

Dear Dick & Karma:

11/28/2000

How was Thanksgiving? Get enough Turkey and pumpkin pie? I sure did.

I need to bring you up on several projects. I have all of the stories from Three Fortney corrected and ready to print. I also have written up a story about the night the tanks were about to attack LZ Sally. She is typing it right now and when she is done I'll send a copy to you. I told her that there would be more work for her as soon as you finished proofing the first history and completed several other stories you were working on. I think that we will really have a prize winning document when it's done.

I got the plague pictures and text from Ralph Young. When I went to T&S there was some question about what we really wanted to do. If you want the actual plagues reproduced that's one thing but if you want a digital presentation all cleaned up that's another task. Jeff felt that if we graphically reproduced the plagues using all of the patches, flags, USA-1's etc. that they have in the computer they would look fake. I've said that he could scan in a good picture of the plagues and then clean up the text etc but they would look authentic. I said that maybe the best thing would be for him to call or e-mail you and discuss what you really want before we charge off in the wrong direction. He said that he

would get in touch with you and get your ideas before he started to work on the project. He suggested that you could take a good picture, digital high quality, or send the plagues and he could get them in the computer. Then he could work over the image to show a real plague. Do you have a digital camera or a good quality 35 mm? He said either would work better than what we have now. Do you have the original plagues now at your place or do we just have the photos you have here? Any way don't be surprised if Jeff Henderson calls you.

I talked to Rick Jefferson the other day and he requested a release on using the material we have sent him from the history project. I got out a release we used for the video and modified it for his use. I hope that the stuff you sent me from Handel and Meyer is OK to use in the History Channel project. He said that they were still working hard on what the project would look like and that he might send us a copy of the script or at least one cut of the script so we can get an idea of what the final project would be like. He did say that they were using some of my 8 mm film and I'm sure that they will want to use other video we have sent so it sounds like we the 188<sup>th</sup> will be most of their show. Neat!! He didn't say anything more about you or me

comming out to his place to talk about the project. It sounded that the script has been changed to the degree where they are not ready to match it up with video or pictures yet so we will most likely have a little time to wait. They if I get to come to California I'll wait until Jan-Mar when its warm there and cold here.

Not much else going on around here. I tried to send Dusty Rhodes a letter and it came back but I think I have a good address now on his new location. If he responds I'll send you and Richard Green his new address. I got a letter from Frank Austin, LittleBam Crew Chief, wanting some 188<sup>th</sup> stuff. He is more 188<sup>th</sup> than 25<sup>th</sup> Division and is very interested in what we are doing for the history.

We head out in about 3 weeks for a week in the Western Caribbean. Love those ships and neat ports of call. Have a very merry Christmas and start of the new year.

More later,  
Jack

11/8/2000

Dear Dick:

Well here it is the day after the election and we don't know who will be the next President. What a wild outcome. Looks like the military absentee ballots in Florida will be the difference in who wins the state and the election.

Our bicycle season is over and we are just going out to ride for fun. No more racing each other to keep in shape so its a little bit more relaxed when we go out. We had snow last night and this morning so the hot dry summer must be over and now we will ride between the rain and snow storms. We usually get snow once or twice at most during winter but last two weeks have been rain, over 12 inches, and now an inch and a half of snow. Crazy place.

I went over to Texas Tech last week and did an oral interview with Steve Maxner. I gave him a copy of our video plus copies of Handels, Meiners and Oakleys "free smoke" tape. I also gave him one of the OTT, UHPA tapes that I got from Honikin. If your tape has interference on the first part of it it's not right. Send it back and I'll redo it so you will have a good copy. I get those duplicated at our V Tech Center for free so long as all they have to do is plug in a new tape and run a copy. They won't run extra copies of our unit video because of competition with our local video company, Geegus Video.

The interview at TT took 5 hours and

Covered both the UTT and the 188<sup>th</sup>. He was very thorough and went over a bunch of stuff that we were involved in. I also gave him copies of some of the patch collections and other stuff we have done. He pulled your file out of the Archive and got to see it. He has a bunch of your letters and some other memorabilia you have sent him. He is very much interested in having a copy of our history when we get it done. I told him you intended to send him one. They have an amazing bunch of material from all sorts of people. They have a huge collection of NVA and VC documents captured or brought out after the conflict ended. It will be the biggest source of research material on the VN war when they get it all done. I told them that I would send all of my stuff to them when I got too old to do anything with it in the future. You might want to think about sending all of your stuff to them when you get to old to care anymore. They will make good use of it.

While we were there we saw the video that Larry Moak made for the VN museum at St. Walter's. It's pretty good but it doesn't have much about the 188/101 other than to say that Larry flew for them and got shot at a lot. They are using the video as a fund raiser for the museum at St. Walter's and it will be shown on 11/11 on PBS. We don't get it here but you might get it in SF.

I sent most of the digitized patch material to Ralph Young - if he needs more than that he hasn't let me know so far. I called him and left a message but the e-mail you sent from him is the only thing I've heard from him. He may be able to use just the print outs I've sent him and the cost of doing a CD may not be necessary.

I just finished reading "Hamby Hill" story of the 101<sup>st</sup> in the Oshau. Weldon Honeycutt was the CO, I worked with him a little bit in Gel, Aug Sept of 1968 at HQ's 101<sup>st</sup>. He was a glory hunter and the battle was a real meatgrinder that proved what kind of a commander he was. He was a project of Westmorelands, they knew each other since Korea in the 1950's. I thought he was an asshole. Hell of a book and C 101 supported them but got their asses kicked and received no mention in the book. I'm also reading a book called "Ripcord". Story of the FSB set up in 1970 by 101<sup>st</sup>. C 101 was involved in the set up and evacuation but not mentioned again. That's why they need to do a history of the unit from July 68 to 1970 when the division left country.

