screaming Eagles," and especially during battle, is one of the greatest honors that one man can receive. I am doubly fortunate insofar as I brought the Division, minus the 1st Brigade, to Vietnam.

A little over one year ago, at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, I took command knowing we would face difficult tasks ahead. In August, of last year, the official notification was received that the Division was to deploy to Vietnam. Training cycles were established,
personnel departed for off-post and out of state schooling, loading lists were updated, and mountains of administrative planning began to rise.

When General Westmoreland requested our presence, at an earlier date than planned, it was necessary to accelerate our training program. This was accomplished and you were ready. We deployed 10,356 men more than 10,000 miles from Ft. Campbell in Operation Eagle Thrust. We closed the Division in 41 days, ready for our mission. Every man in this Division who participated in this historic move is to be commended for a Job well done.

On 13 December 1967, I arrived, with my staff, at Bien Hoa Air Base and reported to General Westmoreland, "The 101st Airborne Division reports for combat in Vietnam." After a short in-country training period, you were ready to meet and defeat the enemy. Uniting with our 1st Brigade, the Division once again became a balanced fighting force. You have written with blood and sweat, your place in history, and continue to fulfill the Division's "Rendezvous with Destiny"-Bien Hoa, Phouc Vinh, Cu Chik, Song Be, Phan Rang, Phan Thiet, Bao Loc, Hue/Phu Bai, Phouc Yen, La Chu, Veghel, Pinky, Bastogne, Sally and Eagle are familiar names, recalling enduring memories to us all.

I have pushed hard and demanded much, always knowing what the results would be-success and victory. I have talked to you in burning villages, sand-bagged bunkers, foxholes, wet jungles, and in the blazing sun on the coastal dunes. Your answers to my queries added much to my knowledge of the success of our tactics. The tactics used by this Division are not new; they are only the sound application of good principles of war. You came with a job to do-defeat the enemy-and you have done this job well. To accomplish this we have employed every resource in the command, day and night. My philosophy is simple: continuous attack with multiple actions; always attack under an umbrella of friendly artillery; when a lucrative target is found, mass forces; and company size actions continuous around the clock on all fronts. You are experts at the art of night fighting and jungle fighting; you have learned well the valuable lesson of reacting violently to enemy fire, never break contact, and shoot low.

You are a well decorated, distinguished unit. We have tried to decorate every deserving individual. This would be nearly every man in the Division. During the last six months you have established records that other units have not surpassed in much longer periods of time. This is a tribute to your dedication, "will to win," and discipline as an Airborne Division. The curtain now unfolds on an era that will bring new glory to this proud unit. Let your memories remain strong and keep your driving sense of competition, excellence, and aggressiveness-AIRBORNE."

O.M. BARSANTI  Major General, USA  Commanding

Melvin Zais, Major General, USA, Commanding (July 1968 - May 1969)

In a letter to all Screaming Eagles in the Division in 1968, Gen. Zais wrote:

"On December 13, 1967, the proud colors of the 101st Airborne Division arrived in Vietnam to carry on the Screaming Eagles' "Rendezvous With Destiny" in Southeast Asia. It was a memorable day as the 1st Brigade, here since 1965, welcomed the rest of the Division to the pursuit of freedom.

The airlift from Ft. Campbell to Bien Hoa was accomplished in the best tradition of the Division-AIRBORNE ALL THE WAY -the most prodigious move to combat ever attempted.

Following the gallant precedents set by the 1st Brigade, the Screaming Eagles wasted little time bringing their awesome might upon the enemy. A new generation of paratroopers began shaping history in Vietnam as their predecessors had in Normandy, Holland and Bastogne. From the defense of the U.S. Embassy in Saigon to the repulse of the enemy at Hue, the Division quickly set the pattern that was to spell success in its endeavors.

While patiently waiting the time when the full Division would be together once again, Screaming Eagles proved their proficiency and flexibility as they fought side by side with the Army, Navy, Air Force, and MG. Melvin Zais Marines-both the AR VN and U. S.

The first year in Vietnam has been successful in every respect. Men and units of the Division have defeated the Viet Cong Infrastructure, paced the accomplishments of pacification, and have fashioned model relationship with ARVN units.

No tribute, however, would be complete without a conscientious appreciation of the 3rd Brigade of our sister Airborne Division, in July, I said that "I was the luckiest man alive." I st feel that way and always will; it has been a rare privilege to be a part of the tremendous accomplishments provided by the men of the 101st. Never can these days of complete satisfaction be taken from me-they shall remain seared in my memory throughout my life.

Midway through its first year, the Division was called upon to display its professionalism and proficiency as it met the challenge of conversion to the airmobile concept. The speed and perfection with which this metamorphosis was achieved proved once again that nothing is impossible for the Airborne Soldier.

Perhaps the crowning of our first year came with the return of the 1st Brigade from its nomadic role to the Division fold--Once again the Screaming Eagles were as one.
While there is no point in recounting the detailed history of the Division—it is contained here word and picture. I would be remiss if I did not pay reverent tribute to those fallen Eagles who have made the supreme sacrifice so that others may live in peace and freedom. To each of them we owe an endless debt that can be repaid only by the actions of those who continue.

To every soldier who has so faithfully served this Division, it is my fervent hope that in years to come, this book will evoke pleasant memories, reminiscences of jobs well done, and reminders that in Southeast Asia, as in every other mission, the 101st succeeded the only way it knows—AIRBORNE ALL THE WAY!"

MELVIN ZAIS Major General, USA Commanding

Photo: Lt. Joe Alexander (on the left), Plt. Ldr., 4th Plt. Co. A (1967/68) is decorated with the Silver Star and Purple Heart by MG Melvin Zais at Song Mao in May 1968. Lt. Alexander was awarded the medals for his actions during the Battle at Ca Ty River near Phan Thiet on February 19, 1968. In his farewell letter to all Screaming Eagles in the Division in 1969, Gen. Zais wrote:

"No awards, no promotions, no successes, no accolades, no achievements of the past or future will ever match for me the pleasure and pride of having commanded the justly famous and valorous 101st Airborne Division "Screaming Eagles." It is an accepted truism that "leaders make an outfit" and yet the 101st has somehow reversed the application of this statement. It has inspired leaders to perform beyond their wildest expectation. It has imbued ordinary men with its indomitable spirit. Whatever spark exists within a man bursts into flame when he is privileged to serve with this great Division.

With the above in mind, I thank all of you for the privilege of having served with you. Even now as I command the XXIV Corps here in Vietnam, my days and nights are more secure with the sure knowledge that the 101st Airborne Division stands guard in Northern I Corps and helps to protect the ramparts of this brave and ravaged country.

As a young paratrooper in 1942 when the Division was formed, I looked upon it with admiration and awe. Throughout the years I have continued my love affair with the Screaming Eagles" who have met their "Rendezvous with Destiny" in France, Holland, Belgium, Germany and now in Vietnam. Those who have served with the 101st have a right to be proud and I am proud to be one of them."

MELVIN ZAIS Major General, USA Commanding

MG John M. Wright, Jr, Commanding General, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) - May 1969 - June 1970

In a letter published in the Fall 1969 Edition of the Rendezvous With Destiny Magazine, MG Wright, Jr wrote:

"You, the troopers of this Division, have the tough job of seeking out and destroying he enemy in the mountainous jungles and the flooded lowlands of the Division's area of operations. I am constantly aware that yours is a difficult, dangerous and dirty task.

But, if you could ask the farmer in the rice paddy, he would tell you that the communists no longer ravage the land, confiscate the rice crop, and tax the people. He would also tell you that his sons are no longer kidnapped and forced to join the VC. He would say too that schools and hospitals, dispensaries, and clinics have now opened where, under the communists, there was only sickness and death.

The South Vietnamese government, with United States aid, has been able to provide many of the needs of the people. But you Screaming Eagles have provided the most needed commodity--security. This security has permitted the establishment of governmental control through the use of regional forces, popular forces, national police and other territorial forces.

Your actions have denied the enemy access to the populated areas and have stimulated the rapid advancement and dramatic success of the pacification program in Thua Thien Province. Your accomplishments have given province officials the necessary time and security to carry out current programs and to plan for the future.

Unfortunately, members of the press often fail to see the constructive side of what you do. The destruction of war and fury of battle seem to make more spectacular headlines than the resettlement of a village, the opening of a school, or the harvesting of a rice crop. But these are your victories, the positive and constructive results of your actions. In letters home to your family and loved ones, tell this side of the war; help them to understand the meaning and results of your efforts and those of the South Vietnamese. In the broad context of our objectives in Vietnam, our mission is truly constructive, not destructive.

This is a difficult task, we are engaged in, but when at last peace comes, the people of South Vietnam will be strong and free in a land--which with your help--they built for themselves."

JOHN M. WRIGHT, JR Major General, USA Commanding

In his a farewell letter written for and published in the 1968-1969 Pictorial Review, the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile)
publication, MG Wright, Jr wrote:

"Airmobility--speed and violence--and an indomitable spirit to succeed have marked the years 1969-1970 as distinctive chapters in the proud history of the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile).

The period was a time of victory and progress for the division. Early in 1969, the 101st was transformed from an airborne into an airmobile configuration, Airmobility, the employment of the helicopter to bring overwhelming combat power to bear against the enemy at the decisive point with lightning speed, has revolutionized, the depth to our operations, Yet, while the concept is new, the invincible spirit of the paratrooper continues to be unique characteristic of the 101st.

The names Montgomery Rendezvous, Kentucky Glen, and Texas Star have been etched indelibly into the division's annals. In each operation, "Screaming Eagles" proved the worth of the airmobile concept as they defeated the enemy at every turn, drove him out of his traditional jungle sanctuaries, and forced him to scatter under constant unrelenting pressure.

These victories were and continue to be the vital prerequisite to the successful realization of the Thua Thien Province pacification and internal development plan. Over the past year, the 101st, in cooperation and coordination with our Vietnamese allies, has extended a belt of security around the populated lowlands. Behind this strong shield, the people are leading normal, active lives, the economy is developing, and support for the Government of Vietnam is being strengthened.

Similar progress has been made toward the achievement of our ultimate goal of transferring to the Vietnamese government and armed forces all responsibility for the conduct of the war. "Screaming Eagles" have trained and fought with the soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division (ARVN) and territorial forces of Thua Thien Province. The 1st Division has proven time and again that it is equal to any challenge and has defeated the enemy in every battle. Regional Forces, Popular Forces, and People's Self Defense Forces have acquired new skills and gained confidence in their ability to protect their hamlets and villages from a brutal foe. Political awareness at the rice roots is growing as effective local governments become more and more responsive to the needs and aspirations of the people.

The firm foundations have thus been laid, yet much remains to be done. I am confident that you will continue to build on the successes of the past. As I depart, I am filled with pride by the courage esprit de corps, and indefatigable determination of the 101st trooper to win against all odds. You and I are imbued with the conviction that this great division will always meet its "Rendezvous with Destiny" with strength and courage. For me there is no greater reward than to have led the "Screaming Eagles" of the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile). I bid each of you farewell for now, but assure you that my association with the division will continue. AIRBORNE--ALL THE WAY!

JOHN M. WRIGHT, JR Major General, USA Commanding

In a letter published in the Fall 1969 Edition of the Rendezvous With Destiny Magazine, MG Hennessey wrote:

"When I assumed command of the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) last May, I was filled with a deep sense of pride, knowing I would be leading the finest combat force in the world.

Reflecting on these first several months, it is a pleasure to report that my pride in the division and particularly in each of you-as individual soldiers-has continued to grow.

As a Screaming Eagle you can be justifiably proud of your contributions to the division's accomplishments, and you can now find yourself in the pages of our history, a part of the valiant traditions which have continued since the division embarked on its "Rendezvous with Destiny" in 1942.

As 1971 approaches, all of us must reflect on the heritage of earlier Screaming Eagles and rededicate ourselves to our goal of helping the Vietnamese people in their fight for freedom, peace, and stability. As progress continues in the Vietnamization Program, we must intensify our efforts to assist these courageous people as they strive to attain their goals and aspirations.

My thanks go to each of you for a job exceptionally well done. I am confident that you will continue to expand the proud "All The Way" tradition of the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile)."

John J. Hennessey Major General, USA Commanding

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MG Thomas M. Tarpley, Commanding General, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) – February 1971 – April 1972

In a letter published in the winter/spring 1971 Edition of the Rendezvous With Destiny Magazine (the last issue), MG Tarpley wrote:

"Taking command of the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) on 1 February 1971 was, for me, a personal rendezvous with destiny. Since that time, I have seen the Screaming Eagles in action - in the jungles and air and assisting the people of northern Military Region I - and can testify that the outstanding reputation employed by the 101st is completely justified. I am justifiably proud of your accomplishments and each of you can in turn take pride in your contribution to the effort the division is making towards bringing stability to the people and the government and peace to the Republic.

During the past few months, Screaming Eagles have been faced with new challenges on new battlefields and accounted for themselves admirably. Beginning in late January of this year the 101st participated in Operation Dewy Canyon II, the US drive to reopen Khe Sanh as a staging and resupply area for the thrust into Laos by the Army of the Republic of Vietnam that followed shortly thereafter. That operation called Lam Son 719, commenced in early February. Our airlift, gunship and aerial rocket artillery support was of vital importance to the ARVN operation, and the redeployment of Screaming Eagle elements to cover all of northern Military Region I released additional South Vietnamese forces to help stop the flow of enemy supplies and to destroy enemy caches across the Laotian border.

It is evident that the nature of the war and the mission of the 101st will continue to change. In the coming days we will be called upon to demonstrate our flexibility and the "All the Way" spirit in getting the job done, which has been a trademark of the Screaming Eagles for over 28 years.

Conducting combat operations to insure the security of the South Vietnamese people as well as our own forces will continue to be our primary mission in the foreseeable future. This will place continual demands on each of us to meet the challenge to our professionalism and also to our dedication. Some of the objectives will be difficult to attain. But the 101st has never failed to meet its commitments.

I commend you for your magnificent service and I urge you to devote your energies and abilities to the battles ahead."

