

Donald J. O'Brien

US Army,, Combat Medic

December 16, 1965 - December 15, 1967

HHC, 2 Battalion 1st Infantry, 196th Light Infantry Brigade

Tay Ninh, Chu Lai
South Vietnam



Donald J. O'Brien

US Army, Vietnam,
December 16, 1965 - December 15, 1967

- Scrapbook
- Interview and School Paper
- Photo Album

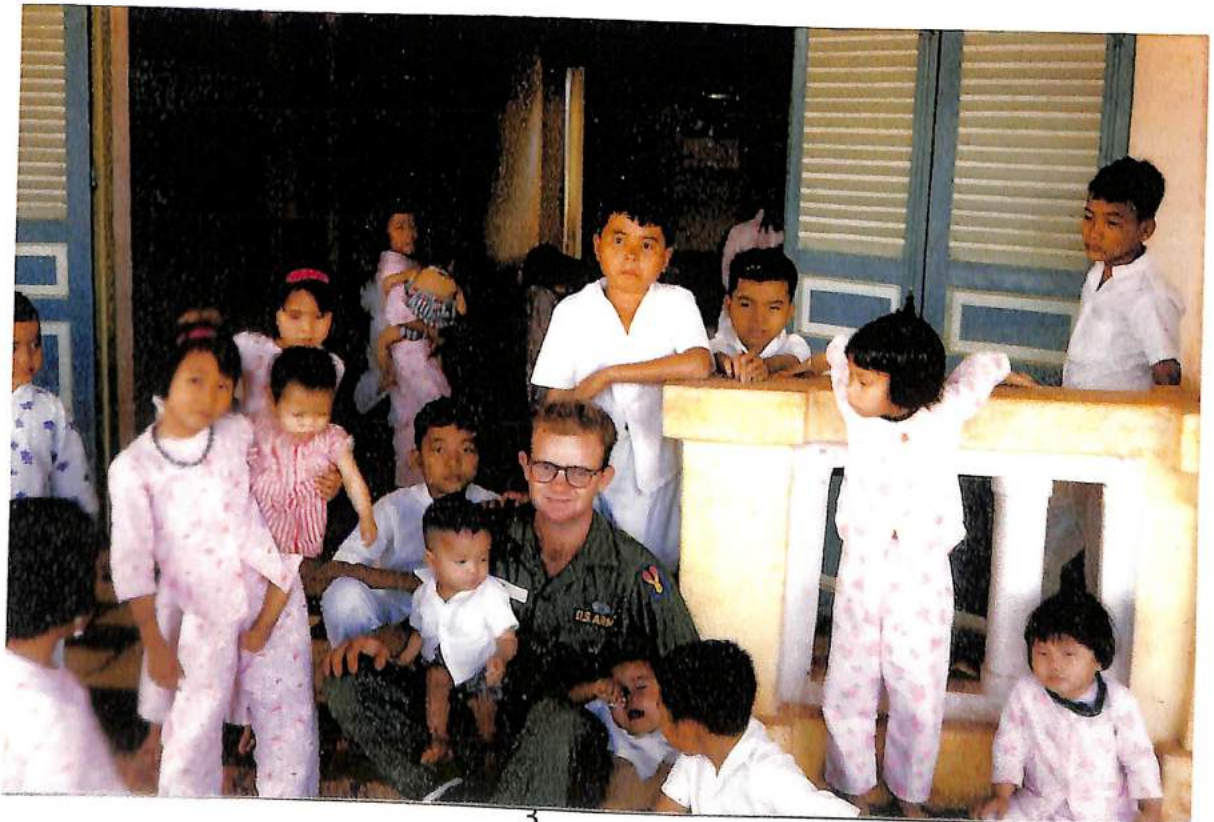
Donald J. O'Brien (U.S. Army)

Dec 16, 1965 to Dec 15, 1967.

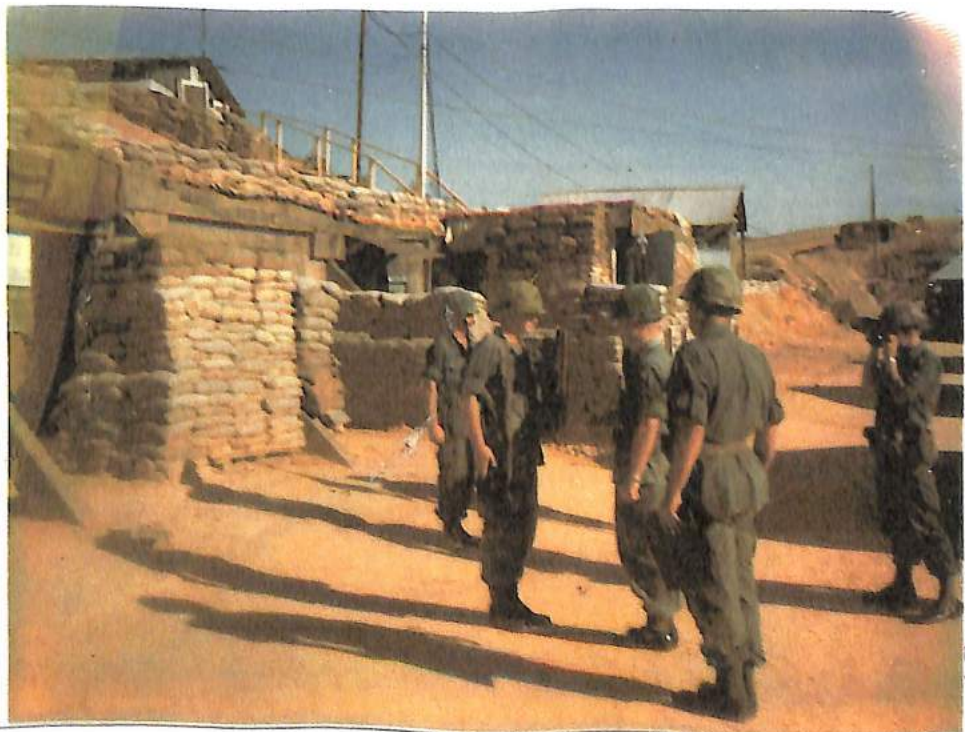
HHC 2bn 1st Inf, 196th Light Infantry Brigade

Tay Ninh, Chu Lai South Vietnam

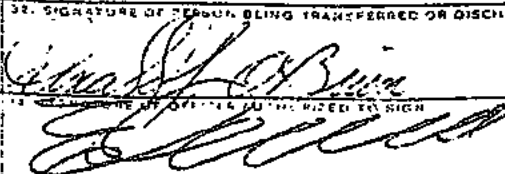
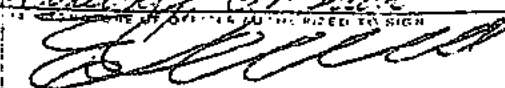
Combat Medic







THIS IS AN IMPORTANT RECORD
SAFEGUARD IT.

PERSONAL DATA	1. LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MIDDLE NAME O'BRIEN DONALD JAMES		2. SERVICE NUMBER SP5 (T)		3. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER		
	4. DEPARTMENT, COMPONENT AND BRANCH OR CLASS ARMY AUS AMEDS			5a. GRADE, RATE OR RANK SP5 (T)	6. PAY GRADE E5	7. DATE OF RANK DAY: 26 MONTH: OCT YEAR: 67	8. DATE OF BIRTH DAY: 30 MONTH: SEP YEAR: 46
	7. U. S. CITIZEN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		9. PLACE OF BIRTH (City and State or Country) CHICAGO ILLINOIS				
SELECTIVE SERVICE DATA	10a. SELECTIVE SERVICE NUMBER 11 106 46 334		10b. SELECTIVE SERVICE LOCAL BOARD NUMBER, CITY, COUNTY, STATE AND ZIP CODE LB #106 BERWYN ILLINOIS 60402		11. DATE INDUCTED DAY: 16 MONTH: DEC YEAR: 65		
	12a. TYPE OF TRANSFER OR DISCHARGE TRANSFERRED TO USAR (SEE 16)			12b. STATION OF INSTALLATION AT WHICH EFFECTED FORT GEORGE G MEADE MARYLAND			
TRANSFER OR DISCHARGE DATA	13. REASON AND AUTHORITY SEC VI CH 2 AR 635-200 SPN 201 EXPIRATION TERM OF SERVICE			14. EFFECTIVE DATE DAY: 15 MONTH: DEC YEAR: 67			
	12. LAST DUTY ASSIGNMENT AND MAJOR COMMAND 28TH GEN HOSP FGGM MD FIRST USA		13a. CHARACTER OF SERVICE HONORABLE		13b. TYPE OF CERTIFICATE ISSUED NONE		
	14. DISTRICT AREA COMMAND OR CORPS TO WHICH RESERVIST TRANSFERRED TRANSFERRED TO USAR CONTROL GROUP (ANNUAL TRAINING) USAAC ST LOUIS MISSOURI #1/#			15. REENLISTMENT CODE RE-1			
SERVICE DATA	16. PERMANENT DATE OF RESERVE UNIT'S OBLIGATION DAY: 15 MONTH: DEC YEAR: 71		17. CURRENT ACTIVE SERVICE OTHER THAN BY INDUCTION a. SOURCE OF ENTRY: <input type="checkbox"/> ENLISTED (First Enlistment) <input type="checkbox"/> LISTED (Post Service) <input type="checkbox"/> REENLISTED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER NA		18. TERM OF SERVICE (Years) NA		19. DATE OF ENTRY DAY: NA MONTH: NA YEAR: NA
	16. PRIOR REGULAR ENLISTMENTS NA		17. GRADE, RATE OR RANK AT TIME OF ENTRY INTO CURRENT ACTIVE S/C E1		18. PLACE OF ENTRY INTO CURRENT ACTIVE SERVICE (City and State) CHICAGO ILLINOIS		
	21. HOME OF RECORD AT TIME OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE SERVICE (Street, RFD, City, County, State and ZIP Code) 420 S ASHLAND AVENUE LAGRANGE (COOK) ILLINOIS 60525		22. STATEMENT OF SERVICE		20. YEARS MONTHS DAYS		
	23. SPECIALTY NUMBER & TITLE 91B20 MEDICAL SP		24. RELATED CIVILIAN OCCUPATION AND S/C NUMBER 354.878 FIRST AID ATTENDANT		20. YEARS MONTHS DAYS		
					20. YEARS MONTHS DAYS		
					20. YEARS MONTHS DAYS		
24. DECORATIONS, MEDALS, BADGES, CONVEYANCES, CITATIONS AND CAMPAIGN MEDALS AWARDED OR DURING PERIOD PURPLE HEART; 2 O/S BARS; SILVER STAR; NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL; VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL; COMBAT MEDICAL BADGE; VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL; GALLANTRY CROSS W/SILVER STAR; GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL; MARKSMAN BADGE M4 RIFLE							
25. EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMPLETED SERVICE SCHOOL - FORT SAM HOUSTON TEXAS - MAR66-MAY66 - MEDICAL CORPSMAN							
VA AND EMP. SERVICE DATA	26. NON-PAY PERIODS TIME LOST (Reporting Two Years)		27. DAYS ACCRUAL LEAVE (Year)		28. VA CLAIM NUMBER NONE		29. MONTH ALLOTMENT DISCONTINUED NA
			5		30. VA CLAIM NUMBER NONE		31. MONTH ALLOTMENT DISCONTINUED NA
REMARKS	30. REMARKS 12 YRS CIVILIAN EDUCATION - GENERAL BLOOD GROUP "AB" PFC (P) E3 APT 17AUG66						
AUTHENTICATION	31. PERMANENT ADDRESS FOR MAILING PURPOSES AFTER TRANSFER OR DISCHARGE (Street, RFD, City, County, State and ZIP Code) 420 S ASHLAND AVENUE LAGRANGE (COOK) ILLINOIS 60525			32. SIGNATURE OF PERSON BEING TRANSFERRED OR DISCHARGED 			
	33. TYPED NAME GRADE AND TITLE OF AUTHORIZING OFFICER E. J. DURANT OIC			34. SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZING OFFICER 			



Bargain Sign

Grangé Area
nerce.

an LIFE car-
ackage to help
their bargains.
lines in win-
splay pennants
adow paste-ups
ads exactly as
The Suburban

livered to the
on the news-
any advertise-
the Dollar Day
in their trips and

venience to the
a Grange is the
hat will be avail-
eters are covered,
ss districts from
9 p.m.

s participating in
y promotion will
l a.m. until 9 p.m.,
marketing trips.

in LIFE will help
unters identify
ecials by making
adow and display
ll advertisers.

Wins Award

purchase prize for
w has been awarded
re instructors of the
Art League's Center,
bee of Chicago, for
nting, "Beach Scene
xhibited in the 12th
ard walk show at Vir-
h, Virginia.

urban LIFE has a complete list-
ing of all Dollar Day advertisers.

In conjunction with the sale,
The Suburban LIFE will con-
duct a contest among the mer-
chants who decorate their store
fronts.

A panel of judges will select

ing the mer-
chants to participate in the Dol-
lar Day sale and to make it
more convenient for the shop-
pers to find their way to the
thousands of bargain priced,
quality merchandise which is
being made available by the
stores.

Silver Star Winner Home From Vietnam

After serving a year in Vietnam, the holder of the Sil-
ver Star, Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal and
the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star, SP/4
Donald J. O'Brien has returned home on leave.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene W. O'Brien, 420
S. Ashland, La Grange.

O'Brien served as a medical aid man
assigned to Headquarters Company, 2nd
Battalion of the 196th Light Infantry Bri-
gade.

He was awarded the Commendation
Medal for serving with front line patrols.
Most of the patrols he accompanied were
at night.

His Silver Star was earned during a
multi-battalion "search and destroy mis-
sion," "Operation Attelboro," near Tay
Nahn, 20 miles south of the Cambodian
border.



Donald O'Brien

He said that while his outfit was under attack a num-
ber of soldiers were wounded and in need of medical
attention in between their lines and those of the enemy.

O'Brien and others exposed themselves to enemy fire
in order to bring the wounded back to safety.

He said, "I was lucky. Somebody up there must be
watching out for me."

f Diet Torn City



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
REVIEW BOARDS AGENCY
SUPPORT DIVISION, ST. LOUIS
9700 PAGE AVENUE
ST. LOUIS MO 63132-5200

September 22, 2004

Support Division, St. Louis/jsr
O'Brien, Donald J.
AR20040003563

The following awards have been authorized for issuance:

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL;
VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL with 2 bronze service stars;

Your Awards Case Number is A4JPE39X4E8K7.

Ruth M. Meisenheimer
Chief, Support Division, St. Louis



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
REVIEW BOARDS AGENCY
SUPPORT DIVISION, ST. LOUIS
9700 PAGE AVENUE
ST. LOUIS MO 63132-5200

September 22, 2004

Support Division, St. Louis/jsr
AR20040003563

Mr. Donald J. O'Brien
11545 S. Knox
Alsip, IL 60803

Dear Mr. O'Brien:

This is in reference to your DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Records under the Provisions of Title 10, U.S. Code, Section 1552). Your records have been administratively corrected as you requested.