That was a good picture of 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt Ackley and Mike Vickroy you sent. I sure wish we could find him. He did a great job for me and took care of a bunch of problems with the men that left me free to concentrate on fighting the company. He was a fairly young man then so he should still be around somewhere. I would think that

some where in the Computer webs there would be a record of his address. Have you or has anyone tried to go back through the military records and get his SSN. If you can find that in our morning reports or orders you usually can find some one.

What are you doing going high tech on me. Your last letter was type written - must be the computer huh. In the letter you mentioned the plague collection. What do you want me to do at TES get it digitized and put into print out form? Let me know.

I think that your introduction is great. You get the credit for the history but I appreciate your mention of me and share and TES. We are behind you in anything you want to do. I will put the copy of the introduction with the rest of the material I have here for the history and it will be up front in the next version we run out.

Sent some stuff to Fred Bagby, BW 26, who contacted me after last newsletter. Also had note from Neil Connally, 4<sup>th</sup> Sig. I sent him pictures of Dagnaschi and Barker from VHPA reunion. The newsletter does some good.

More later, Take care.

Jack

Dear Dick:

9/29/2000

It's been a while since I wrote you a letter and a couple of things have happened in the last couple of weeks that I need to pass on to you.

I tried to contact Ralph Tauny the other day and had to leave a message on his machine. Before I can send him a CD of our patches I need to get some information from him about how his computer is set up. T&S can run out the patch data but it needs to be in a usable format for Ralph or it wouldn't be of much use to him. I have already sent him clear copies of our patches, all of them that we have digitized so far, which should be about what he needs. I also sent a bunch of other stuff about the 188<sup>th</sup> at the same time. I haven't heard anything from him.

I got a call from Jefferson the other day and he is shipping back my film and said that they might fly me out at the same time they bring you down to Seal Beach or where ever it is that they do their thing. So we may have a day or so in California here in the future. That would be fun. I'll keep you informed.

I sent pictures (Copies) of the pictures Bagnaschi sent me from the reunion to Gary Deauville. He and Doc and Bagnaschi were good buddies so I'm sure that he will enjoy them. He sent me a letter and told me how much he missed going to the reunion this year.

If you have a copy of "Incursion" send  
mine back some time. I have several guys  
around here that were in the Cavalry  
Offer it to them to read. I also turn over books  
like that to our local library when I'm done with  
them.

I'm sending along a copy of the last 10<sup>1<sup>st</sup></sup>  
Airborne Viet Nam Veterans Newsletter. There is a  
short piece about our flag dedication at a  
couple of the pictures we have of Eagle and Sally. There  
is also a piece in an old ~~stand~~ ~~stand~~ screaming  
Eagle, Aug 5, 68, where they actually ~~mention~~  
a Black Widow helicopter. They didn't  
want to cover our ~~troops~~ by name very much  
during that time.

I had a surprise the other day. I  
got a call from Tim Wingerel who was the  
Crew Chief on 16122, Ragin Cajun, when Doht got hit.  
He was hit bad when the RPG hit the sled right  
beside him. He and his wife were in Oklahoma  
City and wanted to stop in Houston on their way  
back to San Antonio where they live now. Anyway  
we met last Tuesday, Tim and Pat, and had  
lunch. I took a bunch of stuff to give him -  
story of B-36 and Rapid Fire, Dan Tracy diagram, Guns  
Up print etc which he really seemed to be glad  
to get.

reported the incident. Evidently it was not on his medical records or they are lost and he claims he has had some loss of hearing over the years connected with the blast. If you can help him I'm sure that he will appreciate it.

Oh, I forgot to tell you, Tim has had cancer but is in remission right now and it might be from Agent Orange exposure. He has some pretty good scars and lost the hearing in his right ear but otherwise is doing pretty well. They spend time in California as well as Texas and he was excited about our DH-1-H at the ~~POAM~~. I'm going to send him pictures of 122 when I get them back from Ralph Jany.

That about brings you up to date. The stories I sent you are being retyped right now so they should be ready in a few days. I haven't made my appointment to ~~go~~ to Texas Tech yet but I will in the next few weeks.

Take care,  
Jack

He in turn pulled out a brand new metal 188<sup>th</sup> Patch - never worn - that I gave him at the hospital in Long Binh when they were working on him and Doht before they shipped out. I told him that I'm sure that you would like to have that in the collection but I think that he intends to keep it with his collection. He also had a letter that I had sent to his folks a couple of days after he was wounded letting them know that he was alright and would be home soon.

I can't believe that they kept the letter so long but they did. I re-read it and it was a hell of a letter if I do say so myself. I really hated to have to write those and I really worked hard to try to put the family at ease when I had to send them. I'm really glad that I didn't have to write a bunch of them especially about guys who were killed.

He offered to give me a copy but I don't think I need one. You might want to get a copy from him to see what a CO was obligated to do when one of the troops got hurt.

I got a call from Bill Bramlett the other day. He was looking for help in getting some VA Compensation on his hearing loss from the bunker blast. I told him I couldn't help him since I wasn't there but that you might have a morning report or situation report from the historical documents that

7/16/00  
mailed  
post road stores  
back and letter

Dear Dick:

9/11/2000

Where to start? We got back from our trip on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of Sept and I have been busy as hell trying to catch up with things. I cannot describe the trip any other way than just outstanding. The one real shock was just how bad Russia was. It is really grim there with lots of repair work needed on the streets and buildings. Even the tourist attractions like the palaces look good from a distance but up close need a lot of repair. We went by a Navy base and there were two diesel and one nuclear submarine tied up and a bunch of other Navy ships that were resting apart. They are in bad shape. Everywhere we went there were street vendors wanting to sell us stuff for American dollars. I can't imagine how bad it must have been ten years ago before the government fell and freedom started to develop.