Thomas M. Tarpley Major General, USA Commanding

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The 101st was the last combat division to leave Vietnam. The Screaming Eagles left Vietnam in April 1972. It has since been documented that the 101st suffered twice as many casualties in Vietnam as it did in World War II. Seventeen 101st soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor. Numerous others were recommended for our country's highest award, only to be downgraded to the second highest, the Army's Distinguished Service Cross.

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The green clad figures flit from the trembling Huey, then quickly dissolve into the foliage. For five days the men and the jungle are one, and there is opposition to the enemy in the triple-canopied tangles that protect the communist mountain sanctuaries.

Probably no screaming Eagles are more hated by the NV A and VC than the LRRP infantrymen. The silent searchers spring quick, lethal ambushes on small enemy forces, and when confronted by larger enemy groups, simply sit quiet, or call in artillery and air strikes, or the giant guns of the New jersey. They pinpoint communist base camps, supply depots, infiltration routes, and troop movements. And most galling to the NV A and VC, they have become masters of the quiet, shadow war pioneered by the enemy.

The small LRRP teams are elite units, with much more freedom and responsibility than the infantrymen of company size units. But because they are essentially recon, they are almost always outnumbered, and they know that if they are detected and surrounded, their lives are no more than candles in a gale.
Yet the LRRP team is not alone. The PRC-25 strapped on the radioman's back contains howitzer batteries, Phantom jets, cobra gunships and quick reaction troops waiting in reserve. And because they are few and well-trained, they have another ally—a friend that is usually considered by others to be the most hostile of enemies—the jungle.

Cool but dangerous—a man crossing a stream is of war's easier targets.

The 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) order of battle also had three division reconnaissance units--Company F, 58th Infantry (Long Range Patrol), and Company L, 75th Infantry (Ranger), and 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry (Armored, later Air cavalry commencing 1 July 1969). However, the 3-506th reconnaissance unit was never a part of these division reconnaissance units.

**LRP: The Silent Search** by Terry McCauley, Specialist Four

This article about the men from Co. F, 58th Infantry (Airmobile - LRP) was written by fellow PIO, Terry McCauley was published in the Winter 1968-69 issue of "Rendezvous With Destiny" magazine of the 101st Airborne Division.

A small hole in the defoliated jungle became visible as the Huey neared the landing zone. As the two escorting Cobras began to circle the LZ, the log ship pilot eased forward on the control stick and the chopper slipped sideways into a deep dive. With dust and debris rushing toward the plexiglass window, the pilot sent the ship skimming across the top of a small hill, slowed and hovered. Five camouflaged figures were out of the craft and sprinting for the woodline to begin another long range patrol.

A minimum ration of food and water was carried. Many of the luxuries afforded regular "line doggies" were left behind. Food bad to be eaten cold because tell-tale fires were prohibited. Smokers would have to abstain while in the field. Talking, in the form of a whisper, would be used only when necessary. No, nothing unusual about this mission.

The team moved most of the 1st day, occasionally stopping to monitor trails and note other pertinent information. Upon finding an extremely well-traveled series of trails, they disappeared into the underbrush to begin what would be a long, hot watch.

Sweat dampened tiger fatigues clung to their bodies as the mid-day sun loomed overhead. One of the troopers opened a pack of gum and passed it down the line until an empty Juicy Fruit package was buried. As they waited, their minds wandered—to home, girls and better days.

Suddenly the crack of a breaking branch and a distant voice betrayed the approach of an unwary enemy. Muscles tightened and hearts beat faster, but no one moved. Twenty meters down the trail they would pass the Screaming Eagles’ position. As they passed through the crossroads, they could be seen laughing and joking.

After waiting a safe period for the enemy soldiers to pass, they called in to report that eye contact had been made with an enemy unit. Charlie was there. With that fact established, the mission was half complete.

Late in the third day, the team increased its pace. Tomorrow would bring extraction and a hot meal. With night quickly descending, the men pulled into a small circle. Each cleared his area of anything that might make a sound as he slept.

While one of the soldiers remained awake to guard the small perimeter, the others slept through intermittent drizzles, the distant thunder of friendly artillery and the steady hum of jungle life.

With morning came a hurried breakfast of chili con carne and a chocolate bar. All wrappers and waste were buried, and leaves were scattered to conceal the team’s night position. As the five tired troopers donned web gear and rucksacks, it was less painful knowing they would soon be back at camp.

The column moved silently and swiftly, stopping a few yards from the landing zone. As the team leader scribbled in his notebook, the others listened to be sure no enemy were approaching their position. "Ten minutes out," announced the RTO. The point man began rummaging through the pocket of his ruck for a smoke grenade, as the radio man informed the ship to have ladders ready.

The violet smoke rose into a small tornado as the pilot lowered his craft as far into the jungle ceiling as possible. As it hovered, rope ladders were thrown from both sides of the Huey. Two LRP’s hit the lifelines as the rest of the squad kept security on the woodline.

Once all five were on the chopper floor, tangled in web gear, rifles and rope, the ship lifted its nose and headed for home. The team leader pulled a pack of crumpled cigarettes from his breast pocket and passed them around. The point man searched for his flop hat. It had been blown out of the Huey while he was helping pull his buddy aboard. Looking at each other, the team members smiled slightly and with the familiar thumbs up agreed: "Good mission."

I was fortunate to know most every one of the Shock Force and LRRPs during the first year that our battalion was in Vietnam (1967/68), and in my humble opinion, they didn’t come any better than these ‘shadow soldiers’. Their
attitude, patriotism, devotion to duty and to fellow soldier could not have been higher. In moments of pride and competition, some members (even to this day) boaster of being 'elitists' to the 'line doggies', but this is not true and would be like comparing apples and oranges. I wrote up nearly every significant enemy engagement that our reconnaissance teams were involved in and will be publishing some of these from time to time in upcoming newsletter issues. If any of the CSF/LRRPs with us today have stories and pictures that they would like to contribute, I would like for them to send them to me. - Jerry Berry

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For the Fallen

With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children,
England mourns for her dead across the sea.
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit,
Fallen in the cause of the free.

Solemn the drums thrill: Death august and royal
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres.
There is music in the midst of desolation
And a glory that shines upon our tears.

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted,
They fell with their faces to the foe.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

They mingle not with their laughing comrades again;
They sit no more at familiar tables at home;
They have no lot in our labour of the day-time;
They sleep beyond England's foam.

But where our desires are and our hopes profound,
Felt as a well-spring that is hidden from sight,
To the innermost heart of their own land they are known
As the stars are known to the Night;

As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust,
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain,
As the stars that are starry in the time of our darkness,
To the end, to the end, they remain.

Laurence Binyon (1869-1943)

END OF SECTION I

SECTION II

PREDEPLOYMENT & PRE VIETNAM

Vol II, Issue #2  Remembering a time and place as Currahees  November 2004
The First Officer, NCO, and Enlisted Man Assigned To The 3-506th

The identity of the first officer, NCO, and Enlisted man officially assigned to the newly activated 3-506th is a debateable subject among many of us original Currahees from 1967. It is known that several individuals were officially assigned to the tasks of getting the necessary buildings, equipment, and misc. other tasks involved in making ready for the arrival of troops prior to the official reactivation date. These tasks fell to Captain Freeman B. Dallas, 3rd Brigade Assistant S-4 Officer, and Sergeant First Class John Boes, in S-4 at the 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry, prior to the 3-506th being reactivated. However, common sense tell us that the first person assigned would be the commander of the unit and most likely the second person, his command sergeant major. According to my research on this subject from documents obtained from the National Archives at College Park, Maryland, as well as from various other reports and articles, I have reached the following conclusion.


First NCO Assigned  Battalion Sgt. Major William R. McCorkle, Denver, Colorado was the first NCO assigned to the battalion after it was officially reactivated on 1 April 1967. (See photo above for picture of the Bn. CSM).

First Enlisted Man Assigned  Pfc. Virgil W. Bernard, Jr, Houston, Texas was the first enlisted man assigned to the battalion after it was officially reactivated on 1 April 1967. In future newsletter issues, I will list those who became the first in other areas such as the battalion surgeon, and the first commander, platoon leader, and platoon sergeant or each company. I will attempt to provide some background on each individual.

Where Did You Take Basic Combat Training?

Basic Training was our first introduction to the military, the transition from civilian to soldier—a change which has been experienced by millions of other Americans before us. It marked our own successful entrance into the finest Army in the world and the continuation of more than 200 years of American Army tradition of defending the freedom and the dignity of individuals.

It is often said today, as in the past, our Army is only as good as its individual members. If you took basic combat training, you began as a worthy addition to this Army and would contribute to its proud traditions. As each of us progressed with our military tour of duty—as a career soldier or otherwise—we applied and expanded upon the knowledge and skills we had gained during those unforgettable weeks of Basic Combat Training.

Basic Combat Training Pictorial Review Books were presented to each recruit upon completion of his BCT. These books not only document a soldier’s entry into the service, but often rekindle some fond memories of old friends and military pride.
If you served in 3-506th or one of the 3-506th Task Force Units, you most likely took your basic training at one of these centers. Do you still have your BCT Pictorial Review Classbook?  

**Fort Campbell, Kentucky** - The colorful heritage of Fort Campbell, Kentucky, dates from 1846. In that year, Colonel William Bowen Campbell led his First Tennessee Volunteers, the "Bloody First," in the storming of Monterey. His rallying cry, "Boys, follow me!" led him to a generalship and later to the Tennessee State House.

On July 18, 1941, a site was selected for a military reservation on the Kentucky-Tennessee border between Hopkinsville, Kentucky, and Clarksville, Tennessee. Construction began on February 4, 1942, and within a year, Camp Campbell was a 101,700-acre training center, capable of accommodating two armored divisions and a variety of special troops.

The post's initial cadre, one officer and 19 enlisted men, arrived from Fort Knox, Kentucky, in early summer 1942. From then until the end of World War II, Camp Campbell was the training ground for the 12th, 14th, and 20th Armored Corps and the 26th Infantry Division in succession.

The 11th Airborne Division arrived in 1949, following occupation duty in Japan. In April 1950, Camp Campbell became Fort Campbell, a permanent installation. The 11th Airborne Division left for Germany in 1956. On September 21 of that year, Major General T. L. Sherburne received the colors of the 101st Airborne Division from Secretary of the Army, Wilbur M. Brucker and Army Chief of Staff, General Maxwell D. Taylor. The famed "Screaming Eagles" of World War II were thus reactivated, and Fort Campbell became their home.

On May 2, 1966, Third United States Army General Order Number 161 directed the activation of a Basic Combat Training Center at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. A post planning group was formed to pave the way for the official opening of the Army Training Center, and more than 500 World War II vintage buildings were renovated to provide training and living facilities for the trainees.

The cadre of the Army Training Center began arriving in June of that year, and the organizational phase went into full swing on an accelerated basis. On July 6, 1966, barely two months after its initial activation, Fort Campbell's Army Training Center received its first 220 newly-inducted soldiers, all of whom had processed through the Reception Station at Fort Benning, Georgia. Basic combat training began on schedule on July 11, 1966 with a full complement of 1,100, and the Training Center became fully operational. The United States Army Reception Station at Fort Campbell was officially opened on August 8, 1966. The station was capable of receiving, processing, and assigning 1,100 receptees each week. Most of these receptees received basic combat training at Fort Campbell.

By September 1, 1966, more than 1,000 members of the 1st Training Battalion, 1st Training Brigade, assembled in the first graduation ceremonies held at the Army Training Center. Thus, only four months after its inception, the United States Army Training Center at Fort Campbell had grown to a facility with an authorized cadre strength of 330 officers, 2,165 enlisted men and 34 civilians, capable of graduating 1,100 soldiers every week.

**Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri** - FORT LEONARD WOOD, the nation's largest engineer training center, covers 71,000 acres of the Mark Twain National Forest in the Missouri Ozarks, southwest of St. Louis. Activated in 1940, the Fort was named in honor of Major General Leonard Wood, who won the Medal of Honor for action in the campaign against the Apache Indian Chieftain, Geronimo.

Only a handful of officials were on hand in December 1940 to witness the ground breaking ceremonies. On that day, an unknown soldier of a huge construction Army turned the first shovel full of dirt for the construction of the nation's largest engineer training center, a post that has trained thousands of fighting men.

The mud was terrific--so bad as to give the budding camp nationwide publicity. But the excavators and the wielders of hammer, trowel and saw surged on in their work. Almost all workers lived off the post. In spite of all the difficulties, the work proceeded at a furious pace and was virtually completed the middle of May. With the completion of the $40,000,000 fort and the 22-mile railroad leading to it, trainees began coming in full speed. From the early part of 1941 until the post closed in 1946, Fort Leonard Wood trained some 300,000 fighting men. Such famous divisions as the 6th, 8th, 75th, 97th, and the 70th trained here during World War II.
During the years the fort lay dormant, only a handful of groundkeepers were on the premises.

The business of activating an Army post started all over again for Fort Leonard Wood in 1950, shortly after the American troops began fighting in Korea. This time, Fort Leonard Wood supported the 6th Armored Division engaged in replacement training rather than a procession of divisions being trained for combat. On 16 March 1956 the 6th Armored Division was inactivated and replaced with the United States Army Training Center. The Secretary of the Army signed the order 21 March 1956 making Fort Leonard Wood a permanent installation.

The essence of Fort Leonard Wood is best described by the word "training." The fort gives recruit basic training, common and engineer specialist training and combat engineer training.

Among the specialized types of training soldiers can get at the fort are construction, machinery and earth moving equipment operation and maintenance, structural steel and sheet metal working, plumbing; carpentry, electrical installation and many other specialties.

Fort Gordon, Georgia - The United States Army School Training Center, Fort Gordon, came into being as Camp Gordon, in December 1941. Fort Gordon is named for Lieutenant General John Brown Gordon, a native Georgian and famed Civil War leader who also served two terms as United States Senator from Georgia.

Covering segments of four Georgia counties and lying twelve miles southeast of Augusta, the post was the World War II training site for three divisions, the best known being the famed 4th Infantry Division, "The Rolling Fourth," whose members were among the first Infantrymen to hit the Normandy beaches.

