

CLARITY

Sky Soldiers:

As many of you know, we have been working diligently and methodically at Baytree Behavioral Health (BBH) to launch efficient and quality researched-based assessments and non-medication interventions such as QEEG and Brain Retraining (Neurofeedback).

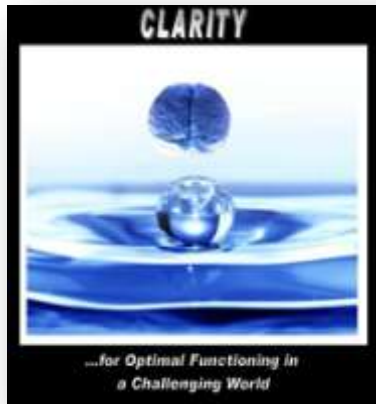
Neurofeedback (Brain Retraining) has internationally been shown to be clinically effective in the treatment of a variety of brain-based disorders like PTSD, ADD, ADHD, OCD, ODD, Anxiety, Depression, Addictions and Bipolar Disorder. Nationally, *Homecoming for Veterans* provides the neurofeedback therapy for returning veterans <http://homecoming4veterans.org/> and we at CLARITY have prepared and presented a White Paper to the Department of Defense on the topic.

Objective QEEG assessments also provide supporting evidence to appropriately assess applications for disability benefits.

After the considerable efforts of many, and the establishment of a solid foundation (we have done over 50 QEEGs and 100s of treatment sessions at our facility), we currently feel that we have met the necessary certifications and training to launch our CLARITY program.

We continue to consult and work conjointly with Cameron Allen of Brain Diagnostics, Asheville, NC <http://www.braindiagnostics.com/>.

Just this labor day weekend, Cameron and our CLARITY team labored in love and accomplished six QEEGs, and provided feedback to a number of clients already participating in the program. Additionally, we also developed an electronic address where referring clinicians can keep track of the progress of clients referred to CLARITY. We have also launched our new up front CLARITY office and Brain Cafe, which gives us the capability to see more than one patient at a time exposing them to effective researched-based interventions like Alpha-Stim <http://www.alpha-stim.com/> which 99% of users consider effective and veterans choose three out of four times.



Cameron Allen also left us with some new software regimens to try with our clients and has introduced us to a valuable new tool, the Comprehensive Neurodiagnostic Checklist (CNC), which we will be incorporating into our assessment and treatment regimens to further improve the fidelity of our clinical work at CLARITY. The CNC is amazingly robust and speaks to assessment, treatment and therapy of the future. The CNC assesses initial symptom clusters and diagnostics and ongoing neurological progress in working on those symptoms. Check it out: <http://www.eegprofessionals.nl/cnc1020.html>

If you or your buddies have questions about what Neurofeedback can do for your or their conditions, please contact us.

CLARITY....For Optimal Functioning in a Challenging World!

Cutting-Edge, Research-based Therapy.....*It just makes sense.*

Some related items....

In conjunction with Kim of AVETPROJECT.org, **George Taylor, 173d Deluxe** of National Veterans Homeless Support (NVHS.us) and various representatives of the community, we met with the Honorable Judge John Murphy of Florida 18th District Courts to assist with their goal of establishing a Veterans Courts in Brevard County by January of 2012.

There are some 77 veterans courts across the country with the primary goals of 1) Improving access to needed mental health and addictions treatment for jailed veterans; 2) Reducing criminal recidivism through successful treatment outcomes and community reintegration; 3) improving long-term community reintegration through involvement; 4) Reducing jail time and resolving felony charges related primarily to mental health, PTSD and addiction issues; and 5) reducing costs associated with unnecessary incarceration

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<http://baytreebehavioralhealth.com/>



Doc Scott, PTSD Guru

Note: Doc Scott has helped countless Sky Soldiers and other vets and their families throughout the country come to grips with their PTSD and brain disorders in support of their disability claims with the Veterans Administration.



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.