A DD Form 215 (Correction to DD Form 214 Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) is enclosed. Attach this DD Form 215 to your DD Form 214 (Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge).

Your award authorization sheet is also enclosed. If you have not received your medals in approximately six months, forward a copy of this letter and the awards authorization sheet to the US Army Soldier & Biological Chemical Command, IMMC, Soldier Systems Directorate, 700 Robbins Avenue, Post Office Box 57997, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19111-7997, for reply. You can also go on-line at <http://veteranmedals.army.mil> to view the status of your pending award request or change your address.

This action eliminates the necessity to forward your application to the Army Board for Correction of Military Records.

Sincerely,

Ruth M. Meisenheimer
Chief, Support Division, St. Louis

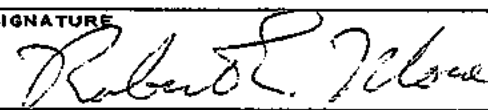
Enclosures

GRADE - LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MIDDLE INITIAL & SERVICE NUMBER SP5 E-5 O BRIEN, DONALD J US 55 862 701	PHYSICAL AND MENTAL STATUS ON RELEASE FROM ACTIVE SERVICE <small>(AR 601-210)</small> INSTRUCTIONS: Prepare in triplicate. Original and duplicate to be given to individual concerned. Triplicate to be filed in individual's DA Form 201. DATE <u>1 Dec 67</u>
--	---

MENTAL STATUS		
<small>ENLISTMENT OR RE-ENLISTMENT WITHOUT MENTAL RETEST IS AUTHORIZED PROVIDED ENLISTMENT OR RE-ENLISTMENT IS ACCOMPLISHED WITHIN ONE YEAR AFTER DATE OF SEPARATION. YOUR RECORDED APTITUDE AREA SCORES OF THE ARMY CLASSIFICATION BATTERY ARE AS FOLLOWS:</small>		
COA - none	MM - 115	IN - 97
COB - none	CL - 122	AE - 110
EL - 111	GT - 118	AFOT - SCORE IS 81 OR ABOVE
GM - 120	RC - 108	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

PHYSICAL STATUS	
YOUR PHYSICAL CONDITION ON <u>15 Dec 67</u> <small>(Date of Separation)</small>	IS SUCH THAT YOU ARE CONSIDERED PHYSICALLY QUALIFIED FOR SEPARATION OR FOR RE-ENLISTMENT WITHOUT RE-EXAMINATION PROVIDED YOU RE-ENLIST WITHIN 180 DAYS AND STATE THAT YOU HAVE NOT ACQUIRED NEW DISEASES OR INJURIES DURING THE INTERVAL PERIOD WHEN NOT A MEMBER OF THE MILITARY SERVICE.

YOUR PHYSICAL PROFILE AT DATE OF SEPARATION IS
1 1 1 1 1 1 A

TYPED NAME, GRADE, AND ARM OR SERVICE OF PERS OFFICER ROBERT E. MERSE, 2LT, MSG, Pers Officer	SIGNATURE 
--	--

STATEMENTS OF PHYSICAL AND DEPENDENT STATUS AT TIME OF ENLISTMENT

PHYSICAL STATUS	HAS THERE BEEN ANY CHANGE IN YOUR PHYSICAL CONDITION SINCE YOU WERE SEPARATED? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <small>(If yes, describe below)</small>
-----------------	--

DEPENDENT STATUS	HAS THERE BEEN ANY CHANGE IN YOUR DEPENDENT STATUS SINCE YOU WERE SEPARATED? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <small>(If yes, describe below)</small>
------------------	--

DATE	SIGNATURE
------	-----------

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Headquarters Fort George G. Meade
Fort George G. Meade, Maryland 20755

SPECIAL ORDERS
NUMBER 242

13 December 1967

EXTRACT

47. TC 402. As auth by (AR indic below) fol indiv RELIEVED FROM ACTIVE DUTY not by rsn of phys dsabl eff on EDCSA (REFRAD). On date immed fol EDCSA (REFRAD) indiv trf to USAR Con Gp as indic. DD Form 214 auth. Lump sum payment for unused ACLV auth. Pmt of mileage to HOR or place fr which ordered to AD auth. WP TDN PCS TPA PPSIA. 2182010 01-7741-7742-7743-7745-7746-7747 P1477 S99999.

JULIEN, KENNETH L RA15704325 SP5 E5 73C20 16th Fin Sec (Disb) Ft Geo G Meade Md 20755

Res asg: USAR Con Gp (Reinforcement) USAAC St Louis Missouri 63132
Res-SN, gr, basic br, comp: ER15704325 SP5 E5 FC USAR
HOR: Cincinnati Ohio
Mail adrs: 4250 S Avenue Cincinnati Ohio 45236
Pl EAD: Fort Thomas Kentucky
Last perm dy sta: Fort George G Meade Maryland
VRB dsg: None
ACLV: 60 days
No yrs svc pay gr E4: NA
UMTS Act oblg: 6 yrs
Auth: DA Msg 839611 & Sec VI ch 2 AR 635-200
SPN: 201
Comp: RA
EDCSA (REFRAD): 16 Dec 67

O'BRIEN, DONALD J US55862701 SP5 E5 91B20 28th Gen Hosp Ft Geo G Meade Md 20755

Res asg: USAR Con Gp (Annual Training) USAAC St Louis Missouri 63132
Res-SN, gr, basic br, comp: ER55862701 SP5 E5 AMEDS USAR
HOR: LaGrange Illinois
Mail adrs: 420 S Ashland Avenue LaGrange Illinois 60525
Pl EAD: Chicago Illinois
Last perm dy sta: Fort George G Meade Maryland
VRB dsg: None
ACLV: 5 days
No yrs svc pay gr E4: NA
UMTS Act oblg: 6 yrs
Auth: Sec VI ch 2 AR 635-200
SPN: 201
Comp: AUS
EDCSA (REFRAD): 15 Dec 67

OLIVERI, VINCENT J RA12724817 SP5 E5 74D20 First US Army DPC Ft Geo G Meade Md 20755

Res asg: USAR Con Gp (Reinforcement) USAAC St Louis Missouri 63132
Res-SN, gr, basic br, comp: ER12724817 SP5 E5 AGC USAR

Family History of Military Service

David Logsdon : Died while in service :Civil War"

**Edmund Ogden : served in war with Mexico = Co A ,
1st Reg. Pa. Vol Infantry (Brother in Law to David
Logsdon)**

WW 1

**Andrew Misinec : (Uncle) Enlisted Nov 18, 1914,
Relisted Dec 10th ,1919**

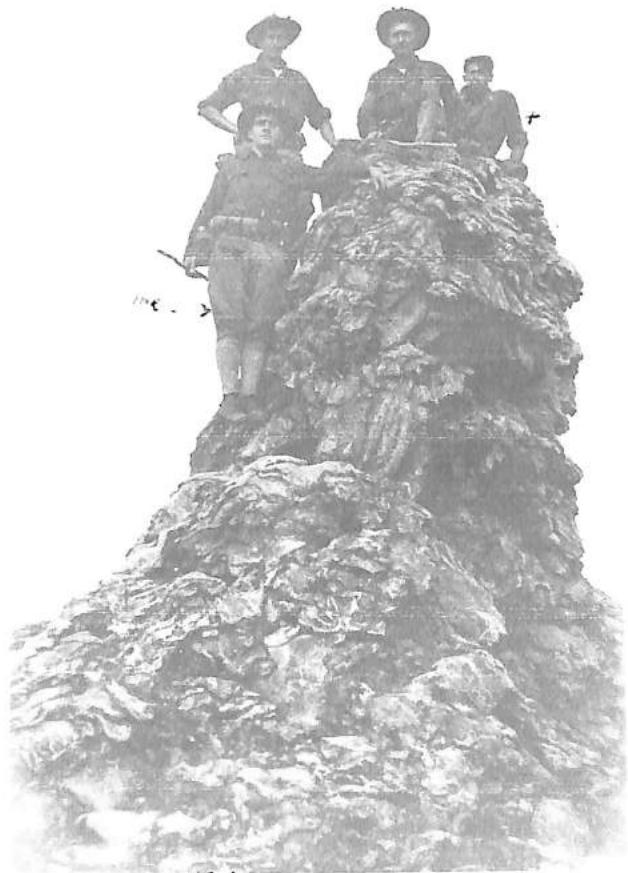
**Served with Costal Artillery:Fort De Russy
Oahu, Hawian Terrory**

WW II

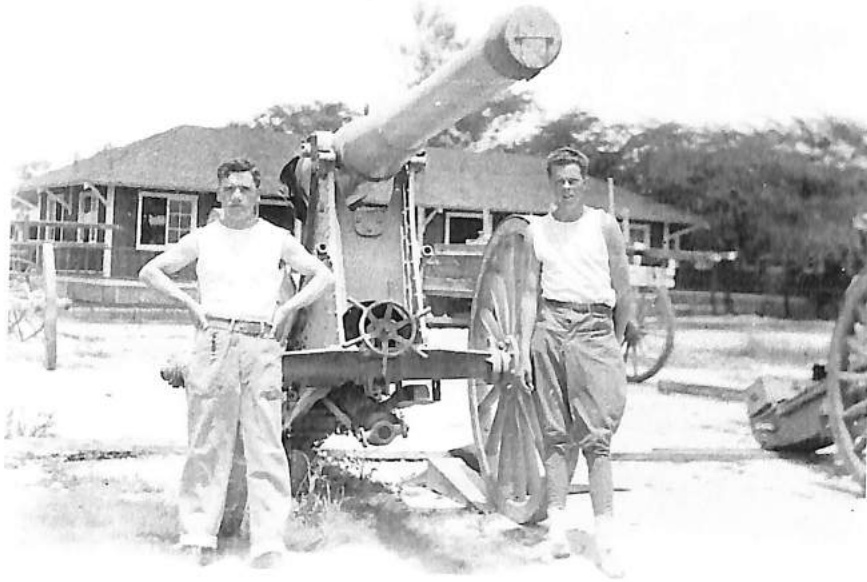
**Eugene W. O'Brien (Father) Drafted July 7, 1943
Co B , 136th AAA Battery, Trained Camp Edward,
Ma.**

Stationed : Antwerp Belgium - Germany

Raymond O'Brien (Uncle) served in Africa .



1.



Honolulu, T. H. DEC 14 1919

Paid in full \$ 231.31
including \$80.00 bonus.

W. A. Mackinell

BOOK 076 PAGE 345

DEC. NO. FILED FOR RECORD IN RECORDERS OFFICE OF DUPAGE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

JUN 20 1991 -4 00 PM

RECORDED

Honorable Discharge from the United States Army



TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This is to Certify, That Andrew Misinec (340020) a Corporal of Cook Artillery Corps of the 9th Company, Regiment of Wabur, as a TESTIMONIAL OF HONEST AND FAITHFUL SERVICE, is hereby HONORABLY DISCHARGED from the UNITED STATES ARMY by reason of For purpose of reenlistment under provisions of Circular 457, W.D. 1919.

Said Corporal Andrew Misinec (340020) was born in Zubrica, in the State of Hungary, and when enlisted was 22 years of age, by occupation a Laborer, had Blue eyes, Black hair, Ruddy complexion, and was Five feet five inches in height.

Given under my hand at Fort Me Russy, H. T. this 9th day of December, one thousand nine hundred and nineteen.

Felix E. Gross
Felix Gross,

Lieutenant Colonel, F. A.
Commanding.

Antoine J. ...
Chief ...
Jan. 30, 1922

2/3 regular rate to Cleveland, Ohio.

James P. Jacobs, ENLISTMENT RECORD.
Captain, Coast Artillery.

1118927

VICTORY
James Whelan
Captain Infantry A. R. G.
Class

Name: Andrew Misinec (340020) Grade: Corporal

Enlisted November 18, 1914, at Columbus Barracks, Ohio, for seven years.

Serving in First enlistment period at date of discharge.

Previous service: None

Noncommissioned officer: Apt'd Corporal, S. O. 217, Hq. C. Dep. of O, Oct 25, 1918.

Marksmanship: Completed Special Course "A" 1915 - Unqual: 1916 - Unqual: 1917 - 1cl: 1918 - 1cl: 1919 - 7th.
Qual. as Gun Ptr and Request as 1st Class Gun, Mch 17, 1920, Hq. C. Dep. of O, Mch 4/19.

Horsemanship: Not mounted.

Battles, engagements, skirmishes, expeditions: None. Decorations: None. Citations: None.

Badges: None. Medals: None.

BOOK 076 PAGE 346

Knowledge of any vocation: Electrician

Wounds received in service: None

Physical condition when discharged: good. Physically examined under provisions of Circular 73, W.D., 1918, prior to discharge. Result shown on Form 135-3890.

Typhoid prophylaxis completed December 17, 1914. Paratyphoid immunization completed Dec, 15, 1917.

Married or single: Single.

Character: Excellent

Remarks: Final Statements given Sol. Service Honest and Faithful. No unauthorized absence of record. Sol. passed thru Gas, Sept 26/18, School of instruction in Gas Defense, Ft. Armstrong, H.T. Sol entitled to Bonus and travel allowances, Act of September 27, 1919, entered on Final Statements.

Signature of soldier: Andrew Misinec

Is yes recommended for reenlistment.

James P. Jacobs
James P. Jacobs
Captain, Coast Artillery
Commanding 9th Co., Calhoun

San Francisco Cal.
Cleveland Ohio
W. M.

1250314

Honorable Discharge from the United States Army.

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
 AT DEC 16 1920
 HOSEA PAUL, Recorder
 Fee for Record

Recorded Dec. 17, 1920. In Chicago Co.
 Records. Vol. 9 S. D. Pg. 400
 Hosea Paul, Recorder.



BOOK 076 PAGE 347

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This is to Certify, That Andrew Misinec

R-340020, Sergeant, 2nd Co., San Francisco, Cal.

Regular Army, as a TESTIMONIAL OF HONEST AND FAITHFUL SERVICE, is hereby HONORABLY DISCHARGED from the military service of the UNITED STATES by reason of Expiration of term of service

Said Andrew Misinec; # R-340020 was born in Zubrica, in the State of Hungary.

When enlisted he was 26 years of age and by occupation a Soldier. He had blue eyes, dk. brown hair, ruddy complexion, and was five foot six inches in height.

Given under my hand at Fort Winfield Scott, Cal. this 9th day of December, one thousand nine hundred and Twenty

Percy N. Kessler
 Percy N. Kessler,

Colonel, C.A.C.

Commanding.

* Insert grade and company and regiment or corps or department; e. g., "Corporal, Company A, 1st Infantry;" "Sergeant, Quartermaster Corps;" "Bargenat, First Class, Medical Department."
 † Insert "Regular Army," "Volunteer Army," "Regular Army Reserve," or "Enlisted Reserve Corps," as the case may be.
 ‡ If discharged prior to expiration of service, give number, date, and source of order or description of authority therefor.

ENLISTMENT RECORD.

Name: Andrew Misines, # R. 340020, Grade: Sergeant

Enlisted December 10, 1919, at Fort De Russij, W.T.

Serving in Sixth year enlistment period at date of discharge.