Designated a permanent post by the Defense Department in 1956, Fort Gordon has twice before served as a basic training center. Men who went to fight at Normandy, Salerno, and the jungles of New Guinea were trained at Fort Gordon in World War II; and for a short period in 1957, basic training was conducted.

Fort Gordon was again called on to train newly inducted soldiers for the nation's defenses in 1961. As Communist threats to world peace mounted in Berlin and Laos, units were rushed to Fort Gordon from Fort Bragg, North Carolina in early August of 1961 to reopen and restore barracks which had lain idle for years, establish supply lines and make other preparations for a major basic training complex.

The first increment of 500 new soldiers arrived at Fort Gordon in August of 1961 and immediately went into training under the cadre of "A" Company, First Battalion, First Training Regiment. As the heavy flow of newly inducted personnel continued, another training regiment, the Second Regiment was put into operation in October 1961.

Despite a shortage of men and materials, the training center rapidly developed into one of the nation's major basic training installation. The first major milestone was reached in the summer of 1962, when the First Training Regiment graduated its 10,000th basic trainee. On 25 July 1963, another major milestone was reached when Major General Eugene A. Salet, Fort Gordon Commander, presented an inscribed lighter to the soldier who became Fort Gordon's 50,000th basic training graduate.

The First Regiment, composed of three battalions (the First, Second and Third), includes 16 training companies and one headquarters. The Second Training Regiment is made up of three battalions (the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth), and includes 14 training companies.

A specialized faculty of officers and veteran non-commissioned officers conduct instruction in most major fields, with their activities directed by a centralized headquarters to avoid lining duplications and make classes as speedy and efficient as possible.

Infantry advanced individual training and Military Police were conducted by the Third and Fourth Training Regiments at Fort Gordon. The Center was also the home of the U.S. Army Southeastern Signal School, the Military Police School, and the Civil Affairs School.
**Fort Dix, New Jersey** - John Adams Dix served in the Union forces during the Civil War. He later became a Senator from New York and thereafter Governor of the same state. He eventually served as secretary of the Treasury and as Minister to France.

The post was originally established as Camp Dix on July 16, 1917. During World War I, it developed into one of the largest training centers in the nation. After the 1918 Armistice, it reduced its garrison and trained Reserve units.

Site of a Civilian Conservation Corps installation in the 1930's, it became, as Fort Dix, a permanent post in 1939. In 1940, a Reception Center was built to process those inducted under the existing Selective Service Act.

During World War II, ten Infantry Divisions and many smaller units trained here for overseas duty. After the War in 1945, Fort Dix established a Separation Center that turned 1,250,000 soldiers into civilians again.

Fort Dix has continued as a training Center in the post-World War II years, through the Korean and Vietnam Wars, to the present day.

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**Fort Jackson, South Carolina** - A cold January rain fell as a group of military and civilian planners mounted a sand knoll overlooking rolling pineland in the Congaree Sandhills, six miles east of Columbia, South Carolina.

These planners were on a mission of prime importance to the war Department: Evaluation of a site for establishment of a training center for the United States Army.

War clouds boiled over Europe and plans were begun for mobilization and training of a vast American manpower resource. Training was the need in 1917, and throughout its history, Fort Jackson has provided just that for the U.S. Military. Carrier Pigeons, war dogs, balloon and aircraft pilots, paratroopers, artillerymen, cavalrymen and infantrymen--all were to receive some part of their military training at Fort Jackson.

Camp Jackson was originally designated by War Department Order 95 and was approved by Congress in June 1917. It was assigned its first commander, Brigadier General B. Barth, on 26 August 1917.

The original site for Camp Jackson consisted of 1192 acres, purchased by citizens of Columbia and donated to the Federal government. This gift initiated a long tradition of mutual concern between Fort Jackson and Columbia community leaders. Camp Jackson was named for Andrew Jackson, native son of the Palmetto State, and seventh president of the United States. As a Soldier in the nation's service, Major General Jackson staged a spectacular American victory at the Battle of New Orleans.

Plans for war, that brought establishment of Camp Jackson, were in full progress by June 1918 as the new post counted a complement of more than 45,000 officers and enlisted men of the 30th and 81st Infantry Divisions.

A military uniform tradition is credited with establishment of the 81st Division at Camp Jackson. Men of this unit, training on the southeast corner of the reservation near Wildcat Creek, began to wear crude cloth emblems of wildcat heads on their sleeves. As the 81st "Wildcat" Division joined the American Expeditionary Force in France, August 1918, this custom found wide popularity and eventually these unique unit identification patches were worn throughout the Army.

The "Wildcat" Division was organized at Camp Jackson on 25 August 1917, and within a year moved overseas, where its members saw action in the Lorraine and Meuse-Argonne campaigns.

After departure of the 81st Division, the installation was designated a Field Artillery Replacement Depot. Tentative plans for expansion halted with the Armistice in November 1918, and in May 1919, the 30th Division was deactivated at Camp Jackson.

The 5th Infantry Division trained at Camp Jackson until 4 October 1921, when it was deactivated. This deactivation caused an unaccustomed silence to fall over the sand hills and pines of Camp Jackson; the reservation reverted to the control of the Cantonment Lands Commission and, from 1925 to 1939, the silence of the post was broken only by four-or six-week training exercises of the South Carolina National Guard.

"Blitzkrieg" swept across Europe in 1939 and a re-organized Sixth Division was ordered to Camp Jackson. The 6th left the post in the spring of 1940 and was replaced by the 30th Division when it was ordered to Camp Jackson to organize under the provisions of the National Guard Mobilization Act.
On 15 August 1940, Camp Jackson reverted to Federal control and was named Fort Jackson in an order from the Army Chief of Staff, General George C. Marshall. In the same month, an Act of Congress designated Fort Jackson a permanent post.

Fort Jackson soon after became the site for one of the largest construction projects ever seen in the southeast. Over 100 miles of surfaced and reconditioned roads were carved into the sand. More than 2,000 buildings and 6,000 tent frames replaced National Guard training facilities. A water filtration plant processing six million gallons daily; a sewage disposal plant; a 3,000-bed, mile-long hospital; new rail lines; grading, soil erosion and landscaping projects - all sprung from this renewal of the installation.

During World War II, half a million men trained at Fort Jackson. The units included the 4th, 6th, 8th, 26th, 30th, 77th, 87th, 100th, and 106th divisions and the I and XII Corps. During the war years, training at Fort Jackson was observed by Winston Churchill, President Franklin D. Roosevelt and General George C. Marshall.

May 1945 saw establishment of the Army Service Forces Personnel Replacement Depot; and in November 1946, Fort Jackson became a replacement training center. The 5th Infantry Division saw activation in 1947 as a training division, and in June of that year, the post was designated as one of four replacement training centers.

The 5th Division left in April 1950 and was replaced in August by reactivated 8th Infantry Division, following the outbreak of the Korean War. In January 1951 the 8th was joined by the 31st Infantry Division.

By May 1954, both the 8th and 31st had been transferred and were replaced by the famed 101st Airborne Division, defenders of Bastogne during the Battle of the Bulge. The 101st moved to Fort Campbell, Kentucky, in March 1956, when Fort Jackson was designated the United States Army Training Center, Infantry.

Fort Jackson comprises 52,600 acres--82 square miles--at the center of the Palmetto state. It is located between state routes 2 and 262 six miles southeast of the state capital, Columbia.

During the Vietnam era, Fort Jackson had a daytime military and civilian population of approximately 6,000 functioning in 2,071 buildings with a floor space of over 1,500,000 square feet. One hundred and thirty four miles of hard surface and 100 miles of unsurfaced roads provide access to the installations and its 126 infantry training areas.

Fort Jackson had 51 firing ranges, 21 target detection ranges and 18 Trainfire ranges (Basic Rifle Marksmanship).

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Fort Benning, Georgia - Camp Benning was founded Oct. 7, 1918 as a consolidation of three Infantry Schools then operating at widely scattered locations. Probably not even the most far sighted military leaders of that era could have envisioned today's Fort Benning--an installation which has earned the title of "the world's most complete Army post."

From an original small tent encampment, Fort Benning has grown to a post encompassing some 182,311 acres or 285 square miles. During the Vietnam era, there were over 50,000 troops stationed here.

Roads, streets, buildings, ranges and terrain features are named for units that served in World Wars I and II, for battle areas in France identified by action of American units, for American soldiers killed in action and for other famed American soldiers. The post itself is named in honor of a distinguished Confederate Army officer, Maj. Gen. Henry L. Benning, whose home was in Columbus, Georgia.

Following World War I, the Department of the Army issued orders that Fort Benning was to be salvaged. Perhaps that would have ended Fort Benning's history. But Major Paul Jones, who received the order, consulted the dictionary and found that the word "salvage" meant to "save." Armed with this definition, he issued orders that all buildings be painted to "save" them.

During the peaceful years of the 1920's and 1930's, many of the military leaders of World War II saw service at Fort Benning. Among them were Generals of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower, George C. Marshall and Omar N. Bradley; Generals J. Lawton Collins, Joseph W. Stilwell, Mark Clark, Courtney H. Hodges, Nathan F. Twining, Alexander M. Patch, Simon B. Buckner, and many other distinguished officers.

On Nov. 1, 1949, all units and activities at Fort Benning were gathered under one command to form The Infantry Center. This reorganization consolidated two jobs--that of the commanding general of the post and the commandant of The Infantry School.
Future America owes a debt of gratitude to yesterday's and today's officers and enlisted men of The Infantry Center. Their vision and persistent effort created this center of instruction where today the U. S. Army Infantry School continues to make history, fulfilling its mission of training the Infantryman for his decisive role in modern warfare.

A U.S. Army Basic Training Center is one of the newest major activities to adopt Fort Benning as its home. Established in the fall of 1965, the USATC graduated over 1,000 Army recruits weekly during the Vietnam War.

Fort Ord, California - Fort Ord operated as a permanent installation of Headquarters, Department of the Army, Forces Command. The primary mission of Fort Ord was to train troops. It provided command, administration, and logistical support and other functions necessary to operate and maintain facilities at Fort Ord and its sub-installations, the Presidio of Monterey and Fort Hunter Liggett.

Fort Ord is near Monterey Bay in Monterey County, California, approximately 80 miles south of San Francisco. The base consists of about 28,000 acres near the cities Seaside, Sand City, Monterey, Del Rey Oaks, and Marina. Laguna Seca Recreation Area and Toro Regional Park border Fort Ord to the south and southeast, respectively. Land use east of Fort Ord is primarily agricultural.

Fort Ord was established in 1917, originally as Camp Gigling, as a military training base for infantry troops. In 1917, the US Army bought the present day East Garrison and nearby lands on the east side of Fort Ord to use as a maneuver and training ground for field artillery and cavalry troops stationed at the Presidio of Monterey. Before the Army's use of the property, the area was agricultural, as is much of the surrounding land today. No permanent improvements were made until the late 1930s, when administrative buildings, barracks, mess halls, tent pads, and a sewage treatment plant were constructed.

This facility was designated as Camp Ord in 1939 and became Fort Ord in 1940. In 1938, additional agricultural property was purchased for the development of the Main Garrison. At the same time, the beachfront property was donated to the Army. The Main Garrison was constructed between 1940 and the 1960s, starting in the northwest corner of the base and expanding southward and eastward.

From 1947 to 1975, Fort Ord was a basic training center. After 1975, the 7th Infantry Division (Light) occupied Fort Ord. Light infantry troops operated without heavy tanks, armor, or artillery.

In 1990, the US Secretary of Defense announced that the military would begin a process to reduce the number of nationwide military installations and Fort Ord was one of the bases named for closure. In 1991, it was formally announced that Fort Ord would be downsized to a small enclose (closed). The 1991 Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC91) recommended that Fort Ord be closed and troops of the 7th Infantry Division (Light) be relocated to Fort Lewis, Washington. Fort Ord was closed in September 1994 as a training center.

Fort Polk, Louisiana - Fort Polk is located in west-central Louisiana, about 45 miles from Alexandria, 70 miles from Lake Charles, 120 miles from Shreveport, 150 miles from Baton Rouge, 250 from New Orleans, and 180 from Houston. Closer to its front gate are the nearby towns of Leesville, La, located in Vernon Parish, and DeRidder, La, located in Beauregard Parish. (Louisiana has PARISHES not COUNTIES as other states do).

The main post consists of approximately 100,000 acres. Fort Polk is divided into two cantonment areas known as North Fort Polk and South Fort Polk. Approximately 98,000 acres of the main post is within the Kisatchie National Forest and is used by Fort Polk under an agreement with the U.S. Forest Service. In addition, the headwaters and bodies of several streams are located within the installation.
Fort Bliss, Texas - Established in 1848 to protect settlers from Indians and marauding bandits, Fort Bliss is one of the oldest posts in the United States Army. Although both infantry and cavalry soldiers could once be found on Fort Bliss, today the fort's mission focus is on Air Defense Artillery. As the center for air defense, Fort Bliss is now home to the U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery School and four combat ADA brigades. Fort Bliss' partner organizations include: William Beaumont Army Medical Center, the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy, Joint Task Force Six, the German Air Force Command (United States/Canada), and the German Air Defense School.

With 1.1 million acres, the post is larger than the state of Rhode Island and can accommodate every weapon system in the Army. Excellent ranges and immense training areas, coupled with America's third longest runway at Biggs Army Airfield, make Fort Bliss a premier facility for training, mobilization, and deploying combat forces. Each year, many military training exercises occur here, including the largest joint training exercise in the world, Roving Sands.

Back on September 17, 1965, the Dept. of the Army publicly announced that existing training centers would be beefed up, and that new centers for Basic Combat Training (BCT) would be opened at Ft. Bliss and Fort Benning, GA. Fort Bliss officials set up the U.S. Army Training Center (AD), and by October 4, 1965, the new command was ready for activation.

The old 1st Air Defense Guided Missile Brigade (Training) was incorporated into the new USATC, becoming the 1st Training (Air Defense), its primary mission of conducting Advanced Individual Training in AD Artillery was retained. To satisfy the requirement for conducting BCT, the new command set up two entirely new training brigades, each capable of training 4,400 soldiers at the same time.