Sounds like the project at the PCAM is coming along in good shape. If I remember right I sent a copy of our video to the museum already some time back. If you could check with Loren about this I would appreciate it. I will hold up on sending them a copy until I hear from you. I'll send along a copy of the video to send you with this letter and I'll send a copy to Texas Geek in the next few days. Dick it only costs us \$12.00 to get a copy of the video now from Fergus and a couple of bucks to mail them so if you want more copies just send me \$15.00 for them.

I am going to make a trip over to TT to make a video history for them and give them copies of a bunch of my stuff from VN. I could give them a copy then or mail it now - your call.

I sent a pretty big package of things to Ralph Young to use in his next book. It should cover the time we were there and I'm sure he would want to get more from you about the 188<sup>th</sup> before he finishes the book. He is most interested in how we decorated our aircraft so I'm sure he would appreciate pictures of our door art. He has your address and I'm sure that he will be in touch with you when he gets to writing about the 188<sup>th</sup>.

I also told you I had sent Jefferson all of my 8mm film and the videos from Manuland Hand. You might check on them when you go to La La Land to do your part in making history. It will be a great experience I'm sure.

I'm going to send you my copy of the book "Excursion". It covers the 1<sup>st</sup> Co - move to and fighting around DT - Tay Ninh and area zones C & D. They talk about the problems they had in the Mekong plantations and how the VC/NVA owned them. We were in the middle of their biggest base camp — no wonder they gave us such a hard time.

Thanks for the pictures of the parade and reunion you sent to me. I look like I'm about to cry in a couple of them. Chuck Bognash sent me a couple of pictures from the reunion as well. I made a copy of one of them with Doc Parker, Mac and Bog which I'm sending to Gary Beauvais. Chuck has not aged at all - must be living right.

Here are a couple of three stories about the 188th. I have had them printed and have inserted them into the history. When we do the next run it will be a little bigger but more interesting for those who buy it. Dick I have several copies of the Station Mops, Smokey, DT VanCoy, L2 Sally, Patch prints, Guns Up etc. If you want them or if we should send some to somebody let me know. We are getting very little play from people wanting to buy our stuff - Maybe we could have more on our Web page and it would turn out more interest. What do you think?

While we were in Norway I saw a ton of trolls so I found a little statue of a viking warrior I bought for Tolleson. It is a humorous play on the courage of the vikings and I'm going to send it to him. I thought about getting him another troll but this might be better.

I'm going to send you some of the pictures you sent to me for the calendar. The one with the cross on the nose that Jim Mayman

flew would be a good one to send to Ralph Young.  
I'm sure that he would like a copy of the Sun  
Ship - Satisfaction with the spider on the nose with  
mini guns.

Need to get on to some other things so  
will stop for now. Its really great to travel  
but its good to be home too. Have fun  
in La La Land.

Take Care,  
Jack

Dear Dick & Larma:

Have a very Merry Christmas and a happy new year. We are almost ready to head out to the Caribbean and enjoy the warm weather. We have two inches of snow and ice right now with temperature running at 18° to 20° at night. The city almost came to a stop over the last couple of days because of the ice and snow. Streets are terrible to try and drive on with people who have never been on snow and ice much. They would go nuts if we had weather here like I grew up with in Iowa.

I got all of the stuff on the special interest area of Dan Tiers. I have some questions before we go on with the typing. I'm not sure where this will fit in with the contents of the book we already have assembled. Do you want a separate section on DT Spec Interests? The reason I ask is that we have information on DT in several places already in the book. I can put all of this in a separate place and add it to the table of contents if that's what you want done. There is another problem we ~~ran~~ into re typing this so its continuous text, back to back, with a separate reference to each story attached to the book. The problem is that we have sources attached to each article and if we change the format on this bundle of stories all of the rest of the book will be out of sync. I would think that the best thing would be to redo the whole

text to make it continuous but leave each source as it is - one line at the end of each article. I think Shearé can take what we have already on the disk and set it up to print out in a continuous print out and help save us paper when we print it all out.

Or she can set it up so we have each story run until we have a page full on each sheet and then when we print it T&S can run the full pages back to back so we have a continuous print out in the book. Since we have all the source info following each article now we would have to change every page now and create a separate source page for each section of the book which would entail a lot more typing expense. Help me out - what should we do?

I'm sending back a couple of things you sent me because we have already done something with them. I put a couple of notes on them to explain what was done already. One of them had a long summary of incoming/WIA/KIA for about a month of 1972 -

I don't see much value in its inclusion in the history. If you think we need it send it back to me and I'll have Shearé type it up and attach it to the end of the article on the siege where it was originally.

I have added two letters, which I think you have copies of, from Murphy and Dames commending us for our support during FSB Burt. I have attached them to the article I did on FSB Burt - I think that they add to the story.

If you don't have a copy I'll send you a copy. I have been thinking about doing an article on the night that the Little Bear countermeasures took off during an attack and crashed. Neil Harbor and I took off in my jeep and went to the crash and pulled two or three out of the wreck just before it blew up and burned. I have a letter from the CO commanding us for getting their people out of the wreck. It was another of those things where we responded and others on DT sat it out in their bunkers until it was over. I think that Doc Parker followed along and helped us as well. The rest of the articles I have done lately I've done in first person. I did change the one you returned on Good and Dep MACV Cmdr to second person. If you want to change the rest it will take some time and re-typing to put them all in second person — Let me know what we want to do.

