

2/503d on the Island of Iramote Jungle School 1964



This is the best I can do on the names, as I recall they just sent random groups to get pictures made. This would have been Jungle School on the island of Iramote in 1964. I hope some guys can fill in names for us. Notice the M-14's, we had not been issued M-16's yet. The M-14 was a superior rifle as far as I'm concerned.

Standing from left to right: Robert Snow – James Shoft (spl ?) – Fingston (spl ?) – Sgt Chaffin – UNK – Rick Jerman – Clarence Nakamoto.

Kneeling from left to right: UNK – Rios – UNK – UNK – David Cassier (spl ?) – UNK
Rick Jerman, HHC/2/503d



U.S. ARMY DRAGSTER UNVEILED

The U.S. Army Dragster roars off the starting line, reaching a speed of 324.83 mph and setting a track record at the O'Reilly Raceway Park in Indianapolis, Sept. 3. The dragster, driven by seven-time world champion Tony "The Sarge" Schumacher, marks ten years in an ongoing partnership between the U.S. Army, the National Hot Rod Association and Don Schumacher Racing.

Photo by Spc. John Crosby



THE 11th AIRBORNE DIVISION "The Angels"



World War II

Activated: 25 February 1943.

Overseas: 8 May 1944.

Campaigns: New Guinea, Southern Philippines, Luzon.

Days of combat: 204.

Distinguished Unit Citations: 13.

Awards: MH-2; DSC-9; SS-432; LM-10; SM-56; BSM-1,515; AM-41.

Commanders: Maj. Gen. Joseph M. Swing (25 Feb 1943-Feb 1946), Brig. Gen. Frank Dorn (Feb 1946-Jun 1946), Maj. Gen. Joseph M. Swing (Jun 1946-Jan 1948), Maj. Gen. William M. Miley (24 Jan 1948-).

Combat Chronicle

The 11th Airborne Division arrived in New Guinea, 25 May 1944, and continued training, leaving for the Philippines 11 November 1944. It landed amphibiously, not by jump, on Leyte, 18 November 1944, between Abuyog and Tarragona, 40 miles south of Tacloban, and pushing inland, cleared the Ormoc-Burauen supply trail, an important Japanese combat lifeline. The 11th's general mission was to seize and secure within its zone all exits from the mountains into Leyte Valley and to secure the western exits from the mountains into the west coastal corridor to assist the attack of the 7th Division toward Ormoc. On 6 December 1944 the paratroopers of the 11th found themselves fighting Japanese parachutists who had landed near the San Pablo airstrip. The Japanese were wiped out in a 5-day engagement. In a continuous series of combat actions, Japanese resistance was reduced on Leyte by the end of December 1944. Heavy resistance was met at Rock Hill, which finally fell, 18 December; a sleeping enemy was caught off guard at Hacksaw Hill, 23 December, and suffered heavy losses. During January 1945 the Division rested and staged for a landing on Luzon. While other American troops were driving on Manila from the north, the 11th Airborne made an amphibious landing 60 miles south of Manila, 31 January 1945, at Nasugbu, and began to drive north. The first combat jump by an element of the division in the war, that of the 511th Parachute Infantry Regiment on Tagaytay Ridge, 3 February 1945, met no resistance. The 511th crossed the Paranaque River 5 February, and reached Manila, meeting fierce Japanese resistance. Nichols Field was

taken, 12 February, and Fort McKinley was flanked, 12-16 February, and finally taken, 17 February. A combined air and sea assault liberated more than 2,000 American and European interned nationals at Los Banos, 23 February 1945. With Manila declared secure, the Division reduced a strong ring of enemy outposts between Lake Taal and Laguna de Bay, and occupied towns along Highway No. 1, cutting off the Bicol Peninsula. In April the 11th took part in clearing out remaining enemy resistance in Batangas Province, and by 1 May, all resistance in southern Luzon had ended. The final operation of the Division was conducted on 23 June 1945, in conjunction with the advance of the 37th Division in northern Luzon. A Task Force was formed and jumped on Camalaniugan Airfield, south of Aparri. The force attacked and made contact with the 37th Infantry Division, 26 June 1945, between Alcala and the Paret River. In July 1945 the Division trained; in August it was transported by air to Honshu, Japan, via Okinawa, for occupation duty.

General

Nickname: The Angels.

Shoulder patch: A red circle on a royal blue shield containing a white numeral "11"; the circle is bordered in white with white wings raising obliquely from the white periphery; in the top arc, the white letters "Airborne" are aligned with the shape of an arc.

Association: 11th Airborne Division Association.

Publications: *Angels*; by Maj. Edward M. Flanagan, Jr., Unit Historian; The Infantry Journal, Washington, D.C.; 1948. *Pictorial Review*; by unit members; Albert Love Enterprises, Atlanta, GA, 1944.

*"After the atomic bombs were dropped the 11th Airborne Division was hurriedly flown to Okinawa, then on 28 August 1945 they were landed at Atsugi Airfield. Contrary to claims by the 1st Cavalry Division, the 11th Airborne Division was the FIRST military force to land in Japan. When the 1st Cavalry Division landed from transports at Yokohama, the 11th Airborne Division Band met them on the docks and played **'The Old Gray Mare Ain't What She Used To Be!'**"*

[The above division information is reproduced from the public domain publication, *The Army Almanac: A Book of Facts Concerning the Army of the United States*, U.S. Government Printing Office, 1950. Portions of the information may be out of date. Only minor formatting changes and typographical corrections have been made.]



INCOMING!!

FOUND!!!! 173d Airborne Brigade ring. Trying to find **Tyler Rogers**. Would love to return ring to Tyler Rogers. Found at rest stop in Kansas. Please email elaonrad@aol.com

G. Conrad

Was medic with B Company 2/503, wounded 11/13/67, known as "D-Handle Doc." Just talked with sister of medic in C Company, **Spec 4 Haggerity**, KIA Hill 875. Would appreciate any info to pass on to her. God bless each that made it through.