Men, equipment and buildings were made available for this mission, and by November 29, 1965, the Training Center was ready for the 40 young Kansans who became Fort Bliss’ first basic trainees since the Korean War era. Since December 13, 1965, the USATC had started about 880 recruits and inductees through the eight-week BCT program each week. Forty companies have been set up to handle this training load. The first BCT cycle graduated on February 5, 1966; and its men went for AIT and assignments with other units to Army posts throughout the nations.

Fort Bragg, North Carolina - Fort Bragg is located just west of Fayetteville, North Carolina. One of the largest and busiest military complexes in the world, Fort Bragg hosts America's only airborne corps and airborne division, the "Green Berets" of the Special Operations Command, and the Army's largest support command. 82nd Airborne Division soldiers and others make 100,000 parachute jumps each year at Fort Bragg.

In 1918, Congress established Camp Bragg, an Army field artillery site named for the Confederate General Braxton Bragg. An aviation landing field named after 1st Lt. Harley H. Pope, whose JN-4 Jenny crashed in the Cape Fear River, was added a year later. After five years, Camp Bragg became a permanent Army post renamed Fort Bragg. Today, Fort Bragg and Pope Air Force Base comprise one of the world's largest military installations.

"Camp Bragg" was established in 1918 when the Army needed to expand its field artillery training facilities in preparation for World War I. They chose this location because it met the major criteria: a climate suitable for year-round training and close proximity to a port and rail transportation. The post came into existence in 1918, when 127,000 acres of desolate sand hills and pine trees were designated as a U.S. Army installation. Named for Confederate General Braxton Bragg, a former artillery officer from North Carolina, the camp became Fort Bragg in 1922, after Congress decided all artillery sites east of the Mississippi River should become permanent posts. The camp was redesignated as Fort Bragg, Sept. 30, 1922.

Fort Bragg's rich "airborne" history and tradition was launched in 1934 with the first military parachute jump, which used artillery observation balloons as platforms. However, it wasn't until two decades later that the post became an airborne training site.

The fort grew slowly, reaching a total of 5,400 soldiers by the summer of 1940. With the threat of World War II and passage of the Selective Service Act, a reception station was built here and Fort Bragg exploded to a population of 67,000 soldiers within a year. In 1942, the first airborne units trained here in preparation for combat. All five World War II airborne divisions the 82nd, 101st, 11th, 13th and 17th, trained in the Fort Bragg-Camp Mackall area. The 82nd Airborne Division was assigned here in 1946, upon its return from Europe. In 1951, XVIII Airborne Corps was reactivated here and Fort Bragg became widely known as the “home of the airborne.”

The Psychological Warfare Center (now U.S. Army Special Operations Command) was established here in 1952...
and Fort Bragg became headquarters for special forces soldiers. More than 200,000 young men underwent basic combat training here during 1966-70. At the peak of the Vietnam War in 1968, Fort Bragg's military population rose to 57,840. July 1, 1973, Fort Bragg came under the U.S. Army Forces Command headquartered at Fort McPherson, Georgia.

Today, Fort Bragg is the world's largest airborne facility with more than 45,000 military personnel. Widely known as the "home of the airborne," Fort Bragg houses the 82nd Airborne Division, assigned here in 1946 after returning from Europe, and the XVIII Airborne Corps, reactivated here in 1951. The U.S. Army Parachute Team (the Golden Knights) also calls Fort Bragg home.

Fort Bragg is the home of the airborne. For more than half a century, Fort Bragg has had a proud heritage as the Home of the Nation's Finest fighting forces. The XVIII Airborne Corps was originally activated as the II Armored Corps at Camp Polk, L.A., Jan 17, 1942. It was redesignated XVIII Corps Oct 9, 1943 at the Presidio of Monterey, California. The Corp's birthday is Aug 25, 1944. The same day the XVIII Airborne Corps assumed command of the 82d and 101st Airborne Divisions.

Today the XVIII Airborne Contingency Corps is the only airborne corps in the defense establishment of the United States and exercises control over the 82d Airborne Division; 101 Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, KY; 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) Fort Stewart, GA; 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, NY; 194th Armor Brigade, Fort Knox, KY; 18th Field Artillery; 18th Personnel Group; 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, Fort Bliss, TX; 44th Medical Brigade, XVIII Airborne Artillery; 11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade; 1st Corps Support Command; 16th Military Police Brigade; 20th Engineer Brigade; 25th Military Intelligence Brigade; Dragon Brigade; 18th Finance Group; 18th Aviation Brigade and 35th Signal Brigade; 2nd ACR.

The Psychological Warfare Center - now the U.S. Army Special Operations Command - was established here in 1952, and Fort Bragg units include the 1st Corps Support Command, 44th Medical Brigade, XVIII Airborne Corps Artillery, 18th Aviation Brigade, 35th Signal Brigade, and more. Fort Bragg and neighboring Pope Air Force Base form one of the largest military complexes in the world.

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END OF SECTION II

SECTION III

VIETNAM DIARY

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...And Then They Were Gone

Beginning with the May 04 issue, a new category--"And Then They Were Gone"--appeared in Section III of the 3-506th Newsletter. As most of you know, I am currently working on a book about each Currahee from the 3-506th who died in Vietnam. The title of the book is "My Gift To You". I selected this particular title to demonstrate that the ultimate sacrifice each of our fallen Currahees made was a gift to all of us Americans, and for the basic principle of our country--Freedom. Their sacrifice was an unselfish gift to us.

As the former battalion combat photographer and present unit historian, I have photographs of many of our KIAs. Some will appear in the KIA book, and I will publish some of these here and in future newsletters. I invite subscribers to submit their recollections of our fallen Currahees. If you have a photo of any Currahee who died in Vietnam, please send a copy to me for our unit archives.
First Lieutenant Walter Murrah Gibson, Platoon Leader of 2nd Platoon, Company D (1969), 23, a native of College Park, Georgia. Lt. Gibson was killed in action on October 28, 1969, during Operation SOUTHERN FREE STRIKE, an operation to hunt down and kill the enemy within the vast stretch of territory along the border of II and III Corps, known as the Free Strike Zone. Picture provided by Harry Enoch (2/D 1969/70), RTO for Lt. Gibson.

Pfc. Martin Roy Knight (Co. A 1967/68), 19 year-old native of Belding, Minnesota. Pfc. Knight, along with seven other Currahees from 4th Platoon, Co. A, was killed in action during the Battle at Ca Ty River near the city of Phan Thiet, during the Communist Tet Offensive in Binh Thuan Province, II Corps, South Vietnam.


At Cam Ranh Bay, he received orders for the 101st Airborne Division and was sent north to Phu Bai, where he joined the 3-506 on October 13.

Jarrett says: "I was with this great bunch of guys from Oct. 13th of 1970 until May 1st 1971. We operated from such fire support bases as Firebase Brick, Tomahawk, Normandy and several others that I can't spell or remember. My company commanders were Cpt. Dennis Erickson, 1Lt. Don Porter and at the end Cpt. Ed Hathaway. My platoon leaders were 1Lt. Don Porter, Lt. Bud Blazer, and I can't remember who was there at the end. The only platoon sergeant that I can remember..."
On May 1st, 1971, two weeks before the 3-506th stooddown and cased it colors and departed Vietnam, those Currahees of the 3-506th who had ten months or less left on their tour of duty were sent home. Those with more than ten months were reassigned to other units within the 101st Airborne Division. SP4 Jarrett Goodman got reassigned to 1st Platoon, Co. D, 1-506th on FSB Gladiator.

Twenty-two days after leaving the "Stand Alone Battalion," SP4 Goodman's life drastically changed forever. On May 19, 1971, somewhere near abandoned Firebase Ripcord, Jarrett's 2nd Squad made contact with an unknown-size NVA force during a routine recon patrol. "My 2nd squad was out on a recon patrol," says, Jarrett, "when we suddenly found ourselves walking parallel with some hardcore NVA. We estimated about 15 of the enemy. I remember some were carrying M16s, so we were uncertain about whether they were NVA or ARVN. After our squad leader radioed back to the company commander, it was determined that the soldiers were not ARVN, but NVA and we engaged them. Gunships were called in and after a short time found ourselves following blood trails. The terrain was typical I Corps mountainous landscape, very up and down. We pursued the blood trails into the next day and found their bunkers and tunnels. That night we lost our platoon Sgt. to a land mine. After Medflying him out we went back down the hill and waited for daylight."

The next morning about 10:00 a.m., SP4 Goodman's 1st Platoon moved back up the hill and found the bunkers unoccupied. As Jarrett recalls, "I was helping secure the perimeter when my squad leader called me over to the entry of a bunker and that's when he stepped on a mine taking his foot off and shrapnel hitting me in the head." Unable to provide an LZ for a 'dust-off' due to the thick jungle and steep terrain, the two wounded Screaming Eagles would have been extracted using the jungle penetrator. With the enemy close by and the area unsecured, it was decided that the 'dust-off' helicopter would be too vulnerable to enemy fire while hovering over the tree tops. The decision was made to move the two wounded soldiers to the top of a nearby hill for an easier and quicker 'dust-off'.

Jarrett remembers, "I was bandaged so that I would not be able to open my eyes because of powder burns and debris in them, so I did not see what happened next. We had moved up the hill a ways, but I'm not sure how far before I stepped on a mine that took my leg and wounded the trooper that was leading me. I remember going up in the air and coming down in the hole the mine made. With some of my clothes and my bandages blown off of me I could see that my right foot was gone. I remember the top of my boot was still there and I reached out and touched what was left of my leg and the nerve ending tingled some. The next thing I remember, Rocky--my buddy from the 3-506th, now with 2nd platoon, Delta Co. had me by the legs I had left and we were headed for the jungle penetrator. They put me on that seat at the end of the cable along with the trooper that was leading me up the hill. I'm not sure of his injuries." The Medical flight took Jarrett and other wounded to Phu Bai, where he was stabilized and then put back on a helicopter and sent to Da Nang to be treated by an eye specialist. Jarrett spent seven days at the facility before being shipped to U.S. Army Hospital, Ryukys Islands, Okinawa, where he spent 30 days. From there, Jarrett was flown to Japan and on to Fitzsimons Hospital in Denver Co. Jarrett was wounded on May 22, 1971 and released on TDRL on June 15, 1972.

"The young lady that I had dated for nine months before I was drafted," says, Jarrett, "wrote me every day I was in the service and Married me June 24th 1972, just nine days after I was released from the hospital. We have three wonderful daughters and one granddaughter--two married and one, the youngest now engaged. I came home, went back to school and put 31 years in the post office before retiring in March 2004. My wife of 32 years, Ginny and I are planning to do some traveling when she retires this coming spring. She has been teaching for 20 years in the Milton WI. School system."

Jarrett was discharged from the military in October 1973 after one year in the hospital and 17 months on TDRL. (Temporary Discharge Retirement List). In September of 1976, he went back into the hospital and had two additional inches of his leg taken off. "This was the best thing I ever did, as far as my disability goes," says, Jarrett. "It made a world of difference in my getting around."

**Jarrett Goodman's reflections on his Vietnam experience. . .**

"I was so looking forward to my first reunion this past June at Clarksville, Tennessee, and I certainly wasn't disappointed. I'm disappointed, though, that more Troopers that I served with weren't there; but maybe they will make it next year. This was a big step for me. Some of the Guys I contacted want to leave the past and forget about it; but every day that I wake up and put this prosthetic leg on, it reminds me. The year I spent at Fitzsimons Hospital, where 95% of the troopers were much worse off than I, also reminds me that we can't ever forget."

I have no regrets about the way my life has gone. Last May, I found (Rocky) Arthur Ingram down in Kentucky. I wanted to see him at the reunion, but maybe next year. As you know I have now located and contacted several troopers I served with and we get on the phone now and then. I can't put in words how good this is."
My wife and I had dated for about 9 months before I was drafted. She was there for me after I was wounded and that meant so much. Ginny and I celebrated our 32nd Anniversary this year. Photo to the right is Jarrett and Virginia 'Ginny' celebrating their 32nd wedding anniversary.) [Jarrett can be reached at: ginjer@chorus.net]


Pfc. Wamser arrived in South Vietnam in October 1967 along with the rest of the 3-506th. After surviving the infamous Tet Offensive in January 1968 at Phan Thiet, as well as numerous firefights with Company C, SP4 Wamser became on of many in the 3-506th to be transferred up north to another 1st Brigade battalions under the 'infusion' order, which required the units to insure that each battalion strength did not suffer with large numbers of its members rotating back to the States at any one time.

Wamser had been promoted to SP4 three weeks prior to his reassignment. On May 10, 1968, now SP4 Don Wamser, along with two other members from Charlie Company--Pfc. William J. Young and SP4 Amando Ybarra--and with five others from the battalion were sent north and reassigned to Company B, 1-327th operating near Hue in I Corps. The 1st Brigade was conducting Operation NEVADA EAGLE (17 May 1968 - 28 February 1969).

"It was a sunny day on June 8, 1968," recalls SP4 Wamser, "and I had been with the 1-327th less than a month. Our platoon was sent out on a routine patrol. I was point man and had never seen so many communication wires strung around any place I had been and it was not ours. I told my slack man this looked like a perfect place for an ambush and that we were probably going to get hit pretty soon. Within five minutes, it happened as we were moving down a steep hill towards a stream. We walked into an enemy ambush."

SP4 Wamser was shot in the leg and his slack man shot in the knee area by enemy AK47 fire. "Luckily a log was not far from us," says Wamser, "and we both crawled behind it. We were both bleeding pretty bad and had to dress our own wounds. The rest of the platoon--mostly young new recruits--did not open fire as we were trained to do in any ambush situation. I probably had the longest amount of time in the country. I yelled for them to open fire but since they couldn’t see anyone they didn’t fire. I yelled to them to fire and I threatened to call artillery fire in on top of us. Then and only then, did they commence firing." After some 20 to 30 minutes, SP4 Wamser and his slack man crawled back up the hill to where their platoon waited and the platoon medic provided first-aid.

