

## ~ August 1967 ~

**August:** Operation Greeley continues for the 173d Airborne Brigade in Dak To.



**August:** In Hanoi, as Communist forces are building up for the Tet Offensive, 200 senior officials are arrested in a crackdown on opponents of the Tet strategy.

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** HMAS Hobart, USS St. Paul and USS Blue received enemy fire while bombarding Cong Phu railway spur (Hobart's seventh time under fire).



August 1967



Armoured personnel carrier (APC) from A Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regiment, Royal Australian Armoured Corps (RAAC), lumbers over an embankment during Operation Ballarat which began 4 August 1967 and ended 16 August 1967.

**5<sup>th</sup>:** Bobby Gentry releases her only hit "Ode to Billy Joe".

**7<sup>th</sup>:** The People's Republic of China agrees to give North Vietnam an undisclosed amount of aid in the form of a grant.

**9<sup>th</sup>:** The Senate Armed Services Committee begins closed-door hearings concerning the influence of civilian advisors on military planning. During the hearings, Defense Secretary McNamara testifies that the extensive and costly U.S. bombing campaign in Vietnam is failing to impact North Vietnam's war making ability in South Vietnam and that nothing short of *"the virtual annihilation of North Vietnam and its people"* through bombing would ever succeed.

**9<sup>th</sup>:** Deion Sanders, NFL defensive back, Cowboys, centerfielder, Yankees, born.



**2<sup>nd</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>:** The mile-long Paul Doumer Railway and Highway Bridge was hit for the first time knocking out the center span and damaging two others.

**3<sup>rd</sup>:** 45,000 U.S. soldiers sent to Vietnam.

(continued....)



**14<sup>th</sup>: U.S. Discloses Laos Bombing. SAIGON (UPI) –** The U.S. Air Force revealed officially Sunday for the first time that American warplanes are bombing communist targets in Laos, Vietnam's neighbor to the west.

The U.S. fighter-bombers are conducting air raids "at the request of the Royal Laotian government," a spokesman for the Air Force in Saigon said Sunday.

The Air Force confirmed that American warplanes have been running "armed reconnaissance" missions over Laos, and have been for more than three years. "We are looking for targets and we bomb at the request of the Royal Laotian government," the spokesman said.

The spokesman was unable to list the exact targets, nor would he say how many American planes had been shot down over Laos.

It was reported the main target is the so-called "Ho Chi Minh Trail" that runs from North Vietnam through Laos into South Vietnam.

The trail is a supply route so elaborate sources in Laos say that it includes a two-lane all-weather, surfaced road and carries five-ton Czechoslovakian-made trucks loaded with war supplies....[*Pacific Stars and Stripes*]

**18<sup>th</sup>:** California Governor Ronald Reagan says the U.S. should get out of Vietnam citing the difficulties of winning a war when "too many qualified targets have been put off limits to bombing."



**21<sup>st</sup>:** The Chinese shoot down two U.S. fighter-bombers that accidentally crossed their border during air raids in North Vietnam along the Chinese border.

**26<sup>th</sup>:** Dutch 2nd Chamber demands U.S. stop bombing North Vietnam.

**29<sup>th</sup>:** Final TV episode of "Fugitive".

**30<sup>th</sup>:** U.S. Senate confirm Thurgood Marshall as 1st black justice.

## ~ August 1968 ~

**August:** Operation Walker continues for the 173d Airborne Brigade.



**August:** The USAF mission in Laos was growing fast and North Vietnamese troops poured across into Laos. Casualties mounted while families were displaced from their homes in great numbers and the cost of war soared.



August 1968

**8<sup>th</sup>:** Richard M. Nixon is chosen as the Republican presidential candidate and promises "an honorable end to the war in Vietnam."

**10<sup>th</sup>:** Race riots in Miami, Chicago and Little Rock.

**14<sup>th</sup>:** Halle Berry, born in Cleveland, Ohio, Miss World USA, 1986, actress, Boomerang.

**19<sup>th</sup>:** Sara Jane Roberts, child actress (Our Gang), dies after surgery at 44.

**20<sup>th</sup>:** The Soviet Union and other Warsaw Pact nations began invading Czechoslovakia to crush the "Prague Spring" liberalization drive of Alexander Dubcek's regime.

**21<sup>st</sup>:**  Private First Class **James Anderson, Jr.**

(January 22, 1947 – February 28, 1967) was a United States Marine who posthumously received the Medal of Honor for heroism while serving in Vietnam in February 1967. When his Medal of Honor was awarded on August 21, 1968, he became the first African-American U.S. Marine recipient of the Medal of Honor.



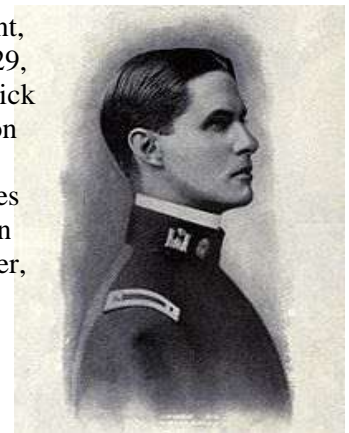
**24<sup>th</sup>:** France became the world's fifth thermonuclear power as it exploded a hydrogen bomb in the South Pacific.

**25<sup>th</sup>:** Arthur Ashe becomes 1st black to win U.S. tennis singles championship.

**28<sup>th</sup>:** During the Democratic national convention in Chicago, 10,000 anti-war protesters gather on downtown streets and are then confronted by 26,000 police and national guardsmen. The brutal crackdown is covered live on network TV. 800 demonstrators are injured.

**29<sup>th</sup>:** Ulysses Simpson Grant, III (July 4, 1881 – August 29, 1968) was the son of Frederick Dent Grant, and the grandson of General of the Army and President of the United States Ulysses S. Grant. He was an American soldier and planner, died.

**29<sup>th</sup>:** Democrats nominate Hubert H. Humphrey for president (Chicago).



(continued....)