Thanks for forwarding the E-mails you have been getting. It keeps me up to date since more people are corresponding with you than me. What is the "188<sup>th</sup> videocass slides" deal from PRODUCER @ AOL? It sounds like the video Charly Maura made up and you sent to me. I have been going over his tape and Greg handles to cull out another 15 minutes to add to the end of our tape. We can do that with Fergie's video for a reasonable price and have a full 2 hours

of the 188<sup>th</sup> Only which is what most of our guys went I think. Greg has some good stuff from area in DT, Saugus & the X-mas VSO show and some CA's. Mauro is pretty shaky but does have a couple of Smoky runs that would be useful. I haven't done much to work on that project since I've been busy with other things but I have had it in mind to do this after first of year.

Work on the plaques is coming along. I went in T&S the other day and they are doing a lot of Christmas business right now so this one is going a little slower than usual. I left off the patches and corrections you sent me and they should be done right after the first of the year. They think that it will take two pages to put the plaques and text together so that you can see them and not make them so small that they lose effect. They are using some of their magic tricks to clean up and enhance the photos you sent. I'm sure that they will do the best that they can.

I'm sorry to hear through Vickroy that Ackley is gone. Anyone know what happened to him and where any family is now? I would like to send them copies of some of the pictures we have of him if we could find out where the family is now.

I have Dagnacci's picture taken at dinner in Washington. There's can't do anything with pictures other than leave room on a page of text so T&S can add the picture when they print. They can add pictures when they print if there is space left on the page. Any pictures

you want to include in the text send them to me and I'll have them leave room so we can add it later when we print.

I'm glad to hear that Merry Mon is involved in helping you tell the story of Smokey. He would be the best source of information on how that deal came about. I have added a copy of his letter of 1999 about our experience in VN to the book. I think that a nice letter with 3 stars on the flag says a lot about how he feels about us now. I feel certain that the only reason we went up North after TET was because he felt that we (the 188<sup>th</sup>) was his problem unit at the time. He could have sent the 187<sup>th</sup> fest as well as sending us but what the hell it worked out for us because the 101<sup>st</sup> really appreciated us and we did good after we got there. I'm sure that he wouldn't admit that he sent us to get rid of some of the problems that happened while we were just in country but I think I know him pretty well and I'd bet that's what he did when he had to send one of his companies up North.

I played the video I sent you about the UTT and the 2000 VHPA reunion. It went fine in my VCR except for the first few feet of the ~~beginning~~ beginning. I'll send it back to you when I have a bunch of other stuff for you. I wanted you to have the stuff on

The VTPA reunion mostly and the VTT was just to show you how things had changed from April/May 64 to 67-68. Man we lived well and committed to war each day - but when you got shot at or hit it was the same.

Can't think of much else right now so will get this on its way. Grand kids com. next week for a few days before we head out for the trip. I hope that the snow has melted by then so we can get away on schedule.

Have a happy holiday.

Take care,  
Jack

8/8/2000

Dear Dick:

I will try to cover all of the things you talked about when you called and left the message on my answering machine. We are getting real close to pulling out on our trip so I'll be out of pocket from the 16<sup>th</sup> until the 1<sup>st</sup> of Sept. I'm trying to catch up on all of the stuff left over after the reunion and I'm just keeping up right now.

I have sent 3 things to Richard Green for publication in the newsletter. I sent him the "Forward to our History" that I wrote, the Eulogy at the wall and the comment made by Joe Holloway at the banquet. Richard did some editing and indicated that all of them would be in the next newsletter. He reports that his wife is doing better and that they walk each day to help her regain her strength. Good news when you can recover from a heart attack.

I received a surprise from Chuck Logue. He sent me a box that had six bottles of Black Widow beer. He called it my "Black Widow 6". What a guy. Now since I don't drink now I'm going to share it with some other Black Widows. I'll be sending out some bottles to other guys who I think will get a kick out of having one of the bottles. The address of the brewery was on the box so I'm sending a letter to them explaining what the 188<sup>th</sup> was about and including a copy of the "Guns Up Print" and the Cover to our history. There is no doubt if they could have shipped their beer to WJ the 188<sup>th</sup> would have made them millions.

I got the two coffee mugs replaced at T & S. The

(2)

reason the mugs faded was it got too hot somewhere. Did you wash it in a dish washer and run the hot dry cycle? They claim that the ink they use will hold up under temperatures of about 200°. If you get hotter than that and some dish washers get to 350-400° during the drying cycle the ink will soften up and run. So hand wash the mugs or don't dry them in the dish washer is the message. By the way your cup was broken up into about 5 pieces when it got here. We put it back together so they could see how the decals faded and now its in the trash.

I got the history off to Charly Maurer the other day. I haven't had a reply from McCord yet about the history so I sent the last copy I had to Maurer. I also sent him a copy of the eulogy and a letter thanking him for his support but I did not mention anything about money he sent to you. I also indicated that I would send a copy of his video to Jefferson and had his name and address on the label so Jefferson can contact him if they use his video. I'm sending Jefferson all of my 8 mm film - 11 twelve hundred foot reels plus the copy of Greg Handels video. I do not have a copy of our history to send to him at this time but maybe after we get some more copies we can send him one. I would think that maybe 5 copies right now would take care of our needs.

I have made up a package for Ralph Young that has copies of a bunch of our stuff. I have all of my photos plus many of the documents you have sent me so he should have some data to write

from when he gets into our time frame. I'm sure that he will contact you for more information in the future.