Prior service: * 10th Co., CAC, & 1st Co., CAC, Ft. De Russij, H.T., from 11-18-14 to 12-9-19 Discharge - Corporal, Character "Excellent"

Noncommissioned officer: Sergeant, per. No. 3, N.C.D.P., Jan. 5, 1920.

Marksmanship, gunner qualification or rating: 1st Hammer, per. No. 42, N.C.D.P., 3-5-20.

Horsemanship: Not Mounted.

Battles, engagements, skirmishes, expeditions: Never FEB 9 1921

Knowledge of any vocation: Electrical work

Wounds received in service: None

Physical condition when discharged: Good BOOK 076 PAGE 348

Typhoid prophylaxis completed Not Given.

^{Triple} Paratyphoid prophylaxis completed 8-6-20.

Married or single: Single

Character: Excellent

Remarks: Services honest & faithful, no A.W.O.L. or H.O. # 31, W.D., 1912 - H.O. # 45,

W.D., 1914. Service Record and soldier's affidavit show his home file home to the

Jefferson, Ohio, and he elects to receive travel pay to that place for Ft. Winfield Scott, Calif.,
entitled to 20% increased compensation under act March 18, 1920, as sergeant for Act 1,
1920 to May 9, 1920, I certify that there has been no change in soldier's status since
that date.

Signature of soldier: Andrew Misines

J. T. deCamp,
1st Lieut., G.A.C.

Commanding 2nd Co., S.F., CAC.

HEADQUARTERS COAST DEFENSES OF OAHU
FORT KAMEHAMEHA, H.T.
JUNE 5, 1918.

Special Orders,
No. 117.)

Extract.

x x x x
2. (a) The following named enlisted men of the Coast Artillery Corps, having successfully passed the entrance examination for the Preparatory School for Enlisted Specialists, Fort Kamehameha, H.T., will report to Captain James M. Evans, C.A.C., Senior Commissioned Instructor, at Fort Kamehameha, H.T., Saturday June 8, 1918, viz:

~~Private David A. Coe~~ CLERICAL COURSE.
Private David A. Coe, 9th Company, Oahu.

ELECTRICAL COURSE
Private 1st class Andrew Misinec, 9th Company, Oahu.

RADIO COURSE
Private Clarence G. Barker, 9th Company, Oahu.

(b) All men from forts, other than Fort Kamehameha, H.T., will be attached to the 1st Company, Oahu, while attending this school, with the exception of the following named men, who will be assigned as follows:

Private David A. Coe, C.A.C., 9th Company, Oahu, to 7th Company, Oahu.

~~(c) Organization Commanders will forward to Personnel Officer, Fort Kamehameha, H.T., the reports of their respective commands, that pertain to men mentioned in this order.~~

(d) Attention is invited to Memorandum issued these headquarters, dated March 15, 1918, which will be strictly complied with.

The Quartermaster Corps will furnish the necessary transportation.

BY ORDER OF MAJOR HICKS:

G. Ralph Meyer,

Captain, Coast Artillery Corps,
Adjutant.

Headquarters
Coast Defenses Of Oahu,
Honolulu, H. T.,
20 May, 1920.

Special Orders.)
No. 102)

1. Upon the recommendation of the Commanding Officer, 8th Company, Oahu, Corporal John Zarke, R346210, C.A.C., 8th Company, Oahu, is reduced to the grade of Private.

2. Under authority contained in first indorsement H.H.D., 19 May, 1920, (W.P.&T. 242, 13), the following named enlisted men are detailed on extra duty as instructors at the schools indicated effective 4 May, 1920.

Fort De Russy, H. T.

Radio.

From May to
... 1920. → Sergeant Andrew Misinec, R340020, C.A.C., 9th Company, Oahu.

Educational.

Sergeant John E. Stegeman, R34142, C.A.C., 10th Company, Oahu.

Fort Ruger, H. T.

Machine Shop.

Master Electrician August Rink, R3080579, C.A.C., H.C.S.

Educational.

Lance Corporal Charles C. Smith, 6330856, C.A.C., 12th Company, Oahu.

Pvt. Russel C. Graham, 6419482, C.A.C., 12th Company, Oahu.

Upon relief from the above duty the Commanding Officer concerned will notify this office.

By Order Of Colonel Walke:

H.B. Holmes, Jr.,
Captain, C.A.C., Adjutant.

I certify that the above is a true copy.



C.W. Waller,
Major, Coast Artillery Corps.

Andrew M. ...
Signature of holder.

INDIVIDUAL PASS

Private Andrew M. ... C.A.C.
9th Co. 1st Infantry Regt. H.S.

By direction of the Fort Commander, Fort De Russy, H. T., the soldier whose signature appears hereon has authority to leave the reservation as prescribed by Company Orders.

No one is allowed to be absent from reveille under this authority and this card must be turned in to the Company Office by that time.

This pass is void after latest date stamped on reverse side which date must be initialed by Company Commander.

E. W. ...

Captain, C.A.C., D.O.I.,
Comdg. 9th Co., Oahu.

To be given to the person
satisfactorily.

No. 726936

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

OFFICIAL COPY

NAVY DEPARTMENT

Petition, Volume 6, Number 464.
Description of holder: Age, 24 years; height, 5 feet, 6 inches; color, White; complexion, Medium; color of eyes, Blue; color of hair, Dk. Brown; visible distinguishing marks, None.

Name, age and place of residence of wife, not married.
Name, age and place of residence of minor children, no children.

ORIGINAL

United States of America. } s.s. Andrew Misinec
Territory of Hawaii. } (Signature of holder.)

Be it remembered that ANDREW MISINEC, then residing at ~~xxxxxx~~ Fort De Russy, ~~xxxx~~ Territory of Hawaii, who previous to his naturalization was a subject of Charles, Emperor of Austria, having applied to be admitted a citizen of the United States of America pursuant to law, and also regular ~~xxxx~~ term of the U.S. District Court of Territory of Hawaii, held at Honolulu, on the 28th day of January, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighteen, the court having found that the petitioner had resided continuously within the United States for at least five years and in this territory for at least one year immediately preceding the date of the filing of his petition, and that said petitioner intends to reside permanently in the United States, had in all respects complied with the law in relation thereto, and that he was entitled to be so admitted, it was thereupon ordered by the said court that he be admitted as a citizen of the United States of America.

The testimony before the seal of said court is hereto affixed on the 28th day of January, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighteen, and of our Independence the one hundred and forty-second.

A. P. Hunt

Clerk, United States District Court
Territory of Hawaii (branch of attorney.)



FATHER

Eugene W. O'Brien

WWII

Served with: Battery D

136th AAA Gun Battlion (Moble)

1943 - 1945

Ardennes - Rhineland - Central Europe - Antwarp

T - 5 Radar Operator



**Justin J. O'Brien (Uncle) Flight Officer "Bombardier
B-17 F " 483rd Bomb Group, 815th Bomb Squadron,
15th Army Air Corp.**

MIA : April 16, 1944 over Yugoslavia

Declared Dead - Body never recovered

Leo Whited (Uncle) Tank Corp

POW

Captured Battle of Bulge

Peace Time

**Thomas Whited (Cousin) U.S. Navy, died in military
plane crash into Rocky Mountains , mid to late
1950's**

**John Whited(Cousin) U.S. Army served 20 years,
1960's thur 1980's**

Germany,Vietnam ,United States.

John O'Brien(Brother) U.S. Navy 1975 to 1979

David Day(Brother in law) U.S. Navy 1961 to 1965



O'BRIEN—Flight Officer Justin J. O'Brien, 5535 W. Crystal-st., missing over Yugoslavia, April 16, 1944, now declared dead, dearly beloved son of Mary Hawley and the late William J. O'Brien, fond brother of Frances Kiefer, Vincent, Rita La Plante, Mary Gallagher, T.S Eugene O'Brien, Germany, Raymond, discharged veteran, Dorothy and the late James O'Brien and Sister Mary William Joseph, C. S. C. Memorial Mass Monday, Sept. 3, at 9:30 a. m. at St. Angela's Church, Potomac and Massasoit.

Robert Stuard
Me

Today at 11:18 AM

LACEY-DAVIS Foundation

To Honor Their Service, To Honor Their Families

Don,
The following information as you requested.
F/O (Flight Officer) Justin O'Brien Bombardier
Missing over the Adriatic Sea 26 miles from Manfredonia off the coast of Italy
Mother Mary C.
1145 Waller St.
Chicago, Illinois

A member of the Warbuton Crew
Missing April 16, 1944 @ 12:20
Plane: B-17F
Cause: Hit by flak right wing and front of aircraft

Statement:
Last observed with Bombay doors open and a large hole behind engine #3
Statement:

The first time I saw the ship it was about a mile behind us about 8000' altitude, we had just made a right hand turn off the target and the other plane was going in the same direction we were, about 10 minuets from target they started bailing out, there were five chutes altogether. Immediately after seeing this the ship started to gain altitude; the formation circled and he caught up with us. In a few minuets I saw two men throwing equipment overboard. I kept sight until we got to the Yugoslavia coast, then a squadron of P-38's came in and I lost sight of everything.
I hope this information helps,

Robert Stuard
President

Phone: 626.815.1426
Email:
lacedavisfoundation@gmail.com

Please visit our website
www.Lacey-DavisFoundation.org

Connect with us
on Facebook



1. LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MI		SOURCE CODE		MILITARY PAY VOUCHER		52. CLASS B AGE	YOU NO.	53. VOUCHER NUMBER		
SERVICE NUMBER		SOCIAL SECURITY NO.		2. <input type="checkbox"/> FINAL - REENL. <input type="checkbox"/> INITIAL <input type="checkbox"/> FINAL - SEP <input type="checkbox"/> PARTIAL <input type="checkbox"/> CASUAL <input type="checkbox"/> ADVANCE <input type="checkbox"/> REENL. BONUS		B. FICA WAGES		54. PAID BY		
3. DATE EAD OR ENLISTED	4. TERM OF ENL. (Months)	5. NO. OF TAX EXEMPTIONS	6. PAY PERIOD	7. YOU SER. NO.	8. TAXABLE INCOME					
10. ORGANIZATION AND ADDRESS (Include ZIP Code)			ENTITLEMENTS		CODE	AMOUNT				
11. REMARKS			12. <input type="checkbox"/> AMOUNT UNPAID LAST ACCOUNT		90					
			13. <input type="checkbox"/> BASIC PAY GRADE		14. YRS.	51				
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			21. <input type="checkbox"/> SVS ALLOWANCE - OFF			53				
			22. <input type="checkbox"/> QUARTERS ALLOWANCE			89				
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1. LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MI		SOUNDEX CODE		MILITARY PAY VOUCHER				52. CLASS B AGENT VOU NO.		53. VOUCHER NUMBER					
SERVICE NUMBER		SOCIAL SECURITY NO.		2. <input type="checkbox"/> FINAL - REENL <input type="checkbox"/> INITIAL <input type="checkbox"/> FINAL - SEP <input type="checkbox"/> PARTIAL <input type="checkbox"/> CASUAL <input type="checkbox"/> ADVANCE <input type="checkbox"/> REENL. BONUS				8. FICA WAGES		54. PAID BY					
3. DATE EAD OR ENLISTED		4. TERM OF ENL (All entries)		5. NO. OF TAX EXEMPTIONS		6. PAY PERIOD		7. VOU SER. NO.		9. TAXABLE INCOME					
10. ORGANIZATION AND ADDRESS (Include ZIP Code)				ENTITLEMENTS		CODE		AMOUNT							
11. REMARKS ARE ALLOTMENTS IN EFFECT FOR YOUR DEPENDENTS? YOU MUST REPORT THEM TO YOUR COMMANDER!				12. <input type="checkbox"/> AMOUNT UNPAID LAST ACCOUNT		90									
				13. <input type="checkbox"/> BASIC PAY GRADE		14. YRS.		51		COLLECTIONS					
				19. <input type="checkbox"/> BASIC PAY GRADE		16. YRS.		51		27. CLASS E		ALLOTMENTS		AMOUNT	
				17. <input type="checkbox"/>						28. CLASS E					
				18. <input type="checkbox"/> FOREIGN DUTY PAY				64		29. CLASS E					
				19. <input type="checkbox"/> INCENTIVE/SPECIAL PAY						30. CLASS					
				20. <input type="checkbox"/> UNIF & CLO MON ALLOW		6		60		31. CLASS B (Savings Bond)					
				21. <input type="checkbox"/> SUB ALLOWANCE - OFF				53		32. CLASS					
				22. <input type="checkbox"/> QUARTERS ALLOWANCE				89		33. CLASS Q					
				23. <input type="checkbox"/> SUB ALLOWANCE - EM						34. TOTAL ALLOTMENTS		CODE		19	
				24. <input type="checkbox"/> PROFICIENCY PAY				69		35.					
25. <input type="checkbox"/>						36.									
26. TOTAL ENTITLEMENTS				951		37.									
42. TOTAL COLLECTIONS				902		38.									
43. AMOUNT DUE				903		39. FICA TAX WITHHELD		29							
44. AMOUNT PAID				26		40. INCOME TAX WITHHELD		21							
45. AMOUNT UNPAID CARRIED FORWARD				27		41. TOTAL COLLECTIONS		902		24 31					
46. TO DISBURSING OFFICER: Request payment of above account which I certify is true and just, and correctly reflects all pertinent financial data concerning the service member. Applicable statements on reverse made a part hereof.				DATE		157 64									
47. SIGNATURE OF PERSONNEL OFFICER				DATE											
48. TYPED NAME OF PERSONNEL OFFICER		49. DATE													

WAGE AND TAX STATEMENT 1967

Type or print EMPLOYER'S identification number, name and address above.

Copy C - For employee's records

FEDERAL INCOME TAX INFORMATION		SOCIAL SECURITY INFORMATION	
Federal income tax withheld	Wages paid subject to withholding in 1967	F.I.C.A. employee tax withheld ¹	Total F.I.C.A. wages paid in 1967 ¹
144.00	1013.70	90.34	2054.30

Type or print EMPLOYEE'S social security number →

O'BRIEN, DONALD J.

Type or print EMPLOYEE'S name and address (including ZIP code) above.

¹ Before payroll deductions or "sick pay" exclusions.
² The social security (F.I.C.A.) rate of 4.4% includes .5% for Hospital Insurance Benefits and 3.9% for old-age, survivors, and disability insurance.
³ If your wages were subject to social security taxes, but are not shown, these wages are the same as wages shown under "Federal Income Tax Information," but not more than \$6,600.

Keep this copy as part of your tax records.

REPLACES EDITION OF 1 SEP 61, WHICH WILL BE USED.

"The Wall"

A little history most people will never know. Interesting Veterans Statistics off the Vietnam Memorial Wall:

There are 58,267 names now listed on that polished black wall, including those added in 2010.

The names are arranged in the order in which they were taken from us by date and within each date the names are alphabetized. It is hard to believe it is 36 years since the last casualties.

The first known casualty was Richard B. Fitzgibbon, of North Weymouth, Mass. Listed by the U.S. Department of Defense as having been killed on June 8, 1956. His name is listed on the Wall with that of his son, Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Richard B. Fitzgibbon III, who was killed on Sept. 7, 1965.