A Man of a Blue Words

Platoon Sergeant Leon Hostack returned to A/2/503 prior to "The Jump". He made *LIFE MAGAZINE* with a great photo. He was a great trooper and a really great Platoon Sergeant. He was profane, even more so than the rest of us and that is saying a lot. Sergeant Major Ed Proffitt rotated home, and was replaced by Sergeant Major Rogiers (later to be the Brigade Sergeant Major), who in no way was profane, not at all. After he was there a short time Sergeant Major Rogiers called a meeting of all the NCO's up in the battalion movie theater. The Sergeant Major made the statement that way too much obscene language was being used and he wanted it stopped, especially the use of M.F. "Am I understood? Any questions?" Up stands Leon Hostack, "Sergeant Major. What the mother-fuck do you mean by M.F.?" End of meeting.

**Jack Owens, Paragon Alpha 36
A/B/2/503d**



The outdoor movie theatre at Camp Zinn where all English language and other lessons were taught.

More on the Theatre

Shortly after arrival at Camp Zinn as an FNG in December '65, a handful of other Cherries and I were ordered one night to report to the movie theatre. We must have thought, "Hey, this is great, movies!!" Some Sergeant or Medical Officer, can't recall which or who he was, then began to explain to us the evils we should avoid in the nearby city of Bien Hoa, including such things as razor blades hidden in hidden places, which never quite made much sense. A black and white movie then began which graphically showed 10 ft. tall people suffering in ungodly ways from gonorrhea, syphilis and other sexually transmitted diseases with strange sounding names – clearly, they had been to Bien Hoa. Had we had popcorn with us I'm sure we would have put it down. These Army scare tactics may have worked for some, but not all and perhaps not many. Gotta go. It's time for my shots.

**Lew "Smitty" Smith
HHC/2/503d**

2/503d Vietnam Vet Sky Soldier of the Year 2011

Don't forget to send in by December 1st your one-page write-up nominating a trooper for 2/503d Vietnam Vet Sky Soldier of the Year 2011. There is no specific criteria to submit a nominee.

A selection committee of three 2/503 officers and three enlisted men from different years in-country will review all nominations and select the honoree on behalf of all of us. The editor of this newsletter will only have a vote in the event of a tie.

2/503d Sky Soldier of the Year 2010 was Colonel Ken Smith in recognition of his never-ending, ongoing support of paratroopers of the 173d Airborne Brigade (Sep). Upon receiving the award Ken stated,

"I am overwhelmed by the honor that I have been accorded -- selection as '2/503d Sky Soldier of the Year 2010'.

It is more meaningful to me than any of the Army's awards."



Ken and Wambi Cook at 173d reunion

Honor a deserving buddy and send in your nomination today to: rto173d@cfl.rr.com The honoree will be announced in the January 2012 issue of our newsletter.

All The Way!



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



Reunions of the Airborne Kind



506th Association Rendezvous, (Fort Campbell),
November 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 19.

Contact:

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

See Page 34 for details on upcoming Rakkasans' reunion.

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



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



~ REUNION PROGRAM ~

Hosted by Midwest Chapter 17



June 6 - Wednesday

0900 – 1700 Registration @ Lobby
0900 – 2230 Hospitality @ Hyttops Sports Bar
0900 – 2300 Vendors @ Kentucky Room
1800 – 2000 President's Reception @ Jasmine-Franklin

June 7 - Thursday

0700 – 1230 Golf Outing TBA GC
0900 – 1700 Registration @ Lobby
0900 – 2300 Vendors @ Kentucky Room
0900 – 2330 Hospitality @ Hyttops Sports Bar

June 8 - Friday

0830 – 1030 Gold Star Reception & Breakfast @ Regency 1
0900 – 1100 Board of Directors Meeting @ Regency 3
0900 – 1700 Registration @ Lobby
0900 – 2200 Vendors @ Kentucky Room
1000 – 2330 Hospitality @ Hyttops Sports Bar
1100 – 1500 Kentucky Veterans Memorial – Frankfort – VFW Lunch

June 9 - Saturday

0830 – 1000 Ladies Brunch @ Bluegrass Pre-function Area
0900 – 1130 General Membership Meeting @ Regency 1&2
0900 – 1700 Registration @ Regency 1 Foyer
0900 – 2330 Hospitality @ Hyttops Sports Bar
0900 – 2300 Vendors @ Kentucky Room