I also wrote out three stories about the Auto rotation into the jungle I did the day before I took command, the support of B-36 and the relief of FSB Bunt. All of those are being typed right now and I'll send you copies when I get them back from Shree. I'll put them into the next history column along with the stuff you are doing on Spiders, Sally etc. Oh, I also did a story on the CA at FSB Vught during operation Delaware.

Sprudlin sent me a copy of a letter he got from the Board for Correction of Military records he got a few weeks back. They are working on his PH but haven't decided to give it to him yet. If they do I will go down there to see it pinned on him. They indicated that it would take a year to eighteen months to process. I guess things don't change much in the military - wait - wait - wait.

I'm reading a pretty good book titled "Grenier", author J. D. Coleman, St. Martin's Paperbacks. It's the story of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav's actions in War Zone III from Oct 68 on. They were moved from I Corps to III Corps and fought all through the area we were in. There are several stories about Dan Trieng and the Michelin Rubber and how they owned the area. We were in the center of the NVA base area - no wonder we got shot at all of the time. The NVA had plans to over run Tay Ninh and Dan Trieng and could have but because of the 25<sup>th</sup> Div and later the Cav we didn't really get a serious fight at our base camp.

I guess that this pretty well covers all of the stuff I can think about that bring you up to date. If you get any pictures from guys who were at the reunion send me a copy. I would for sure want a copy of the picture of Parker and Bagnash and me that someone took. It would be good to send a copy of that one to Gary Bealieu. Gary and I shared the same tent at Dan Trien and I'm sure he would appreciate a picture of the three of us.

Dick gotta go. Sounds like you and Karma had a good vacation after the reunion. I know what you mean when you said you were wound up after we were all together - felt the same way.

Take care,  
Jack

## Dedication At The Wall---3 July 2000

### All Gave Some---Some Gave All

Following a mini-reunion at The National Reunion of the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association on 3 July 2000, former members of the 188<sup>th</sup> AHC and C Co, 101<sup>st</sup> Aviation Battalion accompanied by wives, children and grandchildren assembled at the Vietnam Wall to dedicate the unit flag and memorialize those we lost in Vietnam. The 188<sup>th</sup> AHC unit flag marked with all the names of the men lost in Vietnam, framed by Dick Detra through the financial help of many former Black Widows, ~~passed to officials of VH-PA and the Smithsonian Museum following the ceremony~~. During the ceremony a eulogy was read by Jack Johnson followed by Dennis Smalley who read the names of our lost comrades and lead us in a prayer. In addition to the many Black Widows present, many other people who were visiting the wall stopped and respectfully watched the ceremony. There were few, if any, dry eyes in the group and there were many long overdue hugs exchanged by members of the unit following the ceremony.

The following is the eulogy delivered by former Commander Jack O. Johnson:

I cannot tell you how proud I am, as a former commander of the 188<sup>th</sup> Assault Helicopter Company, to be able to thank you for being here and welcome you to this ceremony. We have gathered to honor all of the Black Widows of the 188<sup>th</sup> Assault Helicopter Company and C Company 101<sup>st</sup> Aviation who we lost in Vietnam. When we were in Vietnam, the press of time and the pressure of the daily situation we faced did not give us an appropriate opportunity to collectively say farewell to our companions. Now, as the years have passed and we have gone about living our lives, we can risk speaking about our feelings for the friends we honor today.

There seems to be some rule among men who have been in combat and experienced the death of their close comrades that they do not talk about their feelings, especially with their families. They talk about their shared experiences of combat actions or tell "war stories" with their buddies, but they don't share their feelings about the personal losses they have lived through. We seem to share some feelings of guilt over having survived while our buddies have not, and so, we just don't let anyone into our closest emotions, and, we wall off that part of our lives.

The unit we served was made up of very young men, mostly 18, 19, 20 year old warrant officers

and crew men with one or two old men, like me, at that time a 35 year old Major, as commander. We lived day to day and it wouldn't have been macho to let on that we had strong personal feelings about our buddies. We just didn't talk to each other about things like that, and when we lost some of our buddies we sure didn't talk about that! And we did lose too many.

The words I'm about to speak about our buddies, I did not author. They are words that were delivered at another time and in a different place, to honor the loss of other brave helicopter crew men, but their story is our story and the words I'm about to say could not be improved upon to remember our lost comrades.

The man who wrote this eulogy, Rick Lester, Joker 94, was with the 48<sup>th</sup> Assault Helicopter Company. He had been there, and in his wisdom and insight said what many of us have felt but have not been able to say. It is with great appreciation that I now say these words.

Through the fog of controversy which surrounded our country's involvement in Vietnam, some may ask "Why?" but let no one question the intentions of these honorable men. There are so many good things we can say about them.

In the finest traditions of our great country, they answered their call and went forth with only the best intentions. They did all they were asked and, with their lives, showed their commitment. What more could our country or anyone ask?

There has never been a "good" war and there never will be. The cost of war is great, it robs nations of their most precious resource, their youth. It also has a way of bringing out the best in men. War strips men to their most basic moral standards, facades are quickly torn away and you are judged as your true self, good or bad. Those of us who knew these men saw them in that light and can tell you they were truly dedicated, strong and courageous.

Those of us who served with them also came to know their heart. In the quiet times, we heard of their love for their families, shared their laughs and listened to the stories of life before Vietnam.

We found pleasure in simple things such as music, mail from home, hot food, cold beer, a periodic hot shower and time shared in the "club." We grew close.

In the violence of that war, we also shared our fear and frustration, endured physical pain and the bitter pain of losing friends. We came to know indefinable fatigue

from seemingly endless hours of flying in the most demanding conditions, yet if we weren't flying, we were not happy.