## ~ August 1969 ~

**August:** Operation Washington Green continues for the 173d Airborne Brigade in Binh Dinh Province.



August 1969

**1<sup>st</sup>:** 'It's Up to Reds'  
**NIXON VISITS GI'S IN VIET, Bangkok (AP) --**  
**President Nixon swept in and out of South Vietnam Wednesday, saying: "We have gone as far as we can or should go in opening the door of negotiations which will bring peace."**

Nixon made his statement at Independence Palace in Saigon where he conferred with President Nguyen Van Thieu.

Recounting the peace offers made by the allies at the Paris talks, Nixon said it is now time for the North Vietnamese and the Viet Cong *"to sit down with us and talk seriously about ways to stop the killing."*

Later at a combat base near Saigon, he said U.S. infantrymen: *"Out there in this dreary, difficult war, I think history will record that this may have been one of America's finest hours, because we took a difficult task and we succeeded."*

Nixon dashed to nearby Vietnam and back before heading for India Thursday, on his round-the-world tour.  
**[Pacific Stars and Stripes]**

**4<sup>th</sup>:** Henry Kissinger conducts his first secret meeting in Paris with representatives from Hanoi.

**10<sup>th</sup>:** A day after murdering Sharon Tate and four others, members of Charles Manson's cult kill Leno and Rosemary LaBianca.

**12<sup>th</sup>:** Viet Cong begin a new offensive attacking 150 targets throughout South Vietnam.

**14<sup>th</sup>:** Massive Communist shelling and ground attacks raged throughout South Vietnam Tuesday in the heaviest outbreak of enemy-initiated actions in three months.

**14<sup>th</sup>:** British troops arrived in Northern Ireland to intervene in sectarian violence between Protestants and Roman Catholics.



**15<sup>th</sup>:** Woodstock Music and Art Fair opens in New York State on Max Yasgur's Dairy Farm.

**Those crazy hippies.  
Nice tits.**



Woodstock

**Where are they now?**



**15<sup>th</sup>:** Operation About Face began as good weather and U.S. jets backed Van Pao and his Meo guerrillas.

**31<sup>st</sup>:** Boxer Rocky Marciano died in a light airplane crash in Iowa, a day before his 46th birthday. Born *Rocco Francis Marchegiano*, he is the only Heavyweight Champion of the World to retire undefeated.



## ~ August 1970 ~

**1<sup>st</sup>:** Willie Stargell (Pirates) ties record of 5 extra base hits in a game.

**11<sup>th</sup>:** South Vietnamese troops take over the defense of border positions from U.S. troops.

**18<sup>th</sup>:** Richie Cunningham, kicker for the Dallas Cowboys, born.

**24<sup>th</sup>:** Heavy B-52 bombing raids occur along the Demilitarized Zone.

**29<sup>th</sup>:** Black Panthers confront cops in Philadelphia (1 police officer killed).



August 1970

(continued....)



## ~ August 1971 ~

**August:** USAF jets fly 473 sorties in effort to curb enemy road construction across the DMZ. Also, information was made public regarding approximately 30,000 CIA-directed indigenous tribesmen who disrupted Pathet Lao and North Vietnamese efforts in Laos.

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** The U.S. admits there are some 30,000 CIA-sponsored irregulars operating in Laos.

**9<sup>th</sup>:** Le Roy (Satchel) Paige inducted into baseball's Hall of Fame. One of his quotes: *"Age is a question of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter."*

**15<sup>th</sup>:** President Nixon announces 90-day freeze on wages, prices and rents.

**18<sup>th</sup>:** Australia and New Zealand announce the pending withdrawal of their troops from Vietnam.



August 1971



**6<sup>th</sup>:** Gary Player wins PGA golf tournament

**8<sup>th</sup>:** Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Elmo Zumwalt, ordered changes in the United States Navy's rules to permit women to serve on ships, become aviators, and attend the U.S. Naval Academy.

**9<sup>th</sup>:** Rockwell receives NASA contract to construct Space Shuttle.

**11<sup>th</sup>:** Last United States ground combat unit departs South Vietnam.

**12<sup>th</sup>:** Quang Tri fight rages on. South Vietnam marines cleared the southern sector of Quang Tri City except for isolated snipers, field reports said Thursday, and South Vietnamese bomber pilots claimed they knocked out 14 enemy tanks six miles to the southwest.



North Vietnamese army soldiers pause for a photograph following fierce fighting inside the Quang Tri citadel. The soldier on right was killed shortly after this photograph was made."

(Photo by Doan Cong Tinh)

**12<sup>th</sup>:** In a victory for President Nixon, the House Thursday rejected a mandate to pull U.S. forces out of the Indochina war by Oct. 1 in return for release of American prisoners and a limited cease-fire.

**13<sup>th</sup>:** Former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark returned from North Vietnam, where he had traveled as a private individual as part of a fact-finding group. Clark said that he had confirmed that the United States was bombing hospitals and dikes, and that he had been told that American prisoners *"will be released immediately when we stop this senseless, murderous bombing and end the war and get out, get home, and get to the business of building the peace and giving happiness to little children around the world."*

**14<sup>th</sup>:** Oscar Levant, 65, American pianist and actor, dies.

**15<sup>th</sup>:** Ben Affleck, American film actor, born in Berkeley, CA.

(continued....)

## ~ August 1972 ~

**1<sup>st</sup>:** Henry Kissinger meets again with Le Duc Tho in Paris.

**1<sup>st</sup>:** Future President George W. Bush, son of former president George Herbert Walker Bush, is suspended from flying with the Texas Air National Guard for missing an annual medical examination.

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** Gold hits record \$70 an ounce in London.

**4<sup>th</sup>:** Arthur Bremer jailed for 63 years for shooting Alabama Governor Wallace.

**4<sup>th</sup>:** President Carter signed the bill to create the Department of Energy.



August 1972





**17<sup>th</sup>:** Pentagon officials say thousands of fresh North Vietnamese troops have crossed the Demilitarized Zone into South Vietnam during the past “week or so.”

**17<sup>th</sup>:** Borger, TX: A drive-in theater manager has canceled plans to screen the movie, “*They Shoot Horses, Don’t They?*” starring actress Jane Fonda in protest of her recent trip to Hanoi.