Within an hour, a 'dust-off' carried SP4 Wamser and his point-man to a medical aid station at their base camp near Hue. From there, SP4 Wamser was flown to a hospital in Yokohama, Japan, where he under went medical treatment for 7 to 10 days before being flown to Fort Carson, Colorado. After spending three months at Ft. Carson, Colorado, SP4 Wamser was discharged in September 1968. "This was the third time I had been wounded in 8 months while in Vietnam," says Don. "Needless to say, I was very glad to get back to the U.S.A."

Don Wamser’s reflections on his Vietnam experience.

Don says, "I feel fortunate to have served with the 3rd Platoon, Company C, as long as I did. I look forward to seeing many of the 3-506th Currahees at a reunion in the future.

After 33 years with the U.S. Postal Service, Don retired in 2003. After retiring from the Postal Service, he started his own Lawn Care business in his hometown. Don still lives in Emporia, Kansas. He and wife Patricia, have one daughter. He can be reached at: dwamser@cableone.net

The next two individuals were wounded in the same incident in October 28, 1969, during Operation SOUTHERN FREE STRIKE. The Currahees mission was to hunt down and kill the enemy within the vast stretch of territory along the border of II and III Corps, known as the Free Strike Zone. On October 10, the Currahees conducted the Battalion’s first amphibious combat assault as part of the operation.

The amphibious assault provided an excellent means to insert the troops clandestinely into enemy territory without the usually expected helicopter assault. The Currahees of Company D were shuttled from the LZ BETTY port facilities on a LARC (Light Amphibious Resupply Craft) to another offshore watercraft called an LCU (Army Landing Craft Utility), which would ultimately deliver them to their beachhead assault.

First Lieutenant Walter Murrah Gibson (featured on page 1 of this section), Platoon Leader of 2nd Platoon, Company D was killed and Pfc. William Hustad and Pfc. Roger Leaning were seriously wounded in an enemy contact during the operation on October 28. This is their story, with additional details from a fellow teammate, SP4 Harry Enoch (2/D Co. 69/70).
Bill recalls, “I arrived at the 90th Replacement Company in Bien Hoa, South Vietnam, where Roger Leaning and I stayed for a week waiting for assignment and P-training. Following P-training, I was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division/3-506th and sent north to Phan Thiet, where Roger and I, along with several others, were assigned to the 2nd Platoon, Delta Company.”

After several days at LZ BETTY spent collecting their weapons, food and field gear, and waiting on the next resupply day for Delta Company, Bill Hustad, Roger Leaning, and Pfc. Harry Enoch of Kentucky went out on the same chopper for their first day in the field.

SP4 Harry Enoch (2/D 69/70), a close friend and teammate of Both Bill Hustad and Roger Leaning remembers the incident well. At the time, Enoch was serving as Lt. Gibson’s RTO. According to SP4 Enoch, “We had been sent to Song Mao, which is about 40 kilometers northeast of Phan Thiet. Our position was about 5 to 10 kilometers west of ‘The Bowl’, and we had been there for a few days.”

On October 28, 1969, Lt. Gibson, PSG Thompson, Doc, accompanied by first and third squads, followed a trail into a small village. A VC was spotted running away down another path, and Lt. Gibson radioed Captain Rothman for instructions. Orders were to follow the VC, and Lt. Gibson instructed Roger’s squad to carry out the mission. The squad was shorthanded and had a lot of new guys, so First Squad Leader Bill Hustad volunteered to go along. Lt. Gibson, PSG Thompson, and Doc also went along. The rest of First Squad stayed behind to maintain a perimeter in the small village.

As the small patrol headed out, SP4 Roger Leaning was walking point, SP4 Bill Hustad was walking slack, followed by Lt. Gibson. “We were slowly making our way down the well-used trail,” says Enoch, “when we were ambushed. Bullets were flying everywhere. Leaning, Hustad, and Gibson were wounded immediately. Leaning was hit in the chest, puncturing a lung. Hustad was hit three times—in the chest, right arm, and below his left knee. Lt. Gibson was hit in the chest and died very quickly. We returned fire immediately, but the enemy broke contact and fled. A Medevac was called in, but the triple canopy jungle made it necessary to put out smoke for the chopper to find us. It took about two hours to get to us.”

SP4 Leaning and Hustad were each placed onto a jungle penetrater one at a time and hoisted up into the helicopter. The two wounded Currahees were transported to LZ Betty for further medical treatment and then rushed by medical aircraft to the hospital at Long Binh. Here they were held in intensive care for about a week, until their condition stabilized and they could be moved to the hospital at Cam Ranh Bay. After spending two months at Cam Ranh Bay, the two were flown to a hospital in Japan.

Lt. Gibson was not evacuated until much later that day. The Currahees of 2nd and 3rd Squads struggled for almost two hours using ponchos and bamboo poles fashioned into a litter to carry him back to the platoon perimeter. Enoch recalls, “When we finally got there, we had to cut down enough trees to make a place for the chopper to land. Minutes after we finished clearing the area, the chopper came in and picked up the lieutenant’s body—and Canyon 26 took his last ride back to Betty. I was his RTO, and we had spent many hours talking as the night perimeter was being set up. Lt. Gibson was an ROTC graduate in Armor and was fairly new in country. He was a fine platoon leader and well respected by his men.”

SP4 Bill Hustad went on to Ft. Hood after he arrived stateside and was released from military service on October 28, 1970, exactly two years after being drafted and exactly one year after being wounded in Vietnam. Bill and his wife, Jackie, have three grown children--two girls, ages 35 and 28; one son age 31--and one 3-year-old grandson. They currently live in Monticello, Wisconsin.

**Bill Hustad’s Reflections on his Vietnam Experience…**

“I was with a great group of guys in the 3-506. There was friction sometimes between certain groups, but it was minimal. Everyone got along well, considering the circumstances; everyone worked together. I guess I would do it all again if I had to. Memories of Vietnam are still very prominent in my memory. I am a proud Vietnam Veteran and a proud ‘straight leg’ member of the 101st and 3-506th. Recently, I was a discussion leader at a class on the Vietnam War being taught at the
SP4 Leaning spent six weeks at the hospital in Japan, and from there he was flown to Ft. Lewis, Washington to recuperate from his wounds. He was released from military service in May 1970, some seven months after the ambush. Roger married his high school sweetheart, Marguerite on August 22, 1970. They have two grown boys, ages 31 and 28. Pfc. Leaning grew up in a family that played country music, and he still enjoys playing music and writing songs. He continues to enjoy high school sports, reading and traveling to Mexico every May with his wife. Attending church and time with family and relatives continue to be very special to him. They currently live in Gresham, Oregon.

Roger Leaning’s Reflections on his Vietnam Experience…

“I am proud to have served my country and am still in contact with my close friend from our Vietnam days, Bill Hustad. I look forward to meeting up with some of the others from my unit that I haven’t seen since 1969. Screaming Eagles All The Way!” Roger can be reached at chatty@foxinternet.net.

From Jerry's Old PIO Files. These are some of the many stories that he wrote that never got published or were not published in their entirety. Some will mention names, places, and incidents long forgotten by some, but remembered well by others. The date of an event was not allowed to be included with a story. If any Currahee remembers the date or approximate date, please contact Jerry Berry at: jerryberry@currahee.org and he will provide an update with additional information.

VC Training Camp Discovered by Currahees by Bn PIO Jerry Berry

Author's note: [Event took place around May 1968, during Operation MCLAIN. This was the draft submitted to the 1st Brigade PIO, and the article that got published.]

PHAN THIET - While on a Search and Destroy mission to locate an Enemy Training Base Camp, the “Currahees” of the 2nd platoon, A Co. (3/506) Abn. Inf., found their objective and other items of importance besides.

In the general area of the suspected base camp, 2nd platoon of A Co. moved with extra precaution. The general area seemed deserted to the paratroopers. As the platoon moved through the thick “buck brush”, they spotted several bunkers. From the bunkers, several clover leaf patrols were sent out. Finding nothing of importance, the “Currahees” moved to the north a couple hundred meters and found another complex of bunkers. “They seemed to be about a month old,” says 1Lt. Author Quezada, Torna, California, “We believe it was used during the Battle of Phan Thiet.”

The bunker complex consisted of 15 bunkers, with foxholes in a perimeter defense around the bunkers.

After reporting all the information to A Co commander, Cpt. Edward C. Dowdy, Winter Park, Florida, the patrol began moving back toward their CP. Realizing that it was taking a much longer time to return, the patrol radioed to the CP for confirmation of its position. “We had bypassed it because of the thick brush,” said Pfc Paul W. Clement, immediately the paratroopers began “striking pay-dirt”. Huge cans of food, clothes, and medical supplies were dug up. In one spot, a 55 gallon drum of water was found. In one spot, the paratroopers located pistol belts and material for making LBE equipment. Kerosene for lamps, 3 anti-personnel mines, ChiCom grenades and many documents were found. “Just about everywhere we dug yielded something,” says Clement.

The documents contained charts and instructions on how to shoot down FAC’s planes, helicopters and jets. Each were properly named F-100, FAC, UH-1D’s.

Also found in the documents were mimeographed POW forms, in English. The statements on the forms included such things as, “You are in safe hands - you are safe except for attacks from your own artillery, mortars and air strikes. If you need anything, ask for interpreters; and the statement closed with “Thank you for your assistance.”

The base camp was completely destroyed before the paratroopers were extracted.

Footnote: 1Lt. Author Quezada was killed in action on June 18, 1968, shortly after this incident took place. Both Cpt. Edward Dowdy and Sgt. Paul Clement made it home from Vietnam. However, Sgt. Paul Clement was nearing the end of his tour of duty in Vietnam, when on September 9, 1968, a member of...
Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, “and so we asked for the CP to give us a signal.” When the CP signaled by gunfire, the patrol headed out in its direction. “We turned back,” says Clement, “and on our way back, we walked directly on that enemy training base camp.”

The camp was deserted and from signs in the area, it looked as if it had been deserted that morning, the platoon leader said later.

The “Currahees” immediately began digging and searching the area. There were 75-100 large camouflaged bunkers and many small foxholes. Throughout the area were fire sites.

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Eagle Beach

Eagle Beach was established on the South China Sea six miles east of Hue, South Vietnam in May of 1969 for in-country Rest & Relaxation (R&R). Companies were sent to Eagle Beach to recuperate for two to three days after suffering major casualties due to contact with the Viet Cong or the North Vietnamese.

On May 1, 1969 Eagle Beach, the 101st's well-equipped rest area on the shores of the South China Sea, was formally opened. The first Screaming Eagles to visit Eagle Beach was Delta Co., 1-506th. They were greeted by Maj. Gen. Melvin Zais, then commanding general of the 101st. After the formal greeting with a giant layer cake and a huge outdoor buffet, the Currahees shed their equipment and weapons and plunged into the cool tropical waters for some much needed and appreciated R&R. For the next three days the men of Delta Co. lived and relaxed on the white sand beach, played miniature golf, watched movies and USO productions and made use of the modern enlisted men's club. Other facilities included a massage parlor, speed boats for water skiing, pool tables, basketball courts, a day room and a small PX.

In the months that followed, Eagle Beach offered a respite from the war for hundreds of Screaming Eagles. Here was a sanctuary where men could collect their thoughts and gain strength for struggles ahead. For those with dental problems, a dental clinic was set up with the most modern of facilities.

Over the year, Eagle Beach continued to grow as more barracks were added and facilities improved, giving Screaming Eagles the very best of rest and recuperation sites. For the men who fought in the twisted jungles of Thua Thien and northern I Corps only the best was good enough.

Orderly Room, Eagle Beach. Eagle Beach was where a weary trooper could trade the burdens of his physically and mentally demanding job for the cool tropical waters and white sandy beach of the South China Sea.

Colorful "hooches" line the beach at Eagle Beach.

Some Currahees' Recollections of Eagle Beach

From: Jarrett Goodman (Co. A 1970/71) -

his squad accidentally activated an enemy booby-trap, killing one trooper and wounding the remaining members of his squad, including himself. Capt. Edward Dowdy is now retired and lives in Newport News, VA with his wife, Mae Ellen. Sgt. Clement lives in Sault Ste Marie, MI with his wife, Patti.

From: Dennis Knickerbocker (HHC 1969/70) - "Not long after we made it back to Hue, they allowed some of us from HHC go there. I think there was a 5 ton truck (or maybe two) full of cooks & clerks. We got there about 12:00 P.M. You had to wait to take a ferry over to the island or inlet, (whichever it was) and the beach was on the other side of the little spit of land. There was a nice little bar where we spent most of the time there. We were supposed to stay until it closed as I remember, but the MP's started hassling some of our blacks. I don't think they counted on the white guys backing them up. They were abusing them, calling them names; we watched for a minute, then I told them that if they arrested them they would have to arrest me too. This slowed them down, then all the other guys said they would have to take them too. They realized that they would have been in more trouble then us and instead kicked us off the beach. We had to wait for the truck on the shore for a couple of hours. When we got back, we got talked to and told them what happened and they said nobody could go back. I guess they figured that if they couldn't handle us they sure didn't want the line doggies. I have always thought it as my finest hour, and I was short so what were they gonna do..... you know the rest of that line.

I don't know if they had hooches for the guys, as we were just there for the day. It was very pretty, and they had surfboards and a very nice beach." - Dennis H. Knickerbocker

From: Lt. James Jordan (Plt. Ldr. Co. C 1969) - "While I was with B Co 2/506, we, as a unit went there once in 69; it was after a battalion sized op. I think we went as a company or two at a time for two or three nights of non stop drinking and sleeping. I remember there were other things to do, but don't recall what they were. Individuals were sent there once in awhile as a mini-R&R, but Officers were not allowed without their units. It was suppose to be a rather secure area, and all weapons were suppose to be checked in. While trying to break up a fight between two Indian friends, I found out this was not always the case. A great time was had by all and then back to the boonies to get rested up." - JJ

From: Richard Carlisle (Co. C 1970/71) - "Our whole company went to Eagle Beach for a three-day standdown. We were attached to the 4th Infantry and trucked to Eagle Beach. The second time I got to go, I volunteered. My squad leader was to pick one person to go; and he didn't want to make the choice, so he merely asked for a volunteer. Nobody would speak up, so I did and got a three-day vacation out of it. I was at Eagle Beach twice on three-day in-country R&R. Second time around, I couldn’t swim because of Sea Snakes. They had a stage where Philippino or Vietnamese bands played rock and roll. They had a miniature golf course, a small PX and an EM Club. Got to sleep in cots, which was a real treat."