Wako "Doc Cotney", B/2/503d
domwakoc1@yahoo.com

Hello fellow Sky Soldiers. Hope you are all having a good airborne day. Thanks for the reply for my message on trying to locate Joe Esponisa, E/2/503, 1970-1972. But I need contact info for James Cheico. Also trying to locate medics, Wendell Tyler, and Alvin Greene. Both were with B-Med at LZ Uplift in 1971 when I got hit. Trying to locate them for old time sakes. I can be reached at **303-601-5889**. Thank you.

Joe Lucero, E/2/503d

(Note: We hooked Joe up with Jim Cheico)

Greetings Sky Soldiers. I want to let you know that my new book "**Grunts: Inside the American Infantry Combat Experience, World War II through Iraq**" is out. The book's Dak To chapter includes a great deal of information about the 173d, particularly Task Force Black and Hill 875. I hope it is true to your experiences. My personal thanks to Rocky Stone, Dave Watson, Mike Tanner, Jerry Cecil and many other veterans who provided me with so much great information. Thanks to all of you for your service!

John C. McManus, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, US Military History
Missouri University of Science and Technology
www.johnmcmanus.com

Still looking for 'ol buddies from Co A 2/503 '66-'67; Sgt. Carlton Battle (SC/NC), Sgt. Bracken (OK), James Finn (NY), Jim Haynes (TN), James Mahon (UT?), Lauren Vellozzi (NYC), Victor Newill, Joseph Young, Alonzo Crowder, Terry Isom, Charles Burns, Edmond Cole (GA/TN), Johnnie Cason, Tyrone Moore (PA?), Joseph Begay (AZ/NM), Murphy, Creatta, Borgos, Pedington.

Terry Davis, A/2/503d
davis_terrence@bellsouth.net

Several of us from A/2/503 1966 have been working on getting James Miskel a Purple Heart for wounds on Sept. 26, 1966. It just came back disapproved - we're looking for Sp5 Beaton, Sr. Medic, and a Brigade Photographer who were on the scene when he was treated. I believe the photographer was wounded at the same time as a result of a enemy claymore..Help!

Jack Kelley, A/2/503d
910-488-0165 or jacktkelley@aol.com

Looking for C/2/503d buddies who were with Terry Wilkins (from Las Vegas) when he died on LP on 3 June '66. Have heard three different stories. Thanks.

Lew "Smitty" Smith, HHC/2/503d
rto173d@cfl.rr.com

Hello everyone. Have looked for a long time for these guys I served with in A/2/503 in 65-66. Anyone know of or about -- David J. Walker (from Canada), Raymond P. Mikolajczyk, Frank X. Martin. Found M.D. Blackard, passed away 2 years ago. Will appreciate any help. Thanks.

Stanley Crump, A/2/503d
sccrump@slc.com

I'm looking for Sgt. France and Larry Blair who served with me with C Co 2/503 67-68, or anyone who served with me.

Ray "Zac" Zacccone, C/2/503d
rjzacccone@pinetel.com

173d Airborne Brigade Reunion

22 - 26 June 2011
San Antonio, TX.

Complete details, including
registration form, will appear in
future editions of our newsletter.



White House to present Medal of Honor to family of Green Beret for heroism in Afghanistan

Washington D.C. (USASOC News Service, Sept. 10, 2010) – On October 6th, President Barack Obama will present the Medal of Honor to the family of a fallen Special Forces Soldier for his heroism and valor in combat while serving in Afghanistan in January of 2008.

President Barak Obama will honor the extraordinary courage and selfless sacrifice of Staff Sgt. Robert Miller by presenting his family with our nation's highest award, the Medal of Honor. This will be the third time the Medal of Honor has been presented by President Obama.

Only 24-years old, Miller impressed everyone on his team. Although the youngest member of "A" Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne), Fort Bragg, N.C., he quickly earned a reputation for taking on difficult challenges and leading from the front according to numerous interviews with other Operational Detachment – Alpha (ODA) Team Members.

An avid athlete and a student of human nature, he was often called on because of his expertise in weapons and languages. His teammates recalled how quickly he picked up Pashto (one of Afghanistan's native languages) and how the local villagers loved to spend time with him and teach him their language and culture.

According to one team members recollections, the villagers developed a bond with him over evening meals while drinking the local tea "chai," they respected and trusted him. In all things, "Robbie," as he was called, was a natural to Special Forces, a true embodiment of a Green Beret.

On Jan. 25, 2008, Miller while serving as a Special Forces Weapons Sergeant for his team, Miller volunteered to take lead on a nocturnal patrol in the Konar Province near the Pakistan border. Because of his Pashto language abilities, he led and directed the small local contingent of Afghan National Army Soldiers from the front. As they approached their target area his team was attacked by insurgents.

In the ensuing chaos Miller showed his mettle by directing fire and providing cover for his men. Miller deliberately moved forward making himself vulnerable as he engaged several enemy positions to provide suppressive fire, buying time for his teammates to take



cover. Exposing his position repeatedly, he drew fire from more than 100 enemy fighters, ultimately saving the lives of his fellow Green Berets and 15 local ANA soldiers.

Miller's unwavering courage and selfless actions embodied the highest principles of the Special Forces community, and are a testament to the Army values he lived every day. This was his second combat tour to Afghanistan, the first being

from August 2006 to March 2007.

Born in Harrisburg, Pa., on Oct. 14, 1983, his family moved and he grew up in Wheaton, Ill. He attended Wheaton North High School and was a respected gymnast and all-around athlete.

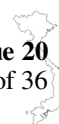
On Aug. 14, 2003, he enlisted in the Army as an 18 X-ray, Special Forces candidate, with the hope of becoming a Green Beret. He graduated from the Special Forces Qualification Course on Sept. 26, 2004. After his enlistment Miller's parents moved to and currently reside in Oviedo, Fla.