There are three (3) sets of fathers and sons on the Wall.

39,996 on the Wall were just 22 or younger.

8,283 were just 19 years old.

The largest age group, 33,103 were 18 years old.

12 soldiers on the Wall were 17 years old.

5 soldiers on the Wall were 16 years old.

One soldier, PFC Dan Bullock was 15 years old.

997 soldiers were killed on their first day in Vietnam ..

1,448 soldiers were killed on their last day in Vietnam ..

31 sets of brothers are on the Wall. Thirty one sets of parents lost two of their sons.

54 soldiers attended Thomas Edison High School in Philadelphia . I wonder why so many from one school.

8 Women are on the Wall. Nursing the wounded.

244 soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War; 153 of them are on the Wall.

Beallsville, Ohio with a population of 475 lost 6 of her sons.

West Virginia had the highest casualty rate per capita in the nation. There are 711 West Virginians on the Wall.

The Marines of Morenci - They led some of the scrappiest high school football and basketball teams that the little Arizona copper town of Morenci (pop. 5,058) had ever known and cheered. They enjoyed roaring beer busts. In quieter moments, they rode horses along the Coronado Trail, stalked deer in the Apache National Forest. And in the patriotic camaraderie typical of Morenci's mining families, the nine (9) graduates of Morenci High enlisted as a group in the Marine Corps. Their service began on Independence Day, 1966. Only 3 returned home.

The Buddies of Midvale - LeRoy Tafoya, Jimmy Martinez, Tom Gonzales were all boyhood friends and lived on three consecutive streets in Midvale, Utah—on Fifth, Sixth and Seventh avenues. They lived only a few yards apart. They played ball at the adjacent sandlot ball field. And they all went to Vietnam. In a span of 16 dark days in late 1967, all three would be killed. LeRoy was killed on Wednesday, Nov. 22, the fourth anniversary of John F. Kennedy's assassination. Jimmy died less than 24 hours later on Thanksgiving Day. Tom was shot dead assaulting the enemy on Dec. 7, Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.

The most casualty deaths for a single day was on January 31, 1968 ~ 245 deaths.

The most casualty deaths for a single month was May 1968 - 2,415 casualties were incurred.

For most Americans who read this they will only see the numbers that the Vietnam War created. To those of us who survived the war, and to the families of those who did not, we see the faces, we feel the pain that these numbers created. We are, until we too pass away, haunted with these numbers, because they were our friends,

fathers, husbands, wives, sons and daughters. There are no noble wars, just noble warriors.

NEVER FORGET THE HARM THAT "HANOI JANE FONDA" DID...NEVER FORGET

Please pass this on to those who served during this time, and those who DO Care.

I've also sent this to those I KNOW do care very much, and I thank you for caring as you do.

NOW... Civilian Friends vs. Veteran
Friends Comparisons:

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Get upset if you're
too

busy to talk to them for a week.

VETERAN FRIENDS: Are glad to see

<http://us-mg5.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=90eonqgtfc9n>

9/30/2013

you
after years, and will happily carry on the
same conversation you were having the
last time you
met.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Have never seen
you cry.

VETERAN FRIENDS: Have cried with
you.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Keep your stuff so
long they forget it's yours.

VETERAN FRIENDS:

Borrow your stuff for a few days then
give it back.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Know a few things
about you.

VETERAN FRIENDS: Could write a
book with direct quotes from you.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Will leave you behind if that's what the crowd is doing.
VETERAN FRIENDS: Will stand by you no matter what the crowd does.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Are for a while.
VETERAN FRIENDS: Are for life.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Have shared a few experiences...
VETERAN FRIENDS: Have shared a lifetime of experiences no citizen could ever dream of...

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Will take your drink away when they think you've had enough.
VETERAN FRIENDS: Will look at you stumbling all over the place and say,

'You better drink the rest of that before you spill it!' Then carry you home safely and put you to bed...

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Will ignore this.
VETERAN FRIENDS: Will forward this.

A veteran - whether active duty, retired, served one hitch, or reserve is someone who, at one point in their life, wrote a blank check made payable to 'The Government of the United States of America ' for an amount of 'up to and including my life.'"

From one Veteran to another, it's an honor to be in your company. Thank you for your service to our country and defending the freedoms we enjoy.

When a Veteran leaves the 'job'
and retires to a
better life, many are jealous, some
are pleased, and others, who may
have already retired, wonder if he

<http://us-mg5.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=90eonqgtifc9n>

9/30/2013

knows what he is leaving behind, because we already know.

1. We know, for example, that after a lifetime of camaraderie that few experience, it will remain as a longing for those past times.

2. We know in the Military life there is a fellowship which lasts long after the uniforms are hung up in the back of the closet.

3. We know even if he throws them away, they will be on him with every step and breath that remains in his life. We also know how the very bearing of the man speaks of what he was and in his heart still is.

These are the burdens of the job. You will still look at people suspiciously, still see what others do not see or choose to ignore and always will look at the rest of the

Military world with a respect for what they do; only grown in a lifetime of knowing.

Never think for one moment you are escaping from that life. You are only escaping the 'job' and merely being allowed to leave 'active' duty.

So what I wish for you is that whenever you ease into retirement, in your heart you never forget for one moment that you are still a member of the greatest fraternity the world has ever known !

Donald J. O'Brien

US Army, Vietnam,
December 16, 1965 - December 15, 1967

- Scrapbook
- Interview and School Paper
- Photo Album

The Vietnam War

Notes

Ewa Baska
Maggie Wrona
Period 2

Causes of War

- First Indochina War (1946-1954)
 - France gained control of Indochina in a series of colonial wars beginning in 1840s lasting through 1880s.
 - During WWII France collaborated with Japan.
 - Vietnam under...
 - Imperial Japanese control
 - as de facto Japanese administrative control
 - France- official administrators
 - Japanese surrendered in WWII
 - French fight to re-establish control over their colony against Viet Minh independence movement led by communist party leader Ho Chi Minh
 - France wanted to capture Ho Chi Minh (leader of Viet Minh); they formed a rival Vietnamese government under Bao Dai.
(http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia_761552648_6/Vietnam.html#p170, October 18, 2004)
 - 1950 the U.S. provide military and economic aid to the French. (The Vietnam Experience: Pawns of War, p. 18)
 - Ho Chi Minh seeks the help of China a Communist country.
(http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia_761552648_6/Vietnam.html#p170, October 18, 2004)
 - Battle of Dien Bien Phu in 1954
 - Viet Minh defeat French colonial army
 - France withdraws
 - Colony granted independence
- Negotiations in Geneva, Switzerland. (The Vietnam Experience: Pawns of War, p. 29)
 - The country separates into two different territories- Communists form North Vietnam; Non-Communists form South Vietnam.
 - Elections held later for both sides to come into a union.
 - Ho Chi Minh became president of North Vietnam and started to spread Communism (http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia_761552648_6/Vietnam.html#p170, October 18, 2004)
 - Ngo Dinh Diem became president of South Vietnam and started his anti-Communism movement
(http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia_761552648_6/Vietnam.html#p170, October 18, 2004)
 - U.S. supported the South Vietnamese government fearing the spread of Communism (The Vietnam Experience: Pawns of War, p. 20)
 - ◆ Sent troops to help South in it's efforts to stop communism
 - Diem is killed in an attempt by North Vietnam to overthrow the government.
(http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia_761552648_6/Vietnam.html#p170, October 18, 2004)
 - U.S. orders the immediate attack on North Vietnam in 1965 (The Vietnam Experience: Pawns of War, p. 20)

Beginnings of War/ Years of Veteran's Service

- 1965 (Vietnam: A visual Encyclopedia, p.12)
 - First combat troops sent into Vietnam
 - March- the first Teach-IN against the war at the University of Michigan.
 - Many operations against the North

- 1966 (Vietnam: A visual Encyclopedia, p.12)
 - January- Operation Masher/White Wing the first major search and destroy operation.
 - September- Operation Attleboro
 - December- A reported for *The New York Times* reports from Vietnam that US is bombing civilian areas and killing innocent people. The anti-war movement grows.

- 1967 (Vietnam: A visual Encyclopedia, p.13)
 - January - Operation Bolo, largest air-to-air battle of the war.
 - January – Operation Cedar Falls in Iron Triangle
 - February – Operation Junction City, largest ground operation of the war.
 - April - Massive anti-war movements held in New York and San Francisco.
 - October 21 – March on the Pentagon, 50,000 anti-war protesters

Operations the Veteran Was Involved In

- Operation Attleboro
 - September 14, 1966 – November 15, 1966 (http://www.vietnam-war.info/battles/operation_attleboro.php, October 20, 2004)
 - A search-and-destroy operation by the 196th Light Infantry Brigade. (Historical Atlas of the Vietnam War, p.112-113)
 - Infantry battalions were airlifted to landing zones in the War Zone C area, surrounding Tay Ninh.
 - Tay Ninh a non-farmland area, which can be classified as high Savannah, with tall wavy elephant grass and very tall trees. Heavy populated with huge 6-10 feet tall termite mounds that all made landing almost impossible. (http://www.vietnam-war.info/battles/operation_attleboro.php, October 20, 2004)
 - Composed of three phases. (Historical Atlas of the Vietnam War, p.112-113)
 - Phase I
 - They moved through jungle areas, without notable enemy contact.
 - Phase II
 - One of the infantries ran into the opposing side, which caused a three-day battle between them, eight miles northwest of Dau Tieng.
 - Phase III
 - Major Guy S. Meloy ordered his brigade-sized force, including the 196th Light Infantry Brigade, to attack the enemy at night, causing an intense four-hour fight that left behind 300 enemy casualties. Later discovered that they were protecting a base camp, containing one of the largest weapon collection found to date.

- ◆ 19,00 grenades
 - ◆ 1,135 pounds of explosives
 - ◆ 400 Bangalore torpedoes
 - November 15 Viet Cong's began withdrawing into Cambodia. (Historical Atlas of the Vietnam War, p.112-113)
 - Two month mission with little head-to-head conflict. No more than 1,00 Viet Cong and 150 Americans killed. (http://www.vietnam-war.info/battles/operation_attleboro.php, October 20, 2004)
- Operation Cedar Falls
- January 8, 1967 – January 26, 1967. (http://www.vietnam-war.info/battles/operation_cedar_falls.php, October 20, 2004)
 - This operation was based on the success of Operation Attleboro. (http://www.vietnam-war.info/battles/operation_cedar_falls.php, October 20, 2004)
 - The goal was to clear out the Viet Cong base camps in the Iron Triangle- area northwest of Saigon. (http://www.vietnam-war.info/battles/operation_cedar_falls.php, October 20, 2004)
 - A classic “hammer and anvil” operation; “anvil” south of the Saigon River, “hammer” would launch helicopter and land assaults. (Historical Atlas of the Vietnam War, p.116-117)
 - Viet Cong forces chose not to fight but still suffered 750 casualties and 280 captured, while 75 U.S. soldiers and 11 ARVN casualties. (http://www.vietnam-war.info/battles/operation_cedar_falls.php, October 20, 2004)
 - US forces uncovered 525 enemy underground tunnels, complete with hospitals, storerooms, kitchens, and headquarters. (Historical Atlas of the Vietnam War, p.116-117)
 - Found documents, record, and plans which included maps and diagrams for raids. (Historical Atlas of the Vietnam War, p.116-117)
 - Even with the military success, Operation Cedar Falls was seen as a disaster in the public's eye. The US forced civilians out of their towns and into refugee camps. They completely destroyed their homes and village. This was widely criticized and became an important point for the antiwar movement back home. (Historical Atlas of the Vietnam War, p.116-117)
- Operation Junction City
- February 21, 1967 – May 14, 1967 (http://www.vietnam-war.info/battles/operation_junction_city.php, October 20, 2004)
 - The largest US operation of the war (http://www.vietnam-war.info/battles/operation_junction_city.php, October 20, 2004)
 - Search-and-destroy operation in War Zone C- along the Cambodian border and surrounding Tay Ninh. (Historical Atlas of the Vietnam War, p.118-119)
 - Goal is to destroy Viet Cong bases and the Central Office for South Vietnam, and to establish a camp and airfield where U.S. can watch over enemy movement. (http://www.vietnam-war.info/battles/operation_junction_city.php, October 20, 2004)

- Involved many battalions and infantries both on the ground and in the air. (Historical Atlas of the Vietnam War, p.118-119)
 - Attack from the north- air.
 - Attack from the south- ground.
 - Didn't face much opposition, except for three major battles (Historical Atlas of the Vietnam War, p.118-119)
 - Battle at Ap Bau Bang –March 19-20 Viet Cong suffered huge losses.
 - March 21- Fire Support Base Gold, near Soui Tre, US forces fired “beehive” rounds straight into enemy ranks.
 - Final battle at Ap Gu- US attacked by three battalions of Viet Cong, but badly beaten.
- 2,728 Viet Cong troops killed, while the US suffered only 282. (Historical Atlas of the Vietnam War, p.118-119)

Anti-War Movement

- (Vietnam The Necessary War, pg. 216-217)
 - Some believed the war was immoral because it was a campaign in the Cold War.
 - Because of that, the war was unjust and there was no reason for the United States to meddle.
- (Vietnam The Necessary War, pg. 245-247)
 - This war was a "uniquely savage" war. (pg. 245)
 - In previous wars people had never seen the actual images of war, until Vietnam.
 - Reporters took pictures and published stories, such as The New Face which showed an American soldier throwing a head of a Viet Cong.
 - This led a lot to the negative public opinion of the war in the United States.
- (http://ohoh.essortment.com/vietnamwarprot_rlcz.htm, November 6, 2004)
 - Others protested because of the many lives that were being lost.
 - Others, such as college students protest because the draft was introduced.
- (East, Southeast Asia, and the Western Pacific 2003, pg. 194)
 - People viewed the war in Vietnam as a civil war, rather than one that should involve the world.
 - The war was costing the US around \$30 billion a year, making a strain on the economy.