**20<sup>th</sup>:** Admiral Harold R. Stark, 91, U.S. Chief of Naval Operations when Pearl Harbor was attacked, dies.

**23<sup>rd</sup>:** The last U.S. combat troops depart Vietnam.

**24<sup>th</sup>:** Gordie Howe and Jean Beliveau inducted in Hockey Hall of Fame.

**26<sup>th</sup>:** Games of the XX Olympiad open in Munich, Germany.

**26<sup>th</sup>:** University of Texas (Arlington) is 1st accredited school to offer belly dancing.



**Yeah, I know. Not what you had in mind. See next page for the pretty belly dancer.**

**27<sup>th</sup>:** U.S. bombs Haiphong North Vietnam.

**28<sup>th</sup>:** Capt. Richard S. "Steve" Ritchie flying an F-4D Phantom II, of 555 TFS, 432 TRW became the USAF's first ace of the Vietnam War when he downed a MiG 21 aircraft. His WSO, Capt. Charles B. DeBellevue was credited with his 4th kill.

**30<sup>th</sup>:** Cameron Diaz, American film actress, born in San Diego.

**31<sup>st</sup>:** Olga Korbut, U.S.S.R., wins the Olympic gold medal in gymnastics.



## ~ August 1973 ~

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** Vietnam War: Thousands of civilian refugees flee from the Quang Ngai Province in front of advancing North Vietnamese troops.

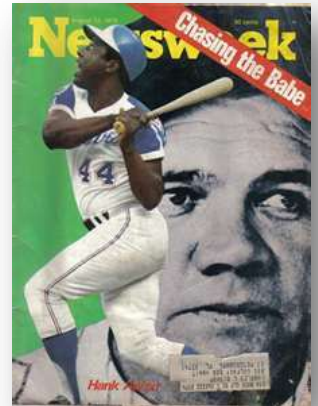
**3<sup>rd</sup>:** Richard Marshall, U.S. Army General (b. 1895), dies.

**5<sup>th</sup>:** Arab terrorists open fire at Athens airport, kills 3 injures 55.

**6<sup>th</sup>:** Roberto Clemente and Warren Spahn inducted into Hall of Fame.

**14<sup>th</sup>:** U.S. bombing activities in Cambodia are halted in accordance with the Congressional ban resulting from the Case-Church amendment.

**15<sup>th</sup>:** USAF A-7Ds fly the last combat mission of the war attacking targets near Phnom Penh, Cambodia. An EC-121 at Korat landed after the A-7s and earned the distinction of flying the last U.S. mission of the war.



August 1973



**DAYTON, Ohio -- LTV A-7D Corsair II in the Southeast Asia War Gallery at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force.** (U.S. Air Force photo)

**22<sup>nd</sup>:** Henry Kissinger is appointed by President Nixon as the new Secretary of State, replacing William Rogers.

**28<sup>th</sup>:** "Monster Mash" goes gold. Decades later, *Digger*, *Dogface*, *Brownjob*, *Grunt* would languish at Silver.

**30<sup>th</sup>:** Watergate Scandal: President Richard Nixon announces that top White House aids H.R. Haldeman, John Ehrlichman, and others have resigned.

(continued....)





Gotcha!

## ~ August 1975 ~

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** In New Orleans, LA, the Superdome officially opens with an NFL football game between the New Orleans Saints and Houston Oilers.

**4<sup>th</sup>:** The Japanese Red Army takes more than 50 hostages at the AIA building housing several embassies in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The hostages included the U.S. consul and the Swedish charge d'affaires. The gunmen win the release of five imprisoned comrades and fly with them to Libya.

**5<sup>th</sup>:** Stevie Wonder signs \$13M contract with Motown.

**10<sup>th</sup>:** David Frost purchases exclusive rights to interview Nixon.

**11<sup>th</sup>:** Anthony C. McAuliffe, US General/Commandant 101st Airborne Division, dies at 77.



August 1975

## ~ August 1974 ~

**5<sup>th</sup>:** The U.S. Congress places a \$1 billion dollar limit on military aid to South Vietnam.

**5<sup>th</sup>:** President Nixon admits he withheld information about Watergate break-in.

**7<sup>th</sup>:** French stuntman Philippe Petit walked a tightrope strung between the twin towers of New York's World Trade Center.



August 1974

**9<sup>th</sup>:** Richard Nixon becomes the first President of the United States to resign from office, an action reportedly taken to prevent time from being wasted in impeachment proceedings in response to his role in the Watergate scandal. His Vice President, Gerald Ford, takes the oath of office and becomes the 38th president, becoming the 6th President coping with Vietnam.



**12<sup>th</sup>:** Yankees Mickey Mantle and Whitey Ford become 1st teammates elected to Hall of Fame on same day.

**26<sup>th</sup>:** Charles Lindbergh — the first man to fly solo, non-stop across the Atlantic — dies at his home in Hawaii at age 72.

**“NUTS!”**



**General Anthony Clement McAuliffe (July 2, 1898 – August 11, 1975)** was the United States Army general who commanded the 101st Airborne Division troops defending Bastogne, Belgium during the Battle of the Bulge in World War II. He is famous for his single-word reply to a German surrender ultimatum: *"Nuts!"* After the Battle of the Bulge, McAuliffe was given command of his own division, the 103rd Infantry Division of the US 7th Army, which he led from January 15, 1945, to July 1945, after the war in Europe ended.

**11<sup>th</sup>:** U.S. vetoes proposed admission of North and South Vietnam to U.N.

**23<sup>rd</sup>:** The Pathet Lao consolidates the Communist take-over of Laos and the administration of Vientiane City.

**31<sup>st</sup>:** Former Teamsters' president James Hoffa reported missing.





## ~ Famous People Who Served in the Military ~

**Alan Alda** joined the Army Reserve after graduating from Fordham. He completed the minimum six-month tour of duty as a gunnery officer during the Korean War.