From: Mairs, Robert J. (Maj/Bn S3 1967/68) - "It wasn't really an R&R, but a 'clean and refit'. Normally the troops would have been in the field two weeks plus or minus and would be really funky. They would hit the beach where new uniforms, weapons, boots etc. were available, along with steaks, beer, etc. The salt water was good for jungle rot. Three days was the norm because the troop wanted to go back to the field. They didn't care for the garrison type "Bull Shit". 'Fat Cat'

From: Mike Lachance, Baltimore, MD (Co. D 1971) - "I got to Eagle Beach three times. Once with the 3-506th Currahees and twice with the 1/502. It would normally be a 24-36 hour R&R. We would get there as a unit was leaving (a Company at a time), listen to a band sometimes, get soused, play in the water at the beach, and just hang out. Next morning, drag ourselves to the LZ Pad and go to the bush. I remember my first trip out of Eagle beach, we went out on a Chinook, and I and two other guys hung out the back getting sick. After that, I learned to pace myself and allow enough time to sleep it off before we left.

There was a urinal there painted pink (the Pink Pisser), and the water tower had the Screaming Eagle painted on it. There was the traditional massage parlor/steam bath and those ladies did a great Japanese foot massage. Also a small PX where you could get film, snacks, etc. The Club itself was nice, tiled and had glass doors looking out on the South China Sea. Sometimes we would get called in from the water while they fired up the sharks with an M-79." - Mike Lachance

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The 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, provides forcible entry capability through heliborne ‘air assault’ operations. Capable of inserting a 4,000 soldier combined arms task force, 150-kilometers into enemy terrain in one lift, and possessing 281 helicopters, including three battalions of Apache attack helicopters, this division is the most versatile in the Army. For this reason, the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) is the division most in demand by combatant commanders. The 101st stands as the Army's and world's only air assault division with unequaled strategic and tactical mobility. The 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) is formed of three brigades plus Division Artillery, Division Support Command, the 101st Aviation Brigade, 159th Aviation Brigade, 101st Corps Support Group and several separate commands.

The 101st is unique in that it normally conducts operations 150 to 300 kilometers beyond the line of contact or forward-line-of-own-troops, requiring theater- and national-level intelligence support as a matter of course.

The 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) has demonstrated the characteristics of military professionalism since the unit's activation. On August 19, 1942, the first commander, Maj. Gen. William C. Lee, promised his new recruits that the 101st has no history, but it has a "Rendezvous with destiny." As a division, the 101st has never failed that prophecy. During World War II, the 101st Airborne Division led the way on D-Day in the night drop prior to the invasion. When surrounded at Bastogne, Brig. Gen. Anthony McAuliffe answered "NUTS!" and the Screaming Eagles fought on until the siege was lifted. For their valiant efforts and heroic deeds during World War II, the 101st Airborne Division was awarded four campaign streamers and two Presidential Unit Citations.

General Order Number Five, which gave birth to the division, reads, "The 101st Airborne Division, activated at Camp Claiborne, Louisiana, has no history, but it has a rendezvous with destiny. Like the early American pioneers whose invincible courage was the foundation stone of this nation, we have broken with the past and its traditions in order to establish our claim to the future. Due to the nature of our armament, and the tactics in which we shall perfect ourselves, we shall be called upon to carry out operations of far-reaching military importance and we shall habitually go into action when the need is immediate and extreme. Let me call you attention to the fact that our badge is the great American eagle. This is a fitting emblem for a division that will crush its enemies by falling upon them like a thunderbolt from the skies. The history we shall make, the record of high achievement we hope to write in the annals of the American Army and the American people, depends wholly and completely on the men of this division. Each individual, each officer and each enlisted man, must therefore regard himself as a necessary part of a complex and powerful instrument for the overcoming of the enemies of the nation. Each, in his own job, must realize that he is not only a means, but an indispensable means for obtaining the goal of victory, it is, therefore, not too much to say that the future itself, in whose molding we expect to have our share, is in the hands of the soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division."

From: http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/agency/army/101abn.htm
The 101st Airborne Division was reactivated as a training unit at Camp Breckinridge, Ky., in 1948 and again in 1950. It was reactivated again in 1954 at Fort Jackson, S.C., and in March 1956, the 101st was transferred, less personnel and equipment to Fort Campbell, Ky., to be reorganized as a combat division.

In 1968, the 101st took on the structure and equipment of an airmobile division.

After the 101st was formed, only the toughest men were allowed to serve. The division needed men that could survive being dropped from an airplane behind enemy lines and still fight and win. Only 1 in 3 men passed the selection criteria to serve in the 101st which included a 140 mile foot march in 3 days and rigorous airborne training. In September of 1943 after the Division had completed it's Airborne training, it moved to England to prepare for war.

On June 5th, 1944 the Division prepared for its first combat operation, the airborne invasion of Normandy. The 101st would drop 6,700 soldiers behind enemy lines to disrupt the Germans before the massive allied beach assault on the coast of Normandy. As soon as the planes caring the soldiers of the 101st flew into France, they began receiving heavy antiaircraft fire from the Germans. The pilots took evasive action and broke formation to avoid being hit. As a result, soldiers jumped at an altitude of 300 feet at a speed of 200 mph instead of the planned 700 feet at 100 mph. This caused the division to be scattered all over Normandy. Soldiers landed far from their units, behind enemy lines, and alone. Many were killed before they hit the ground by Germans firing into the sky.

By the end of the 1st day of the Normandy invasion, only 1 in 3 soldiers had found their unit. The scattered jump into Normandy confused the Germans just as much as it confused the Americans. The Germans did not know where to fight the Americans or these were no real front lines. Fighting consisted of small unit actions.

During the 2nd day of the invasion the 101st began to regroup and receive resupplies by gliders, many of which crashed on landing. During the next 2 days of fighting the 101st took objectives behind Utah beach and turned south towards Carentan, which was key to controlling the peninsula. The Germans had been ordered to fight to the last man. After days of heavy fighting, the 101st took Carentan. The division held the town for 2 more days under a heavy German counter attack until reinforcements arrived.

One month after jumping into Europe, the 101st mission in Normandy was complete, 1 in 4 men had been killed or wounded.

In September, 1944 the 101st jumped into Holland to conduct Operation Market Garden. The mission was to jump behind enemy lines to seize the highway running north to the Rhine river so allied tanks could advance into Germany. This highway was known as "hell's highway," and paved the way for the allied advance. 600 gliders landed in Holland, bringing in half the division. This jump was much more organized than the previous jump into Normandy. The 101st mission was to secure the southern end of the highway. It completed this mission in 2 days. The division was responsible for 60 miles of road and 16 miles of highway. 101st was next sent to the front lines near Arnhem.

On December 17th, 1944 over 12,000 101st soldiers were sent south to fight in what would be known as the Battle of the Bulge. The 101st arrived in Bastogne just ahead of the Germans and took control of the city. The Division formed a perimeter around Bastogne and held the city against fierce German fire. The Germans surrounded the town and cut off all roads. The division was cut off without supplies and was a sitting target for German artillery. Because the division had been deployed to Bastogne so quickly many soldiers had to endure the harsh winter without winter clothes.

After 5 days of withstanding attacks by the Germans without reinforcements or supplies, two German Officers were sent to the American Headquarters with a letter from the German Commander demanding that the 101st surrender. After hearing that the Germans wanted the 101st to surrender, the Acting Commander - BG General McAuliffe said "Nuts". Surrendering was not an option for the 101st so "Nuts" was chosen as the official response to the Germans demand for surrender. The Germans continued their attack of the American perimeter without success, and the 101st continued to hold the city.

On December 26, 1944 the 101st was relieved by General Patton's Third Army and the siege of Bastogne ended. The 101st continued to fight, pushing the Germans back towards their own border and eventually into Germany itself. The Division entered the town of Burghesgartens were Hitler's fortified residence "The Eagles Nest" was located. The soldiers walked through Hitler's personal residence and enjoyed the comforts of his personal retreat.

In May 1954, the 101st reappeared as a training unit at Ft, Jackson, South Carolina, and in 1956 was transferred to Ft. Campbell, Kentucky, for reorganization as a combat division. Official reactivation ceremonies were held on 21 September 1956. Subsequent activities included major training exercises, duty in civil disturbances and maintenance of full readiness as part of the Strategic Army Corps (STRAC).

In 1965 the division was deployed to Vietnam. The 1st Brigade and support troops were deployed to the Republic
of Vietnam, followed by the rest of the division in late 1967. In almost seven years of combat in Vietnam, elements of the 101st participated in as many as 15 campaigns.

The 101st was now using helicopters to transport troops and supplies. This new advantage made the 101st an obvious choice for the Vietnam Conflict. Dense jungle made the use of helicopters highly desirable because of the maneuverability helicopters offer. This ability allowed the 101st to accomplish more missions than any other unit.

The 101st fought in both the Tet Offensive and the Tet Counter Offensive. As part of the Tet Counter Offensive the 101st took part in the offensive operation against entrenched North Vietnamese troops on Hill 932. This hill came to be known as "Hamburger Hill." So much fire power was used that the hill was stripped of vegetation. This was still not enough to remove the entrenched North Vietnamese soldiers. Soldiers from the 101st repeatedly attacked these positions, often under heavy machine gun fire. The North Vietnamese withdrew from their positions after 10 days of fighting, and The Americans took the hill.

*The 101st was the last combat division to leave Vietnam. The Screaming Eagles left Vietnam in 1972. The 101st suffered twice as many casualties in Vietnam as it did in World War II, but further established a reputation as an excellent fighting force. Seventeen 101st soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor.*

In February 1974, Major General Sidney B. Berry, Commanding General, signed Division General Order 179, authorizing wear of the Airmobile Badge. (Later redesignated the Air Assault Badge and approved for Army wide wear in January 1978.) Finally, on 4 October 1974, the 101st Airborne Division (Air Mobile) became the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).

In March 1982, elements of the 101st began a six month peace keeping tour of duty in the Sinai as part of the Multinational Force and Observers. Tragedy struck in December 1985, when 248 Screaming Eagles died in a plane crash returning from the Middle East.

In August, 1990 the Iraqi Army invaded Kuwait. The US responded by deploying troops to Saudi Arabia, with one of the first units to deploy being the 101st. The division fired the first shots of "Desert Storm" by taking out Iraqi radar sites on 17 January 1991. After the ground war began, the 101st was ordered to go deep into Iraq and set up a base of operations for further attacks. During the ground war phase of "Desert Storm," the 101st made the longest and largest Air Assault in history. More than 2,000 men, 50 transport vehicles, artillery, and tons of fuel and ammunition were airlifted 50 miles into Iraq. Units from the division Air Assaulted into Iraq and set up Forward Operation Base Cobra. Land vehicles took another 2,000 troops into Iraqi territory west of Kuwait to allow U.S. Armored Forces unrestricted access to Iraq. The 101st was responsible for seizing highway 8, which was used to resupply the Iraqi Army from Baghdad. To accomplish this, the division conducted the largest Air Assault in history. The division moved from FOB Cobra to set up FOB Viper, which was used as a base of operations to attack Iraqi Army units withdrawing from the Kuwait border. A cease fire was declared within 100 hours of the US launching the ground war. Five soldiers from the 101st lost their lives during the ground war. With the cease fire established on 27 February 1991, the division began preparations for redeployment. By 1 May 1991, the Screaming Eagles were home.

Fort Campbell soldiers have supported humanitarian relief efforts in Rwanda and Somalia, then later supplied peacekeepers to Haiti and Bosnia.

A press release issued on February 6, 2003 by the 101st Airborne Division stated that elements of the entire Division have been ordered to deploy in support of the war on terrorism. The 101st Corps Support Group and the 86th Combat Support Hospital are also involved in the deployment.

The Military Sealift Command reported on February 11 that the USNS Dahl and the USNS Bob Hope were loading military cargo, in Jacksonville, Fla, for the 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Ky., as part of the repositioning of U.S. forces in support of the president's global war on terrorism. Cargo includes Army Blackhawk, Apache, Kiowa and Chinook helicopters and a variety of wheeled vehicles. Together, the two have a capacity of more than 600,000 square feet of military cargo. It is thought that the ships will depart by February 15 and that it will take roughly 21 days to arrive in the CENTCOM AOR.

As of 8 AM (eastern) on February 27, 2003 there were roughly 10 civilian aircraft at Fort Campbell preparing to transport the first elements of the 101st Airborne Division from the United States to Kuwait.

Elements of the 101st began to arrive in Kuwait on or about February 28, 2003.
Did You Know This?

Why are Australian Soldiers called "Diggers"?

The nickname 'Digger' is attributed to the number of ex-gold diggers in the early army units and to the trench digging activities of the Australian soldiers during World War I. The actual origin of the name has been lost in time but the Australian soldier is known affectionately around the world as the Digger.

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Reveille or Rouse

"Reveille" originated in medieval times, possibly around 1600, to wake the soldiers at dawn; "Rouse" was the signal for the soldier to arise. Rouse is the bugle call more commonly used in conjunction with the Last Post and to the layman is often incorrectly called Reveille. Although associated with the Last Post, Reveille is rarely used because of its length.

Today, the Rouse is associated with the last Post at all military funerals and services of Dedication and remembrance. It is played on the completion of one minute's silence, after the Last Post has been sounded. It calls the soldier's spirit to rise and prepare for another day.

Words to Reveille

Rev-eil-lee! Rev-eil-lee is sounding
The bugle calls you from your sleep; it is the break of day.
You've got to do your duty or you will get no pay.
Come, wake yourself, rouse yourself out of your sleep
And throw off the blankets and take a good peek at all
The bright signs of the break of day, so get up and do not delay.

Get Up!

Or-der-ly officer is on his round!
And if you're still a-bed he will send you to the guard
And then you'll get a drill and that will be a bitter pill:
So be up when he comes, be up when he comes,
Like a soldier at his post, a soldier at his post, all ser-ene.