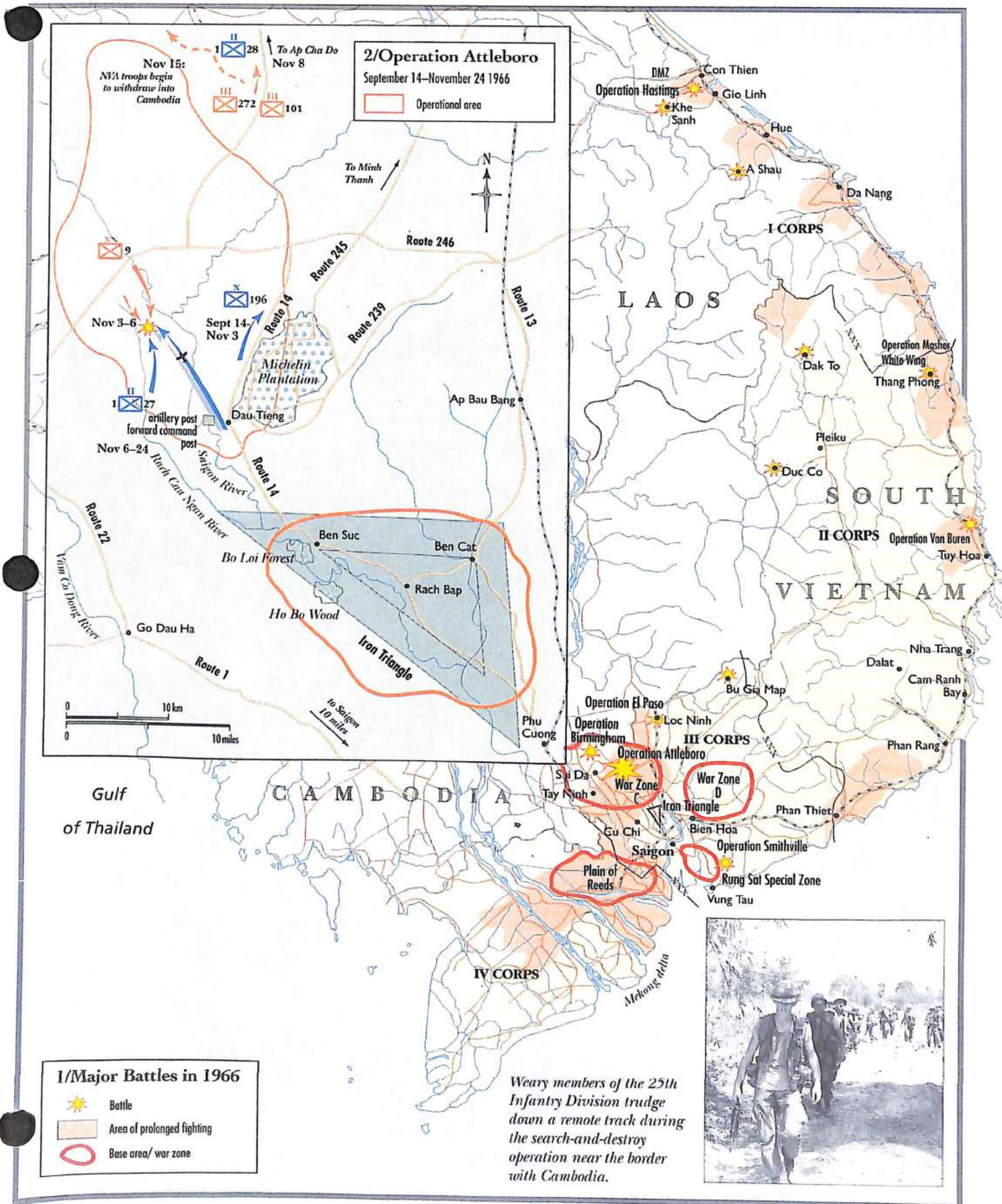
Combat Medic

- The combat medic shared the same risks and hazards of ground combat everyday along with the soldiers.
- Special duties included taking care of the severely wounded as well as the slightly wounded, such as cleaning minor wounds.
- Must have received medical basic training
- Combat Medical Badge - Which our veteran received (<http://www.1stcavmedic.com/cmb.html>, November 6, 2004)

- Not intended to be awarded to all medical personnel.
- Awarded only to those Medics who served under direct fire with the infantry.
- Must have engaged with the enemy in active ground combat.

End of the War

- (East, Southeast Asia, and the Western Pacific 2003, pgs. 195-196)
 - 1968 - Nixon enters office with a plan to end the war.
 - Wanted to end the war in a “fashion that would retain American influence in the postwar era” (pg. 195) Therefore, withdrawing was out of the question.
 - His plan became known as vietnamization.
 - Planned to offer air support
 - This way, he would withdraw the number of American soldiers actually fighting.
 - By his reelection in 1972, after many changes in the Vietnamese government, Nixon resumed heavy bombing North Vietnam to make Hanoi accept the terms of the Saigon government.
 - In December 1972, North Vietnam agreed to end the conflict, and the formal agreement was signed on March 2, 1973.
 - The new government in Vietnam had an unclearly defined government and general election based on the agreement.
 - Hanoi began a “third Vietnam” under the Viet Cong
 - June 19, 1973 - The U.S. Congress passes the Case-Church Amendment which forbids any further U.S. military involvement in Southeast Asia.
 - This leaves the way open for North Vietnam to wage another war, without fear of the United States
 - In 1974 the U.S. Congress allows only \$700 million for South Vietnam, which lowers their moral since they were under-funded. That same year, Nixon resigns because of the Watergate scandal.
 - Viet Cong and North Vietnam continue getting power and raid cities
 - The president of South Vietnam eventually resigns in a 90-minute speech, which was broadcast on TV.
 - April 30, 1975 - The end of the war. The last Americans leave Saigon, and it is quickly invaded by North Vietnam without much resistance
- Coming Home (<http://www.vietnam-war.info/veterans/> November 6, 2004)
 - As the soldiers came home, they faced a lot of negativity from the public as well as their own personal/psychological problems, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
 - Some of the problems they deal with include: Fears, anxiety, panic, depression, rage (in the form of violent emotions or violent actions), irritability, shame, guilt, isolation, emotional emptiness, inability to relax, addiction, nightmares

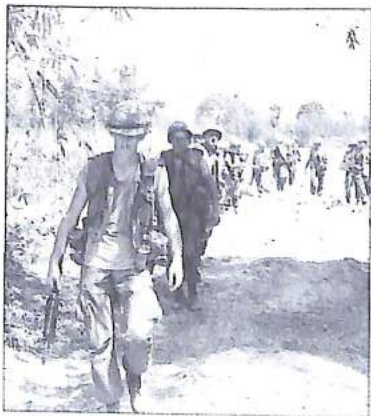


Nov 15:
NVA troops begin
to withdraw into
Cambodia

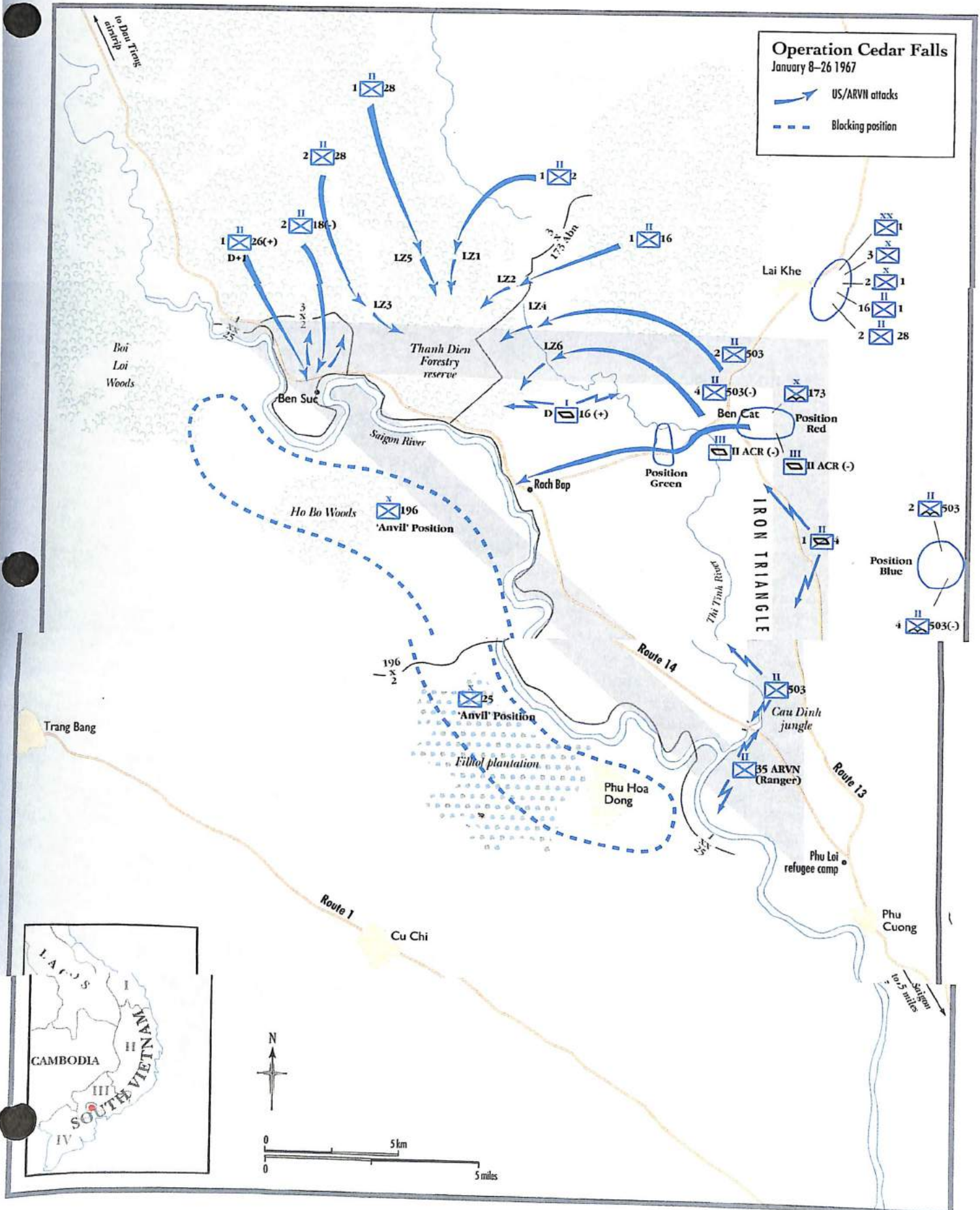
2/Operation Attleboro
September 14–November 24 1966

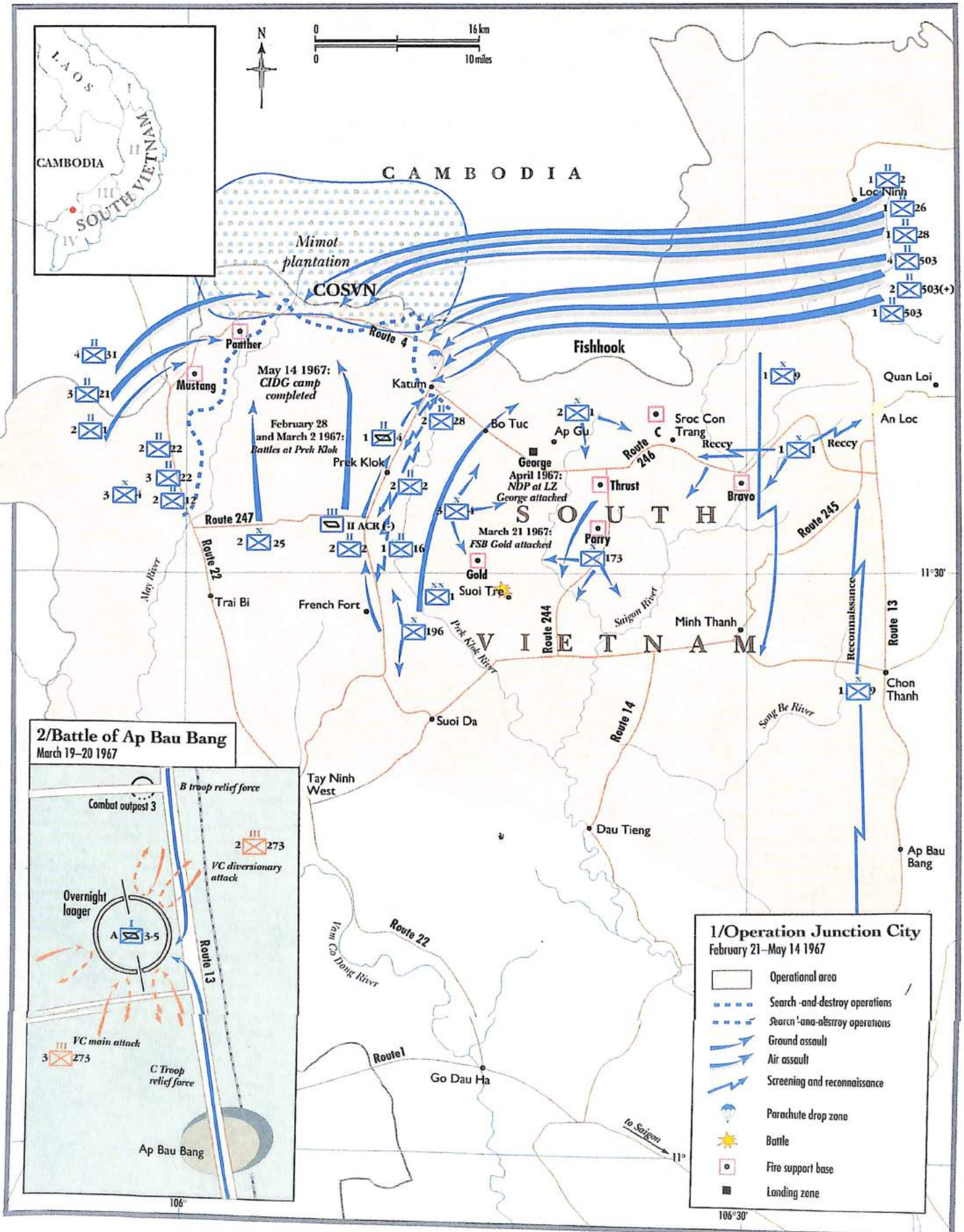
Operational area

DMZ
Con Thien
Gio Linh
Khe Sanh
Hue
A Shau
Da Nang
I CORPS
Dak To
Thang Phong
Pleiku
Duc Co
SOUTH VIETNAM
II CORPS
Operation Van Buren
Tuy Hoa
Nha Trang
Dalat
Cam Ranh Bay
Phan Rang
Phan Thiet
Operation Smithville
Rung Sat Special Zone
Vung Tau
III CORPS
Operation El Paso
Loc Ninh
Operation Birmingham
Operation Attleboro
War Zone C
Iron Triangle
War Zone D
Sai Da
Tay Ninh
Cu Chi
Saigon
Plain of Reeds
IV CORPS
Mekong delta

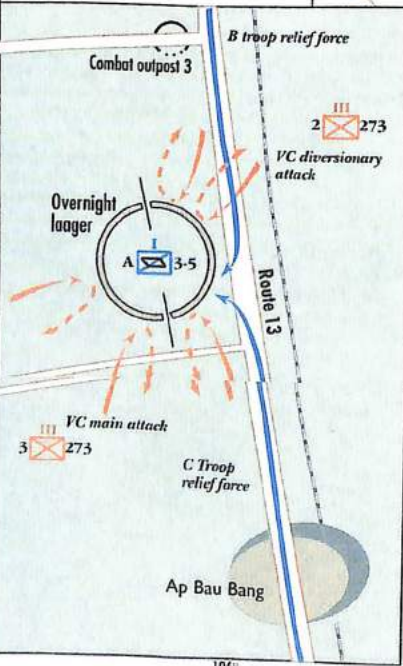


Weary members of the 25th Infantry Division trudge down a remote track during the search-and-destroy operation near the border with Cambodia.