Though, for the most part, we dealt with the confusion, complexity, and violence of battle in our own way, it was understood there was no shame in showing your emotion, we were only human. We endured and became stronger for it.

We were sometimes hard on each other, but it was with purpose, and we knew we could turn to each other for anything. We grew closer.

We may have been sent in harm's way with a broken sword, but we stood as one. Our shield was our pride and the respect we had for each other and our duty was to carry out the mission. We were in this thing together and our strength would become our commitment to each other and to our unit.

We learned a special trust common only to those who have learned to hide their fear and willingly place their lives at risk, not just for "the cause," but for those with whom they served.

The common theme was a bond of mutual respect and unspoken love and friendship forged and tempered through the trials of battle. You realized, once you had fought for them that freedom and life are indeed very special. You no longer took things for granted, you noticed for the first time how really intense and beautiful a sunrise can be and how nice it is to once again feel the warmth of the sun on your face after the monsoons had passed.

You no longer "said prayers," you spoke with God. You now knew the fragility of life and, therefore, it became more intense. Through all this, we quickly realized what an honor it was to know and serve with men like these and how truly blessed we are to have had them in our lives.

We will remember them always and to our absent companions now say, "catch the wind good friends, take the lead and soar to the warm light of God, and on your wing...keep watch for us."

7/21/2000

Dear Dick:

I'm glad to hear that you and Kama are having a good vacation camping out. I thought we taught you the proper way to fish in VN - Hand grenades — work every time but I'm sure the park rangers wouldn't approve.

I think that this was one of the best reunions we have ever had. We got a lot done, really got a bunch of old times back and had a great ceremony at the wall. You are the one who pulled all of this together and I congratulate you on a job well done. It's really hard to understand the feelings that are developed between guys who have been in combat until you have experienced it. I was particularly pleased that there were the number of wives and children who were there. I think that it helps them to understand how much trust we put in each other while we were in VN.

Now we need to think about what we are going to do with the history in the future. I have only one copy left and CWO McFarland, 603<sup>rd</sup> TC, asked about buying it. I sent him a letter in response to his note left with my stuff at the hotel while we were at the wall. He must have missed us because I don't remember seeing him but he left a note at the hotel that I found. I'm sending you the copy of the history I started to proof read correct since that's all I have

left. I have all of the original pages and could have T & S run out a few more copies if you think we need to have some more on hand. I think that we do and 5 or so copies might be right for now. I do not have a copy of the history to send to Charlie Maurer right now unless I send him the one I have for Mc Garland and get him one later. Let me know what you want me to do - get new copies and send the one I have to Maurer now?

I'm sending you a copy of the eulogy with some comments about the ceremony. So far I have sent a copy to Richard Green and the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division Vietnam Veterans Association. I asked that each of them publish it in their next newsletter. The lead in comments are in error now since the flag went back to Ohio but I don't think that it makes a lot of difference unless you want me to correct it.

I got all of the mugs made up for everyone and got them mailed out yesterday. I think they came out really good and I hope that the people who ordered them enjoy them. I also sent a mug to Richard Jefferson the HISTORY Channel project guy. I told him we would have more videos coming and that we would be helping him with history and war stories. Do you want me to send him some parts of the current history or do we want to send him a copy of what we have. I can make copies of the stories which I'm sure he

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would be more interested in than the statistics etc in the current history. Let me know what you want me to do.

I have gone over the video you gave me and I'm not sure that there is a whole lot there that we want to use. There are some good shots of the smoke ship and informal groups of people we could use but a lot of it is already there in one form or another in what we already have. I'm making some copies for Jefferson of the smoke ship and other stuff which he might be able to use. Right now we have only 15 minutes of open tape on our current Master of our history and to add much more would be not worth the effort. Maybe we need to concentrate on a second project to include the C 101 material the Willie has. I'm not sure that I can really get excited about doing the 101<sup>st</sup> video since I'm not sure about what they have and what it represents in mission accomplishment.

Jeff at T&S said you called and told them what a good job they have done. They appreciated what you did and they received the money you sent to clear our account. They are a good bunch of guys and have done a good job.

Remember that on the 16<sup>th</sup> of August we leave for Europe. We will go to Dallas, fly to London and get on the ship in Dover on the 18<sup>th</sup>. We will sail to Germany's north coast and dock at Wewernamund where we will catch a train into Berlin for a day. We will sail into

St Petersburg Russia for a couple of days then on to Finland, Denmark, Norway and Sweden before we head back to London. We won't be back in Oklahoma until the 1<sup>st</sup> of September. It's going to be a long trip.

Putting the flag at the Pacific Coast Museum sounds like a good deal to me. It would have been nice to put it in the Smithsonian but that's the way it goes. I know that it was a big effort trying to get that sucker fixed up, promenade striped to DC. You did good and I think everyone appreciated what we have done with the flag.

More later,

Jack

6/17/2000

Dear Dick:

We are getting San Francisco weather today - rain and cool which is really a neat change for us. We are already into the summer heat and have already been over 100 for a few days. We will get up to 90's and 100's every day in the next two weeks or so. Aren't you glad you live in SF. When my dad was in the Navy in WW II. I was 12 years old and lived in Berkley across the bay for about 6 months when my dad was training out of Treasure Island. I remember it was during the winter and could be cold and damp and uncomfortable. He shipped out to the Pacific and we moved to LA where my Aunt was living and we moved in with her until the war was over. I spent a couple of years living in California during 1944/45.

Here is the history as best we could do — I hope that you are satisfied with what we have done.

