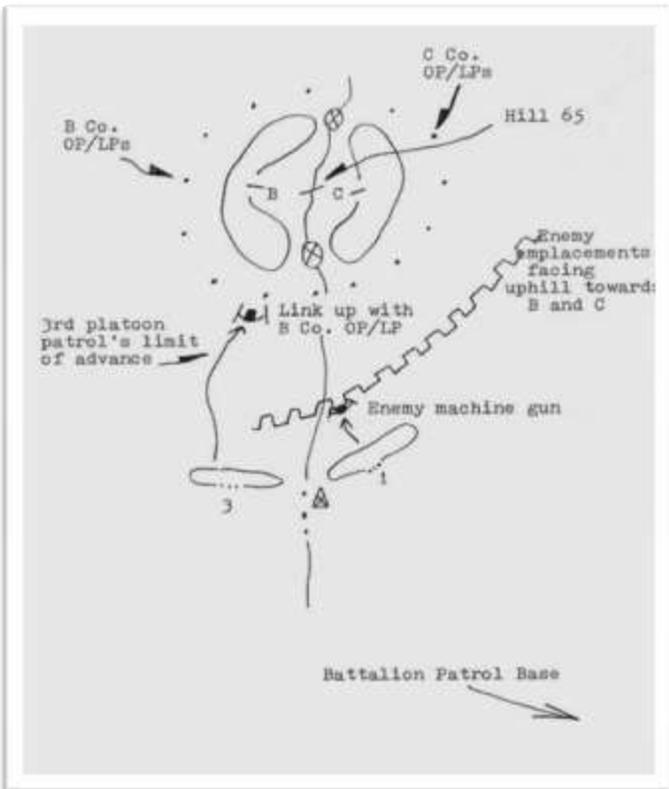


...Above it all I wanted to hear the sound of the battlefield. It was deadly quiet even with the suffering of our wounded.

My mind now centered on how we were going to get our remaining wounded and dead out of this place. We couldn't walk and carry them out except at great risk to them. Some of the wounded just couldn't make that trip. I had no idea as to the situation at the battalion base. I realized we weren't going to get any outside help, no one was coming to us. The Air Force had done a great job penetrating the jungle with their basket but we had too many wounded to count on that again. We hadn't made much progress on a landing zone. We had to do better and we were going to have to do it on our own. How? I talked with Captain Tucker and we came up with a plan. We would call for chain saws and explosives. We would open a hole in this jungle and get helicopters on the ground to get them out. By first light we were ready.



As light broke through the jungle on Tuesday, November 9, 1965 all our leaders knew what to do and were moving. Medical evacuation helicopters, gunships, and Brigadier General Ellis W. Williamson, Commander 173d Airborne Brigade, in his command helicopter were above us. I cautioned them to keep the helicopters clear of us so we could hear. Just having them near was a help to us. We had three tasks to accomplish: First, we had to probe forward of the perimeter and determine if the enemy was there. Second, we had to find the missing soldiers from C Company, and third, we had to create a hole in the jungle. How the first task played out would determine how difficult this day would be.

The answer to the first task came quickly. The enemy had fled leaving many of their dead (some reportedly stripped of their uniforms). The second task was left to C Company and they soon found their missing in a number of locations. Amongst the last of the seventeen missing they found one alive. He had spent a day on the battlefield playing dead surrounded by the enemy.

Cutting a hole in the jungle, our third task, turned out to be a lot tougher than we had imagined. The Air Force dropped us the saws but they were impossible against teakwood trees. Dynamite did the job but created a hell of a mess that had to be cleared. Everyone helped, some to the point of exhaustion. When we thought we had finally got the job done we called for a medical evacuation helicopter (Dust Off).

From the air our cutout in the jungle must have looked like a pin hole. They needed an opening twice as large if they were to get on the ground. We went back to work, blew out more trees. Still not good enough; they began dropping smoke grenades trying to mark areas that had to be taken out. The troops kept at it taking turns working on a landing zone and guarding the perimeter. It was still not good enough.

Finally, General Williamson radioed he was coming in. He stripped his aircraft and started the descent. Some of us knew his pilot, WO Charles Smith, and believed if there ever was someone to take on this task he was the guy. It was slow, we could feel the helicopter vibrate, we watched WO Smith thread the needle, descending some 200 to 250 feet with little room to clear the blades, he put the helicopter on the ground. General Williamson jumped out of the aircraft and told me to load it up. The General spotted our dead, all covered in ponchos, stopped, looked at them, and seemingly paused to say a prayer. I moved away.

We put as many wounded on the aircraft as we could and WO Smith started his vertical climb out of the jungle. We held our breath. This was even slower than when he came in. He cleared the trees and we began to breathe again. Now we knew the "Dust Off" would be coming in. They came and left as fast as we could load them. On each descent and as each lifted off we prayed. I marveled at those pilots. In about two hours all the wounded were on their way to the Third Surgical Hospital and our dead were beginning their long journey home to their loved ones. We would say our last goodbye at a memorial service on November 15.

(continued...)





Lieutenant Colonel John Tyler, Commanding Officer of the 1/503d Airborne Battalion, standing on the veranda of his quarters which were built for him by his men. Tyler was an aggressive commander who epitomized the motto "Airborne...All The Way".

I expected one more helicopter to come in and get the General out. He said no, he was walking out with us. I hadn't anticipated this and quickly became concerned as did the troops around me. We didn't know the situation between our position and the battalion base. He had done enough getting our dead and wounded out. We needed him, but others need him more. How in the hell were we going to protect him, why take the chance? I called Colonel Tyler and asked him to intervene. He had never failed me before but this time he would. The General stood firm. Colonel Tyler ordered me to take it very slow and get him back to his location. I got the message. We weren't going to lose this guy.

The General, knowing of my concern, simply smiled at me and with confidence said "Let me know when you're ready." With that I said that B Company would take the lead, left him with Captain Tucker, and began to organize the march to the battalion base. I made sure everyone knew we had the General with us, we would move slowly and we would not be taking any chances. The troops shared my concern and seemed to get a very determined look in their eyes. They knew they had another job to do and they were ready. Once organized, I asked General Williamson to follow my command element. With that I grabbed the radio and ordered the company to "move out." While very tired, the troops were superb, and just as in the poem by SP4 Kenny:

*The guys no longer look tired,
They've a determined look of eye
As they scan the shrouded flanks
And treetops that hide the sky.*

We moved slowly, well spread out, followed by C Company. Within an hour we closed on the battalion base. I put my unit on the perimeter and stood on that

perimeter until the last paratrooper of C Company closed the position. That last man straightened up and said, "All the Way, Sir." I responded proudly, "Airborne." B Company had done its job, we had C Company back; we were dirty, tired and proud!