2/Battle of Ap Bau Bang
March 19-20 1967

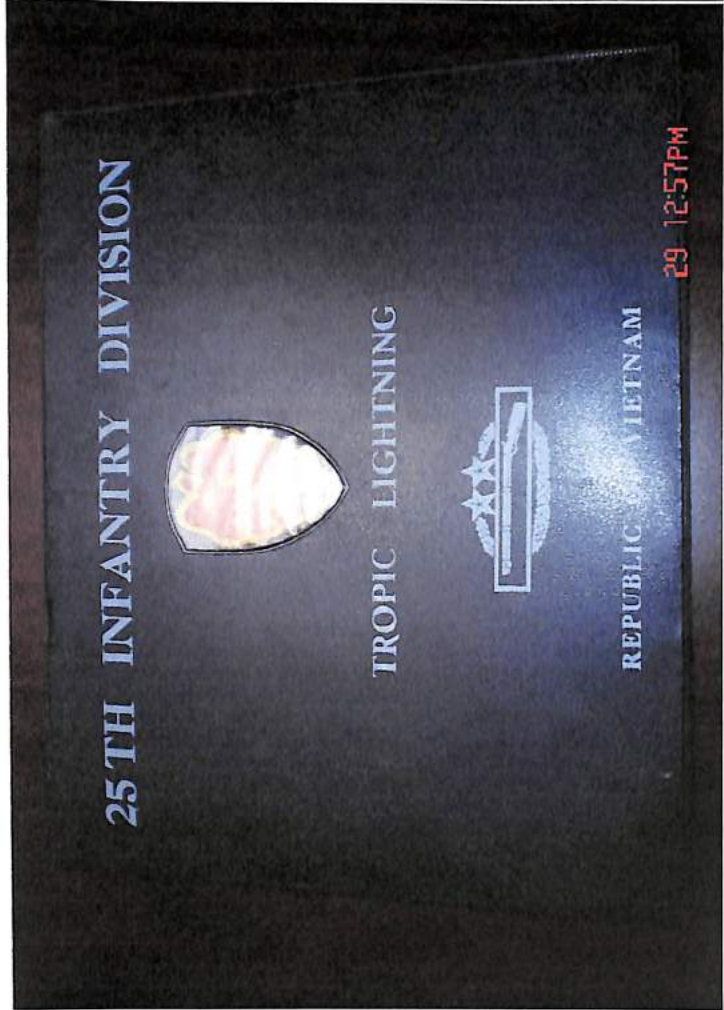


1/Operation Junction City
February 21-May 14 1967

- Operational area
- Search-and-destroy operations
- Search-and-destroy operations
- Ground assault
- Air assault
- Screening and reconnaissance
- Parachute drop zone
- Battle
- Fire support base
- Landing zone

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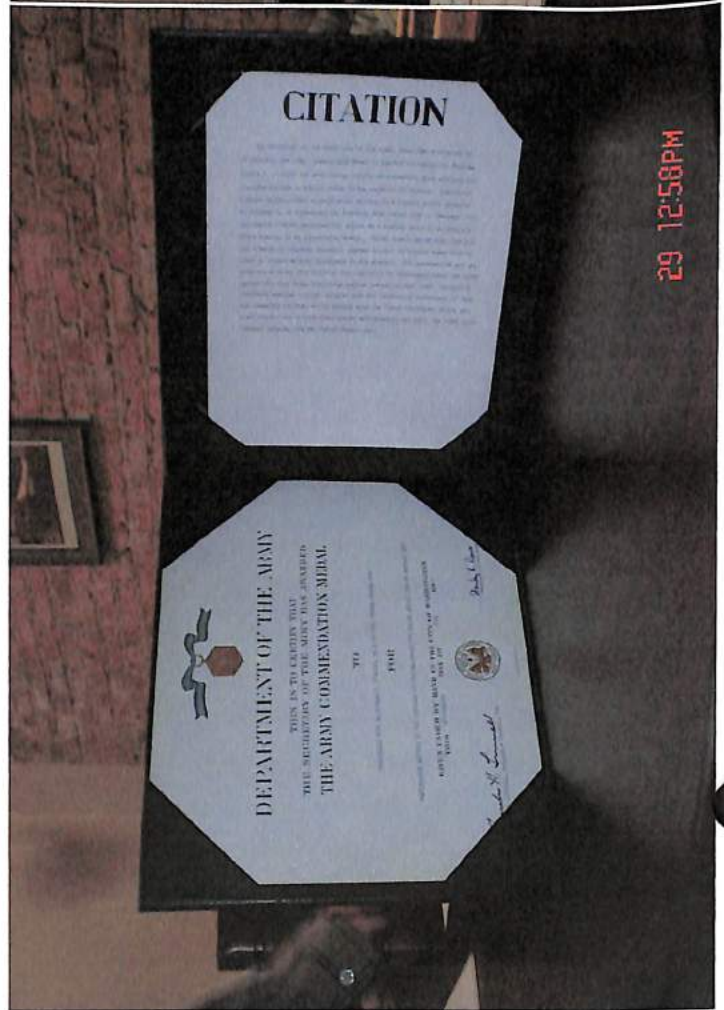
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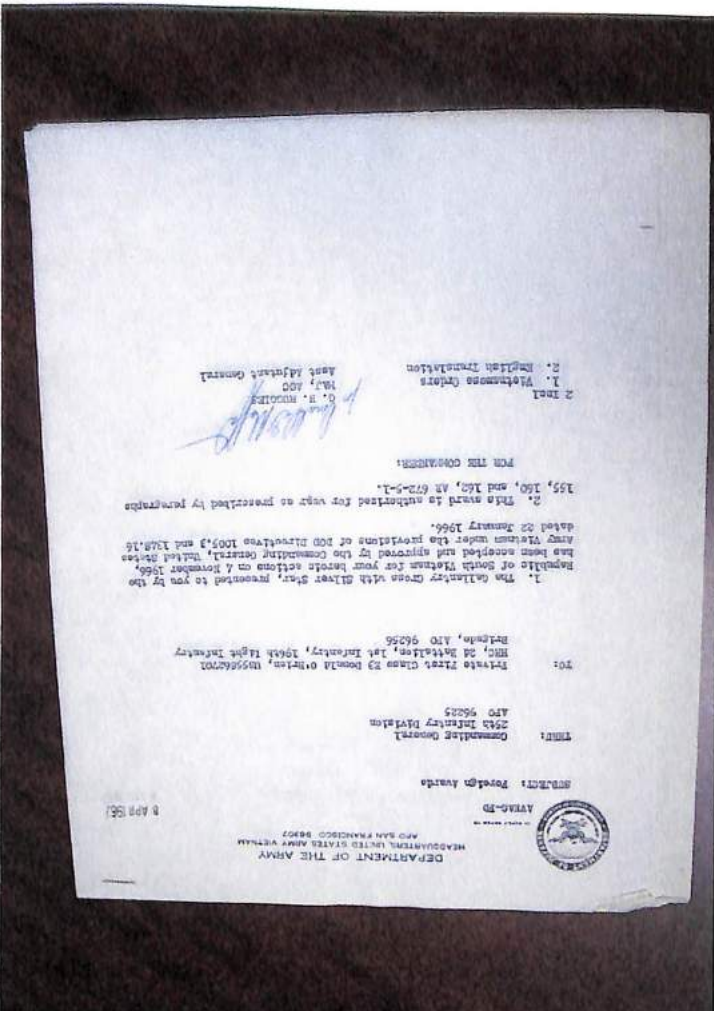
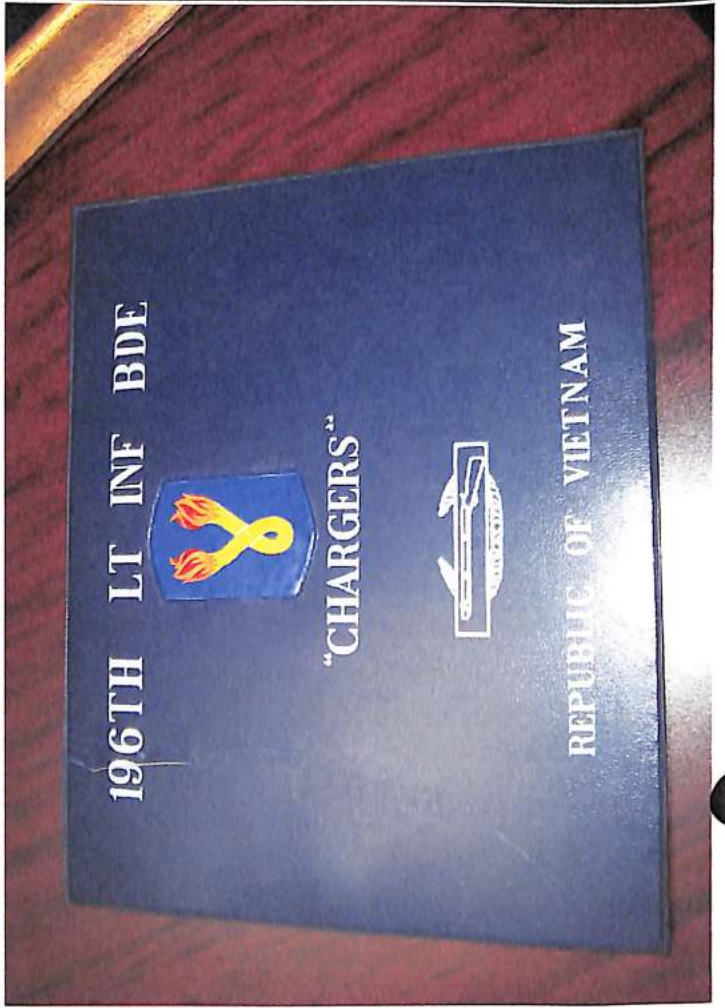
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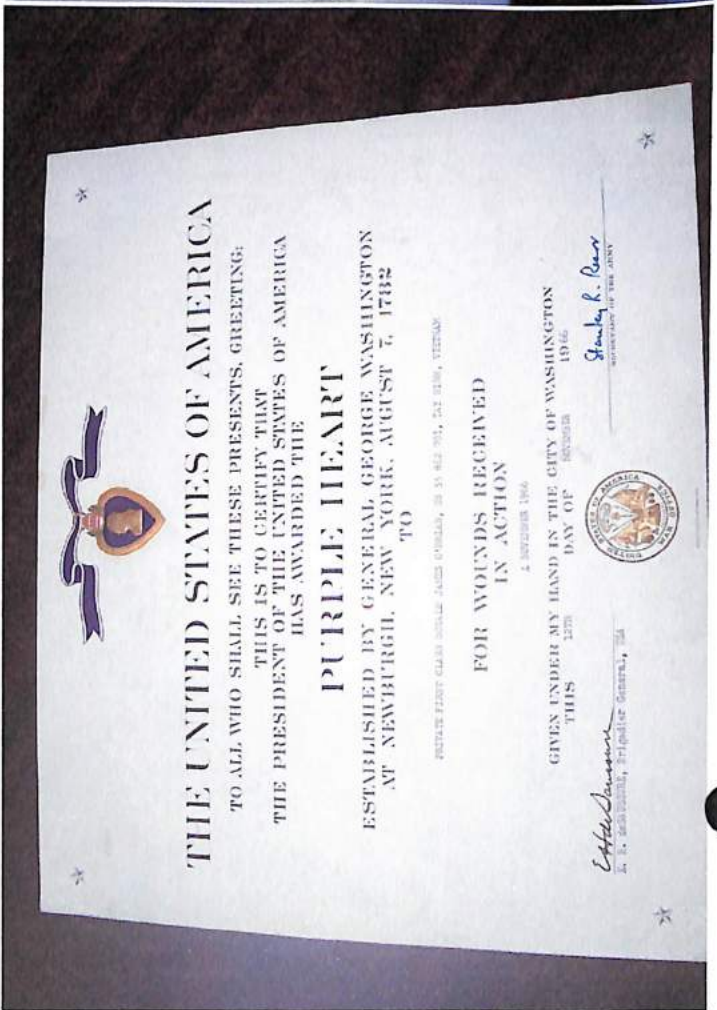


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IN MEMORY OF OUR FALLEN COMRADES

**All Gave Some
Some Gave All**

You Are Not Forgotten

**Our Country's Heroes
Past, Present, Future**

Rest In Peace

Veteran: My name is Donald Jerry O'Brien. Most people call me Don. I am 58 years old. I currently live in Alsip, Illinois. I've lived in Chicago almost my whole life; or somewhere around there. I served in Vietnam War. I went over on a ship from Boston Harbor, we left Boston about mid July 1966 and I came home I think it was June 26, 1967. I spent exactly 11 months and 11 days in the country. Not that I was counting but that's what it said on my discharge paper.

Interviewer: I just wanted to know, were you drafted or did you volunteer for the war?

Veteran: I was drafted. I thought about enlisting, but I talked to a couple recruiters and I didn't like what they had to say so I figured when the time comes they'll draft me, and they did. I didn't have any problem going in.

Interviewer: So there was no anger or anything?

Veteran: No, my family always served. I had my father and about four uncles serve in World War II. I had one uncle. I had one uncle involved in World War I but before that I don't really know. But I had no problem going in.

Interviewer: Many people at the beginning of the war didn't understand why we were involved in the conflict in Vietnam and you were one of the first ones that was deployed. Did you full understand the cause of the war.

Veteran: Well at the time when we went, I was under the impression that we were going in order to help protect the Vietnamese and to help them fight for their freedom. But many years later, my understanding is that it was more political. How we got involved we were the to I felt, protect the natural resources and the spread of - it was the spread of Communism that they were working on the Domino theory. What's uh, what it came down to was that fact that Linden Johnson didn't want to be the first president to lose a war. He didn't want to get out it and Robert Macmerry, stated in his book that there were mistakes and we should have never stayed So my opinion of the war now is that it was - many lost lives, many people didn't have the opportunity to make the mistakes

Interviewer: Your family and friends, how did they react to you going to war?

Veteran: Well, they were worried. When I got the orders to got to Vietnam. I had to tell my parents. They were concerned. There was a possibility I may never come home. But I don't think I fully realized it at the time, being 19, you have very little fears. My reaction to this was don't worry about me, I'll be ok. They were more concerned with my safety than there wasn't any problem with them being upset because of the war- that the - the political reasons.

Interviewer: Did you have any friends that went to the war with you?

Veteran: Well, I did join the unit in April 1966 Fort Massachusetts so when we went over

there as a whole unit so yes, I would say there was friends that I had met there and a couple of fellows that I had gone through fort St. Houston with it was just a medical training center, so we kind of made friends. But the one person who was my best friend, who as a matter of fact enlisted in the army so that he could go on the same day I did, so we could go through basic triaging together, he spent a year in fort Viet Nero when I was in Vietnam. When I came back he went to Vietnam and I was in fort Viet Nero. So, yeah I had friends over there.

Interviewer: What service branch were you in?

Veteran: I was in the army.

Interviewer: And how long did you serve?

Veteran: Two years.

Interviewer: And you were in Vietnam the whole time?

Veteran: No.

Interviewer: No?

Veteran: No. I was in Vietnam one year, I was in the army for two years. I was drafted Dec. 16 1965 and I got out Dec.15 1967.

Interviewer: Where were you stationed in Vietnam?