Words to Rouse

Get up at once, get up at once, the bugle's sounding,
The day is here and never fear, old Sol is shining.
The Orderly Officer's on his rounds,

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Origin of "The Last Post"

The Last Post is one of a number of bugle calls in military tradition which mark the phases of the day. Where "Reveille" signaled the start of a soldier's day, the "Last Post" signaled its end. It is believed originally to have been part of a more elaborate routine, known in the British Army as "tattoo", that had its origins in the 17th century. During the evening, a duty officer had to do the rounds of his unit's position, checking that the sentry posts were manned and rounding up the off-duty soldiers and packing them off to their beds or billets. He would be accompanied by one or more musicians. The "first post" was sounded when the duty officer started his rounds and, as the party proceeded from post to post, a drum was played. The drum beats told off-duty soldiers it was time to rest - if the soldiers were billeted in a town, the beats told them it was time to quit the pubs. "Tattoo" is a derivation of doe den tap toe, Dutch for "turn off the taps", a call which is said to have followed the drum beats in many a Dutch pub while English armies were campaigning through Holland and Flanders in the 1690s. (It is also from this routine that American practice of "taps" or "drum taps" originated.) Another bugle call was sounded when the party completed their rounds, when they reached the "last post": this signaled the night sentries were alert at their posts and gave one last warning to any soldiers still at large that it was time to retire for the evening. "Last Post" was incorporated into funeral and memorial services as a
The Poetry
of
Michael D. Monfrooe
(USA - Ret.)

"These poems were inspired by some personal experiences
but mostly from contact with other vets,
their families and loved ones.
I am proud to know them all."
~ MDM

Reprinted with permission from: http://www.geocities.com/michaeldmonfrooe/

The Combat Leader

I got my platoon, I remember on a rainy day, "Follow me," "Take the high ground," I must lead the way I only had a few vets, too damn few, My men were the best but they were new. I smiled & assured them that all was right, Knowing the enemy was near, he owned the night God let me do what I knew was best; To lead my men, no medals for my chest. The men questioned me with their silent stares Command was hard, I had to be fair. I was a leader of grunts, they were tough, I had to lead them, it had to be enough. I had three men down: I yelled "Check your gear. My voice cracked, I couldn't hide the fear. They gave me thumbs up, they moved out slow, I cared for these men, they would always know. As in war a lot of good men die, I learned early on that grown men cry. We searched for the enemy wherever he would be, For I was their leader, "Follow me."

--

Michael D. Monfrooe
IWO JIMA, IF COVERED BY MEDIA TODAY
By Zell Miller
Democratic U.S. senator from Georgia
Zell Miller: Iwo Jima, If Covered by Media Today
The Washington Times
October 12, 2004
Zell Miller. Posted ...
www.freerepublic.com/focus/f-news/1242336/posts

What if today's reporters had covered the Marines landing on Iwo Jima, a small island in the far away Pacific Ocean, in the same way they're covering the war in Iraq? Here's how it might have looked:

**DAY 1**

With the aid of satellite technology, Cutie Cudley interviews Marine Pfc. John Doe, who earlier came ashore with 30,000 other Marines.

Cutie: "John, we have been told by the administration that this island has great strategic importance because if you're successful, it could become a fueling stop for our bombers on the way to Japan. But, as you know, we can't be sure this is the truth. What do you think?"

Pfc. Doe: "Well, I've been pinned down by enemy fire almost ever since I got here and have had a couple of buddies killed right beside me. I'm a Marine and I go where they send me. One thing's for sure, they are putting up a fight not to give up this island."

Cutie: "Our military analysts tell us that the Japanese are holed up in caves and miles of connecting tunnels they've built over the years. How will you ever get them out?"

Pfc. Doe: "With flame throwers, ma'am."

Cutie (incredulously): "Flame throwers? You'll burn them alive?"

Pfc. Doe: "Yes ma'am, we'll fry their asses. Excuse me, I shouldn't have said that on TV."

Cutie (audible gasp): "How horrible!"

Pfc. Doe (obviously wanting to move on): "We're at war ma'am."

(A Marine sergeant watching nearby yells, "Ask her what does she want us to do — sing to them, 'Come out, come out, wherever you are. Pretty please.'"

Cutie: "Pfc. Doe, what's that mountain in the background? Is that the one they say is impregnable?"

Pfc. Doe: "I don't know what that word means, ma'am, but that's Mt. Suribachi, and we're going to put a flag right up on top of it just as soon as we can. I gotta go."

Cutie to camera: "No one has yet really confirmed why this particular battle in this particular place is even being waged. Already, on the first day, at least 500 Marines have been killed and a thousand wounded. For this? (Camera pans to a map with a speck of an island in the Pacific. Then a close up of nothing but black volcanic ash). For this? For this? (Cutie's sweet voice becomes more strident as it fades out.)

**DAY 2**

At 7 a.m., Cutie's morning show opens with a shot of hundreds of dead bodies bobbing in the water's edge. Others are piled on top of each other on shore. After a few seconds, one can see Marines digging graves to bury the dead.

Cutie: "There is no way the Marines could have expected this. Someone got it all wrong. No one predicted this. This has been a horrible 24 hours for our country. This is a slaughterhouse. After all this fighting, Marines control only about a mile and a half of beach and the casualties are now over 3,500 and rising rapidly. We'd like to know what you think. Call the number on the bottom of the screen. Give us your opinions on these three questions:

1. Were the Marines properly trained?
2. Is this nothing of an island worth all these lives?
3. Has the president once again misled the American people?

"After the break, we'll ask our own Democratic and Republican analysts, both shouting at the same time, of course, what they have to yell about all this. It should make for a very shrill, provocative morning."

"But before we leave this horrible — some will say needless — scene, let us give you one more look at this Godforsaken place where these young Americans are dying. Volcanic ash, cold, wet miserable Marines just thankful to be alive. And still no flag that we had been promised on that mountain. Things have gone from bad to worse in this obviously misguided military operation. One thing is certain, there should be and there will be a high-partisan — make that bi-partisan — congressional inquiry into this."

**DAY 3**

Cutie: "Marines continue to be locked in a life-or-death struggle over this worthless piece of real estate in the middle of the Pacific. The word 'quagmire' is being used in the U.S. Senate, a body very familiar with quagmires. Senator Blowhard has called it 'a colossal military blunder.' And Senator Bombast maintains it was a fraudulent scheme hatched while the president was on his sixth vacation at the Little White House in Georgia.

"The recently organized Senate Squeakers Group may ask for the president to resign. They maintain that politics should not stop at the waters edge in times of war, calling that tradition an old-fashioned idea that has no place in..."
the new century of dysfunctional government. Over forty special interest groups concurred and all issued identical news releases."

"We now turn to our political analyst, James Crankville."

(James): "Cutie, the overnight poll numbers have hit this president right between the eyes. Nationwide, an overwhelming 98 percent said that if possible, they would like to see this country fight a war without a single American casualty. That is nearly the same percentage we saw three days ago when the American public said they would be in favor of going to war if we could win without firing a shot. So, you can see there is a trend developing here that spells trouble for this administration."

"That this president is going ahead with this war is just unbelievable. The witty New York Times columnist, My scream Loud, wrote in her inimitable fashion that 'The president's policy is as crippled as his legs.' (giggle) Last week she said he had reached the point where no one will 'Fala' him. F-A-L-A, his dog, get it (more giggles)? Has that woman got a way with words! Go girl."

**DAY 4**

Cutie (holds up front page of the New York Times): "This morning, the New York Times had this photo on the front page. As you can see, the Marines have finally raised a flag on Mt. Suribachi on Iwo Jima. The fighting is still going on but it looks like this battle is over. We tried to find Pfc. Doe, the young Marine I interviewed that terrible first day, but he was unavailable. Here is Corporal Smith though. (With girlish enthusiasm). "Well, we see that flag flying. It's pretty much over isn't it?"

Cpl. Smith: "Oh, no ma'am, it's not over by any means. We've got weeks of fighting and dying to go yet. This place is a long ways from being secured. But we did get that flag up there and it sure makes us all proud."

Cutie: "I can't tell much from the photo. Their faces are not even visible, making it impossible for us to descend upon any of their families. Corporal Smith, do you know any of the flag raisers? And do you know who ordered it put up there? Did the order come directly from the president for political reasons?"

Cpl. Smith: "All I know is that I heard some colonel put the word out that he wanted 'a flag put up there where every son of a bitch on this island could see it.' Excuse me, ma'am."

Cutie: "We know you've been in the heat of battle so,..."

Cpl. Smith: "Still am, ma'am."

Cutie: "Yes, of course, but it's all over. (Nervous giggle). Except here on Capitol Hill, of course. Corporal Smith, I wonder if you know the gender, race and ethnicity of the group that put the flag up. In other words, did that group 'look like America'?"

Corporal Smith: "Look like America? They are Americans, ma'am. United States Marines."

Cutie: "Any females?"

Cpl. Smith: "No, ma'am."

Cutie: "Any African Americans?"

Cpl. Smith: "I don't know, ma'am. But there is an Indian in Easy Company."

Cutie: "You mean Native American?"

Cpl. Smith: "Whatever, ma'am, I've got to cut out. My outfit is moving on and we've got a lot to do."

Cutie: "And we've got a lot to do here too. Spring training has started and the sun is shining brightly in Florida. But first this word from our sponsors."

Historical note: In one of the bloodiest battles of World War II, when it was said "uncommon courage was a common virtue," 6,000 Marines were killed and 18,000 wounded. Some 21,000 Japanese were killed. The island itself is still barren and only a handful of people live on it. But after it was secured by the Marines, B-29s made over 2,200 emergency landings on it, saving the lives of more than 24,000 crewmen. AP photographer Joe Rosenthal won a Pulitzer Prize for the flag-raising photo. Of the six men in the photo, three were buried in that black volcanic ash, one came out on a stretcher. Only two walked off the island.

**The Sheepdogs**

by Russ Vaughn 2d Bn, 327th Parachute Infantry Regiment 101st Airborne Division

Vietnam 65-66

The Following poem was submitted by Dave Sas (Medic 1-506th 1967/68)
Most humans truly are like sheep
Wanting nothing more than peace to keep
To graze, grow fat and raise their young,
    Sweet taste of clover on the tongue.
Their lives serene upon Life’s farm,
They sense no threat nor fear no harm.
On verdant meadows, they forage free
With naught to fear, with naught to flee.
    They pay their sheepdogs little heed
For there is no threat; there is no need.

To the flock, sheepdog’s are mysteries,
Roaming watchful round the peripheries.
These fang-toothed creatures bark, they roar
    With the fetid reek of the carnivore,
Too like the wolf of legends told,
    To be amongst our docile fold.
Who needs sheepdogs? What good are they?
They have no use, not in this day.
    Lock them away, out of our sight
We have no need of their fierce might.

But sudden in their midst a beast
    Has come to kill, has come to feast
The wolves attack; they give no warning
Upon that calm September morning
They slash and kill with frenzied glee
    Their passive helpless enemy
Who had no clue the wolves were there
Far roaming from their Eastern lair.
Then from the carnage, from the rout,
    Comes the cry, “Turn the sheepdogs out!”

Thus is our nature but too our plight
    To keep our dogs on leashes tight
And live a life of illusive bliss
Hearing not the beast, his growl, his hiss.
    Until he has us by the throat,
We pay no heed; we take no note.
Not until he strikes us at our core
Will we unleash the Dogs of War
Only having felt the wolf pack’s wrath
Do we loose the sheepdogs on its path.

And the wolves will learn what we’ve shown before;
We love our sheep, we Dogs of War.

END OF SECTION IV

SECTION V

POST SCRIPT

Vol II, Issue #2  Remembering a time and place as Currahees  November 2004

Be sure to scroll to the bottom of the page before closing

2005 - 9TH ANNUAL 3-506TH REUNION - 28-30 July

The 9th Annual 3-506th Reunion is scheduled for July 28-30, 2005 in Washington, DC. For more details on next year’s reunion, keep checking the "REUNION 05" web page found on the Currahee website. Look in the row of buttons in the center of the homepage and click on it.

Reunion 2004 - Group Photos

REMEMBER...For those of you who attended the 8th Annual 3-506th Reunion at Ft. Campbell (Clarksville, TN) in June of this year and wish to purchase a group photo from the photographer, you need to do so now. If you wish to have the men's group, women's group, or the Co. B group that was also taken, you need to send a personal check to Kelvin Braxton at the address below. The price for each 8X10 is $12.00/group photo ($12 for Men, $12 for Women, and $12 for Co. B/with wives). Don't wait too long to contact him.

Braxton's Photography
149 Whitehall Dr.
Clarksville, TN 37042

His phone #'s are: (931) 645-3332 (931) 906-1273  His E-mail is:
BraxtonKel@aol.com

The CURRAHEE PX

Support our Organization by purchasing from our Currahee Gift Shop/PX. The 3-506th PX or Gift Shop continues to
grow and currently has a large selection of items that are related to Currahees, the 101st Abn. Div., Vietnam, etc. New items continue to be added to the Currahee PX, so keep checking it out. If you know of an item that Currahees would like for us to carry in the PX, send Jerry Berry an e-mail describing it. Here are some new items to check out. If you don't see the items listed yet, keep checking back...they will be soon.