**James Arness** (Gunsmoke) was born James Aurness in Minneapolis; he dropped the "u" when he started acting. Arness' younger brother was actor Peter Graves (1926–2010). Peter used the stage name "Graves", a maternal family name. Arness wanted to be a naval fighter pilot, but he felt his poor eyesight would bar him. His height of 6 feet 7 inches ended his hopes, since 6 feet 2 inches was the limit for aviators. Instead, he was called for the Army and reported to Fort Snelling, Minnesota in March 1943. Arness served as a rifleman with the U.S. 3rd Infantry Division, and was severely wounded during Operation *Shingle*, at Anzio, Italy. According to *James Arness – An Autobiography*, he landed on Anzio Beachhead on January 22, 1944 as a rifleman with 2nd Platoon, E Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment of the 3rd Infantry Division. Because of his height, he was the first ordered off his landing craft to determine the depth of the water; it came up to his waist. On January 29, 1945, having undergone surgery several times, Arness was honorably discharged. His wounds continued to bother him, and in later years Arness suffered from chronic leg pain, which sometimes hurt when mounting a horse. His decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with three bronze battle stars, the World War II Victory Medal and the Combat Infantryman Badge.



**Arthur Ashe** – Champion tennis player

**Gene Autry** – Film actor, singer, and professional baseball team owner, dies.

**Tony Bennett**, born Anthony Dominick Benedetto in New York City on August 3, 1926, was the youngest of three children and was already performing at the age of six. He was called up for the Army in 1944 during WWII. After basic training, Bennett was assigned to the 63rd Infantry Division (the "Blood and Fire" Division) where he served in France and Germany.



**Max Baer, Jr** – Hollywood actor

**Martin Balsam** – Hollywood actor

**Chuck Bednarik** – Professional football player

**Lloyd Bentsen** – Senator of Texas, 1988 vice presidential nominee, 69th Secretary of the Treasury

**John Boccieri** – Member of Congress of Ohio

**Ernest Borgnine**, the beefy screen star known for blustery, often villainous roles, but who won the best actor Oscar for playing against type as a lovesick butcher in "Marty" in 1955, died July 8, 2012. He was 95.



Borgnine, who endeared himself to a generation of Baby Boomers with the 1960s TV comedy "*McHale's Navy*," first attracted notice in the early 1950s in villain roles, notably as the vicious Fatso Judson, who beat Frank Sinatra's character to death in "*From Here to Eternity*". Borgnine joined the Navy in 1935 and served on a destroyer during World War II. He weighed 135 pounds when he enlisted. He left the Navy 10 years later, weighing exactly 100 pounds more. "*I wouldn't trade those 10 years for anything*," he said in 1956. "*The Navy taught me a lot of things. It molded me as a man, and I made a lot of wonderful friends.*"

**Boxcar Willie** – Country music entertainer

**Charles Bronson** – Hollywood actor

**Dale Brown** – Author

**Roscoe C. Brown, Jr.** – Tuskegee Airman, educator, and TV personality

**William Bundy** – CIA analyst and foreign affairs advisor

**George H. W. Bush**, Former President of the United States of America enlisted in the U.S. Navy on his 18th birthday, June 12, 1942, as a Seaman 2nd Class. He was commissioned an ensign and pilot and served aboard the USS San Jacinto flying Grumman Avenger bombers with the 3rd and 5th Fleets. On September 2, 1944, Bush was assigned to take out a radio station located in the Bonin Islands. In the course of the action, Bush's plane was hit with enemy fire. Though the plane was on fire, he completed his strafing run on the targeted Japanese installation before flying towards sea to bail out offshore from Chichi Jima, a Japanese-held island near the more well-known Iwo Jima. He was rescued by a Navy submarine, the USS Finback. A genuine hero, Bush was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and three Air Medals. He was discharged in September 1945 with the rank of lieutenant.



(continued....)



## **George W. Bush, President**

**Drew Carey**, the famous comedian and star of *The Drew Carey Show*, served in the Marine Corps Reserves from 1980 - 1986. According to Carey, he adopted his trademark crew cut and horn-rimmed glasses during his time of service.



## **George Carlin – Actor & Comedian**

**Johnny Carson**, the king of late-night TV for over three decades, was born in Corning, Iowa, on October 23, 1925. He was working as a theater usher when World War II began. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy on June 8, 1943, as an apprentice seaman enrolled in the V-5 program, which trained Navy and Marine pilots. He hoped to train as a pilot, but was sent instead to Columbia University for midshipman training. He performed magic for classmates on the side. Commissioned an ensign late in the war, Carson was assigned to the USS *Pennsylvania*, a battleship on station in the Pacific. He was en route to the combat zone aboard a troopship when the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki brought the war to a close. The *Pennsylvania* was torpedoed on August 12, 1945 and Carson reported for duty on the 14th — the last day of the war. Although he arrived too late for combat, he got a firsthand education in the consequences of war.



## **Johnny Cash – Country Music Singer**

Johnny Cash may have been known as “The Man In Black” and fostered an outlaw image by performing in US prisons, but the influential singer was a military man who enlisted in the US Air Force in 1950. He was also a bit of a US hero as the first Morse code operator to pick up the news of US enemy Joseph Stalin’s death. Cash was honorably discharged as a Staff Sergeant on July 3, 1954.

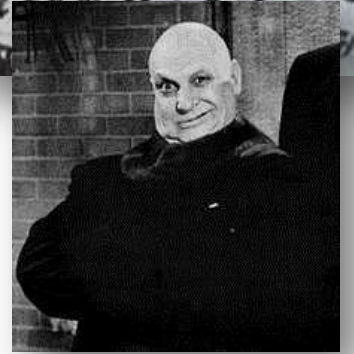


## **Harry Chapin – Singer/songwriter**

## **Red Cochran – Professional football player and coach**

## **Jackie Coogan – Hollywood and television actor**

Jackie Coogan enlisted in the United States Army in March 1941. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, he requested a transfer to United States Army Air Forces as a glider pilot because of his civilian flying experience. After graduating from glider school, he was made a flight officer and he volunteered for hazardous duty with the 1st Air Commando Group. In December 1943, the unit was sent to India. He flew British troops, the Chindits, under General Orde Wingate on March 5, 1944, landing them at night in a small jungle clearing 100 miles behind Japanese lines in the Burma campaign.