Veteran: My first place stationed was Tay Ninh, which is about 90 kilometers northwest of Saigon. Its close to the Cambodian border. It's what was known as 3rd Corp. The country was broken up militarily into four zones. 1st Corp, Eye Corp as it was commonly called, was for the DMZ. The Two Corp was the name to uh past the central highlands. 3rd Corp, where I was in, was from there to the south of Saigon and 4th Corp was everything They also had these areas broken up into was zones. Most of my time in the south was in what was called war zone c and war zone d. Where I spent most of my time.

Interviewer: What battalion, regiment, and division did you serve in?

Veteran: Well I served with, well the military you do everything backwards. Technically I was in head quarters company, all medics are assigned head quarters company. Until I was assigned 1st platoon bravo company 2nd battalion, 1st infantry, 196th light infantry is separate. At that time we were separate units. It was a new concept to the light infantry brigade. Later in the war the 196th became part of the 23rd division. But then as the war escalated, and troops started going home, and disbanded the 23rd and 196th became separate again. The 196th was the last combat troop to make it out in 1972.

Interviewer: What ranks did you hold?

Veteran: When I went over I was 83 fcd when I got there I made special first class and I made special fifth class when I got back to the States.

Interviewer: What jobs were you responsible for?

Veteran: My main job was being assigned to the infantry and my job was for the well-being and care for the men in my battalion. From the everyday stuff like heat stroke, sun burn, blisters, mosquito bites, spider bites, bruises from fights, to in the field, to their wounds whether they be minor or traumatic. My basic job was to stop the bleeding, try to keep the body out of shock and get them evacuated to a hospital. And if they died, it was to make sure they were tagged properly so they could be sent to registration.

Interviewer: Being a combat medic, did you feel it was your duty to help everybody, including the enemy? Or were you given specific orders?

Veteran: Well, number one I never was in a situation where there was an enemy soldier that needed treatment. So I don't know how to answer that. Would I have taken care of them or not? I probably would have, reluctantly. And I don't remember any orders ever being given to refuse treatment to them. I do personally feel that though I would have been very argumentative if I had to take care of a wounded before.

Interviewer: Did you receive any special training?

Veteran: Yes, even though it never seems like it's enough. But I went through a course in Fort St. Houston which was first aid. They gave us basic training and duties if you're in a hospital, you're duties if you're in an aid station, basic duties if you were going to be a medic, how to treat different traumatic wounds, I could remember one class how to wrap stumps how to unload helicopters with wounded in it. But then once I was assigned to an infantry unit, we had a little more specialty, because of the type of wounds and work we would be doing. And once we got orders through to Vietnam we went aboard a ship, so we had a lot more intensive classes on shotgun wounds, and how to keep the patients out of shock and such.

Interviewer: So do you feel that the training you received was relevant to what you were faced with in Vietnam?

Veteran: Yes, even though I don't think anyone can totally train you and prepare you for war. But best as humanly possible, yes.

Interviewer: And did you have a designated area where you could take care of those that were injured?

Veteran: Yeah, where they fell. Right there. That's where I took care of them. Then what

we would do was if they needed to be evacuated, I don't ever remember calling in, somebody else would usually call that in, and they'd set up a what's called a LZ, landing zone, and they would transport the injured there, with the helicopter, hopefully coming to take him.

Interviewer: Did you pretty much take care of everything, no matter how serious it was?

Veteran: I'm not sure if I took care of every type, I took care of a lot. Definitely a lot, yes.

Interviewer: Were you required to carry around special equipment?

Veteran: Uh, special equipment, I was assigned a what's known as an Aid Bag. And in that bag it was extra field dressings, there was five, I think there was five, what's called a ceresive of morphine, which is just a tube and if they needed it you punctured it and just stick them. It was a pre-measured dose. I had a snaffle, scalpel to cut get something out, scissors, tweezers, you know. It was, a pretty well equipped Aid Kit. If I wanted to re-supply it I would just go to an Aid Station, they would have everything I would need there.

Interviewer: Now I am going to ask you about the battles you were in. What were some important battles and events you were a part of?

Veteran: Well, the three major battles: Operation Attleboro, Operation Cedar Falls, and Operation Junction City. Operation Attleboro was the first one I was in and we, I seem to recall we went out, we started around mid September 1966. And the operation was finally over in end of November 1966. But my involvement ended probably about Nov. 10 1966. The main purpose for that operation was a training mission for us because we had been trained to go to Saint Delirio And the political climate changed there, they didn't want the United States to go there anymore, any troops. We were assigned Pacific. They requested additional troops so we got our orders to go to Vietnam they had another infantry training up in Massachusetts in the dead of winter. So we had a whole brigade of green troops that needed to get more accustomed to the heat, the average temperature there was 100, 110, about 90% humidity, no experience in, just in warfare. Training's over, this is the real thing. You make a mistake you die, in training you just get punished, but as the operation started to get towards the end, I forget which part of the unit started defending large cashiers of rice and weapons. There was enough rice, if found, to feed a whole NVA regiment for 200 day, so it was quiet large. The operation of 2 battalions up to 11, we were kind of under the control of the 25th division so when they sent their units out they took control of the operation. That was around Oct. 31 that was the first that we started to get in contact with them [enemy], it was the very first in operation. I lost one that day two wounded one serious and one grievously serious, survived somehow, wasn't his day to die.

November 3rd, 4th, and 5th was the worst. On the 3rd, the 2nd battalion was ambushed, 10 were killed. By the end of the day we had 10 killed, and 8 evacuated. On November 4th we

were told to move up to and join up with a company the 25th division, they got separated, they got trapped behind the, inside base camp. We had to hold a line until we could get then out. So we stayed there for 36 hours until they get out. During that 36 hours we would keep sending units through the track line trying to get to them. I spent the whole night in the aid station, I had evacuated three men, it was the blackest night of your life, there were no lights. They told us not to go back up because you could get lost. I thought that was some good advice. I spent the whole night helping a surgeon. The next morning I spent most of that day there another platoon tried to cut through and they got cut down and even though they weren't part of my platoon. I helped and that was what my citation is for, what I did on Nov. 4th and 5th.

Interviewer: Was it hard for you to see all those people die?

Veteran: Uh, oh, extremely hard yes. It's just very hard. You remember them today.

Interviewer: How about the other operations? Cedar Falls and Junction City?

Veteran: Cedar Falls, well Cedar Falls and Junction City, it's like a, we didn't, my unit, didn't end up in quite as intense situation as in Attleboro. Cedar Falls, we were given a what was called a Blocking Position. They had us set up in a semi permanent base. And we would send out the ambush patrols. And Cedar Falls was in what was known as the Iron Triangle. It was an area just north of Kochi, which was where the 25th division had their base camp, which we found out years later, which was the hugest tunnel complex underneath their base camp. They didn't build it there. It was there before we got there. We put our camp on top of theirs. And it was a stronghold of the NVA. So units of the 1st infantry and 25th division started at one end and pushed through sweeping the area into us, we were to capture them. The spot that we had like 2 or 3 nights in a row our guys had ambushed and killed a few but I don't remember any large numbers. Junction city was an operations, we tried to I believe, disturb what's known as a trail. the supplies coming in, for example in operation Atterboro we messed up their last front, they were planning something so we threw them off guard.

Interviewer: And the weather conditions, you were talking about them, were they really hard to deal with?

Veteran: They were the least of your worries. For me, we got there August, it was the end of the rainy season, so we didn't experience too much of the rain. But when it would rain, it would come down so hard, so intense, you could literarily soap up, it could come down that hard, you could take a shower in it. The problem with that, was it would stop as fast as it stated. Just like you would turn off a water faucet. So when it got to the dry season, it was almost no rain, so it was very hot and humid, but when you 19 and 20, you tolerate it that much better. And everyone you know around you is there too so - it's hot. You just get accustom to it.

Interviewer: Where did you sleep and what was it like?

Veteran: Well when we were at base camp, which was usually one week a month, I had a cot, I have a picture here. That was my tent. They were like this here. The bunk with the mosquito netting above it. And that was my particular bed. Just a bed with an air mattress on it. When we were out in the field, that's where we slept, right there in the ground. Wherever we were that night, we would usually, if we were in a field, we would dig a foxhole. It's a precaution, if something would happen you would have some place to find shelter and fight back from. If we were going to be someplace a little bit longer, as at times, they would, there was a couple of times, our job was to secure artillery, so where the guys of artillery set up their fire base, so they could fire their weapons, we would set up a perimeter around them to defend them in case they were attacked. So we usually would get the small bunkers. That you could just step outside.

Interviewer: Did you travel a lot, and how did they know where to find you?

Veteran: Because we were always in constant radio communication. And depending on what the situation was, a lot of times they would try to send out a hot meal out in the morning, and one in the evening, which would come by helicopter. That day we would get Sea Rations. And some days, even though they would send us hot food, we would eat the rations. It just wasn't appealing to us.

Interviewer: Since you traveled a lot, were your bunks stricken with diseases and sicknesses?

Veteran: No, I was, I was fortunate. Some people got malaria. There were some insects and snakes there, a couple of snake bites.

Interviewer: How much terrain did you cover?

Veteran: Yeah, I'm not really sure how to answer that question. Because they would fly us out in helicopters, and we might be out there for a week, and we would walk the entire week. Other times we would walk up and set up, stay 2 or 3 days, and then move on again. Sometimes they would drop us off, then pick us up and we would fly somewhere else. When we did that, we would cover a lot of territory.

Interviewer: Did you come in contact with any enemy soldiers, yourself?

Veteran: I would say no. I never saw any live ones. But I wasn't on the frontline. I was always sort of behind them, and if something would happen, someone would usually be wounded so I was usually busy.

Interviewer: Did you yourself sustain any combat related injuries?

Veteran: A minor one. One, which I don't remember getting, but there was a red mark above my eye. I got shot which was what it says and I got slit on the side of my hand and that was all.

Interviewer: Was there anything of sentimental value that you carried with you at all times?

Veteran: No.

Interviewer: How about letters? Did you receive or send letters out?

Veteran: Both. I received letters from my family, a couple of girls that I knew. I had two friends that were in the army, we would correspond back and forth. And I received letters from a, he was in the Korean war, I corresponded with him.

Interviewer: Was it easy for you to receive and send letters?

Veteran: Yes. They knew where we were all the time and usually they would bring, we were re supplied everyday, sometimes more than once. Ss when they would bring food out they would also get water and ammunition and the mail.

Interviewer: Did you receive packages from home? Were you allowed to?

Veteran: Oh yes. Sometimes they would send out the food they would send us our packages. We would get those back at camp. Depending on where we were at.

Interviewer: Did you ever feel homesick and was it hard for you to be away from your family and friends?

Veteran: Hmm. Yeah, I really didn't want to be there. But for me because well the survival, my goal was to basically live through the day. So, I, I, I didn't so much look at Oh Gee, I have 364 days left, I didn't count down. I didn't want to count down. It was like a superstition you know, when you start to get short, you get careless, and that's when you, you know, you get killed. And un until then I got lucky.

Interviewer: Living under those conditions, did you ever think about how much you take for granted at home?

Veteran: Oh, very much so. The, when I was leaving the country, it was about six of us that were leaving the same day, from 196th, and we, they trucked us to the airport, we were supposed to get on a plane, a C130, which is a big cargo plane, the back doors open up. They were going to fly us to Constilupe in Saigon. The plane left late, we had a flat tire, so by the time we got to Constilupe, the last shuttle bus going to the replacement temple, which was where guys would come in and be assigned to work, that's I guess where leaving the country, we would be there to get processed out. They said it was

unsafe for us to walk in Saigon, so we spent the night at the airport and nobody could sleep so we just kind of sat around talking about what was the first thing you'd do when you got home. A big steak dinner, um, whatever, and just what it would be like to return to the world.

Interviewer: Do you remember what it was you wanted to do most?

Veteran: No. I just wanted to get the hell out of there.

Interviewer: And people say that going through a traumatic experience with someone can bring you closer to them than with someone you have known your whole life. Do you think that's true?

Veteran: Very much so.

Interviewer: Did you make a lot of friends you still keep in touch with?

Veteran: Uh, yes I did for a long time. And within the last two years, I've made contact with a bunch, like four or five, and a couple people who've made contact with me, that I can't remember. They remember me, so we've talked. Hopefully I'll remember who they are, can't put a face to their name just yet.

Interviewer: Did your friends make it easier on you during the war?

Veteran: I think so, yes, you support each other, you, misery loves company. You're there together and you would complain, bitchin' and moanin'.

Interviewer: What was some stuff you did for fun?

Veteran: What did we do for fun? Well the only time we were really able to relax was when we came back to base camp. And my pastime was drinking. I would get, after I got cleaned up, re-supplied my Aid Bag and cleaned my weapon, I was ready to go back out, I would just get totally drunk, so I would forget. That was my pastime.

Interviewer: Was that like your way of coping with everything?

Veteran: Yes.

Interviewer: And did you receive any special medals or service awards?

Veteran: I received a number. I'll be starting over here, that's the Silver Star, which was for valor. I received that for my performance on what I did Nov. 4th and 5th. Behind that, below it, is the Purple Heart, for wounds. In the center, the badge at the top is known as a Combat Medical Badge, and it's only awarded to medics who served in combat. The next one down is the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with the Silver Star Device, which was

issued to me from the Vietnamese government for the same thing as the Silver Star. The next row, the green, was the Army Commendation Medal, and that was just a meritorious award for doing a good job in the field. And below that is the Good Conduct Medal. They let me get away with whatever I wanted. Medics were treated very differently over there. They were treated very special. And other guys would get drunk like I would and get into trouble. They wouldn't do anything to me. I don't know - it wasn't right, but that's how it was. And uh, but out of all of the awards there, may seem strange to some people, but even thought it was a minor one, the Purple Heart, because I have an uncle, well I had an uncle, I'm sure he's dead now, who was missing in action in the second World War. And I can remember growing up, going to my grandmother's house, and on the wall was a picture of my Uncle Jeff with a citation, he was in the Army Air Corp, with his Purple Heart. He was never found. And he was declared dead in 1943, before I was even born. But they never found him, and to me that was my relationship to my uncle.

Interviewer: When you came home, how were you received by your friends and family?

Veteran: Very well.

Interviewer: How about the public?

Veteran: I didn't deal with the public.

Interviewer: So the negative opinion had no affect on you or anything?

Veteran: I thought it didn't but it did. So I didn't, didn't, didn't want to talk about Vietnam for over 30 years. If someone would ask me questions or see the medals on my wall, I wouldn't tell them anything about it.

Interviewer: Has your life changed after being witness to war?

Veteran: Oh yeah, defiantly is has.

Interviewer: Do you think your life would have been different had you not been in the war?

Veteran: Yes. Most defiantly yes. It's hard not to be affected. I mean, my job, say I was a combat medic, I wasn't at the front lines, but in Vietnam there really wasn't any front lines, like the wars before that, where the armies would go through the area, you know and on one side of the line was the enemy, and on the other side was safe. There never was a safe area there. And so even people who were considered night combatants, because for every infantry, being on the line, it takes seven people to supply him. Supplies, food, clothing, ammunition; all these people to keep us alive. And we couldn't survive without them. The combat soldier gets all the metals, he gets all the praise, many people look at the night combatants as weak sisters. You know, the didn't do much. But they kept us alive, so they did do a lot. And its hard not to leave some place like that without being

affected - whether it's Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan. I've met men from the second World War and if we keep to the conversation, the anger and the frustration that they still feel after 60 years is the same way that I feel. The loss of life, you know, and World War II was considered the just war. You know, my parents, probably your grandparents, saved the world as they said, and the did. But the soldiers still suffer.

