

(2)

Dick.

Jan 4, 1968

My chopper was called to extract a special forces team in Cambodia. It appeared to be a routine mission, they had some wounded. As we crossed.

The river into Cambodia we spotted a company of N.V.A. regulars. We were at tree top level we received some fire but no hits it is hard to hit a chopper at tree top level.

We proceeded on, maybe 15-25 miles inside Cambodia and arrived at L.Z. It was 75 meter clearing with tall trees 100-130 feet tall, it seemed like a quiet L.Z. We started our decent at 75 feet all hell broke loose. They had fifty & thirty cal machine guns set at our four corners. It was a perfect ambush. Our engine lost power at 50 ft, it was a very hard landing. The chopper bounced 15 ft. in air and came to rest. The VC opened up with all they had. I jumped out & opened the pilots door so he could escape, it cost me. A R.P.C. round hit on the skid knocked me out. When I came too, I had three teeth shot out a broken jaw, broken wrist, multiple wounds in my legs & arms. There were no wounds to chest area thank to vests John Newcom came back to help me to our side.

We fought for over an hour
heavy fighting. We popped smoke
and told the gun ships & the
phantom F4 jets to fire within 20
feet of our smoke. We would rather
be dead than captured. I finally
got medivaced out. I was down to
one pint of blood, they thought I
dead. But that is not the way
with the 188th.

The pilot a captain in special
force got out lost one eye.
I met him in San Francisco, in
hospital 1 yr later everyone
got out alive.

Yours Truly

Tim Wingard #172
Ragen Cajun
188th

Hi DICK

THANK YOU FOR THE BOOK.
I do remember STAN.
THE AUSS.

I NEVER HEARD OF ANY PILOT
BEING FORCED TO FLY. I ALWAYS
FLY with CAP DOHT. WHO
WAS SPECIAL FORCE'S. NEVER
BACKED DOWN. I do remember
we picked up THE WOP &
HULK with some BOYS.

AL were wounded WE
LANDED in TALL ELEPHANT
GRASS 10' HIGH YOU COULD
NOT SEE 15' IT WAS NOT
PICK UP. WHEN THEY
EMERGED IT WAS ALL I
COULD DO TO NOT FIRE.

I AM SENDING YOU \$120⁰⁰
\$100 IS FOR NEWS LETTER.

YOUR'S TRULY

Tim