His previous military decorations include: the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, the Meritorious Service Medal, two Army Commendation Medals for valor, the Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Noncommissioned Officer's Professional Development Ribbon, the Army Service Ribbon, the NATO Medal, the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Parachutist Badge, the Special Forces Tab and the Ranger Tab.

Miller will become the seventh service member to receive the Medal of Honor during operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. The last recipient of the Medal of Honor was Sgt. 1st Class Jared C. Monti, who posthumously received the award on Sept. 17, 2009, in a ceremony at the White House.

For more information on the Medal of Honor please visit www.Army.mil/medalofhonor.

[Sent in by Jim Stanford, B/2/503d &
Brett Beyer, D/16 Armor]



U.S. ARMY SPECIAL FORCES



The Special Forces' Creed

I am an American Special Forces soldier. A professional!

I will do all that my nation requires of me.

I am a volunteer, knowing well the hazards of my profession.

I serve with the memory of those who have gone before me:

Roger's Rangers, Francis Marion, Mosby's Rangers, the first Special Service Forces and Ranger Battalions of World War II, the Airborne Ranger Companies of Korea.

I pledge to uphold the honor and integrity of all I am – in all I do.

I am a professional soldier.

I will teach and fight wherever my nation requires.

I will strive always, to excel in every art and artifice of war.

I know that I will be called upon to perform tasks in isolation, far from familiar faces and voices, with the help and guidance of my God.

I will keep my mind and body clean, alert and strong, for this is my debt to those who depend upon me.

I will not fail those with whom I serve.

I will not bring shame upon myself or the Forces.

I will maintain myself, my arms, and my equipment in an immaculate state as befits a Special Forces soldier.

I will never surrender though I may be the last.

If I am taken, I pray that I may have the strength to spit upon my enemy.

My goal is to succeed in any mission – and live to succeed again.

I am a member of my nation's chosen soldiery.

God grant that I may not be found wanting, that I will not fail this sacred trust.

“De Oppresso Liber”

Ballad of the Green Beret

by Staff Sergeant Barry Sadler
and Robin Moore
copyright 1966

Fighting soldiers from the sky
Fearless men who jump and die
Men who mean just what they say
The brave men of the Green Beret

Silver wings upon their chest
These are men, America's best
One hundred men will test today
But only three win the Green Beret

Trained to live off nature's land
Trained in combat, hand-to-hand
Men who fight by night and day
Courage peak from the Green Berets

Silver wings upon their chest
These are men, America's best
One hundred men will test today
But only three win the Green Beret

Back at home a young wife waits
Her Green Beret has met his fate
He has died for those oppressed
Leaving her his last request

Put silver wings on my son's chest
Make him one of America's best
He'll be a man they'll test one day
Have him win the Green Beret.

In the U.S. armed forces, the green beret may be worn only by soldiers awarded the Special Forces Tab, signifying they have been qualified as Special Forces (SF) soldiers.



173d Florida Chapter 7 – Update

Dear Fellow Florida Sky Soldiers:

A recent review of our data base shows your membership in the 173d Airborne Brigade Association. I understand that due to many reasons; family, health, travel, school, etc., we can become side tracked. I just wanted to take this time to tell you of some of the things we have done over the last few years to help assist our fellow Sky Soldiers and to show that as Paratroopers we still go *All The Way*.

- We have shipped 10,000+ pounds of supplies, goodies, needed items, etc., to our fellow Sky Soldiers deployed down range in the Global War on Terror.
- We have visited Sky Soldiers in VA hospitals in the states and at Walter Reed.
- We have helped many a Sky Soldier in dealing with the Veterans Administration.
- We have supported the National Wounded Warriors program and supplied many items to the National Wounded Warriors kits.
- We have sponsored the Annual 8th of November Memorial Run each year.
- We have maintained and updated the current Sky Soldier Memorial at Bushnell cemetery here in Florida.
- We have attended funerals of our fallen Brothers.
- We have donated yearly to the 173d Airborne Brigade Foundation - Scholarship fund.
- We have donated yearly to the 173d Memorial project just built at Fort Benning, GA.
- We have donated to Iraq and Afghanistan Memorials at our base in Vicenza, Italy.
- We have sponsored active duty Sky Soldiers and WWII Veterans of the 503rd to attend the Annual 173d Airborne Brigade reunions.
- We donated over 7,000 books (*Down Range - Iraq and Back*) to returning veterans.
- We developed and present classes on PTSD at each of our sponsored reunions.
- We held annual 173d Shoot Out events.
- We have donated to local causes like the Toys for Tots program.

- We have developed a website to keep you updated on our actions and upcoming activities.

- We hold meetings in various parts of the state.

- We have helped Sky Soldiers in processing their claims with the VA.

- We are always looking for new ways to serve.

So like you, we have been busy. I ask that you consider hooking up again by renewing your membership at www.FloridaSkySoldiers.com or donating what you can to help us in our mission of providing continued support to our fellow Sky Soldiers, past and present.

Thank you for your service. – Airborne!

James R. Bradley
CW3, US Army (Retired)
President, Chapter 7
173d Airborne Brigade Assn.

Editor's Note: And, Jim, thank you for your never ending commitment to the men and women of our brigade. You keep the *Airborne Spirit* well and alive.

All The Way Brother!

Come see our beaches in Florida!