From the battalion base, C Company was the first to liftoff for the return flight to our base camp at Bien Hoa. C Company was followed by the extraction of A Company, and then my company. Generally I would lift out with my headquarters following my company. In this case we stayed on the ground until the battalion headquarters flew out. Just prior to the liftoff of the headquarters we heard small arms fire coming from the jungle. Gunships were returning fire as we extracted.

Upon closing at our Bien Hoa base camp I reported all my personnel and weapons accounted for and headed for the hospital. Having a bit of a phobia on being in a hospital, usually getting sick to my stomach if there more than about fifteen minutes, it became my habit to get there as quickly as possible to avoid any excuses. More importantly, I wanted our wounded to know they were uppermost in our minds and we wanted them back as quickly as possible. This time I had a change of heart.

While on the chopper returning to Bien Hoa I recalled the number of my soldiers wounded and killed on this operation that had been wounded on prior operations.

While there were more, three stuck in my mind and two of those were dead. The dead were Lt. Thurston and Specialist 4th Class Wayne W. Humphries. Both had been wounded in action in early October near Ben Cat as we penetrated the "Iron Triangle." The third was seriously wounded and I wondered if he would even live. In the past we allowed our wounded to choose if they would return to the unit or go home. I could not recall a case where they chose to go home. It was time to say "enough" even to one tough paratrooper.



**Craig Ford C/1/503d
Survivor Hill 65**

(continued...)





Survivor Hill 65. "A photo of LT Billie Wear (battlefield commission, Korea). Look at his chest full of combat valor and achievement!" Dutch Holland, B/1/503d

When I found my third man at the hospital I said "You're going home." Angered, he put on quite a scene. I had to chase away some medical personnel that wanted to restrain him. He pleaded to return to the unit. I held fast. Finally, telling him I would be back to see him, went outside to get some air. He was hurt too much to return anyway, they had to evacuate him. With that feisty spirit I knew he would make it. I saw him again in a military hospital on my way to Fort Benning. He was still recovering in a ward with one of our great leaders, Platoon Sergeant Adam A. Bernosky of the first platoon. Bernosky was seriously wounded on March 16, 1966 during an operation near Phuoc Vinh where B Company was the lead company of the First Battalion 503d Infantry going to the aid of another unit, this time the Second Battalion 503d Infantry.

I then visited the other wounded. Here my notes on the wounded are mixed with wounded from another fight. On New Year's Day 1966, during Operation Marauder on the "Plain of Reeds" west of the Oriental River near Kien Tuong, B Company again had to go to the aid of C Company. My recall of those wounded on hill 65 may include some wounded from the New Year's Day fight. In any case, from the second platoon I talked with PFC John C. "Dutch" Holland, PFC Larry Anderson, PFC Ronald G. Apodaca, Specialist 4th Class Wallace S. Tao and Sgt. Theodore Shamblin. Sgt. Shamblin was hurt so badly that he would be evacuated and subsequently die on November 11th.

From the first and third platoons I talked with several of my soldiers recalling only PFC Manual Garza, SSG Wallace A. Warden and Sgt. Hector Membreno. This group was doing very well, but were anxious to find out more on the fight. I could not see several soldiers as

they were still being worked on or were in recovery. I spoke briefly with Chaplain Hutchens, he still had that rare smile, looked good and was collecting visitors to the point that some wanted us out of there. General William C. Westmoreland visited our wounded the following morning, November 10th. Late in the day I got called away from the hospital with an urgent message to return to my unit. General Westmoreland would also be visiting my company.



Upon my return I found more chaos in my orderly room than I experienced during the fight. It seemed everyone from the battalion and brigade staffs wanted to help us get ready for the Generals' visit. Still thinking about my soldiers in the hospital, being tired and dirty, having not slept, shaved or washed in two days, I had little patience and sent some folks packing. They got the message and I didn't get any more help, guidance or visitors until the General arrived the next day. In preparation for his visit I called my Platoon Leaders and Platoon Sergeants together and issued my instructions. They were simple and prioritized; first, get a shave and a shower, get some chow, get to sleep, and tomorrow morning we'll start our "six-hour drill." I saw a wall of smiles, we had a plan and they liked it.

(continued....)





Husky at Hill 65.

(Sent in by Craig Ford, C/1/503)

Our six-hour drill originated from an earlier experience where we witnessed another company coming off an operation and a commander allowing his troops to soak up much-too-much beer. The sad result was troops feeling sorry for themselves, second guessing each other and even blaming each other for some of their casualties. The end result was a unit out of control until they sobered-up. Our drill focused minds and energy on getting ready for the next operation, highlighted by my conduct of a "stand by" 100 percent inspection of everyone and everything we owned, and to whichever platoon fared the worse the honor of pulling all major details until we moved out on the next operation. General Westmoreland would never know he was the inspector on this one.

The visit of General Westmoreland was great. Accompanying the General was Colonel Tyler and General Williamson. General Westmoreland talked with each of my soldiers. It was a "standby." I led him to each soldier in their squad tent. As he entered each tent our troops were called to attention and then instructed to continue working on their equipment as part of the six-hour drill. As I approached their bunks the soldiers came to attention, I stepped aside and the General stood toe-to-toe with each of them. He usually began by asking them if they were in the fight. He would go on to ask if they had fired their weapon. All but one of my soldiers responded they had fired their weapon. When that soldier was asked why he didn't fire his weapon, he responded, *"Sir, I'm a Grenadier, I was so damn busy firing a M60 Machine Gun, a M16 Rifle and my .45, I never got to my Grenade Launcher."* Then it would get more personnel with questions on where they came from, how long they has been in the Army, their assignments and the like. One of my soldiers with a speech defect felt pushed to the point that after several questions, the last of which was, *"How do you know you*

killed the enemy?" responded without a stutter, *"Because I got his blood all over me."* While they talked I would look at their weapons and equipment.