Let me cover what we have here:

I ran out 21 Copies of the book. I am sending one to you and one to Richard Green. I have a copy that I kept for myself so I will have something to work with. I have all of the original copies of all of the material that went into the book and the originals of the extra data on DT and the Scout dogs etc. T&S ran a copy for their file (they did not charge us for their copy) so they can run any more copies later if we need any part of it re-run. Since I held out several pages of original material we may want to run some of it later in a second book on DT exclusively or with more narrative on our actions.

in or around ~~III~~ CIZ. As it is you can see that we have a pretty big book and we still have a lot of stories to tell.

about 20

I have copies of "Guns Up", Smokey the Bear #2, 188<sup>th</sup> Patch Collection (digital print), 308<sup>th</sup> Sign at Eagle, vertical w/ 101<sup>st</sup> slogan, LZ Sally print, Camp Rainier print and Michelin Rubber Plantation print. That's about 140 prints which we should be able to sell for \$5.00 and come up with something near \$700.00 to help pay for the book. The bill from T & S (print shop) is for \$492.18 which covers everything up to date. They had to do some extra corrections on the patches which cost the \$45.00 charge, the prints for sale were \$60.00. The cost for each book was \$16.70 and that's what they will charge us in the future for any more copies we want them to run. They only charged us .03¢ per sheet and \$3.00 to bind it. They color the color pages so they gave us a pretty good deal, I think.

I would recommend that we think about \$20.00 or \$25.00 a copy on the book. We need to reimburse you for your costs and there will be a need to send some copies of the book free to other places like the VN Archive in Texas Tech University and VHPA so \$25.00 wouldn't be too much to get a little ahead. I will bring all of the books to Washington plus the prints and examples of the Coffee Cups for others to see. I'll have a copy of the ride as well to look at and/or sell. T & S will wait for their payment until after the reunion so it might be a little easier on your check book with all

of the expenses of the reunion etc.

In working on the reunion dedication, I talked to Mike Glonker the other day and found out that he is a Lawton Oklahoma boy. He was born here and went to school at the same high school as my daughter. He is a lot older than she is so they didn't know each other. He went to our local university and was trained as a forward Observer in CT 2. His wife is from ~~Walter~~, Okla, a town about 20 miles down the road from Lawton and Glonker still has a home here that he rents out.

After all of this exchange of information he indicated that he will do most everything he can to get our flag into the Smithsonian Museum. He also indicated that he wanted to come to our dedication and would talk to us about other things to do to honor our guys. I told him that I had sent him a book on the 80<sup>th</sup> CAG & 308<sup>th</sup> which he appreciated. He also said that he received the stuff I sent him about my first trip North to I CTZ in 1964 with the UTT Armed Helicopter Co. We did a bunch of operations with the Marine Helicopter Co, HMM-365, and put some hurt on the local VC/VNA.

I got a call from Ted Alley who will be at the reunion. He wanted to know if it was alright to invite a Col he ran into that is investigating the MIA's in VN. We indicated that there may be a C/11 guy Jay Steven Aston that hasn't been found so far. I told him hell yes invite him to any thing we are going to do in DC. I think that the more people

we can get interested in the 188<sup>th</sup>/C 101<sup>st</sup> is great.

I'm going to run some copies of our KIT list for use at the wall. Since you have located all of the names on the wall by panel and line it will be easy to locate our people during the dedication or after the dedication. I think that it will be helpful.

I will also run copies of my forward to the unit history. I will pass them out to let the guys know what I had to say about my feelings in being their commander. It will be my way of saying thanks to those who don't buy the history and see it in the lead in to our history. I think that I will run some copies of the station props to sell for a buck or two. They show our Areas of Operations very well and it might be of interest to some of the guys. I will have the book I've put together that has all of the digital color prints that we have done at T&S. We can get copies of any of it if some one is interested after I get back from the reunion. I will stop for you and get this in the mail. Let me know what you think about the book.

Take Care & Keep Cool in hot SF.

Jack

6/5/2000

Dear Dick:

First things first. Here is the video you asked for - we are a few bucks ahead right now so don't worry about its cost. Also I am sending Bob Setzer a copy that's paid for so we are even so far.

I got a long letter from Beaulieu and I'm sending him video and prints of Sally & DT. I have an extra *Guns Up* I'm sending to him as well for taking such good care of us when he was Maint C. I'm sure he will enjoy it.

I talked to Jim Fergus at the video place and he can add additional footage to our video for a reasonable price and put graphics on it to explain the update. We can also add a narrative track to describe what we have done. I really think that is the route to go since redoing the tape would really be more than we could ever expect to recover through sales. As I said when we cut something out we run into the problem of cutting just the thing some one wanted to see. Also they can fast forward anything they don't want to look at.

The typing of the history is going well. I proof read all of it over the weekend and returned it to Shree yesterday. She will have a clean copy of all of it by tonight and I should be able to organize it and get it to T&S for printing by Tues Evening or Wed. I'll ask about binding without punching holes in the copy. One thing about doing something like that is that if it ever comes apart it would

be hard to reassemble. We will not have page numbers at bottom of each page and because of the way its organized ie, following VHPA outline, it does not run in a logical sequence as a book would. I can keep the Master Copy pages clean, without holes, and we could add or subtract as we want in the future but for this run I think that a plastic spiral binder along the left side will do the best job. We could go three hole punch and put into binders or just clip together with standard two hole Arco clip which would come apart easy to add or subtract pages. Of course once we do the first run any subsequent runs would allow us to reorganize and revise page order as we go since we will have the Master Copies clean to work with.

I'll try to do what's best for the first go.