**Bill Cosby**, born William Henry Cosby, Jr. on July 12, 1937, in North Philadelphia, he enlisted in the Navy in 1956. He trained as a hospital corpsman and served aboard ships and at the Marine base at Quantico, Virginia, before being sent to Bethesda Naval Hospital. He was assigned to work with Korean War casualties. Cosby won awards running on the Navy track team, but also experienced racial discrimination, being forced to eat in the kitchen of cafes where the team stopped to eat while on the road. He was honorably discharged after four years of service in 1960.



## **Bob Cummings – Hollywood actor**

## **Tom Daschle – Senator of South Dakota**

## **Brian Donlevy – Hollywood actor**

## **Dr. Seuss – Author**

(continued....)





**Clint Eastwood**, born Clinton Eastwood, Jr. in San Francisco on May 31, 1930, was the older of two children whose family traveled across Northern California during the Great Depression. He took up competitive swimming and basketball during high school. After graduation, he worked as a lumberjack and forest fighter in Oregon, and a steelworker in Seattle. Drafted into the Army during the war in Korea, Eastwood was sent to Ft. Ord in California for basic training. He lucked into a job as a swimming instructor and remained at Ft. Ord. He worked nights and weekends as a bouncer at the NCO club. On a trip home to Seattle to visit his parents and girlfriend, Eastwood caught a ride aboard a Navy plane at Moffett Field. On the ride back aboard a Navy torpedo bomber, the plane developed engine trouble and was forced to make a water landing off San Francisco. Eastwood was forced to swim over a mile through the tide to shore. It was while on duty at Ft. Ord that Eastwood met fellow soldiers and actors Martin Milner ("Route 66"), David Janssen ("The Fugitive"), and Richard Long ("The Big Valley"). He was discharged in 1953.



**Joycelyn Elders**, U.S. Surgeon General, physician, was born Minnie Lee Jones in Schaal, Arkansas, on August 13, 1933. Elders came from humble beginnings. She entered Philander Smith College in Little Rock at the age of 15 on a scholarship from the United Methodist Church. In college, she changed her name to Minnie Joycelyn Lee (later using just Joycelyn). She earned her bachelor's degree in three years while working as a maid to support herself. In 1952, she received her B.A. in biology from Philander Smith College in Little Rock, Arkansas. Elders worked as a nurse's aide in a veterans hospital in Milwaukee until she enlisted in the Army in May 1953, using the name Minnie J. Jones. She was sent to Brooke Army Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston where she was the only black person in her class. She was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Army Medical Specialist Corps in October 1953, and began her internship as a physical therapist. She was stationed at Letterman Army Hospital in San Francisco treating returning combat wounded from the Korean War which ended in July of 1953. In April 1954, Elders was licensed as a physical therapist and transferred to Fitzsimmons Hospital in Denver. She was one of two therapists who treated President Eisenhower after his heart attack. She resigned her commission in May 1956.



**John Fogerty**, Musician, songwriter, singer

**Malcolm Forbes** is one of the most famous names in the world of business. Forbes was born in 1919 in Brooklyn to Scottish immigrant parents. He graduated from Princeton University in 1941, and was inducted into the army as a private at the start of World War II. Forbes was assigned to a heavy machine gun section in the 334th Infantry, 84th Infantry Division — the "Railsplitters." He served in France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany. Wounded in the thigh in combat at the Battle of Aachen, he spent ten months recovering in military hospitals before being discharged in August 1945 with the rank of staff sergeant. He was awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart.



**Tennessee Ernie Ford** – Television comedian and recording artist

**Morgan Freeman** – Film actor

**Clark Gable** – Film actor

**Marvin Gaye** – Singer

**Arthur Godfrey** – Television personality

**George Gobel** – Television comedian and actor

**Barry Goldwater** – Senator of Arizona and 1964 presidential candidate

**Alberto Gonzalez** – 80th United States Attorney General

**Lindsey Graham** – Senator of South Carolina

**Peter Graves** – Film and television actor

**Hank Greenberg** – Professional baseball player

**Van Heflin** – Hollywood actor

**H. John Heinz III** – Senator of Pennsylvania.

**Skitch Henderson** – Band leader and musician

**Chad Hennings** – Professional football player

**Don Herbert** – Television personality as "Mr. Wizard"

Born in Waconia, MN, Herbert was a general science and English major at the University of Wisconsin–La Crosse who was interested in drama. His career as an actor was interrupted by World War II when he enlisted in the U.S. Army as a Private. Herbert later joined the Army Air Forces, took pilot training and became a B-24 bomber pilot who flew 56 combat missions from Italy with the 767th Bomb Squadron, 461st Bomb Group of the Fifteenth Air Force. When Herbert was discharged in 1945 he was a Captain and had earned the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal with three oak leaf clusters.



(continued....)



**Charlton Heston** – Hollywood actor  
**John Hillerman** – Hollywood actor  
**William Holden** – Hollywood actor  
**Tim Holt** – Hollywood actor  
**Sam Johnson** – Vietnam POW and Congressman of Texas

**Bobby Jones** – Golf champion, founder of the Masters Tournament



On June 9, 1942, Bobby Jones was commissioned a captain in the Army Air Force. Being 40 years old he was not compelled to go to war, but he signed up anyway. *"I'm very happy over this opportunity to serve" he said, "and anxious to get going."*

**DeForest Kelley** – Film and television actor  
**Arthur Kennedy** – Film actor  
**Alan Ladd** – Film actor  
**Fiorello H. La Guardia** – Mayor of New York City  
**Norman Lear** – Television and motion picture producer  
**Charles Lindbergh** – Legendary aviator  
**MC Tee** – Musician  
**Gordon MacRae** – Broadway and Hollywood actor  
**Karl Malden** – Hollywood actor

**Rocky Marciano** was born Rocco Francis Marchegiano in Brockton, Massachusetts, on September 1, 1923. Marciano won the heavyweight championship by defeating Jersey Joe Walcott for the title on September 23, 1952. He was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1943. Marciano was assigned to the 150th Combat Engineers. He was stationed in Wales where he was involved in operations on the English Channel. The 150th was awarded service stars for Normandy, North France, Rheinland, Ardennes-Asace and Central Europe. It was in the Army that Marciano first boxed, starting with unofficial bouts, and working up to junior amateur by the time of his discharge in 1947. After failing a tryout for catcher with the Chicago Cubs, baseball team, Marciano returned to boxing. His record was 49 wins, no losses.