Later the troops would tell me how much they appreciated getting the opportunity to stand toe-to-toe with the General. Others thanked me for not having the usual formation in the sun with someone simply talking to them. As I accompanied General Westmoreland back to his helicopter he stopped, turned toward me and asked *"Captain Bittrich, you're really proud of your soldiers aren't you?"* I was and I told him so. He asked if we needed anything. I responded we didn't. Later some of my troops would say I blew that question. Finally he asked how long it would take us to be ready for another mission. I told him we were ready now! He said he always enjoyed the opportunity to talk with paratroopers and thanked me. We exchanged salutes and I left him with General Williamson and Colonel Tyler.

I called my leaders together, informed them as to the General's comments, thanked them and announced a winner (that I can't recall) of the six-hour drill. Then I began the sad process of writing letters to the parents and loved ones of our dead.



Survivor Hill 65. Dutch Holland, B/1/503d

On Friday, November 12, 1965 Brig. Gen. Williamson, Capt. Tucker, Sgt. Sylvester Bryant, SSGT. Wear and I briefed the Saigon press, derisively referred to as the five o'clock follies, on the operation....

(continued.)



....We got a lot of questions on "being ambushed" and "fallen into a Viet Cong trap." General Williamson took those head-on as nonsense. Tucker reported, "*They began charging in human waves with bugles blaring.*" I reported, "*We killed about 90 Viet Cong as we busted through one of their encirclements.*" To another question I responded, "*When we finally fought our way to the top of the hill, we counted 111 Viet Cong bodies lying there.*" SSgt Wear offered, "*I don't know what VC unit was there, but I know the other side knows we were there and won't want to tangle with the 173d again for a long time.*" The most quotable quote was offered by Sgt. Bryant, "*I figure the Viet Cong would have been able to hold roll call the next morning in a telephone booth.*" I laughed for the first time in days.



Survivor Hill 65, Sam Scrimager B/1/503d

For several days the press continued to report the battle. Reporter Tom Tiede published a detailed account of Specialist 4th Class Langston and the paratroopers cut off during the battle. He published a second article

covering PFC Terry Hinson, his role in the fight, and the fact that he was seventeen years old. That article caused a reaction in the states that would lead to us sending Terry and all seventeen year old soldiers home. He published a third story covering PFC Edward C. Bable and his effort to save his wounded buddies.



Survivor Hill 65, SFC Bernosky B/1/503d

Joseph Alsop from Washington gave an account of the battle. A UPI headline article appeared in the "*Saigon Daily News*" on November 9th and other headline articles appeared in the "*Pacific Stars and Stripes*" and "*The Saigon Post*" on Wednesday, November 10th. Several of their reports carried the line that the battle for hill 65 had been the biggest battle of the war up to that time. As we were honoring our dead the 1st Air Cavalry Division would lay claim to that record as they fought North Vietnam regulars from November 14 to 19 in a battle for the Ia Drang Valley.

(Hill 65 continued....)



Presidential Unit Citation Awarded to the 1/503d and attached units

(Originally awarded as a “Distinguished Unit Citation”)



DISTINGUISHED UNIT CITATION. Award of the Distinguished Unit Citation by the President of the United States is confirmed in accordance with paragraph 194, AR 672-5-1. The text of the citation as announced by President Lyndon B. Johnson on 20 June 1966 reads as follows:

“By virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the United States and as Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the United States I have today (20 June 1966) awarded the Distinguished Unit Citation (First Oak Leaf Cluster) for extraordinary heroism to:

THE 1ST BATTALION (AIRBORNE), 503D INFANTRY, 173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEPARATE) UNITED STATES ARMY and the Attached Units....HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, COMPANY A, COMPANY B, AND COMPANY C of the 1ST BATTALION (AIRBORNE), 503D INFANTRY, 173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEPARATE), THE 1ST TEAM OF THE 3RD RADIO RELAY UNIT, THE COMPOSITE SQUAD OF THE 173D ENGINEER COMPANY.

The foregoing companies of and units attached to THE 1ST BATTALION (AIRBORNE), 503D INFANTRY, 173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEPARATE) distinguished themselves by extraordinary heroism in action against hostile forces in the vicinity of Bien Hoa, Republic of Vietnam, on 8 November 1965. The morning after the Battalion had conducted a search operation and learned from patrols that a strong hostile element was in the general area, COMPANY C, the lead Company, encountered a well-entrenched and camouflaged Viet Cong

force. When the insurgents opened fire with a volume of automatic weapons fire, the United States forces retaliated. As the battle grew in intensity and it became evident that COMPANY C had engaged a battalion-size Viet Cong element which attempted to surround the flanks of this American unit, COMPANY B was committed to secure the right flank of COMPANY C. Simultaneously, elements of COMPANY A attacked the left flank of the insurgent force. Although COMPANY B met strong resistance and fought at close range in a dense jungle area, it succeeded in penetrating the hostile circle around COMPANY C. Then, as COMPANY B’s open flank was being enveloped, the brave men of this Company broke a hostile encirclement for the second time. Despite the constant Viet Cong assaults, their continual attacks in human waves, and the many casualties sustained by the American units, the gallant and determined troops of the 1ST BATTALION (AIRBORNE), 503D INFANTRY repulsed the Viet Cong and inflicted severe losses upon them. After a battle which raged throughout the afternoon, elements of THE 1ST BATTALION (AIRBORNE), 503D INFANTRY defeated a numerically superior hostile force and, on the following morning, counted four hundred and three Viet Cong dead in the immediate area. The devotion to duty, perseverance, and extraordinary heroism displayed by these members of THE 1ST BATTALION (AIRBORNE) 503D INFANTRY and the attached units are in the highest traditions of the United States Army and reflect great credit upon themselves and the armed forces of their country.”



~ In Memoriam ~

The result of the battle was heavy losses on both sides - 49 Sky Soldiers dead, many more wounded, and hundreds of dead enemy troops.