Interviewer: Do you think that the time off has helped you heal in any way?

Veteran: It's helping.

Interviewer: Did you ever think about going back to Vietnam and visiting?

Veteran: I thought about it many times. I don't know if I will or not, but I have a great curiosity to go back. A man I hear from last month, he lives in Michigan, and he does tours, so he's been back like 9 times. And I had mentioned to him that I had been in Tay Ninh, in what was known as Willy Bow Nem, Black Virgin Mountain, which was outside our base camp. And it was, scared the hell out of me. It was a Special Forces camp at the top but the rest of the mountain was loaded with tunnels, bunkers, and the NVA and VC controlled the rest of the mountain. So anytime we had an operation close to that, there was usually a lot of shooting, wounded, or death involved. Now, he showed me pictures, that that's a resort area. They got gondolas, their suspended from the wires, they go to the top, like a ski lift, and it's a water slide. It just doesn't, you know, it's hard to comprehend, you know,. But the country hasn't changed, the political climate has changed. And I, I think that's good, it's just hard to realize the difference.

Interviewer: How was seeing all the civilians?

Veteran: By civilians, who?

Interviewer: Just the people living there, the Vietnamese.

Veteran: When I first got there, it was a culture shock. They where in what would be known as a third world country. Especially in the villages, you know, and the countryside, where I spent most of my time. I was only in Saigon once, for a very short time. But their farmers, most of them, and merchants, and they farm their fields probably the same way they have for thousands of years. They have a plow and they plant the rice by hand. So they're all out there bending over, they plant it by hand. The cultivate it and everything by hand. Like in the villages, first of all, they don't need any heat. It's always warm. And the houses they live in are called shanties. They were just, most of the sides were, it was like this kind of tin. They would get like coffee cans, anything made of tin, it would be all printed, it would be a whole sheet of it. They would get a couple of two-by-fours and would just tack the tin onto it. And you know, that was their house. Especially around any military camp, the villagers would, the population would increase and it was a large part of their income, servicing the soldiers. Laundries, a lot of civilians would work on the base, they made souvenirs, you know, and uh they also just seemed to be hard working people,

you know, some of them would try to cheat you, but most of them didn't.

Interviewer: And you visited the orphanages, what exactly did you do there?

Veteran: Well, the doctor came with us, or we would come with the doctor, however you want to put it, and they would examine all the children, and after he would exam them, he would give them a diagnosis and tell them what they needed, a dose of tetracycline, or a wound that needed to be cleansed, and the medics that came, that's what we would do. Try to help them. You know, you'd give them medical care.

Interviewer: Can I see some pictures?

Veteran: That's me and all my kids. That was right outside the orphanage. Its in Tay Ninh, I cant remember, it's a big religious, I can't remember the name of it, but it's like a cross between Buddha and Christianity. It's not a good picture, but that was the doctor and that was one of the caretakers of the kids. I suppose most of those little kids are now like 44 years old. Ok.

Interviewer: You also talked about how you remembered everything, and talked about how you blocked things out.

Veteran: Yes. What's you question?

Interviewer: How exactly were you able to block things out?

Veteran: That's really a difficult question to answer. Part of it goes to the fact that in the brain, it's not something that I personally learned to do. It's something that the brain does to help people survive. And when something traumatic like that happens, the brain will shut parts of it down temporarily. Because it will go to survival mode. It's no different than if a, if you were personally in a situation where someone was trying to rob you, or beat you, you're going to try to survive. Its usually what known as the flight or fight mode. Your going to do one of the two. And if you try to do both, you freeze. Because you can't do both. And if you freeze, someone will be able to knock you out fast, because it is a life or death situation. It's not the someone it worried about you so much, its that they are worried about themselves. They may need you to help them. That's what combat soldiers do. No matter what the army does, in their objective, in that the guys that are on the front lines, their main objective is to stay alive. And I guess, I may not be explaining it well, but, in the brain, it will shut itself down. And it takes a while, you have to learn how to turn it back on. You have to learn to talk about it.

Interviewer: And do you have any final thoughts, anything I didn't ask?

Veteran: Oh, oh, that's a tough one. I really can't think of anything in particular. Just that, I'm glad I made it here. That's about all I have to say.

Interviewer: Thank you.

Veteran: Here are my operation papers, so it tells me when I went into service, when I got out, my full service was 11 months, 11 days. These are the awards that I have, the service school in Fort St. Houston. My last duty stationed was the 28th general hospital.

This is an authorization of issued awards, what I was allowed to wear.

And these are my orders home from Vietnam. Which were dated the 22nd of June, 1967. And it was known as d-rest, depart, the 25th of June from Towsenoot Airport to Travis Airport in California. And I landed in Travis Air Force base 15 minutes before I took off because you cross the international dateline.

This was just the award of the Army Commendation Medal.

And this was known as my 201 card, my whole military record. Every place I served, what I did, any tests I took or given my marksmanship, because everybody, well I shouldn't say everybody, but I guess anybody who was known as a combat protector doesn't take any weapon's training.

And this was citation for the Silver Star. Would you like me to read that?

Interviewer: Oh, yes.

Veteran: Ok. It says: Silver Star. Date of action 4th and 5th of November 1966. Republic of Vietnam. For gallantry in action, Private First Class O'Brien, distinguished himself for heroic actions in the Republic of Vietnam. Private O'Brien was serving as a medic with the 1st platoon of company D, 2nd battalion 1st infantry. During the evening of 4 November and morning of 5 November, 1966, when his platoon was subject to heavy automatic weapons and motor fire, many casualties were inflicted by the enemy and Private O'Brien received a fragment wound in the right eye. Disregarding his own wounds, Private O'Brien treated the other wounded and directed their evacuation after administering aid to his own unit. Private O'Brien proceeded to aid an adjacent unit which had sustained heavy casualties. As he made his way under heavy barrage of enemy fire, it appeared that he would be unable to reach the adjacent unit, but his momentous perseverance and devotion to duty meant more to him than his own safety. Upon reaching the stranded unit, he administered aid to their wounded through the night. Private O'Brien made solo trips back and forth between units to treat other wounded personnel and direct their evacuation. Private O'Brien's conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty reflect the great credit upon himself and his unit and United States Army.

There's some creative writing in there too, but... that's a citation for the Army Commendation Medal. And this is the citation for the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry

which I cannot read because it's Vietnamese. My shot record.

Um, let's see. On October 31st 1966. We woke up and set up just like every other day in Vietnam. We had been out in the field for about four weeks. Now, living in the fields was becoming a sure, instead of the exception. Surely after the Mad Minute, Lieutenant Mills was called to the Company CP for orders for our daily assignment. They returned, all were happy, for a change we had an easy duty. Today we were going to secure the battalion base camp and A Company and C Company would have the search and destroy mission. We started to pick up our gear for the move to the new location for the day. I remember Sergeant Fittings put water in a steel pot. He said later he was going to heat the water and get a clean shave for a change. We hadn't been moving more than 15 minutes when the jungle exploded with small arms fire and the booms of larger explosions. They sounded like war mines going off. That was when I heard the first cry of medic. It was coming from the rear of the column to my right. When I found the wounded man, it was Tom Richis, something had hit him on the side of his face right at the temple. He had it penetrated into his skull. It was a small wound shaped like the letter T. As soon as I started bandaging him, there was a call "medic" from the front of the platoon. Tom said to go ahead, he could make it back to the LZ. I left to see what was going on in front. As I made my way I heard someone say that it was Platoon Sergeant Hunt that had been hit and someone else said he died, so would I. (35 years later I realized he was more afraid of what was going on than I was, but at the time I was more afraid of them than the VC.) As I reached the front of the platoon, I saw David Gregory. He was Platoon Sergeant Hunt's radio operator. He was dead lying in the middle of the trail. I think it was about 2 or 3 feet from him was PSGT Hunt. As I looked over him, I was trying to figure out where to start. He had a hole in his neck, 2 inches by 1. His jaw was broken. He was having very labored breathing. I decided to start on the jaw. Applying the field dressing on the jaw and tying it at the top of his head to secure the jaw. Next I applied a field dressing on the neck and I secured it by wrapping two proras around the neck and tying them in a square knot, hopefully holding it in place long enough for him to get to the aid station. Then I started an IV on home. Hopefully this would help after all the blood he had lost. I don't know where they had come from, but two other medics were there with a litter. They helped me get Sergeant Hunt on the litter and we started carrying him to the LZ. Just before we reached the clearing, I noticed an entry wound in his back. I told the others we had to put him down so I could apply another dressing. When I finished we carried him to the waiting helicopter. As I returned to the platoon, it started to sink it what would have happened to me if I didn't make it. I guess it was good that right away was another call for medic. I went over to the next platoon to see if I could help. I don't know who the man was, but he was also dead. I think when the fire had started, he had turned to warn the others and he was hit in the back by a plane war mine. As we started to pick him up, I put him on the litter, my hands slid inside his body. He had no back left. I just couldn't do it. Someone said something about being an unfit soldier. I don't know where it came from, but someone just pushed me aside, and picked him up for me. The rest of the day, it was pretty much a blur until after dark. I heard Sergeant Hunt was still alive and hanging in there.

That's all I can read.

Interviewer: Thank you.

Veteran: That's awards from the 196th Light Infantry Brigade. The Army Commendation Medal that I received when I left the country. This is by direction of the Secretary of the Army under provisions of Article 67251. The Army Commendation Medal is awarded to specialists for Private O'Brien, for meritorious service in connection with military operations against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. Specialist O'Brien distinguished himself for serving as platoon medic attached to B Company, 2nd battalion 196th, light infantry from August 1966 to February 1967. Specialist O'Brien performed all his duties as a platoon medic. During combat operations, Specialist O'Brien, on numerous occasions, exposed himself to intense enemy fire in order to render medical assistance to the wounded. His perseverance and unselfishness inspired his company to continually press the fight against the Vietcong, causing and inflicting heavy casualties upon them. Specialist O'Brien, personal conduct, with his outstanding performance on duty, exclamatory reflect great credit upon himself and his unit, 196th Light Infantry Brigade of the United States Army.

This was given to be by the 25th Division, because we were under command of them at the moment. This is for my Silver Star, and I think I read that already.

Interviewer: Oh, yes, you did.

Veteran: It's the Illustrated History of the Vietnam War of the Chargers, by F. Clifton Barry, Jr. Which is the history of the 195th light infantry brigade. From when it was formed. That's the patch which was worn on the sleeve, which is affectionly known as burning worm. But what it symbolizes is that in the early Revolutionary War time, the common weapon was the flap rag. And it was usually fired. It would start a piece of rope on fire, and from the ambers, that's what would fire the powder. So by keeping a flame on both ends of the rope, they were double ready, so that's what that symbolizes. And, so people at Junction City. The dust offs, which was a common need for the helicopters, the dust offs. That was the training they had originally given us, as peace keeping, riot control. And after the riot control, the major operations I was in was Attleboro, Cedar Falls, Junction City. And Attleboro, we were put under the command of the 1st and the 27th from the 25th division. They were known as the Wolf Hounds. At first a lot of the casualties were heat stroke. Getting used to the temperature. That's one of the numerous medal of honor winners that were in the brigade.

These are some of my personal experiences. This is in Tay Ninh. This was brigade headquarters. And this was the battalion aid station when we first got there and up until that time, it was still just a tent. This is one of the first permanent structures that was built. That's a chapel. And that was our enlisted men's club. And around there was the fire directions center. And everybody's facilities, the trees and the black smoke that's how you sanitized it. You pulled the barrel out, put diesel fuel in it, and you would burn it off to get rid of the disease. They didn't flush. When a new building was going up, I think it was the

headquarters, the office. That's one of the villagers who worked, an older woman who was kindly known as Mama San. This is inside the enlisted club. That's some of the men that were in our company. And this was an orphanage outside of the village Tay Ninh. We would go to it periodically. The doctor would look at the kids. That's two of my friends, Tom Richis, the one that got wounded on the 31st. And Mike Chapel. Their both from New York. Were at the base camp. Just all out there enjoying some liquid refreshments. His name was Tony, right from Ireland. Still wasn't a citizen, and was drafted. That's where I slept, that's my bunk when we were in camp. That's what's known as a company street, ready to go out in the field. That's Bernie H and Jack H. He's from New York, he's from Ohio. This was in the village of Tay Ninh. Some girls were prostitutes. This was a hill when we moved up North. That was our home for the first day. It was in the sand. They just kept moving us around for a couple of days. We spent a night at Giligan's Island. We got a day off, got to swim in the sea. This is the inlet of the sea, we were on top of some hill. And this was about 5 miles inland. They flew us in. This was the end of the day, we were trying to dry everything out. There had been a light mist all day long. And this is when I got transferred to the battalion aid station. That was the chapel. That was the enlisted men's club. That's in Tay Ninh, that was General Wayland, pinning the Silver Star on me. This was the morning I was leaving, Captain Grant have me the Army Accommodation Medal. That's me when I first got home.

Donald J. O'Brien

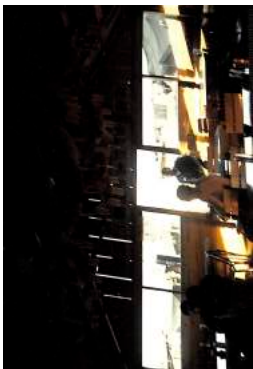
US Army, Vietnam,
December 16, 1965 - December 15, 1967

- Scrapbook
- Interview and School Paper
- Photo Album





















































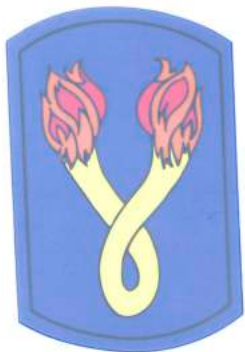














**SUPREME HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE**



Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Force!

You are about to embark upon the Great Crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you. In company with our brave Allies and brothers-in-arms on other Fronts, you will bring about the destruction of the German war machine, the destruction of Nazi tyranny, and thereby the liberation of the oppressed peoples of Europe, and security for ourselves in a free world.

Your task will not be an easy one. Your enemy is well trained, well equipped and battle-hardened. He will fight strongly.

But this is the year 1944! Much has happened since the Nazi triumphs of 1940-41. The United Nations have inflicted upon the Germans great defeats, in open battle, men-on-men. Our air offensive has seriously reduced their strength in the air and their capacity to wage war on the ground. Our Home Front has given us an overwhelming superiority in weapons and munitions of war, and placed at our disposal great reserves of trained fighting men. The tide has turned! The free men of the world are marching together to Victory!

I have full confidence in your courage, devotion to duty and skill in battle. We will accept nothing less than full Victory!

Good Luck! And let us all beseech the blessing of Almighty God upon this great and noble undertaking.

Dwight D. Eisenhower