**Dean Paul Martin** – Singer and actor  
**Jerry Mathers** – Television actor  
**Walter Matthau** – Hollywood actor  
**Kevin McCarthy** – Hollywood actor  
**George McGovern** – Senator of South Dakota, 1972 presidential nominee  
**Gary Merrill** – Hollywood actor  
**Major Glenn Miller** – Musician, band leader  
**Cameron Mitchell** – Hollywood actor  
**George Montgomery** – Hollywood and television actor

**Chuck Norris** was born Carlos Ray Norris on March 10, 1940 in Ryan, Oklahoma. His mother was Irish-English and his father was Cherokee. Norris joined the Air Force after high school, with the goal of training in the Security Police in preparation for a career in law enforcement. It was in the Air Force, while stationed in Korea, that Chuck was introduced to martial arts. Norris has used his success to give back to the military community. He has been a spokesman on behalf of the Veteran's Administration and hospitalized veterans. He was named "Veteran of the Year" at the American Veteran awards show.



**Edmond O'Brien** – Hollywood actor  
**Jack Palance** – Hollywood actor  
**Ron Paul** – Member of Congress; 1988, 2008 & 2012 Presidential candidate  
**John Payne** – Hollywood actor  
**H. Ross Perot, Jr.** – Member of the Forbes 400 and son of Ross Perot  
**Rick Perry** – 47th Governor of Texas  
**Paul Picerni** – Actor  
**Tom Poston** – Television comedian

(continued....)





**Greg Popovich** – Professional basketball head coach  
**Jody Powell** – White House Press Secretary  
**Robert Preston** – Hollywood and Broadway actor  
**Robin Quivers** – Co-host of the Howard Stern Show  
**Dennis Rader** – BTK Serial Killer  
**Gene Raymond** – Hollywood actor

**Ronald Reagan** – 40th President of the United States, enrolled in a series of home-study Army Extension Courses on 18 March 1935. After completing 14 of the courses, he enlisted in the Army Enlisted Reserve on 29 April 1937, as a Private assigned to Troop B, 322<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry at Des Moines, Iowa. He was appointed Second Lieutenant in the Officers Reserve Corps of the Cavalry on 25 May 1937. On June 18 of that year Reagan, who had just moved to Los Angeles to begin his film career, accepted his Officer's Commission and was assigned to the 323<sup>rd</sup> Cavalry. Lieutenant Reagan was ordered to active duty on 19 April 1942. Due to eyesight difficulties, he was classified for limited service only, which excluded him from serving overseas. His first assignment was at the San Francisco Port of Embarkation at Fort Mason, California, as liaison officer of the Port and Transportation Office. Upon the request of the Army Air Forces (AAF), he applied for a transfer from the Cavalry to the AAF on 15 May 1942; the transfer was approved on 9 June 1942. He was assigned to AAF Public Relations and subsequently to the 1<sup>st</sup> Motion Picture Unit in Culver City, California. Reagan was promoted to First Lieutenant on 14 January 1943 and was sent to the Provisional Task Force Show Unit of *This Is The Army* at Burbank, California. Following this duty, he returned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Motion Picture Unit, and on 22 July 1943 was promoted to Captain. In January 1944, Captain Reagan was ordered to temporary duty in New York City to participate in the opening of the sixth War Loan Drive. He was assigned to the 18<sup>th</sup> AAF Base Unit, Culver City, California on 14 November 1944, where he remained until the end of the war. He was recommended for promotion to Major on 2 February 1945, but this recommendation was disapproved on July 17 of that year. On 8 September 1945, he was ordered to report to Fort MacArthur, California, where he was separated from active duty on 9 December 1945. While on active duty with the 1<sup>st</sup> Motion Picture Unit and the 18<sup>th</sup> Army Air Forces Base Unit, Captain Reagan served as Personnel Officer, Post Adjutant, and Executive Officer. By the end of the war, his units had produced some 400 training films for the Army Air Forces. Reagan's Reserve Commission automatically terminated on 1 April 1953. However, he became Commander-in-Chief of all U.S. Armed Forces when he became President on 20 January 1981.



**Roy Riegels** – All-American football player  
**Gene Roddenberry** – American television producer, *Star Trek* creator  
**Chelcie Ross** – Hollywood actor

**Dan Rowan** – Comedian and television actor, "Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In"

Rowan joined the U.S. Army Air Force in World War II, where he distinguished himself as a P-40 fighter plane pilot in the Pacific Theater. Rowan was credited with downing two Japanese aircraft (it took five kills to be named an ace), but he was shot down and seriously wounded in New Guinea. During his military career, Rowan was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Air Medal, and the Purple Heart.



**Roy Scheider** – Actor  
**Bob Schieffer** – Television journalist  
**Sinbad** – Actor & Comedian

**Shaggy**, was born Orville Richard Burrell on October 22, 1968 in Kingston, Jamaica. He was nicknamed "Shaggy" by his friends. While growing up, Shaggy was a fan not only of reggae but also ska, dancehall, and R&B. Shaggy left Jamaica for the United States when he turned 18. After spending a tough year attempting to find work, Shaggy joined the Marines in 1988. Two years later, he found himself in the Gulf War. The experience sobered him, and Shaggy decided to commit himself even more fully to his music.



**Fred Smith** is chairman, president and chief executive officer of FedEx Corporation. Smith founded FedEx Express in 1971, and the company began operations on April 17, 1973. A native of Marks, Mississippi, Smith attended Yale University, where he earned a Bachelor's of Science degree in economics in 1966. Smith served as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps in Vietnam from 1966-1970.



**Aaron Spelling** – Film and television producer  
**Mickey Spillane** – Hardboiled crime novelist

(continued....)