Banquet

1800 – 1845 Cocktail Hour @ Bluegrass Ballroom
1845 – 1900 Post Colors/Convocation @ Bluegrass Ballroom
1900 – 2035 Dinner @ Bluegrass Ballroom
2035 – 2115 Speakers & Awards @ Bluegrass Ballroom
2115 Retire the Colors

June 10 Sunday

0800 – 0900 Memorial Service @ Regency 1
1130 Reunion Closing

BE SURE TO ATTEND OPERATION CORREGIDOR II

173d AIRBORNE BRIGADE ASSOCIATION 2012 REUNION



JUNE 6-10, 2012, LEXINGTON, KY

~ Registration Form ~

Please print. Copy form for additional guest(s)

My Name: _____

Guest: _____

Guest: _____

Guest: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail address: _____

Brigade Unit Served With: _____

Dates served: _____

Registration/Event Fees (Check boxes)

Per Sky Soldier Association Member ☒ \$99.
Per Each Guest. (Number of Guest(s) _____) ☐ \$75.
Children free - unless attending Reunion dinner
Per Child or all other extra dinner only guests ☐ \$40.
Per Gold Star Family Member ☐ \$75.
Per Active duty Soldier (Not on Orders) ☐ \$75.
Per Active Duty Soldier on Orders ☐ Free
(i.e. Command, Color Guard)
Per Vendor Table ☐ \$75.
Ladies Brunch (Number attending _____) ☐ Incl
Per player in Golf Tournament (No: _____) ☐ \$45

Enclosed is my check for this Total Amount: \$ _____

Please make Check Payable and Mail to:

Midwest Chapter 17
P.O. Box 09640
Columbus, OH 43209

Hotel Reservations:

Hyatt Regency – Lexington, \$115.00 + tax per night.
Reservations: 1-800-233-1234
Request group rate for 173d Airborne Assn. guestroom block or code G-173A. This is also the code to use if making reservations on-line at - www.lexington.hyatt.com

Overflow Hotel:
To be announced

"HISTORY, HORSES & HOOCH"



2/503d VIETNAM Newsletter / October 2011 – Issue 33

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The Tunnels of Cu Chi

~ Operation Crimp, 1966 ~



An Australian sapper inspects a Viet Cong tunnel discovered during Operation Crimp, South Vietnam 1966

Tensions between the specialist engineers and the infantry began to show early in Operation Crimp. In an official Australian after-action report, the following laconic comments were recorded:

In some cases, having secured tunnel entrances, infantry moved on to search other locations, leaving sappers underground with no immediate close-in protection. This does not foster confidence. One instance occurred where sappers were searching a tunnel under a house and the infantry commenced to burn the house. Sappers lose confidence under these circumstances.

There was some discord between the lanky Australians and their American comrades, too. Sapper (now Major) Denis Ayoub said quite bluntly, *"The Americans taught us nothing about tunnel fighting in an hour that we hadn't already tried ourselves. Our determination to clear tunnels seemed to them to be little short of madness. They were quite surprised when our captain suggested that we were going to send guys down with a torch and pistol and a length of string."*

While the Australians began to develop the earliest techniques for exploring and destroying some short tunnel systems, they had no real plan for dealing with the heart-stopping business of actually running into a

Viet Cong guerrilla inside a tunnel. Dennis Ayoub recalled the first time it happened to him, when he was behind another sapper who was leading the exploration of a narrow communication tunnel:

"One minute we were crawling through the tunnel, the next minute my mate, without a word, started to back up rather rapidly. No one could turn around in the tunnels we found on Crimp; you had to back out of the bloody things. So he started to back up, and I had to back up. No one said anything. When we got to the bottom of the shaft, he somehow managed to get past me and was first up and out. So I came up second, hoping to Christ that my legs weren't going to be left behind. When we got out, and my mate cooled down a bit, he told me he'd seen a man down there."

Fighting Charlie in his own tunnels was still a thing of the future. As American helicopters began to arrive to collect some of the thousands of Communist documents that had been found in the tunnels, Captain Alex MacGregor was ordering photographs taken of tunnel trapdoors and entrances, and of the booby traps found inside, and was busy making full notes of tunnel dimensions. Of all the tunnels intelligence assessments made during Crimp, the Royal Australian Engineers' was probably the most accurate and the most prescient. Unfortunately, despite their success, the Aussies were never again to be so involved in the tunnels of Cu Chi.