A promise kept to Richard "Airborne" Martinez
B/2/503d. Ed



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ROGER'S RANGERS

One of the pocket reference cards we received before going into the field was a reprint of the standing orders issued by Major Robert Rogers to his Rangers in 1759. More than two hundred years after Major Rogers wrote them down, they were still relevant to Vietnam:

1. Don't forget nothing.
2. Have your musket clean as a whistle, hatchet scoured, sixty rounds powder and ball, and be ready to march at a minute's warning.
3. When you're on the march, act the way you would if you was sneaking up on a deer. See the enemy first.
4. Tell the truth about what you see and what you do. There is an army depending on us for correct information. You can lie all you please when you tell other folks about the Rangers, but don't never lie to a Ranger or officer.
5. Don't never take a chance you don't have to.
6. When we're on the march we march single file, far enough apart so one shot can't go through two men.
7. If we strike swamps, or soft ground, we spread out abreast, so it's hard to track us.
8. When we march, we keep moving till dark, so as to give the enemy the least possible chance at us.
9. When we camp, half the party stays awake while the other half sleeps.
10. If we take prisoners, we keep 'em separate till we have had time to examine them, so they can't cook up a story between 'em.
11. Don't ever march home the same way. Take a different route so you won't be ambushed.
12. No matter whether we travel in big parties or little ones, each party has to keep a scout twenty yards ahead, twenty yards on each flank and twenty yards in the rear, so the main body can't be surprised and wiped out.
13. Every night you'll be told where to meet if surrounded by a superior force.
14. Don't sit down to eat without posting sentries.
15. Don't sleep beyond dawn. Dawn's when the French and indians attack.
16. Don't cross a river by a regular ford.
17. If somebody's trailing you, make a circle, come back onto your own tracks, and ambush the folks that aim to ambush you.
18. Don't stand up when the enemy's coming against you. Kneel down, lie down, hide behind a tree.
19. Let the enemy come till he's almost close enough to touch. Then let him have it and jump out and finish him with your hatchet.

Note: I understand keeping your musket clean as a whistle, and hiding behind trees, but, there was no mention of extra shit paper or Tabasco sauce.

Cpt. Picard and the Venusian Slave Girl

or;

It's amazing what cheap liquor
makes people do.



A/HHC/2/503d Capt. William C. Vose, Esq. with friend at Star Wars convention in Atlanta....no shit (photo sent in by Bill). I can't believe I followed this guy into battle. Ed

~ Tribute to the 173d Airborne ~

Check out the link below to see a music/video tribute to the 173d Airborne Brigade. Send to your distribution, if you will. www.youtube.com/watch?v=hh1SPtFlgXE

Thanks Herd Brothers,

Eddie Hair
C/1/503d



DoD commemorates 60th anniversary of Korean War

By Danny Spatchek



Korean War veterans and their families listen as Joseph W. Westphal, Under Secretary of the Army, gives welcoming remarks at the Korean War 60th Anniversary commemoration in the Pentagon courtyard, June 24, 2010. Photo Credit: Tracy Robillard

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, June 24, 2010) -- The Department of Defense began its commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Korean War in the Pentagon courtyard June 24, honoring veterans in attendance and the more than 37,000 who died in the three-year war.

Under Secretary of the Army, Dr. Joseph Westphal, the ceremony's keynote speaker, commended Korean War veterans, saying their efforts ensured the continued alliance with South Korea, "an honored friend."

"The Korean War thwarted the expansion of communism in Asia, introduced the helicopter to the United States armed forces, advanced the battlefield treatment of the wounded, and saw the desegregation of our Army," Westphal said. "From that war, the Republic of Korea has emerged as a vibrant democracy, an economic giant in Asia, and a strong, independent and respected voice among nations."

Han Duk-soo, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, said the freedom won for Korea by American veterans allowed Korea to promote freedom as well.



"Korea is expanding its role to promote peace, stability and prosperity beyond the Korean Peninsula. We are working alongside the United States in such places as

Iraq, Afghanistan and the waters of Somalia to further peace and freedom," Duk-soo said. "Through your bravery and sacrifice, you veterans made that possible."

Westphal honored former Sgt. Ronald Rosser, who was awarded the Medal of Honor and the Purple Heart for his heroics in the Korean War, and David Mills, a prisoner of war.

In January 1952, Rosser was a 22-year old Cpl. when his infantry regiment, assaulting fortified enemy hills, was stopped by heavy fire. Rosser, a forward observer, disregarded enemy fire as he killed numerous enemy soldiers while assaulting bunkers and crossing open terrain several times to obtain more ammunition.

Rosser, who attended the ceremony, expressed sorrow for the lack of recognition his fallen comrades received from the American public.

"I think it's appropriate the American government and the Korean government recognize what we did a long time ago. A lot of Americans are still over there that were with us. You wouldn't believe how many. I think there's still about 8,000 MIA," Rosser said.



New York Congressman Charles Rangel, whose service in the Korean War earned him a Purple Heart and Bronze Star, echoed Rosser's sentiments.

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Veterans recall smells, cold of Korean War

By C. Todd Lopez

WASHINGTON (Army News Service) -- War stinks. According to one veteran of the Korean War -- which started 60 years ago today -- it stinks specifically like coal and kimchi.

Richard Whittle stood June 23 before an audience at the Armed Forces Retirement Home in Washington, D.C., to tell his story based on memories of the Korean War. He called his story "Coal Pile and Smellin' Kimchi."

Whittle said he arrived in Pusan, Korea, Jan. 31, 1953. He was assigned then to a railroad unit in the engineering section.

"My job was to push coal in a pile as it was being unloaded," he said. "But that only lasted for a short time, until I learned to operate the crane. Then they gave me a crew of four and we worked seven days a week, around the clock, keeping the steam engines rolling, carrying supplies and troops to where needed."

At night, he said, North Koreans flew suicide missions overhead. *"If they saw a light from anything below, they would drop a bomb in that area."*

He said it was rumored the bombs were homemade and "no two were alike." And the planes, he said, weren't much better. *"Their flights were a one-way trip, and when they ran out of gas they crashed,"* he said.

The armistice between the north and south was signed in July of that year, and Whittle said work at the rail yard increased after that, due to exchanging of prisoners of war and transporting of the wounded.