A Company, 1st Bn, 503rd Infantry

PFC John E. Hannigan, Antioch, CA
PSGT Leroy Hill, Washington, DC
PFC Samuel S. Tolliver, Richmond, VA
2LT David L. Uglund, Minneapolis, MN

B Company, 1st Bn, 503rd Infantry

SFC Bryant Brayboy, Philadelphia, PA
PFC Herman Brown, Richlands, VA
SSG Magno Campos, Lahaina, HI
SFC Henry T. Cannon, Jacksonville, FL
PFC Lavalle E. Carlton, Cleveland, OH
PFC Gary L. Elmore, Garden City, MI
SP4 Everett W. Goias, San Francisco, CA
PFC Kenneth E. Graham, Defiance, OH
SGT Rebel L. Holcomb, Wichita, KS
SGT Lawrence P. Howard, Philadelphia, PA
SP4 Wayne W. Humphries, Shawnee, OK
SGT David L. Keel, Houston, TX
PFC Michael M. Medley, Jackson, MI
PVT Charles L. Mitchell, New York, NY
PFC Jerry L. Potter, Englewood, CO
PFC Michael P. Russo, New York, NY
SSG Theodore Shamblin, Fayettev., WV
2LT Clair H. Thurston, Thorndike, ME
PFC Danny R. Ward, Beauty, KY
PFC Kelly E. Whitaker, Memphis, TN



C Company, 1st Bn, 503rd Infantry

PFC Rudolph R. Aguilar, Los Angeles, CA
SP4 James Belton, State Park, SC
PFC Byron J. Foster, Detroit, MI
PFC Joseph T. Hamilton, Philadelphia, PA
SP4 Robert W. Harden, Waycross, GA
SSG Clifton W. Harrington, Aberdeen, NC
SGT John A. Hughlett, Brighton, TN
SGT Theodore R. Jones, Auburn, NE
CPL Cleo Lockett, Birmingham, AL
PFC Valentine Marquez, Wiley, CO
PFC Michael K. Mathison, East St Louis, IL
PFC Harold M. Smith, Sumter, SC
PFC Daniel J. Sobota, Peoria, IL
SP4 Cordell Spencer, Bessemer, AL
SP4 Scip Tate, Newark, NJ
SP4 Thomas A. Turnage, Texarkana, AR
SP4 George Vincent, Los Angeles, CA
SGT Troy B. Williams, Mount Hope, WV

Headquarters Co., 1st Bn, 503rd Infantry

PFC Harold Goldman, Ocala, FL
SP4 John A. Nathan, San Francisco, CA
PFC Dennis D. Rutowski, Waterford, WI

A Company, 2nd Bn, 503rd Infantry

SSG Samuel A. Eidson, North Birmingham, AL

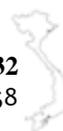
173rd Engineer Company

PFC Davis Uptain, Fayette, AL

C Battery, 3rd Bn, 319th Artillery

SGT Lloyd V. Greene, Paterson, NJ
PFC Steve I. Orris, Wayne, MI

~ All The Way Brothers ~



8th of November

Said goodbye to his mamma
As he left South Dakota
To fight for the Red, White, and Blue.
He was nineteen and green with a new M-16
Just doing what he had to do.

He was dropped in the jungle
Where the choppers would rumble
With the smell of napalm in the air.
And the sergeant said, "Look up ahead"

Like a dark, evil cloud
1,200 came down
on him and 29 more.
They fought for their lives
But most of them died
In the 173rd Airborne.

(Chorus)

On the 8th of November,
The angels were crying
As they carried his brothers away.
With the fire raining down
And the Hell all around
There were few men left standing that day.
Saw the eagle fly,
Through a clear, blue sky
1965, the 8th of November.

Now he's fifty-eight
And his ponytail's grey
But the battle still plays in his head.
He limps when he walks,
But he's strong when he talks
About the shrapnel they left in his leg.

He puts on a grey suit
Over his Airborne tattoo
And he ties it on one time a year
And remembers the fallen,
As he orders a tall one
And swallows it down with his tears.

(Chorus)

On the 8th of November,
The angels were crying
As they carried his brothers away.
With the fire raining down
And the Hell all around
There were few men left standing that day.
Saw the eagle fly,
Through a clear, blue sky
1965, the 8th of November.

Saw the eagle fly,
Through a clear, blue sky
1965.

(Chorus)

On the 8th of November,
The angels were crying



As they carried his brothers away.
With the fire raining down
And the Hell all around
There were few men left standing that day.

(Chorus)

On the 8th of November,
The angels were crying
As they carried his brothers away.
With the fire raining down
And the Hell all around,
There were few men left standing that day.
Saw the eagle fly,
Through a clear, blue sky
1965, the 8th of November.

The 8th of November
The 8th of November

He said goodbye to his mamma
As he left South Dakota
To fight for the Red, White, and Blue.
He was nineteen and green with a new M-16
Just doing what he had to do.

The lyrics of the refrain refer specifically to "1965, the 8th of November" in describing the battle. In the album version, Kris Kristofferson provides the introduction and explains the significance of November 8, 1965. The 173d Airborne Brigade was ambushed by Viet Cong during Operation Hump. One of the wounded, Niles Harris, was among the several soldiers saved by Lawrence Joel, who later became the first living black American to receive the Medal of Honor since the Spanish-American War. Years later, Harris gave Big Kenny (one half of the duo) the top hat he often wears in public appearances. The song itself is a mid-tempo set in triple meter, giving an account of Harris' life. In the first verse, at the age of 19, Harris joins the military to fight the Vietnamese. He ends up in Vietnam, "with the smell of napalm in the air." The thirty in his group are then ambushed, as earlier stated by Kristofferson. In the second verse, Harris, now 58, exhibits the lingering injuries he sustained during the war, but he is "strong when he talks" about his injuries and his memories of his fallen comrades. The song was nominated for the 2006 CMA Awards song of the year category; its music video was also nominated for video of the year categories for the CMAs, ACM Awards, and the 49th Annual Grammy Awards.



173d Airborne Brigade Memorial Foundation

The 173d Spartan Club

In 480 BC, three hundred Spartans stood in a rocky mountain pass at Thermopylae and for seven days held off the mighty Persian army, allowing Greek forces to muster and eventually defeat the invaders. Three hundred warriors preserved the cradle of civilization. Three hundred Spartan Warriors made a difference.

The 173d Airborne Brigade Memorial Foundation needs the support of 300 warriors to preserve and maintain our Memorial that was dedicated in June 2010 at the National Infantry Museum campus near Fort Benning, Georgia.