An American B-52 on a bomb run over South Vietnam, similar to those used during Operation Crimp

(continued....)



Justen used his flame-thrower to burn away jungle and growth near trenches. If this expensive technique exposed a tunnel entrance – some had trapdoors, others not – then he would explore.

“We started going down checking tunnels out, and right in the middle of it, while we’re going into one tunnel, they (the VC) would pop up somewhere else and the shooting’d be going on up above you. You could hear them up above ground shooting and you never knew if you popped up out of one of these holes whether somebody from our side might take a shot at you. So you used to tell the guy – in them days we didn’t lay wire or nothing because we were working blind – we used to tell them to hold off if they saw us coming out from a different hole to the one we went in. Hell, you didn’t know where you were going to come out. I went down there, I got real close to Charlie – warm food, papers lying around, even found a calendar with the day’s date on, that’s pretty damn close. But truth is, I’d rather run them out than meet them down there.”

Justen was later to instruct others in tunnel warfare. He made drawings of what he found, including the tunnel water traps. The water traps, it turned out, were not to deal with drainage. They were rather U-bends in the tunnel system, and they prevented tear gas or CS riot-control gas from blowing all the way into a tunnel complex. The early tunnel explorers had to navigate the water traps the hard way. Most just waded in, held their breath, and swam up the other side, always assuming they could do it on one lungful of air. *“That really was the worst part for me,”* explained Justen. *“You never knew what was waiting the other side, you never knew if in that black hole you’d get to the other side, and when you did, you came out soaking wet and stinking rotten. It was the worst part of it.”*

The commander of the 173rd Airborne, Brigadier General Ellis W.

Williamson, was to write hugely enthusiastic after-action reports on Operation Crimp. Hindsight gives us all twenty-twenty vision, but history shows some of his optimism to have been either premature or hollow. *“Most of January 13th was spent destroying and*

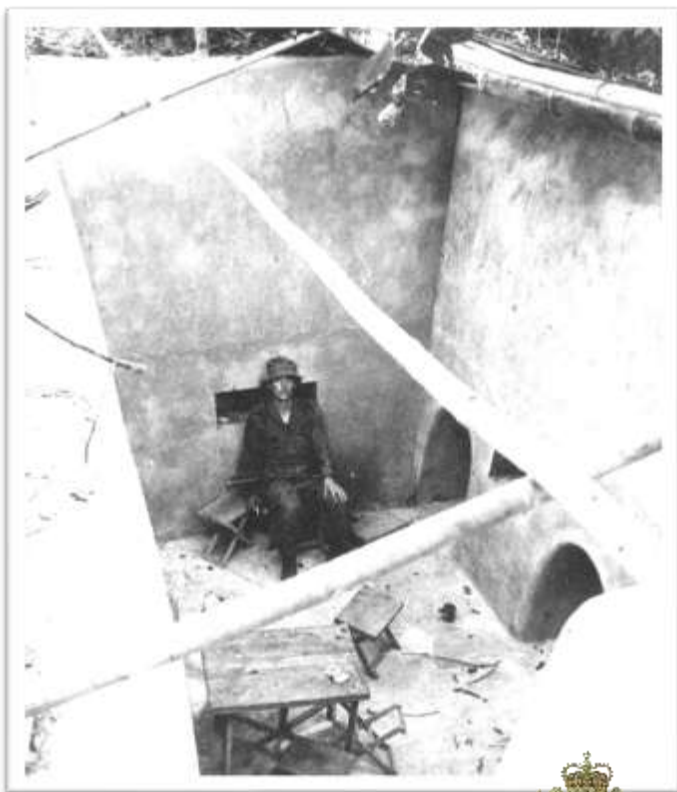
decontaminating the tunnel and bunker system,” he wrote eight days after Crimp had finished. *“CS-I, a powder contaminant with long-lasting effects, was used for the first time and should prove quite effective. It was placed throughout the tunnel systems by placing a long line of detonation cord where desired. Crystallized CS-I*



was then place along the detonation cord just prior to the explosion. It is hoped that this approach will prove to be a lasting deterrent.” It was an ill-founded hope. The water traps and the tightly sealed trapdoors connecting the various levels were to ensure that contamination usually failed.