**George Reeves** – Television actor portraying *Superman*  
**William Rehnquist** – Chief Justice of the United States



**George Steinbrenner** was born in Rocky River, Ohio on July 4, 1930. He enlisted in the Air Force in 1952 after graduating from Williams College. He served as an aide to the commanding general at Lockbourne AFB in Ohio. He was responsible for setting up athletic programs and sporting events. After the Air Force, Steinbrenner worked in college football as an assistant coach at Northwestern and Purdue. He later joined the family business, American Shipbuilding Company, and made a fortune. He bought the New York Yankees in 1973.



**Robert Sterling** – Hollywood actor  
**Craig Stevens** – Television actor  
**Ted Stevens** – Senator of Alaska  
**James Stewart** – Hollywood actor  
**Ralph Story** – Television personality  
**Chesley Sullenberger** – Airline pilot, hero of Miracle on the Hudson  
**Bobby Thomson** – Professional baseball player

**David Thomas** was born in Atlantic City on July 2, 1932, and founder of Wendy's fast food chain. He dropped out of high school, moved in with the family who owned the Hobby House and focused on ways to promote the restaurant. During the Korean War he volunteered for the Army to avoid the draft and have some choice in assignments. Thomas chose Cook and Bakers School at Ft. Benning, Georgia. He was sent overseas to Germany as a mess sergeant and was responsible for feeding 2000 soldiers daily. He attributes this experience in mass feedings to his success in fast food. He was discharged in 1953 as a staff sergeant.



**Pat Tillman** (KIA), NFL player  
**Stewart Udall** – 37th United States Secretary of the Interior

**Charles Walgreen**, of Walgreen Drug Stores, was born in Knox County, Illinois, on October 9, 1873. At the start of the Spanish-American War, Walgreen enlisted with the 1st Illinois Volunteer Cavalry. While serving in Cuba, he contracted malaria and yellow fever, which continued to plague him for the rest of his life.



**George Wallace** – 45th Governor of Alabama and presidential candidate  
**Jack L. Warner** – Hollywood film executive  
**Jack Webb** – Hollywood and television actor, director, and producer

**George Westinghouse** was born in Central Bridge, New York, on October 6, 1846. Westinghouse enlisted in the Union Army at age 17 and served from 1862 to 1863. He then transferred to the Union Navy as an engineer. He was discharged in 1865. After the war, Westinghouse became involved in developing railroad technology. He invented and patented the air brake in 1869, which became widely used. He also invented the gas meter and a natural gas pipe system for homes. He was awarded over 400 patents during his lifetime. He founded the Westinghouse Electric Company in 1886, which became one of the most successful companies in the U.S.



**Thornton Wilder** – Novelist and playwright

**Montel Williams** was born in Baltimore, Maryland, on July 3, 1956. Williams enlisted in the U.S. Marines upon graduating high school in 1974. He completed boot camp at Parris Island, South Carolina, where he was promoted to platoon guide. He was recommended for, and accepted to, the Naval Academy Preparatory school at Newport, Rhode Island. While at Annapolis, Williams studied Mandarin Chinese and graduated with a degree in general engineering and a minor in International Security Affairs. Upon his graduation in 1980, he became the first black enlisted marine to complete and graduate both the Academy Prep School and Annapolis. In 1982 he was transferred to Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California, where he studied the Russian language for one year. In 1983 he was transferred to Ft. Meade in Maryland, where he worked with the National Security Agency. After three years aboard submarines, Williams, now a full lieutenant, was made supervising cryptologic officer with the Naval Security Fleet Support Division at Ft. Meade.



**Ted Williams**, Professional baseball player  
**Flip Wilson** - Comedian

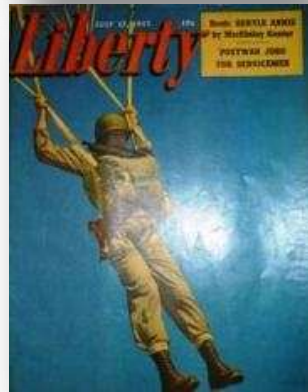
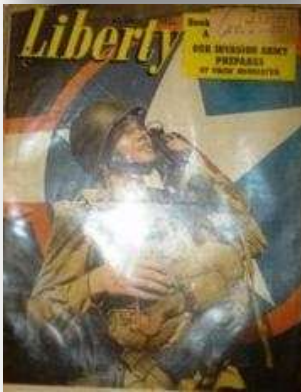
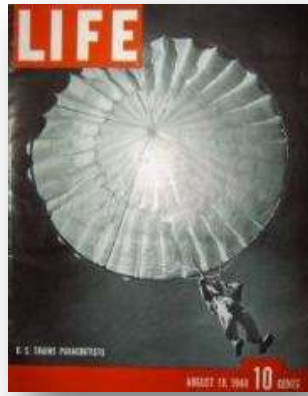
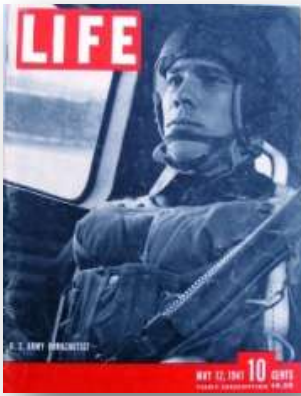
**Heather Wilson** – Member of Congress of New Mexico

Former New Mexico Congresswoman, Wilson graduated the Air Force Academy and was the first woman to command basic training and the first woman Vice Wing Commander. She graduated in 1982 as a Distinguished Graduate (*magna cum laude* equivalent).





# ~ PARATROOPERS ON THE COVERS ~





## Operation Vendetta & Smithfield

# THE BATTLE OF LONG TAN



### *Duty First*

D Company was on a company patrol named "Operation Vendetta" that remained in place until approximately 2300 hours 18 August 1966. The Task Force then commenced "Operation Smithfield."

The Battle of Long Tan occurred in the late afternoon of 18 August 1966 in a rubber plantation some 4500 metres to the east of the Task Force base at Nui Dat. The events of the previous days set the scene.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> of August, 5RAR were patrolling in an area of jungle to the north of the Australian Task Force (1ATF) Base. They were trying to locate enemy identified in the latest intelligence reports. Estimates of enemy strengths operating in the area varied from 300 – 3500. However, the most recent patrols had only fleeting contacts with 3 – 5 man groups. There appeared to be little to add any substance to reports of three enemy Regiments operating in the area.