The Memorial Foundation requires a minimum of \$5,000.00 annually for basic maintenance costs (electricity, landscaping and irrigation). In addition to periodic costs of adding new information to the Memorial, funds will be required for maintenance, minor repairs, insurance and the Foundation's administrative costs. To ensure perpetual care for the Memorial, the Foundation has established an endowment fund goal of \$300,000., raised over ten years, in addition to annual donations received from other sources.

The Foundation is seeking 300 warriors willing to help preserve our legacy and maintain our memorial. This letter constitutes your invitation to become a member of the 173d Airborne Brigade Memorial Foundation's *Spartan's Club*.

We ask each Spartan Club Commander to pledge between \$200.00 and \$1,000.00 for each of the next ten years. We ask each Spartan Club Centurion to Pledge between \$173.00 and \$199.00 for the same period and each Spartan Club Lancer to pledge between \$25.00 and \$172.00 for a similar period. If the Spartans contribute an average of \$100.00 each for the next ten years, the Foundation Endowment Fund will achieve its objective. Each Spartan Club member will receive periodic communications regarding events held at the Memorial, as well as receiving recognition in our annual programs and reports.

As with the Spartans at Thermopylae, the burden of preserving our memorial and heritage is shared equally regardless of position, title and rank. Membership in the Club is open to all Sky Soldiers, their families, and military and patriotic organizations and friends of the 173d. As in the past, we hope that you will accept this challenge and support your memorial.

Ken Smith, Chairman
173d Memorial Foundation

The 173d Spartan Club

I/We wish to share the honor of preserving our memorial and heritage as a member of the 173d Airborne Brigade Memorial Foundation *Spartan Club*.



Beginning in 2011, and for nine succeeding years thereafter, I pledge to donate the following amount each year to the 173d Airborne Brigade Memorial Foundation:

As a **Spartan Club Commander** (\$200.00 or more)
\$ _____

As a **Spartan Club Centurion** (173.00 to \$199.00)
\$ _____

As a **Spartan Club Lancer** (\$25.00 to \$172.00)
\$ _____

(Please print)

Full Name: _____

Primary Telephone: _____

Street Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____

Please mail your signed pledge form and your check (payable to the 173d Airborne Brigade Memorial Foundation) to:

173d Airborne Brigade Memorial Foundation
1160 Lake Royale
Louisburg, NC 27549

Pledges may be paid electronically by going to the 173d Airborne Brigade Memorial Foundation website at www.173dairbornememorial.org and clicking on the tab, "Memorial Donations."

To assist you in remembering the timing of your annual pledge donation, the Foundation will send you electronically or by mail a brief reminder.

Note: The 173d Airborne Brigade Memorial Fund has been granted 501(c)3 status by the Internal Revenue Service. Contributions may be deductible under Section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code.



HONORING ARIZONA VIETNAM VETS

The Arizona Department of Veterans' Services and the Arizona Military Museum in conjunction with the Department of Defense 50th Commemoration of the Vietnam War, will host a dinner *IN HONOR OF ARIZONA VIETNAM VETERANS*.



Special Guest Speaker:

General Barry R. McCaffrey, USA (Ret)

WHEN: Saturday, October 22, 2011
No host bar: 5:30-6:30 pm
Dinner: 6:45 pm

WHERE: Wild Horse Pass Hotel & Casino
5040 Wild Horse Pass Blvd.
Chandler, AZ 85226

PHONE: 800-946-4452

COST: \$40.00 per dinner. No Host Bar.

ATTIRE: Men: Coat and tie or open collar with dress Shirt.
Women: Semi-formal evening wear.

RSVP: You must register to attend. Seating is limited. Please RSVP (form follows) before October 14 to assure your attendance. For further information call:
602-253-2378 or 520-868-6777.

In Honor of Arizona Vietnam Veterans, I (we) will attend the dinner *In Honor of Arizona Vietnam Veterans* on October 22, 2011 at Wild Horse Pass and Casino. There are _____ (number in this party) who is (are) Vietnam veteran(s) (Note: recipient of the Vietnam Service Medal and /or Vietnamese Campaign Medal or served in civilian or intelligence agency in country or in AO or served in the Republic of Vietnam armed forces). Please legibly print names of attendees included in your check. (Please copy form for additional names)

Contact Phone Number & Address:

Dinner is \$40.00 per person. Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$_____ for dinners in my group. Make Check payable to Arizona Military Museum, and mail to:

Arizona Vietnam Veterans Dinner
Attn: Joseph E. Abodeely, Director
AZ Military Museum
9014 North Wealth Road
Maricopa, Arizona 85139



Letter to the LT's Daughter

Hi Kristel:

My wife and I had an opportunity to visit with your Dad for the first time since his death. We attended our 45th high school reunion in Connecticut and then drove over to West Point. I was not surprised to see that Pete's grave is simple and consistent with what I have come to expect in most veteran's cemeteries where every grave stone is identical regardless of the rank of the person buried there. Pete would have wanted this being a real leader of men.

So you see, your Dad continues to live with the men he served with even in death, and he always will. He is also buried right next to a classmate who also died on "The Hill".

I hope you are doing well and life is good for you and your family.

Best Regards,

Roger Dick



Note: Roger served in C/2/503d with platoon leader 1LT Lantz, in C/2/503d during 1967. Nice letter to his daughter, G.I. Ed



And More Reunions of the Airborne Kind



503rd Parachute Regimental Combat Team Association WWII, September 21 - 25, 2011, Denver, Colorado.

Contact:
Yolonda Goad
Tel: 303-682-0004
Eml: yolo@live.com



11th Airborne Division Association, 68th Reunion, September 25 - 29, 2011, Tucson, Arizona.

Contact:
Charles Magro
Tel: 256-247-7390



506th Association Rendezvous, (Fort Campbell), November 8 8 11, 2011, Oak Grove, Kentucky.

Contact:
COL Sean M. Jenkins
Tel: 270-439-1499



Recon, HHC, 2/503 '66-'67 is having a reunion in Liberty, MO June 15 - 18 next year 2012. Base HQ will be Recon's Bob Stamburksy's Retro Bowl Entertainment Center. Liberty is a suburb of Kansas City. So far, about 12 members have indicated they will attend. Watch this space for details to follow.



42nd Infantry Platoon Scout Dog, 101st ABN Div.
Vietnam 66-71. October 7-8-9, 2011, Branson, Missouri.