In his after-action report, Colonel William D. Brodbeck of the Big Red One was considerably less sanguine, but more prescient. *“CS riot-control agent was used without much success.”* he wrote. *“Tunnels were baffled by the VC to prevent effective use of CS. Positive results were obtained when men went into the tunnels. A different combat technique is required when a man goes into a tunnel after a VC. However, the same amount of courage is required in this type of fighting.”*

As Crimp and Buckskin drew to a close the “Sky Soldiers” remounted their noisy winged horses and flew back to base; the trucks and the APCs ground out of the hostile woods, leaving burned and empty villages. Most of the local population had been evacuated by the Americans because *“they had lived under VC rule for many years, consequently they were thoroughly indoctrinated by the VC and willingly supported them.”*



Australian soldier in Viet Cong tunnel uncovered during Operation Crimp



Former Paratrooper Myth

Frequently people have talked about this mythical so called 'former paratrooper' or 'ex-paratrooper' and since Snopes.com hasn't busted this Internet myth once and for all, let me squash this one forever. There is NO SUCH THING. Once you earn your wings you are a part of the airborne and have forever shown the world that you lack whatever chromosome that allows us to actually enjoy a couple hundred pounds of equipment strapped on us while shuffling pathetically out a loud as hell Air Force airframe into total darkness after a 6 hour manifest only to land smack in the middle of a scrub brush filled DZ at the opposite end of whatever rally point you'll be running to (sorry, I digress). The only time you might legitimately hear about a 'former' or 'ex' paratrooper is if the individual is in polite company and has actually been a jump refusal and subsequently was ushered out of a jump unit never to put his/her knees in the breeze. Out of polite company we just call 'em quitter if we talk to them at all.

AIRBORNE!

from www.paratrooper.net

Once a paratrooper.....always a paratrooper!



101st U.S. Army Paratrooper
Corporal Louis E. Laird

All The Way!

About "Susan Oliver Visits the Herd in Vietnam"

(Newsletter Issue 32, Page 5)

Also in company was the actor Gary Merrill (12 O'Clock High, the movie not the TV Series). I remember asking her why she was there and can almost recite verbatim what she said, "Well, we believe in what you guys are doing here".



**Jerry Lewis & Susan Oliver in
The Disorderly Orderly, 1964**

I did have a huge crush on her from having watched her with Jerry Lewis in "The Disorderly Orderly", and although sans makeup she still had "that certain something" that lurks in the loins of young men. What a day!!



**Gary Merrill acted in
12 O'Clock High, 1949**

My many thanks to the Dave Colbert (HHC/2/503d) for the pictures....took me way back.

All the way brothers!

**Mark Dunlap
E/2/503d, '69-'70**

Celebrities in Vietnam

Do you have a story or a story and photos about any celebs you met in Vietnam? More often than not we would meet them in some hospital or MASH unit, but some, like Colonel Martha Raye, would venture into the boonies even putting themselves at risk.

Send in your celeb stories and pics to share with your buddies. Email to rto173d@cfl.rr.com





"BOOZE & BOOTY"

Don Abbott



There are so many facets to the Corregidor story, most of them will never be touched.

After I landed close to the parade ground in the morning wave, I made my way up to the lighthouse and reported to Erick (LTC John Erickson) the CO of the third Battalion. As had been discussed during the planning, I found out where his Battalion was located so when "E" Company landed I could let them know the situation. Then, with nothing definite to do, I wandered down to the Mile Long Barracks and through where the PX had been located.

On the North side of the Barracks I found a 462nd 75 mm gun set up. The men had found all the pieces and had it ready to fire. As I walked up to the gun one of the men held up a bottle of brandy they had been working on. He said, in a bit of drunken way, *"Hey, LT have a swig of this--it's pretty good!"*

We have not mentioned this before but there was booze to be found all over the place and some of it was very good. I remember Scotch, for example. There was Suntory Scotch with a label saying *"the finest Scotch Whiskey available outside Scotland"*.

Battery Way was in our sector. We had been through the Battery many times but not all the way into all the rooms (you didn't poke your nose into some of these places). When the Infantry outfit arrived to take-over from us, one of their men went deep into the rooms and found one filled with San Miguel beer. Roscoe Corder, a beer drinker from wayback, had a fit.