"The rail yard was full of steam engines, hissing and smoking and being parked for hours," he said. The smell of the trains, along with the existing smell from the coal piles and the native food, kimchi, *"was something to behold."*

"Those 37,000 people could never be forgotten by us. Every accolade, every honor that we receive, we know that the people of Korea are trying to identify us because they don't know the rest of the people who fought and died for freedom in that country," Rangel said.

Westphal thanked Rosser, Rangel and all veterans of the Korean War for their service.

"Our military has always been defined by their courage and character, and their incredible optimism about our country and its value. You, our Korean War veterans, are examples of that courage and character."

Soldiers stationed in Korea exhibit the same admirable qualities today, Westphal said.

"The 28,500 U.S. servicemen and women who are stationed in the peninsula today under the exceptional leadership of General Walter Sharp, exemplify our continuing commitment to the Republic of Korea," he said.

Veterans, service members and members of the audience attended a reception with refreshments following the ceremony.

The ceremony marked the beginning of a three-year Department of Defense observance of key events of the Korean War that will culminate with the 60th anniversary of the signing of the armistice on July 27, 2013.

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Korea. Also aboard the ship at the time was General of the Army Douglas MacArthur and his staff.

Tobin said he remembers gossip passed to him by the radio room aboard the ship.

"It seems that even though the crossing from Japan to Korea ... had been relatively quiet, our illustrious passenger -- five-star General of the Army Gen. Douglas McArthur -- had been incapacitated by a case of sea sickness," Tobin said. "After hearing this we all felt a little better, by knowing that the omnipotent one, praised as a god by the Japanese who he helped after defeat, was in reality just like the rest of us -- human after all."

Another Korean War veteran, Richard W. Robinson, didn't get a chance to tell his story on stage, though he attended the presentation by his fellow service members. Originally from Union City, N.J., Robinson retired from the Army as a sergeant major in 1971, after having enlisted in 1948.

He said his mother and father both died when he was young, leaving him without parents at just 16 years. As his two older brothers had gone off to serve in World War II, he stayed at home to take care of his younger sisters.

"They had this one item they boiled, fried and stewed -- it was eaten from the cradle to grave," Whittle said. "Once it was cooked, it had a garlic-like smell. I don't like garlic."

The smell was everywhere, he said. *"It really stinked. With all these odors, it's really something you will never forget."*

Whittle's story was one of more than a dozen told on stage at the AFRH as part of a program called "Do You Remember." The program was produced by the Double Nickels Theatre Company. The program featured war-time stories read aloud by the former service members themselves or by stand-ins. Their varied military experiences included stories from World War II, Vietnam and the Korean War.

William Tobin, also a Korean War veteran, was a Sailor aboard the USS Mt. McKinley in September 1950, when that ship sailed from Kobe, Japan to Inchon, South



Korean War Memorial

(continued....)





"When they came back, they took over -- I was sort of reckless, and I left school and went to join the Army," Robinson said. "My brother was my guardian and he signed the letter so I could get in."

At only 17 years old, Robinson was stationed at Fort Hamilton in Brooklyn, N.Y. He'd signed up in 1948 for a total of two years. But by 1950, the war with Korea was on and his enlistment was changed for him.

"With the war going on, they added another year to us," he said, adding that he took the opportunity to extend his enlistment even further -- to six years. He also took a transfer to Camp Stoneman, Calif., where he worked as a clerk processing Soldiers back from the Pacific theater.

In February 1952, he found himself in Korea, first at a "repo depot," or replacement depot, in Tageu. He said at the depot, they fell out every morning and the sergeant there would hand out details.

"One morning we fell out and he said 'can any of you guys type,'" Robinson said. "Four of us stuck our hands up."

It turns out, the personnel staff at 8th Army headquarters, rear, was behind on their paperwork and needed help.

"Who wanted to go up on the front?" Robinson said. He eventually secured a permanent position with the 8th Army HQ. One that eventually took him to Seoul. There he worked nights at the Adjutant General's classified message center.

With a general as the commander of their unit, he said, living there was good. *"We had a cot. And with the houseboy, we got local mattresses and sheets and hot water and hot food,"* he said.

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"Life in Seoul at the time isn't what it is for Soldiers now, but it wasn't as bad as what Soldiers had at the front line."

A friend of Robinson's served with the 25th Division on the front lines, and paid him a visit once during his stay in Seoul.

"He came down and visited me," Robinson said. "He got a three-day pass. When he came down he looked like -- in WWII they had these cartoons 'Willy and Joe' -- they looked like bums, they were dirty, they needed a shave. Well my friend came off the line. That's the way he was. He'd been wearing the same clothes for six months. Never had a hot shower. They did all their things in the field."

While Robinson admits he had it relatively easy in Seoul, he did say he had one brush with death.

"We used to get these new recruits, and when they came in they were issued live ammunition and M1s. You had these guys that put the clip in and would forget to clear their weapons," he said. Robinson said he and the new guy rode together one day on their way to lunch. "We're riding along in the jeep, and all of the sudden: bang! The bullet went over my head. But if he'd been an inch or two down, I wouldn't be here today."

Raymond Smith chose not to watch the presentation by the other service members, but came down after to greet them and have refreshments. He said he'd heard all the war stories before, though he shared some of his own insights about Korea.

Smith joined the Army in 1950 and served in the 25th Division, 21st Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion. He said before he went to Korea, he learned about the country from his buddy, a Marine. But when he got there, he said, he was ill-prepared.

"This isn't real!" he said. "The swamps and the muskrats, and the rats and the cold weather and the freezing my butt off -- I didn't like it."

Smith, from Oneida, N.Y., served first as a halftrack driver and then as a gunner, shooting quad-.50s.