Contact:
Jackie McIntyre
Tel: (612) 522-9377
Eml: 42ndmom@comcast.net



173d Airborne Brigade Association Annual Reunion, June 6 - 10, 2012, Lexington, Kentucky hosted by Chapter 17. See early notice on Page 33.

Contact:
Dave Carmon
Eml: dcarmon@roadrunner.com
www.skysoldier17.com



2011 Louisville Medal of Honor Convention, September 28 - October 2, 2011, Louisville, Kentucky, hosted by the Medal of Honor Society. See Page 34 for more details.

Contact:
Connie Mullaney-Pearl
Eml: connie.pearl@insightbb.com



The 2011 All Ohio Days, September 29 – October 1, 2011, Dayton, Ohio, hosted by the General M.B. Ridgway Chapter.

Contact:
Steve Jessie Ridgway, Chairman
Tel: 513-377-0866
or
Jerry Swigart
Tel: 937-898-2089

Note: If you're aware of any upcoming Airborne Reunions please send details to: rto173d@cfl.rr.com

***“No one appreciates
the very special genius
of your conversations
as a dog does.”***

~ Christopher Morley



2/503d Grunt & Photog

My name is John Hosier. I arrived in the Nam in October '67 with the 101st, was transferred to the 173d late November after Dak To as a replacement. Ended up in An Khe and then off to areas near Pleiku and Kontum and throughout those mountains with the 2nd Bat, then the 3rd Bat. Was wounded in December and transferred back to An Khe and given a nice safe job...combat photographer. Spent all of '68 between the battalions mostly working out of LZ English and Bong Son.

I have lots of photographs of the Herd from those dates and all of the units. They are in the newsletters, magazines and yearbook. Now have an exhibit that travels with one of the moving walls. About 1000 pictures and 2000 pieces of memorabilia including weapons, uniforms and everything in between dedicated to the Herd. The exhibit is free and fills seven tents.

Am on the road and will be in Akron Ohio August 16-21 then , Des Moines Iowa, New Iberia, Louisiana, and end up at the VA on Long Island followed by two weeks on the USS Intrepid in Manhattan, 6 - 21 November. Would love to have any Herd members, old, new, from any unit visit. If you would like more info you can contact me at my email address below.

Also would like to provide 2nd Bat photos from '67-'68-'71 and '72 for our newsletter with names and stories that I had written down. Many of the photos I know when and where but not who. might be of interest. I never was smart enough to build a web site, maybe in the future.

Want to say welcome home brothers, I love you guys and continue to heal and share our special relationships with all I meet. Thanks.

John "Fribley" Hosier O'Fallon
eravietnam@yahoo.com

"I would say that the war correspondent gets more drinks, more girls, better pay, and greater freedom than the soldier, but at this stage of the game, having the freedom to choose his spot and being allowed to be a coward and not be executed for it is his torture."

~ Robert Capa
Correspondent WWII



173d Airborne Brigade Alumni and Friends: *Drive On*

This is a lesser-known song by Johnny Cash, one of a very few musicians who sang positively about the American soldier and who obviously understood many of the personal aspects of which soldiers thought. On Okinawa and later, we in Bravo Company said, "Take two salt tablets and Drive on." I intended this phrase and what it conveyed to be an encouragement to NOT QUITTING/NOT GIVING UP. Nothing stopped us, and I and many others still use the motivation of this thought even today.

Later in the war, at some point, the emotional burden for many became too heavy and they tried to protect themselves by disassociating from every event that might weigh more heavily on their spirits. As an officer, I did the same but attempted to not be as callous as this song indicates. A worthy, necessary defense in times of overwhelming grief.

I often think back to those days of jungled yesterday and wanted to say that you, all, are still in my thoughts and my heart.

Fondest Airborne regards,

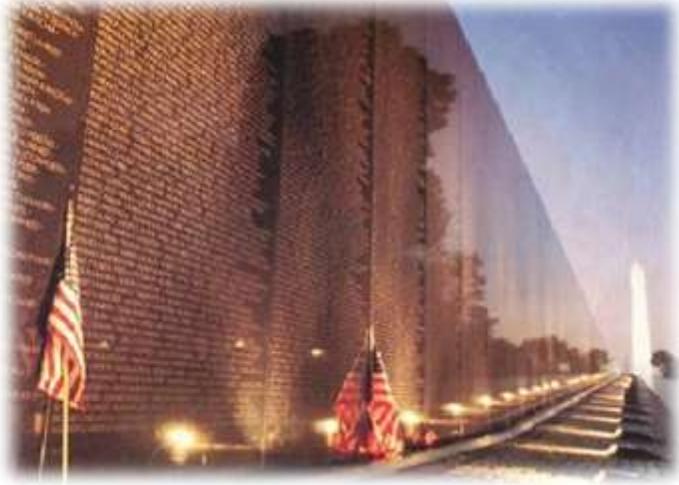
BDQ Roy

Roy Lombardo
CO B/2/503d

Johnny Cash – Drive On
www.youtube.com



~ The Virtual Wall ~



First click on a state. When it opens, scroll down to the city and the names will appear. Then click on their names. It should show you a picture of the person, or at least their bio and medals.

This really is an amazing web site. Someone spent a lot of time and effort to create it. I hope that everyone who receives this appreciates what those who served in Vietnam sacrificed for our country.

The link below is a virtual wall of all those lost during the Vietnam war with the names, bio's and other information on our lost heroes. Those who remember that time frame, or perhaps lost friends or family can look them up on this site. Pass the link on to others, as many knew wonderful people whose names are listed.

<http://www.virtualwall.org/iStates.htm>

[Sent in by MG Jack Leide, CO C/2/503d, '66/'67]

RAFFLE... WIN \$500. ~

173d Chapter 17 Fund Raiser. For those in your area wishing to purchase Chapter 17 raffle tickets contact Jim Haynes at (614) 746-5605, E-mail at

Jhaynes6@columbus.rr.com

All essential information is on the ticket itself.

Winning drawing will be made in September at the Kokomo (Indiana) veterans' annual get-to-together.