There were all kinds of interesting Japanese goods to be found. For example, one squad room near the 503rd CP held hundreds of white shirts. The problem was they were Japanese sizes and not one of our men in a hundred would be able to get into a shirt (I tried). Another room held bolts of fabric, some of it very pretty. I cut off a few yards and stuffed it in my pack. I brought it back to the States and my wife had it made into a dress. At least two huge Jap Coast Artillery field glasses turned up. They weighed about a hundred pounds or I'd have brought it home. The objective lens was about 6 inches. You could see trucks moving on Bataan, for example.

John Lindgren, 503rd PRCT
6 Nov 99



I'm glad I didn't tell Al (McGrew) about the caches of whiskey, champagne and huge stores of first class canned crabmeat. I am sure Al didn't get into any of that either. You weren't in the Army in those days when it was bugger the enlisted swine and more whiskey for the officers.

The Headquarters Company 2nd Battalion mortarmen got into the spirits store and fired all kinds of mortar rounds as they celebrated. But those were the later days on the Rock. My company, hard luck "D" never found any of these bounties and in fact "F" Company not only found trucks but booze as well.



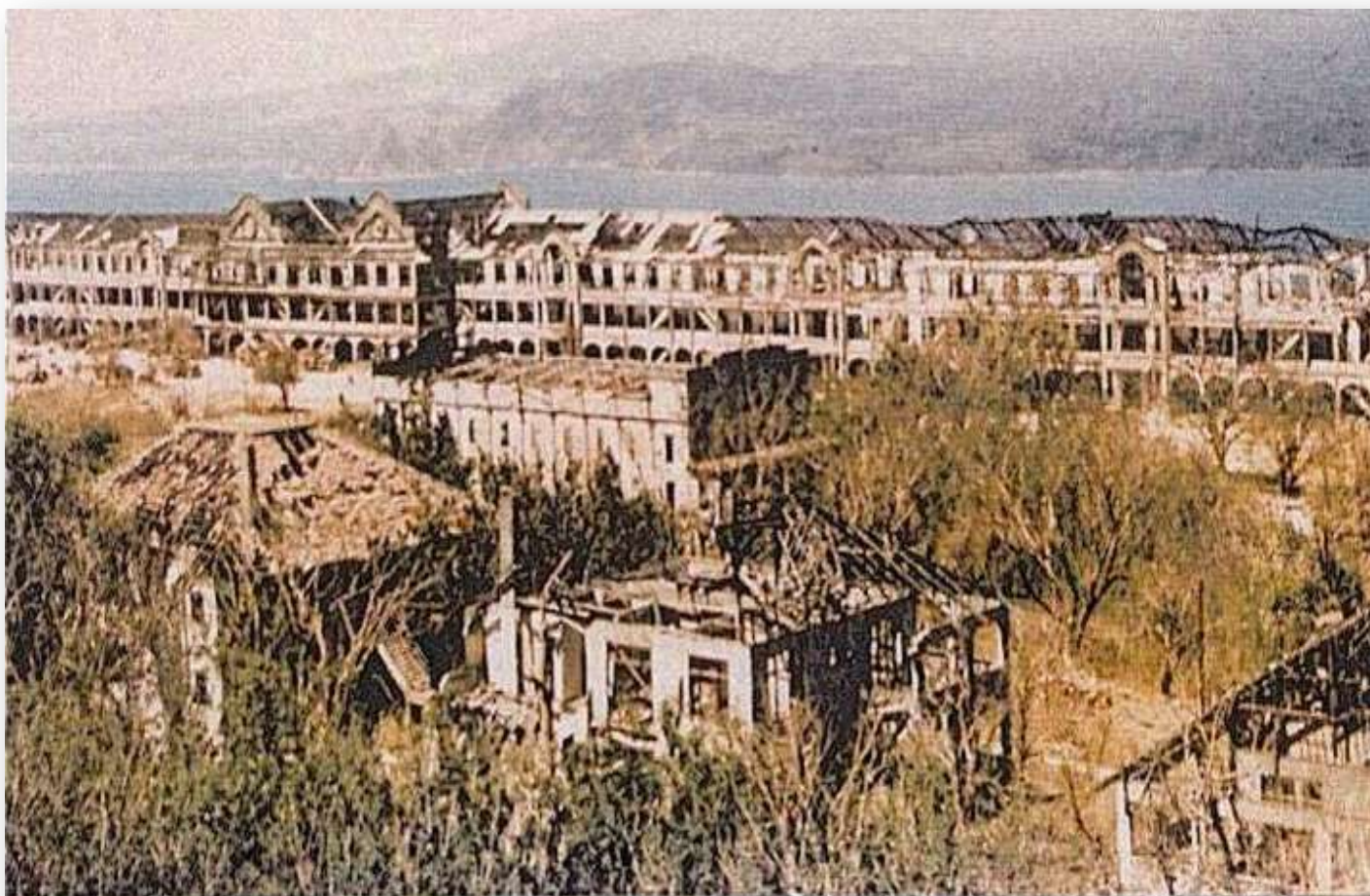
L-R: Don Abbott and Bill Calhoun

Calhoun writes that they found among other things some Bacardi Rum [the Navy always went first class]. "F" Company's Richard Lampman in a letter to Bill (Calhoun) had this to say:

*"I didn't even try and sell any of the drink I had!! There was one of our 75mm gun crews [i.e. 75mm pack howitzers] who I thought the most unlucky group on the island. They had to scrounge parts from three other guns in order to have one work. They kept taking it apart and setting it up, then taking it apart and setting it up again. I remember laughing at them about 'wearing the gun out taking it apart so much.' * They didn't beat 'H' out of me so when I got the spirits I gave them four bottles to soothe their nerves. I got 'mouth' for giving it away. A group of 'Hard Luck D Co.' got a few bottles too."*

(continued)





This is a one of a kind historic photograph, showing Topside barracks upon re-occupation. Topside wasn't nearly as damaged as it is now, the scrappers have helped a lot – and also the fire in the ammunition store hastened things down a bit. Bailey probably took this from the walk at the top of the lighthouse.