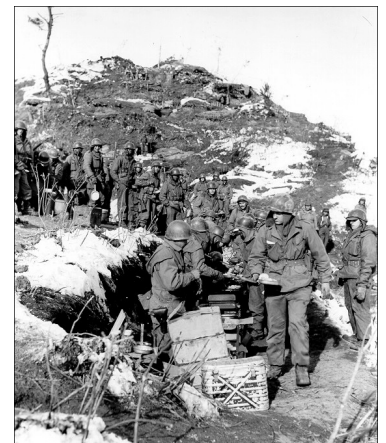
"We would go out on patrol with the 27th Wolfhounds," he said. "We were their support unit and they were our support unit. When the enemy (would) come over the hills, we'd shoot them down."

What he remembers about Korea, he said, is the cold weather.

"There wasn't nothing to see in 1950's Korea; it was all shelled out," he said. "It was demolished. And up on the border, there was nothing but cold and freezing and you were cold all the time. It's too cold when you can't pull the bolt on the .50-cal to fire -- and you stand out there with a one-gallon tin can half full of gas and 10 guys are standing around it trying to keep warm."

They weren't the only ones who were cold, either, Smith said.

"Half mile away is the enemy -- doing the same damn thing," he said. "And nobody's shooting at anybody because it's too damn cold."



**To our Korean War brothers & sisters...
We will never forget.**



From the past: Heat, danger stalked 173d Airborne on Viet mission

By **MIKE MEALEY**
Stars and Stripes

On May 20, 1965, *Stripes'* Mike Mealey accompanied the 173d on a similar mission in search of the Viet Cong.

BIEN HOA, Republic of Vietnam — The mission was to search and clear an area of about 13 square miles northeast of Bien Hoa, and, to accomplish this, the largest number of American troops ever to participate in a Vietnam operation had been committed.

They totaled about 2,000, members of the 1st and 2d Battalions of the 173d Airborne Brigade, in the country just about a month but already familiar with the frustrations and hardships of this new kind of war.

They had four days to do the job. They had nearly 60 helicopters, thousands of pounds of ammunition and weapons, and countless years of training among them.

One thousand soldiers were airlifted to the operation area the first day: an artillery battery on the outskirts of the target zone and around 750 troops into the heart of the area, which had long been a Viet Cong stronghold.

The landing, except for the number of men and helicopters, was routine — the armed Hueys shooting rockets while door gunners pounded machine gun fire



into the landing zone on the approach. Then the troops were rushing across the rice fields to establish a perimeter.

By the time the fifth wave had brought the last of the soldiers to the area, many others were already deep into the thickly wooded areas heading for the first objective.

Charlie Company was coming down a steep hill, when 60mm mortars began exploding about 35 meters away. There were only a few rounds, and the men, laying flat on the ground under dense brush, escaped unhurt.

A few minutes later came four 81 mm mortars rounds, but again the fire failed to do damage.

Then two rounds of big stuff — possibly artillery — came in.

The men who heard the whistle of the rounds hit the dirt.

Seconds after the shattering explosions, the word came down the line: "*Medic! We need a medic up here.*"

Two men hit by shrapnel.

Within 30 minutes they were headed for a hospital, aboard a helicopter ambulance of the 57th Medical Evacuation Det. Other men were falling victims of the heat, nauseous and dizzy, but the day's objective and permanent shade were close enough so they could keep going.

Being hit hard by the heat is nothing to feel ashamed of — not when every man's fatigues are so wet with perspiration that they could be wrung out.

By nightfall, the objectives had been met. There had been no firm contact with the enemy.

(continued....)



Another 1,000 men were landed the next day — this time 4 miles to the east. For the next two days, the 173d would sweep the area, hoping to find the Viet Cong; accomplishing their mission — to clear the area.



The frustrations of this war were now becoming even more clear — days of marching and sweating under the blistering sun or crawling under the scratching brush of the muddy jungles, nights with little sleep and a thousand insects biting you, and always the dwindling water supply and the cold C-rations.



And a vanishing enemy that could strike any minute, making his presence known with deadly machine gun sounds.



Mike Mealey's photos, of 173d Airborne

Editor's note: This report is reprinted from *Stripes'* Pacific edition, June 11, 1965. It accompanied a wire-service report on Vietnam in the print edition of the *Stripes* Sunday magazine.

From the Archives of
Sky Soldier Magazine
Spring 1992, Vol. 7, No.2

MEMORIAL DAY SPEECH **They Did Not Give Their Lives**

Having had forty years of military service, having gone away to war four times and having been hit by enemy gun fire five different times; this experience provides me with the obligation and the great privilege of participating in Memorial Day services as we honor our war dead.

We often hear and revere the thought, "*They gave their lives for their country.*" Please, let us take a moment to reconsider that thesis. Our war dead gave exactly what millions of our living war veterans gave. All of us GAVE our service. All of us endured hardship and physical danger over extended periods of time.



Maj. General Ellis Williamson
1918 - 2007

By the above remark I ask you, "*Am I trying to take our war dead off their high pedestal?*" Certainly not. Another question, "*Am I trying to put the rest of us on the heights with our dead?*" Again, of course not. I am saying that only a very few of our war dead willingly GAVE their lives. So many, with full measure of patriotism, gladly gave their service and did their duty to the fullest extent of their physical and psychological abilities. The brutality of mankind and the horrors of war *TOOK THEIR LIVES*. Their lives were lost, not given.

Where does that leave us, the veterans who are still living? Let us always remember the fact that our war dead gave and lost and that their obligations were drawn to conclusion. The rest of us are still on ACTIVE DUTY. We may have pieces of paper that include words such as released, separated, retired, etc., however, our obligations require us to remain on active duty. We must continue to defend, clarify, perfect and pass on to generation yet to come, those values that our government and our culture hold to be so dear in our way of life.