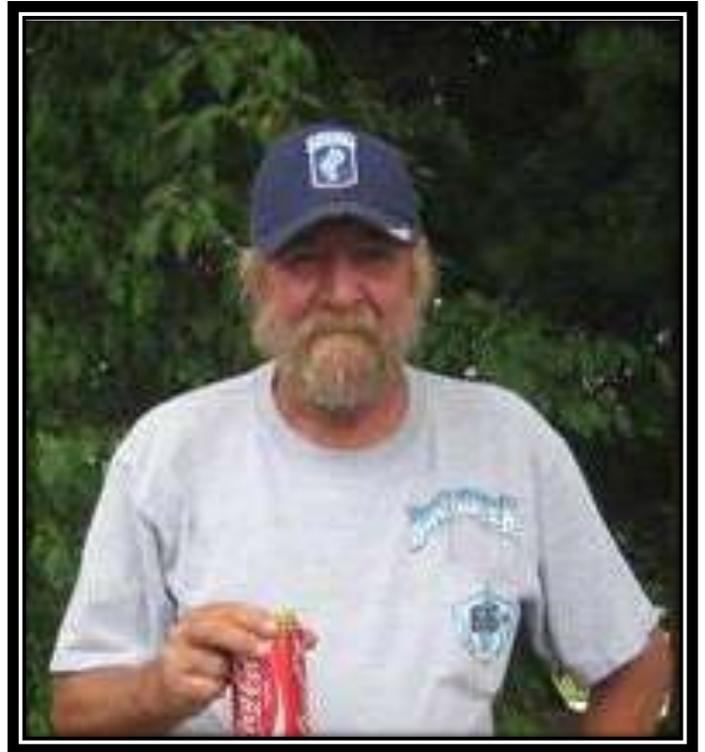


Ronald Howard Wiseman

A Sky Soldier

2/503d, '66/'67

December 26, 1946 – February 19, 2011



Beloved father of Susan and Kelly Wiseman. He fought with the 173d Airborne Brigade in the Vietnam War. Good friend to many war veterans and Sergeant-of-Arms of the Greenbelt, Maryland American Legion.

You will walk with us through our lives. We remember your love, spirit, and kindness.

Love Susan and Kelly Wiseman



Rest easy brother.



A SQUAD OF BRAVO BULLS AND THEIR CO'S WERE ALABAMA BOUND

Yesterday, 26 July 2011, we concluded a mini-reunion at my home here in south Alabama. Below is a picture of the attendees, all slightly worn, but still beautiful. Your Airborne brother,

Jim Green
B/2/503d



I'll agree, Jim, the guys in the back row appear kinda worn, but the CO's look great!! Ed

The young Bulls:



Jim



Phil



Virgil



Barry



Gary



The 2012 173d Reunion

Lexington, KY

June 6 -10, 2012

Hosted By Chapter 17

Room rate 115.00 plus tax per night with Free Parking

New/Registration fees:

Sky Soldiers 99.00

Spouses & Guests 75.00

Gold Star 75.00

Children free - unless attending Reunion dinner

The Hyatt is taking reservations now.

Call 800.233.1234

Ask for the 173 Airborne guestroom block or code G-173A.

Also use this code when making reservations on-line
at the Lexington-Hyatt website - www.lexington.hyatt.com

Information and Forms will be posted soon at www.skysoldier.org and www.Skysoldier17.com



Chapter 17 Needs Your Help

2011 173d Reunion Planning Meeting

Tuesday, August 9th @ 6 p.m., the 2012 173d Reunion Team will be in Lexington, KY at the Hyatt lobby, 401 West High Street. We have set a specific time aside Tuesday evening to meet with chapter members willing to step up and support or volunteer to help with the planning.



Your minds, bodies, ideas and connections are needed to help make the **2012 173d Reunion** happen, "so take up the slack rope man" and call Roy, Dave or myself to let us know if you will show. Plans are to head out to a favorite local buffet to eat and meet. All are welcome, even if you just want to hang out.

Now is the time, will YOU be there?

Call Dave at **740-574-8653** or email me today at the address below.

Airborne.....All The Way!!!

Skip Kniley
Sc7skyvan@aol.com



Lexington and the Bluegrass Rich in Reminder of Bygone Days.

Until time travel becomes possible, the best way to revisit the past is through its tangible remains...
...the houses and other places where famous, as well as not-so-famous, people lived and gathered ...
... the battlefields and buildings where the courses both of history, and many lives, were swayed...
... the monuments built to honor, and to deliver to posterity, the heroes of each generation.

In Lexington and the Bluegrass region, there's a lot of history to be re-lived. This was the first part of Kentucky to be settled, and the beginning of the American West. The Civil War deeply divided the state but, fortunately, left most antebellum houses and buildings intact. Many national leaders and other prominent individuals of 18th and 19th century America had a connection to Lexington.

Whether you are searching for relics of past eras and interesting people, examples of architectural worth, or scenes of noteworthy events, you'll find plenty of fascinating historic homes and places to explore in and around Lexington.



Hello Ladies & Gentlemen!

Following is information on the *Medal of Honor Society Convention*. Louisville will be hosting approximately 50 Medal of Honor recipients on September 28 - October 2, 2011. The days will be filled with several events. Please visit our website for details:

www.2011cmohloouisville.org

The convention information is being updated daily.

Just some of the events being planned by the Host Committee include:

- **Medal of Honor Recipient Outreach Day (Recipients visit schools)**
- **Kentucky's Patriotic Event for the public, "A Tribute to American Valor" at the YUM Center.**
- **Patriot Gala Dinner**
- **Golf at Valhalla**
- **Book Autograph Signing Session (open to the public)**

"Louisville is proud to have been chosen to host our Nation's most decorated war heroes at the 2011 Medal of Honor Society Convention. On behalf of our patriotic community and our 'Old Kentucky Home,' we welcome our Medal of Honor Recipients as our country celebrates the 150th Anniversary of the Medal's creation."

I am very excited to be a part of the volunteer team. If you do decide to visit Louisville, I, along with my father, Jim Mullaney will be pleased to meet you. If you have any questions, please contact me at my email address.

Regards,

Connie Mullaney-Pearl
connie.pearl@insightbb.com



Note: Connie's dad, Jim, is a veteran who served with the 503rd Parachute Regimental Combat Team in the Pacific during WWII.