Had I known, I would have given a month's pay for a bit of strong drink at the time and Bacardi at that. Unfortunately I didn't even hear about this bonanza until four decades later. A huge supply of San Miguel beer was found somewhere on Topside. Someone talked when they should have been listening and higher headquarters was alerted. In a trice, please pardon the expression, trucks appeared** and began hauling the beer down to Bottomside where it was loaded on boats and enjoyed by the straphangers at IX Corps and Sixth Army; a sad day for the Liberators indeed. I must say that I did sample the exquisite canned crabmeat. Unfortunately by the time the lower ranks got it the island was unbelievably infested with flies. It was utterly impossible to spoon out food from a can without it being covered with black flies. The unburied corpses of thousands of Japanese marines were being eaten to the bare bones by maggots soon to become flies. The corpses were literally covered with maggots that undulated like ripples from a stone tossed in a pond. I hate to think how many pounds of these flies our troopers swallowed with their meals.

It wouldn't do for Doug to be bothered by these nuisances and just before he was to have George Jones raise the colors some airplanes appeared over the tiny island dropping a magic white powder from their tails and miracles of miracles! No more flies!

John Lindgren

* The gunners set the howitzer on the second story porch of quarters 28 D [the westernmost set of officers quarters] that looked down on Battery Wheeler two hundred or so yards to the west. The guns had to be taken apart to be manhandled, they were too heavy to lift when assembled. - JL

** There has been some light-hearted controversy over whether there were trucks remaining on the Rock as at 16 Feb 1945, how many and in what condition, and whenever the word "truck" is used in polite conversation, it is advisable to genuflect or duck. - Ed



A Band of Brothers

two generations



A Band of Brothers at 173d reunion in N. Myrtle Beach, SC in 2010. L-R Mike McMillan, A/4/503d, Chuck Breit 503rd PRCT WWII, Mike Sturges A/2/503d and Jerry Wiles B/2/503d.

Have you ever heard the Band of Brothers theme song sung with words? Check out YouTube, "Requiem for a Soldier, Katherine Jenkins" -- hauntingly beautiful. The words to the song are shown below.