Many lives have been lost in defense of our freedom. Many more must live to carry on. We veterans who still live must stay on active duty until we too are laid to rest beside our fallen whom we honor on Memorial Day and all days to follow.

Ellis W. Williamson
Major General
U.S. Army (Retired)





BISHOP AMAT VIETNAM WAR MEMORIAL WALL

By: **Joseph Montoya**

The genesis of the Bishop Amat Memorial High School Vietnam War Memorial Wall began in late spring of 1984. At that time, in advance to planning the upcoming celebration for the Bishop Amat High School 25 year anniversary, the school's staff and alumni association formed a joint committee to oversee the event planning process. The committee included Joseph Montoya, a graduate of the Class of 1970. In addition to being a practicing city planner since 1972, Joseph is also a Vietnam War historian and has published a number of research articles on the soldiers, veterans and civilians who participated in America's efforts in the war in Southeast Asia. In June 1984, Joseph presented a proposal to the committee to host a tribute to the alumni Vietnam War veterans as part of the 25 year anniversary celebration. The proposal was approved by the committee and thereafter Joseph collected data from a multiple of sources including, but not limited to, the alumni and school records.

On the evening of Sunday – 28 April 1985, Bishop Amat's Silver Jubilee was held at the Marriott Hotel in Anaheim, California. Based on research up through 9 April 1985, Joseph had identified a total of sixty (60) alumni who had served in the military forces of the United States during the Vietnam War era, including three (3) alumni who were as of then identified to have been killed in South Vietnam [i.e., Joel Michael Sabel, Class of 1961; Stanley William Tunall, Class of 1963; and David Hugh Lalich, Class of 1964]. Data at the time confirmed the military service [but not the death] of Jose Antonio Ollivier, Class of 1963; and Joseph Alfred Albertini, Class of 1965.

Following the 25 year anniversary celebration, subsequent research confirmed both the death of Albertini and the military service and death of John Roger Thielen, Class of 1965, in South Vietnam.

In 1989, construction of the Bishop Amat computer laboratory began by a construction team lead by William "Bill" Estanislau, a graduate of the Class of 1968. Knowing Joseph's research to date had confirmed five (5) alumni to have been killed in the Vietnam War [i.e., Sabel, Albertini, Tunall, Lalich and Thielen], Bill and his crew proceeded to also construct a replica on campus of the National Vietnam War Memorial Wall in Washington DC [which itself had been dedicated on 13 November 1982]. The Bishop Amat replica Vietnam War Memorial Wall is of black granite, inscribed with the names of those five (5) fallen Lancers

known at that time to have been killed in South Vietnam and includes their respective graduating class and the location and date of their death.

As the years passed, Joseph continued with his research of the Lancer alumni who served during the Vietnam War era. To date, the number has increased to over 160 alumni who served in uniform during those years, not only in Southeast Asia but also in the continental United States and throughout the world.

During the late summer of 2010, as the Alumni Military Memorial Committee proceeded with the final construction and dedication planning of the Alumni Military Memorial Plaza, information was received confirming two (2) additional Lancer alumni had served and died in South Vietnam: Jose Antonio Ollivier, Class of 1963; and Daniel Napierskie, Class of 1969.

In order to properly update the data on the Bishop Amat Vietnam War Memorial Wall, the Alumni Military Memorial Committee determined that following the 9 October 2010 dedication of the new Alumni Military Memorial Plaza, the necessary construction will begin to modify the Bishop Amat Vietnam War Memorial Wall so as to add the names and information pertaining to both Ollivier and Napierskie.

The death of these seven (7) Lancers in South Vietnam has been followed by the deaths while in uniform of Terrence Patrick Carrigan, Class of 1974; Mark Eugene Brennan, Class of 1969; Joseph Librado Lujan, Class of 1964; and Douglas Amuel La Bouff, Class of 1987. The ultimate sacrifice made by these eleven (11) Lancers, plus the service of all other past, present and future Lancer alumni in the military of the United States, will forever be remembered by the Bishop Amat Alumni Military Memorial Plaza.

JOEL MICHAEL SABEL (KIA)

22 September 1943 – 10 July 1967
(DAK TO)

Bishop Amat Memorial High School
Class Of 1961 [via Baldwin Park High School]
Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th
Battalion (Airborne), 503rd Infantry Regiment,
173rd Airborne Brigade (Separate).





VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

Press release
September 23, 2010

Contact: Mokie Porter
301-585-4000, Ext. 146

Beware the Senator Who Speaks With Forked Tongue

By John Weiss

Vietnam Veterans of America
Rhode Island State Council

North Carolina Sen. Richard Burr, the leading Republican on the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, said yesterday, as reported by the *Associated Press*, that he has ***"concerns about a proposal to spend billions of dollars on disability compensation for Vietnam veterans who get heart disease and wants to make sure that science supports the expansion of benefits."***



Senator Burr

The "proposal" Burr is referring to is a decision by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, based on the recent National Academy of Sciences Institute of Medicine committee report, *"Veterans and Agent Orange: Update 2008."*

A little history is in order: From 1962 to 1971, the U.S. military used Agent Orange and other herbicides in Vietnam and elsewhere to defoliate the jungle canopy, to destroy crops, and to clear the perimeters of U.S. bases. These herbicides were sprayed from fixed-wing and rotary aircraft, trucks, and backpack sprayers. The drums that stored these chemicals were often recycled and put to various other uses, sometimes to collect rain water, to serve as barbecue grills, etc. Nearly three million veterans served in Southeast Asia.

Contained in these herbicides was dioxin, 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-paradioxin—one of the most dangerous chemicals known to man.

On August 31, 2010, in the *Federal Register*, the Department of Veterans Affairs published the final rules amending the adjudication regulations concerning presumptive service connection, concluding that there was a positive association between exposure in Vietnam to certain herbicides and the subsequent development of

three diseases: hairy cell leukemia & B-cell leukemias; Parkinson's disease; and ischemic heart disease.