A Coy, 6RAR were also away from the Nui Dat base involved in patrol work, but they were operating to the east and northeast. A Coy had been in three small contacts, killing 2 VC and capturing one. Once again, nothing to indicate a large force.

Back at Nui Dat the remaining soldiers were looking forward to a planned concert by Col. Joyce and Little Patti on the 18<sup>th</sup> of August. The constant poor conditions

while in the field were generally little better than in camp as at this stage there was a lot of work required in the base camp area to build up defences.

At 0243 hours (02:43 am) on the morning of the 17<sup>th</sup> of August the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Task Force Base (1 ATF Base) came under mortar and recoilless rifle (RCL) attack. Compass bearings were taken by various units as to the direction from which the mortars had been fired, and soon the Artillery at the base camp returned counter bombardment fire. The following morning a further patrol – B Coy, 6RAR – was sent from the base to find the firing location of the enemy mortars, and harass the VC responsible. Earlier intelligence reports had still not ruled out the threat of 274 and 275 NVA Regiments, plus D445 VC Battalion, mounting an attack on the 1 ATF Base. This was considered unlikely, although not impossible, and thus 5RAR were ordered to return to Nui Dat.

B Coy, 6RAR spent the day of the 17<sup>th</sup> of August sweeping the area to the east north east and east of Nui Dat, and finding the mortar baseplate position. Meanwhile, A Coy had several sightings of small groups of enemy to the north east, but still nothing to suggest a larger force. On 18 August, D Coy, under the command of Major Harry Smith, were ordered to relieve B Coy and follow up tracks leading from the baseplate position used for the earlier attack. For most men in D Coy this was seen as just another patrol. The only difference was this one was going to deprive them of the concert.



**Aerial View: Long Tan Battlefield 18th August 1966**

*(continued....)*





At 1035 hrs, just as D Coy were preparing to leave Nui Dat, B Coy reported discovering a dug-in position with weapon pits for about 20 men. They also found signs of the 75mm RCL that had fired at the Base. B Coy then sent patrols to the east and south to follow enemy tracks leading from the position.

At 1100 hrs, D Coy left the base and began their patrol eastwards, at that stage, a company with a strength of 108 all ranks (105 Aussies and 3 New Zealanders). Meanwhile, A Coy was continuing their patrol back to the 1 ATF Base.

At 1200 hrs, the B Coy patrol that had followed the enemy trail to the south found another RCL position with signs of at least 2 wounded VC, presumably as a result of the artillery counter bombardment fire.

The men of D Coy met up with B Coy at 1300 hrs. The two company commanders exchanged the relevant information about the enemy positions and then B Coy set out for Nui Dat. Major Smith decided to follow the trail to the east and D Coy began its search along the track running east into the Long Tan rubber plantation. After a while the track divided into two, and ran about 300 metres apart but roughly parallel. Major Smith adjusted his company patrol formation to suit. He placed 10 Platoon (pl) under Second Lieutenant (2Lt), Geoff Kendall as the forward left, 11 pl under 2Lt Gordon Sharp on the high ground to the forward right and 12 pl under 2Lt David Sabben to the centre rear behind Coy Head Quarters (CHQ).



At 1540 hrs a group of six VC literally walked into 11 pl. They were fired at and subsequently withdrew, leaving one dead and taking two wounded with the 11 pl reported the contact to CHQ and stated that the enemy was dressed in Khaki uniforms. This went basically unnoticed by all concerned but indicated that the enemy may have been Main Force soldiers and not the anticipated village guerrillas. The Platoon Commander of 11 pl, 2Lt Sharp called in artillery fire on the enemy withdrawal route about 500 metres from the original contact. 11 pl then followed up the enemy and chased

them to a small hut, where a platoon attack was conducted to ensure the hut was free of enemy. No was one found, despite extensive bloodstains, so they then continued the advance further into the rubber plantation. The soldiers were now fully alert and 11 pl were moving south southeast, following a fence on the right flank, towards a small clearing in the rubber.

It was 1608 hrs and 11 pl had reached the near side of the clearing, when heavy fire broke out to their left flank. The platoon went to ground and began to return fire. There was a pause in the fire and 5 section (Sect) was moved to bring fire onto the enemy position. No sooner had 5 Sect begun to carry out this task when the heavy fire commenced again. This time the fire appeared to be more deliberate and intense than on the first occasion. 2Lt Sharp reported a platoon size enemy to his direct front, changing this to a company size enemy in the ensuing minutes. At this time, 60 mm mortars began to fall near the position of CHQ, 10 pl and 12 pl so Major Smith moved these elements to the north of the mortar blasts into an area which was to become the company's final defensive position. 11 pl was ordered to withdraw as the artillery from the Task Force began to fall, with missions of 10 rounds Fire For Effect (FFE) and repeats being called. The Battle of Long Tan had begun.

Meanwhile A Coy had just returned to Nui Dat, and were warned out for movement on 15 minutes notice. The continual thumping of the gun line told the story - somebody was in trouble. B Coy was halted on its return to base and told to move back to the D Coy location. 1 APC Sqn was also placed on 15 minutes notice to move A Coy out to the rubber plantation.

11 pl were being flanked, suffering heavy casualties and unable to withdraw. 2Lt Sharp was killed and Sergeant (Sgt) Bob Buick took over. 10 Pl were ordered to move around from the north to give support to 11 pl and allow them to withdraw. A mass of fire started in the 10 Pl location and all radio communications between 10, 11 and CHQ were lost. The second signaler from CHQ dashed to 10 pl and communications were soon restored. Artillery fire engaged targets to the south and helped to suppress the fire of an enemy mortar position to the east. Casualties were mounting in 10 pl, but they managed to get to within 100 metres of 11 pl before being halted by intense small arms fire. 2Lt Kendall and his platoon were then ordered to withdraw to the CHQ position due to the large numbers of casualties it had received.

*(continued....)*