**Jerry Sopko
D/4/503d**

**You never lived to see
What you gave to me
One shining dream of hope and love
Life and liberty**

**With a host of brave unknown soldiers
For your company, you will live forever
Here in our memory**

**In fields of sacrifice
Heroes paid the price
Young men who died for old men's wars
Gone to paradise**

**We are all one great band of brothers
And one day you'll see we can live together
When all the world is free**

**I wish you'd lived to see
All you gave to me
Your shining dream of hope and love
Life and liberty**

**We are all one great band of brothers
And one day you'll see - we can live together
When all the world is free**





OPERATION CORREGIDOR II

Honoring our WWII Paratroopers of the 503rd PRCT



Midwest Chapter 17 is proud to announce we will be inviting paratroopers of the 503rd PRCT who fought throughout the Pacific during WWII to attend next year's 173d Association reunion in Lexington, KY as guests of the officers and men of the 173d Airborne Brigade. This is *troopers honoring troopers* and is not sanctioned by either the 173d or 503rd Associations. It's a paratrooper thang.

In 2010, at the annual reunion in N. Myrtle Beach, SC hosted by South Carolina Chapter 30, five (5) troopers of the 503rd attended as guests of men of our Brigade and friends of the 173d and 503rd. As honest Abe once said,

“Any nation that does not honor its heroes will not long endure,”

and that's just what we'll be doing in Lexington.

Of the over 3000 men who served with the 503rd during WWII, sadly, less than 100 troopers are still with us. We hope you'll join in not only helping out with the funding (until sufficient funds have been raised), but attending our reunion next June and meeting these troopers personally and attending the WWII interactive presentations.

So far, these Sky Soldiers and friends of the 173d and 503rd have made contributions getting us to about half-way to where we need to be. Our thanks to each of you! *Airborne!!*

Steve Aballa, 2/503
John Arnold, 1RAR
Jim Baskin, 4/503
Jerry Berry, 4/503
Wayne Bowers, 2/503
Bob Carmichael, 2/503
Chapter 27, Australia
Bob Clark, 5th SF
Harry Cleland, 2/503
John Cleland, 173d Bde
Dave Colbert, 2/503
Reed Cundiff, 173d LRRP
Terry Davis, 2/503
George Dexter, 2/503
Roger Dick, 2/503
Tom Dooley, 2/503
Jim Dresser, 2/503
Frank Dukes, 2/503
Scott Fairchild, 82nd Abn
Pat Feely, B Med
Paul Fisher, 3/503
Craig Ford, 1/503
Ross Franklin, 1/503
A.B. Garcia, 2/503
Tony Geishauser, Cowboys
Jim Gettel, 2/503
Johnny Graham, 2/503
Larry Hampton, 1/503
Nick Hun, 2/503
Ken Kaplan, 2/503
Ed Kearney, 2/503

Jack Kelley, 2/503
Bill Knapp, 2/503
John Kyne, 2/503
Joe Lamb, 2/503
Dave Linkenhoker, 2/503
Richard Martinez, 2/503
Jim Montague, 2/503
Joe Logan, 2/503
Bob Lucas, 2/503
Hal Nobles, 3/503
Bill Ostlund, 173d
Larry Paladino, 2/503
Ed Perkins, 2/503
Jack Price, 2/503
Gary Prisk, 2/503
Butch Nery, 4/503 N75
Lou Pincock, 2/503
Bill Reynolds, 2/503
Jack Ribera, 2/503
Jim Robinson, 2/503
Lee Robinson, 2/503
Graham Rollings, 2/503
Jack Schimpf, 2/503
Bill Shippey, 2/503 N75
Roy Scott, 3/319
Lew Smith, 2/503
Jerry Sopko, 2/503
Jim Stanford, 2/503
George Stapleton, 3/503
Mike Sturges, 2/503
Bill Thomas, 2/503
Alt Turner, 2/503
Steve Vargo, 2/503
Ron Woodley, 2/503
Bill Wyatt, 2/503



503rd Troopers honored
in N. Myrtle Beach, SC 2010

Presently, we're raising necessary funds to cover the cost associated with inviting between 3 and 5 troopers and their spouses or a family member. For information about donating to this worthy effort, please contact rtol73d@cfl.rr.com for details, and a donor form will be sent to you.

The *Airborne Spirit* is alive and well!



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