"Any nation that does not honor its heroes will not long endure"
~ **President Abraham Lincoln**



RANGERS/LRRPS/LRPS

Vietnam Era: February 28, 1961 to May 7, 1975. Since WWII the U.S. Army has had a need for small, highly trained, far ranging units to perform reconnaissance, surveillance, target acquisition, and special type combat missions. In Vietnam this need was met by instituting a long range patrol program to provide each major combat unit with this special capability. These patrols would conduct long-range reconnaissance and exploitation operations into enemy-held and denied areas, providing valuable combat intelligence.



74th LRP Det with 173d "Herd" Team Alpha. L-R: Stamper, Jim Glenn (WIA), Jim Grey (WIA), Sonny Reynaga, John Knaus (KIA)

Approximately five (5) years into the Southeast Asia conflict (1966), LRRP (Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol) units began to be assembled and trained for the purpose of conducting recon and combat patrols in the VCs (Viet Cong's) backyard (4 to 12-man patrols); counter-insurgency (CI) warfare in a non-linear or asymmetrical jungle battlefield; the four (4) to eight (8) man patrol being the preferred configuration. At times two-man LRRP teams were employed. [COIN: Counter-Insurgency]

At first both airborne and non-airborne volunteer soldiers were trained (LRRP/LRP infantry companies). Initially divisions were authorized to form provisional LRRP companies and brigades were authorized LRRP detachments. The 'detachment' concept did not enjoy the same level of development and employment as the LRRP 'companies' did. Between 1967 and 1973 LRRP/LRP companies worked for divisions, separate brigades, and field force commanders. LRRPs provided ground force commanders with intelligence on the tactical situation in their areas of responsibility (AOR). LRRPs were also tasked with behind the lines direct action (DA) missions. The small teams (patrols)

attacked Viet Cong (VC) supply areas, tracked enemy units, directed artillery/air strikes, and harassed the VC and NVA units. By 1967 all LRRP companies had been re-designated LRP (Long Range Patrol) since from the inception their missions did not only involve deep jungle reconnaissance.



1965 173d LRRP, Back: Williams, Baker, Thomas, Farley, Smith, Christenson, Front: Beauchamp, Zions (both KIA)

By 1967 thirteen (13) of these companies had been formed and attached to larger infantry, airborne, and cavalry units (divisions), one LRP company being an Army National Guard (ARNG) unit [D Company (Ranger) 151st Infantry (Airborne), Indiana ARNG]. By 1969 the bulk of LRP troopers were airborne infantrymen and would claim lineage with WWII

Rangers, Korean War Rangers, and "Merrill's Marauders" (the Marauder crest and was (approved on March 18, 1969). Also in '69 all LRP companies were designated "(Ranger), 75th Infantry" (provisional), and like their WWII and Korea predecessors, they too would resurrect the Ranger scroll and wear them unofficially along with black berets. On occasion the scroll would be worn over their higher command unit patch, and like the RICA scroll included the words "Airborne/Ranger." A few 'Nam Ranger companies also wore scrolls on black berets over jump wings.



N Co. Ranger Team Foxtrot '69/'70

(continued....)





N Company Rangers with 173d Herd 1970 - Team Echo (top) Charley Cash, ALT Bruce Candrl, TL Sam Schrio, RTO (front) Unknown, Mike, Larry

Between 1968 and 1972 LRRP/LRP/Ranger company leadership (officers, NCOs and promotable E-4s) were also sent to the MACV Recondo school, training conducted by Special Forces (Green Beret) instructors (cadre from the 5th Special Forces Group, Nha Trang, South Vietnam). For graduation Recondo training included a real patrol in “Charlie’s” backyard west of Nha Trang. The priority for Recondo school was to train LRP team leaders and assistant TLs. Imitation Recondo schools in the army surfaced after ‘Nam but nothing compared to the 3-week 5th SFG(A) course in a real combat area of operations (AO). In addition to the Rangers, the USMC and Army Green Berets (Special Forces) would also form and employ the small unit LRP concept during the last 7 years of the Southeast Asia conflict (1967 – 1974). On September 5th, 1967 a USMC LRRP team (1st LRRP) conducted a parachute insertion as part of *Operation Oregon*. The USN SEALs would also employ behind the lines small unit CI/CG (counter-insurgency/counter-guerilla) tactics against the VC and NVA during the war (1965-1973). By 1973 ‘Nam Ranger companies were disbanded but a few remained active in CONUS (including reserve/guard) and in Europe.

By the late ‘80s the Army’s LRP company concept would evolve into airborne Long Range Surveillance (LRS) detachments (LRSDs: Division asset) and companies (LRSCs: Corps asset), and were retrained to avoid enemy contact and perform passive surveillance

intelligence gathering missions. LRSUs retained SOF like sea, air, and land infiltration and exfiltration capabilities. In the early 90s LRS units (LRSUs) were directed to drop red, black, and white ‘LRS scrolls’ for higher command or military intelligence (MI) SSIs. As airborne units their new SSIs included ‘airborne tabs’, the tabs distinguished them as LRSUs within the MI community. LRS doctrine (FM 7-93) encourages ranger qualified NCOs and officers. Currently in addition to the Ranger course, the RTB at Ft. Benning, GA also conducts the Reconnaissance and Surveillance Leaders Course (RSLC), the former LRSLC [Long Range Surveillance Leader’s Course].

From 1983 to 2001 U.S. Army LRS elements were deployed to Grenada, Desert Shield/Storm, Somalia, Haiti, Bosnia, Kosovo, and used for counter-drug operations along the U.S./Mexico border. Core training for LRSUs includes infantry training, airborne school, Ranger school, RSLC, pathfinder, and SERE training. Since the

beginning of the GWOT in late 2001 the enemy avoidance passive surveillance doctrine of LRS was modified [FRAGOed] to include reconnaissance and direct action (DA) missions in low-intensity asymmetrical counter-insurgency combat AOs. Army active duty (AD) and National Guard (NG) LRS units since 2002 have been deployed to the Middle East (Southwest Asia) in the continuing OEF (Operation Enduring Freedom) and OIF (Operation Iraqi Freedom) efforts as part of the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT).

RLTW!

Source:

www.shadowspear.com/vb/threads/history-of-the-scroll.566/

[Sent in by Robt. ‘twin’ Henriksen, 75th Ranger]



Ray Freeman, Rick Brooks, Art Silsby, Freddie Williams, Jeffrey McLaughlin