**101st And 506th All Occasion Cards (New)**

Cards are printed on heavy card stock and measure 4.25" (10.6 cm) by 5.50" (13.75 cm). Cards come folded with envelopes. *Send Jerry an e-mail if you would like to receive a set (any one of the option below) before buying.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Design #1 - 506th/Stand Alone</th>
<th>Design #2 - 506th Shield</th>
<th>Design #3 - 506th Soldier/&quot;Stand Alone&quot;</th>
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<tr>
<td>506th/Stand Alone</td>
<td>506th Shield</td>
<td>Soldier/&quot;Stand Alone&quot;</td>
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<td>Design #4 - 506th Paratrooper/&quot;Thank You&quot;</td>
<td>Design #5 - Paratrooper/&quot;Thank You&quot;</td>
<td>Design #6 - 101st/&quot;Screaming Eagles&quot;</td>
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<td>Paratrooper/&quot;Thank You&quot;</td>
<td>Paratrooper/&quot;Thank You&quot;</td>
<td>101st/&quot;Screaming Eagles&quot;</td>
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**Prices**

*Option #1 = Packet of 24 Cards & Envelopes (Any one design).....$25.00 Option #2 = Packet of 24 Cards & Envelopes (4 of each design).....$25.00 Option #3 = Packet of 12 Cards & Envelopes (2 of each design).....$15.00 Option #4 = Packet of 12 Cards & Envelopes (Any One Design).....$15.00 Option #5 = Packet of 6 Cards & Envelopes (1 of each design).....$8.00* 

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**3-506th Vietnam Challenge Coin**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Coin Only.....$12.00</th>
<th>Coin in American Eagle Velvet Display Case.....$20.00</th>
<th>Coin in Air-Tite Coin Holder (Colors White, Black, Green, Blue.....$14.00</th>
<th>Coin in H.E. Harris Holder.....$15.00</th>
</tr>
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*● 3-506th "Vietnam" Challenge Coin  [New]*
*● 506th and 101st Cards [New]*
*● Belt Buckles [New]*
*● License Plates [New]*
*● Reunion 2004 Tee-Shirts [Still have a few left]*
*● The Vietnam Air Assault Tee-Shirts for Vietnam Veterans [New]*
*● A revised Currahee and 101st cap design (pictures up soon). [New]*
*● A new cap design with the 2003 Reunion "Red, White & Blue" Patriotic eagle [New]*
*● Your military Medals, Ribbons, Lapel Pins, Military Rank, & Insignia [New]*
*● Vietnam Veteran Jacket Patch*
*● "The Stand Alone Battalion" book on CD-ROM*
The USNS Gen. Weigel Image for embroidered items (hats, polos, tee-shirts, etc.)

The Decorations, Medals, Ribbons, Badges and Insignia of The United States Army--World War II to Present--Book (Available Soon)

A Complete Guide to All United States Military Medals 1939 to Present--Book (Available Soon)

Posters of Army Medals, Military Rank, Insignia (Available Soon)

Authentic 101st Airborne Division "Screaming Eagles" Ties (Available Soon)

Authentic 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment "Currahees" Ties (Available Soon)

Many of the PX items can be personalized with 1st, 2nd, or 3rd Battalion information, as well as with the 101st Airborne Division (Screaming Eagle) crest/patch. Contact Jerry Berry: jerryberry@currahee.org, if you have questions or wish to order over the phone or by E-mail. You can order directly off the website as well. The proceeds from PX sales maintain the website, offset expenses for office supplies, and support the search for former Currahees and family members of our KIAs.

The 'CURRAHEE' Bookstore

The 3-506th PX currently lists six publications authored by or about Currahees. Six of which are by or about 3rd Battalion members - both WW II and Vietnam. A new addition to the Currahee Bookstore will be available soon--IN THEIR DEFENSE: U.S. Soldiers In The Vietnam War by Dr. Pham Kim Vinh. It is a must read book AND it references one of our Currahees, SP4 Peter H. Roepcke (Co. A 69/70).

1. COMBAT SURGEON IN VIETNAM - Dr. Andrew Lovy, former 3-506 battalion surgeon (1967/68) is not (revised version) is now available from the book store.

2. THE STAND ALONE BATTALION (3-506) - by Jerald W. Berry & Joe R. Alexander.

3. THE PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE LEAFLETS OF THE VIETNAM WAR - by Jerald W. Berry (3-506) & Donna Berry.


6. THE COW SPOKE FRENCH - by William True (E/506 PIR) and Deryck Tufts True

Battalion AID-STATION

No news to report from the battalion aid-station.

Adopt-A-Gravesite PROGRAM

The "Adopt-A-Gravesite" Program was initiated shortly after our 7th Annual 3-506th reunion in Reno, Nevada. This important project provides a cost effective means of placing flowers on the gravesites of our fellow 3-506th Currahees who were killed in action in Vietnam. By adopting a KIA gravesite, the sponsor makes a commitment to cover the cost of annual flower placement on the grave of a specific KIA each Memorial Day. The following have agreed to participate in the "Adopt-A-Gravesite" Program.

As of 11/01/2004


Douglas Allen Henning (KIA/17/68) - Lee Bradford (CSF/LRRP KIA 1967/68)
Edward Joseph Zewert (KIA 4/26/68) - Lee Bradford (CSF/LRRP 1967/68)
Guy Brooks (KIA 2/2/68) - James Schlax (Plt. Ldr. 1/A 3-506th 1967/68)
Keith Rowell (KIA 8/25/68) - James Schlax (Plt. Ldr. 1/A 3-506th 1967/68)
John Daniel Vandiver (KIA 4/25/70) - Paul Cauley (Medic - HHC/C 70/71)
Carl Rattee (KIA 2/19/68) - Jose' Ramos (Medic - HHC/A 3-506th 1967/68)
John Gfeller (KIA 2/19/68) - Jose' Ramos (Medic - HHC/A 3-506th 1967/68)

Robert Vinscotski (KIA 1/2/68) - Dean Morrison (4/C 3-506th 1967/68)
James Webster (KIA 2/19/68) - Louis Oswald (4/A 3-506th 1967/68)
Walter Patterson (KIA 2/19/68) - Gary Purcell (4/A 3-506th 1967/68)
Thomas Vaughn (KIA 2/19/68) - Ed Bassista (3/A 3-506th 1967/68)
Robert Griffis (KIA 2/19/68) - Mike Mullican (4/A 3-506th 1967/68)
Frank Dodge Madrid (KIA 1/28/70) - Jane Fulkerson (Currahee Researcher)
Wade Shaw (KIA 12/19/68) - David Dalton (Plt. Ldr./D 3-506th 1967/68)
Gerald Wrazen (KIA 2/22/69) - Henry Parker (FO 5/27th Arty. 1968/69)
Patrick John Graham (KIA 4/25/68) - Dan Gaworecki (CSF/LRRP 1967/68)
Thomas Gregory Noble (KIA 10/27/70) - Dan Gaworecki (CSF/LRRP 1967/68)
Vincent Bertram Parkhurst (KIA 2/20/68) - Dan Gaworecki (CSF/LRRP 1967/68)
Eric R. Koeppen (KIA 7/11/68) - TF Member
Mark Andrew Wenzel (KIA 6/18/68) - TF Member
Jerry Lavon Miller (KIA 9/9/68) - Paul Clement (3/A 3-506th 1967/68)
Carl Phillip Morrison (KIA 4/19/69) - Paul Clement (3/A 3-506th 1967/68)

Gravesite Flower Report from Anne Colone..

There was no new information to report on our gravesite flowers program for this month. If you are interested in participating in this important project, contact John and Anne Colone at: acolone@pcs.k12.mi.us

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**TAPS**


*Sgt. Bobby L Cureton* (Co. B 67/68), Fire Team Leader/Squad Leader died Monday October 25, 2004 Oct in Laurinburg, NC. No additional details at this time. Sgt. Cureton was among the first to fill the ranks of the Co. B shortly after the reactivation of the battalion in 1967.

*Pfc. Wesley D. Wooten* (Co. A 1969/70) passed away on October 9, 1986. No additional details at this time.


*If anyone know the cause of death of any of the above Currahees, please contact Jerry Berry*

**ASSOCIATIONS NEWS**

[Note: If anyone has a name and date of a deceased Currahee (post Vietnam), please send to Jerry Berry: jerryberry@currahee.org.]
Want to join the 101st Airborne Division Association? Here’s the information.

101st AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOC., Inc.
P.O. Box 929
2703 Michigan Ave.
Fort Campbell, KY 42223
Phone: (270) 439-0445
Fax: (270) 439-6645
Email: Assn101Abn@aol.com
Website: www.screamingeagle.org

Click on the above website link, print a membership form, fill it out, and send it in to National Headquarters via US mail. You may send in a check, or include your credit card number. Please note that you can become a life member based upon your age:
- Ages 18 to 40 = $400.00
- Ages 41 to 50 = $350.00
- Ages 51 to 60 = $300.00
- Ages 61 to 70 = $250.00
- Ages 71 to 80 = $200.00
- Ages over 80 = $101.00

The 101st Airborne Division Association has a new on-line mail-list network called 101VetNet. Larry Frazier (C/158th AVN VN 69-70) frazierlg@ctos.com writes: "On a trial basis, we want to try this network being provided to us free of charge by Steve Vaitl. We'd like to see if this feature can be useful to add value to our membership and a method to encourage others to join. For additional information, please visit: http://www.screamingeagle.org/vetnet.htm.

506th Airborne Infantry Regiment Association

Organization and Membership - Membership is open to all those who have served or are serving in the 506th. Individuals who have served or are serving in units attached to or supporting the 506th. Spouses or other family members of any individual who served in the 506th. Individuals who have a special connection or association with the 506th. The 506th Assoc. has several Membership Levels:
- Basic Membership -- $15.00. This package includes a 1 year membership; 3 issues of The Currahee newsletter; your Company Listing from the Association Roster; and your E-mail address listed in the Currahee E-mail Room.
- Full Membership -- $25.00. This package includes everything in the Basic Membership PLUS a complete Association Roster. The additional $10.00 is to cover the printing and mailing costs of the full roster. Add $5.00 if your mailing address is outside the U.S.

The membership year corresponds with the calendar year, so all Association memberships expire on December 31. They ask that members try to renew their membership by January 31 of each year. That gives them time to process the information on the Membership Forms in time for the March 31 cutoff date for getting new/updated information into the annual Association Roster, which is published in May, and mailed to dues-paying members along with new Membership Cards.

Donations over and above the dues are gladly accepted. Annual dues, donations, and net proceeds from sales of Association Decals, Polo Shirts, and other similar items provide the financial support the Association needs to maintain a Currahee database; print and mail over 2,500 copies of The Currahee newsletter; update, print, and mail the Association Rosters; and pay for a non-commercial web site. For additional information, please visit: http://currahee.hispeed.com/

3-506th Airborne Infantry Battalion Association (Unincorporated)

We are a 'rag-tag' stand alone, bastard battalion, the former 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 506th Infantry (Currahee), 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (1 April 1967 - 15 May 1971). Our association is committed to a four-phase goal. Phase I - Search & Gather Former Members & KIA Families. Phase II - Rendezvous Annually. Phase III - Maintain An Organization Website, Collect & Share Information. Phase IV - Integrate The 3-506th Organization Eventually Into The 506th Airborne Infantry Regiment Association & 101st Airborne Division Association.

There are no membership fees to belong to the 3-506th at the present time. Membership is open to all who served in the 3-506th or were attached to or supported the 3-506th. Spouses or other family members of any individual who served in the 3-506th are welcomed as honorary members.

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Currahee Business CARDS & Websites

Paul Cauley (Medic Co. C 70/71)
http://www.americasbestpatio.com/

Robert M. Elton (Bn CO 1968) [LTG, USA Ret.]
http://www.mtiservices.com/
If you have a business card or calling card and wish to have it pictured in our newsletters, please send (scan, FAX, or snail mail) to Jerry Berry.

The "Stand Alone Battalion" Newsletter is published monthly by: Jerry Berry 438 Manor Dr Libby, MT 59923  Editor: Jerry Berry Assistant Editor: Donna Berry Layout/graphics: Jerry Berry & Stephanie Berry

SUBSCRIPTIONS  Annual subscription costs for twelve (12) issues: $40.00 per year: Internet subscription Only

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The "Stand Alone Battalion" Newsletter is written for 3-506th members, Task Force unit members, KIA families. We solicit your suggestions and articles. Photos may be sent hard copy or e-mail, preferably in JPEG files. If you have questions, contact Jerry Berry (406) 293-7678 (Phone & FAX) or by e-mail: jerryberry@currahee.org.

CURRAHEE BUSINESS CARDS & PROFESSIONAL GRAPHIC NEEDS

If you or your business is in need of business or calling cards, professional graphic design & multimedia for tasks such as Logos, Corporate Identity, Posters, Flyers, Banners, Brochures, Magazine and Book Layouts, Catalogs, Book Jackets, Illustrations, Packaging, Print Ads (magazine, newspaper, etc.), Newsletters, Campaign and Promotional Materials, Website Design, contact Stephanie Berry at (406) 293-2076 or e-mail her at: graphicsworks@lclink.com.

You may order calling cards from the Currahee PX too. Click on the image to view in larger size.
Currahee Packages for the 506th Soldiers in Iraq

From: Hoyt Bruce Moore III [mailto:themoe_a1506@msn.com]

The active-duty soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry, 2nd Division have been re-deployed from the South Korean DMZ area to IRAQ for a one-year mission at Camp Habbaniyah, near Ar Ramadi in the Sunni Triangle. The latest information regarding this deployment can be found on the 506th Association web page http://curraheehispeed.com/hisiraqarticles.html

The 506th Association has begun a special project to send packages to each Company in the Battalion while the 506th is participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom. To ensure the success of this Currahee Packages Project, the Association is asking for support in the form of financial donations. For more details, check out the main page of the 506th Association web site http://currahee.hispeed.com

To make a donation via US Mail, begin by printing a copy of the Currahee Packages Donation Form from the 506th Association web page http://currahee.hispeed.com/specialprojectsform.html and then follow the instructions included in the form.


Thanks for your support and Currahee!

Bruce
A/1-506th (70-71)

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www.cobbcounty.org
3/506 Uncovers VC Training Camp

PHAN THIET — A reconnaissance-in-force mission conducted by paratroopers of the division northwest of here recently revealed a Viet Cong training camp. The training site was completely destroyed by the members of the 3rd Bn. (Abn.), 506th Inf.

The "Currahees" discovered more than 100 bunkers and many small foxholes in the deserted area used for training new Viet Cong for battle.

Huge caches of clothing, medical supplies, small arms and ammunition were uncovered by the paratroopers of A Co., commanded by Capt. Edward C. Dowdy, Winter Park, Fla.

They also found many training aids and documents correctly identifying different types of American aircraft used in Vietnam.

Mimeographed forms published in English that were found included such statements as, "You are now a prisoner of war. You are in safe hands, except for attacks from your own artillery, mortars and air strikes. If you need anything, ask our interpreters. Thank you for your assistance."

Having no need for the forms, the paratroopers destroyed them along with everything else at the site.

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