And for the first time in history, on September 23, Burr and his colleagues will call into question the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, as outlined in the Agent Orange Act of 1991.

Recognizing that Burr was voted into the House of Representatives in 1994, it is obvious that he was not involved with the passage of the Agent Orange Act of 1991 (Public Law 102-4), which passed the House and the Senate without a single nay vote. In fact, today, 19 Years later, there are only 36 members of Congress still Serving who voted for passage of this act in 1991.

The Agent Orange Act of 1991 acknowledges the culpability of toxic exposures in health conditions that manifested years after a veteran's service. Included in the law is the authority for the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs to enter into an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences to, on a biannual basis, provide a review of all scientific studies and research on the association between dioxin and specific diseases; and include recommendations for future research.

The act further grants the Secretary of the VA the authority to determine if a presumption of service connection is warranted for any of the health conditions addressed in the report.

If Sen. Burr is uncomfortable with the Secretary's determinations based on the National Academy of Sciences recommendations, perhaps he would be more comfortable with the finding of the U.S. Air Force Ranch Hand Study, conducted by the U.S. Air Force on those who participated in the aerial spraying program, as cited in the 1992 testimony of Dr. Barry L. Johnson, Assistant Surgeon General, before the House Subcommittee on Human Resources and Intergovernmental Relations.

"A recent study on the health status of Vietnam veterans who participated in Operation Ranch Hand did not find any signs of liver disease, but did report increased levels of triglycerides and cholesterol in the blood (a second report does not support these increases). In addition, an increase in body fat, diabetes, and blood pressure were also noted. These effects were strongly associated with TCDD levels in the serum. Ranch Hand veterans also had changes in blood (increased white blood cells, platelet, IgA, and sedimentation rates) which suggest a chronic inflammatory response, although no immunologic system diseases were identified.

(continued....)



These immune system changes were also strongly associated with serum TCDD levels. These results differ from those reported in previous analyses of the Ranch Hand group in 1982 and 1985. The earlier analyses did not include an assessment of serum TCDD levels. A physical examination of Ranch Hand veterans is underway."

There is no doubt, that Burr, though too young to have faced conscription during the Vietnam Conflict, views himself as a supporter of those who served.

In fact, seven months ago, it was Sen. Burr who introduced a resolution recognizing March 30 as "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day." Proclaimed Burr, *"There's no question that our troops served our country bravely and faithfully during the Vietnam War, and these veterans deserve our recognition and gratitude. Unfortunately, when these service members returned home, they were caught in the crossfire of public debate about our nation's involvement in the war."*

Today, Vietnam veterans are again caught in the "crossfire of public debate," as Burr and others balk at the price of providing for the continuing cost of care for those whom he and others recognize "served our country bravely and faithfully during the Vietnam War."

Words of praise and gratitude do not cost anything. Veterans' compensation for service-related health conditions do. **Sen. Burr, which is it?**

Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) is the nation's only congressionally chartered veterans service organization dedicated to the needs of Vietnam-era veterans and their families. VVA's founding principle is "Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another."

[Sent in by Bob Madden, B/2/503d]



RP, U.S. SOLDIERS MARK CORREGIDOR LIBERATION

Philippine and US soldiers raised their flags yesterday on Corregidor Island in ceremonies



marking the 60th anniversary of the island's liberation from Japanese forces in World War II.

On March 2, 1945, General Douglas MacArthur, the wartime commander of allied forces in the Pacific, raised the American flag on Corregidor, three years after he was ordered to leave it as the Japanese were invading the Philippines, then a US colony.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone, and the envoys of Britain, Australia and New Zealand -- wartime allies of the United States -- offered wreaths at the Pacific War Memorial, where a brief program was held beside ruins of US garrisons.

Beth Day Romulo, president of the Corregidor Foundation, recalled *"that glorious day when Corregidor Island was finally retaken"* following 14 days of fierce combat between Japanese and US forces, including paratroopers from the **503rd Parachute Regimental Combat Team**.

Military historians say that of 6,550 Japanese soldiers on the island, only 50 survived. The paratroopers lost 169 men.

Romulo said Corregidor, also known as "The Rock" and now a tourist destination, should be preserved as a *"dramatic reminder of the horrors of war and the courage of those who lived and died here."*

(continued....)



Ricciardone said commemorating the sacrifices of US and Filipino soldiers was an opportunity *"to rededicate ourselves to paying that same price they paid to upholding ever and always the cause of freedom and democracy"* by strengthening alliances *"including some of those who were our adversaries in World War II."*



The Americans held a separate ceremony for the paratroopers attended by Major General Elbert N. Perkins, commander of the US Army Japan and 9th Theater Support Command.

The 503rd Veterans Association said in a message read by Ricciardone: *"The sons of America, like their fathers and grandfathers, face a new war, a war against extremist terrorism."*

"Once again, good men -- our best and brightest -- struggle so that others may live in liberty," it said.



WHO IS THIS SKY SOLDIER?



No, he's not an umpire. This trooper did two tours in Vietnam with the 2/503d, 1965-1966 with HHC serving out of Camp Zinn at Bien Hoa, and 1966-1967 with Bravo Company in the highlands. A survivor of the battles at Dak To, he made a career out of the army, and today works as a Regional Emergency Response Advisor in the Office of Emergency Operations with the Domestic Security Task Force in State Government.

~ Editor's Note ~

From what we understand, our newsletter is read by hundreds of troopers, non-troopers and non-military across our country and throughout the world; from Los Angeles to Portland, Maine, and in the battle zones in the Middle East to the serene mountain valleys of Europe -- hell, even the Aussies and Kiwis read the damn thing when they're not drinking schooners of beer. It's important to send in your stories, photos, historical records or, as hooch buddy Jim Bethea likes to say, *"If you don't write it down, it never happened."* Ed