I have received all of the E-mail stuff on the reunion you have sent me. I haven't contacted Gregory as yet because I wasn't sure of the condition of the flag. Looks like we will have it framed so can you coordinate with him via E-mail to work on arrangements. I don't have E-mail and he seems to have everything pretty well in hand. Looks like all we have to do is get the framed flag there and do our thing on the early evening of the 3<sup>rd</sup>. That looks good to me. I don't think we will need an easle there and can make do with most anything

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The distance from the hotel to the mall is pretty good and the less we can get by in logistics the better.

I liked the picture of BB 6 with our aircraft. He sure hated to give it up when we moved north. Gary Beaupre told me in his letter about the time that BB 6 got a hot start on our ramp and wanted a replacement aircraft to use until Gary could look over our aircraft BB 6 was using. Gary said he gave him "Polish Power" and BB 6 wasn't happy with the thought of flying around in such a ugly aircraft with door markings like that. I guess PP had been painted over in several places and didn't look like a new 14 model like the one BB 6 had. I'm surprised he didn't paint over the doors before he would take the aircraft. Merrymon was sincere when he used the motto "Aim High" because he was very aggressively working to become a General and he made it. But - we helped him along by what we did as part of his command. There is another picture of the BB 6 aircraft on the disk Dagnish sent to you. It's in the background of one of our aircraft on the ramp at DT but it's a pretty good nose shot of the aircraft.

I will be at the hotel in DC about mid day of the 2<sup>nd</sup>. I'll try to run you down when I get there. We are leaving here on the 27<sup>th</sup> to drive to NC and see daughter and grand kids for a day or so then I will go solo to DC. I'll leave there about mid day of the 4<sup>th</sup>.

as far as I know now. I'll have some T-Shirts  
a video or two and prints of DT, LZ Sally, Gun Up  
etc plus the extra copies of the history. I would  
have examples of the coffee mug for people to look at. Maybe  
we can off set some of the cost of the history and art  
work while we are there.

I'm thinking about driving over to Lubbock  
Tex to Texas Tech University and letting them  
look over all of my stuff from VN for their  
collection. I would try to give them a full  
day and at the same time we could give them  
a copy of the video and the history. I see that  
you have already given them something for  
their archives. It's a fairly short drive over  
there and they may want to copy some of the stuff  
I have.

Not to run to get all of this in the  
mail. I'll send a copy of the history  
when I've got it all together.

Take care,  
Jack

P.S. Great e-mail on "why the Military Sucks"  
Appreciate it.

J

6/1/2000

Dear Dick:

More stuff for you to look at, think about, and give me some guidance. I'm sending copies of the bills from T&S and right now we only owe them # 37.80 which covers the Clean up of the Corps Practical Zone Maps and the Unauthorized Patch Collection. I'm sending you several copies of the maps and I have copies as well. If you want to change anything let me know. I've gone over them with your last corrections and I think that they are pretty close.

The history should be typed fully by tomorrow according to my typist. She has been working on it all week since school is now out. I will proof read it and work with T&S to put it into a book printout. I would think that 20 or so copies would be all that we need right now. I'm not sure that there will be a whole lot of people who will want to buy it but I may be surprised. The interest in other stuff we have has dropped off to one or two requests for prints but not much video action. More may come after the reunion and I'll have some copies along with me in DC. Only time will tell if we can recover some of your cost in producing the data. I'll send the stuff off on 269<sup>th</sup> & 308<sup>th</sup> to Monika as soon as I have it in hand. Just re read your last letter so I'll think about 5 copies for DC.

I'll get a copy of the video in the mail to Bob Setzer - Don't worry about the cost. We have

an extra copy right now so no cost to you. Spoke to the video folks and they suggest that we add my new material to the end of the current tape. It would be an almost impossible task to edit down the tape and add more without a complete remake which we couldn't afford. Also this would be a copy of a copy which will degrade the quality more than it already is.

I know the tape is long but for some people there will be something they want and we may cut it out thinking it doesn't mean much. I think we could add on a trailer and point out it was added after the reunion and some one will be happy about what we add. If it's too long there is always a fast forward button.

I got a quote from our local frame on the flag. To do the frame in a museum quality print she says the bill price would be \$426.50. That includes museum mat and plexiglass cover. Hand stitching the flag to the mat would take 45 hours of hand work and is the main cost. Plus the big thing is she will be out of town for a while and wouldn't be able to get it done before the reunion. Now, I got a letter from Richard Green who says

"Framing the flag. Why don't you go ahead and do it, ask for donations at the reunion, and let the newsletter fund make up the difference. Cadreair's plea worked pretty good, and

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we can easily pay for the flag framing and the next newsletter as well" How about that!!

I think that maybe we need to bring it up at the reunion and then get the framing done after the fact and send the flag later. I know that you have put more than your share into this so maybe we can get it paid for before we act. It would let us get all the details worked out with the Smithsonian so they can put it on display. We can still do a dedication at the wall. I just think that we are running out of time to get everything done correct before we go to DC. Let me know what you think - or contact Richard for jewels for the frame and get it done in SF - your call.

I got a letter from John Schlafer who flew with Meacham in the 17<sup>th</sup> and was the Ops Officer at the 308<sup>th</sup>/159<sup>th</sup> after he left the 17<sup>th</sup>. He was defending Meacham's book as a therapeutic exercise and because it was inaccurate was not material. I worked closely with John or Jack as we called him, and am surprised at his comments. He is now a Pastor of a church in Killeen Tex and feels that I was too judgemental. I sent him a letter explaining why I thought that the book had taken credit for some of our actions and all I wanted to do was protect our Black Widows and give them credit due for our actions. Evidently Meacham has sent copies of my letter to him to others in the 17<sup>th</sup>.

but he hasn't taken the time to correspond directly with me about his work. Maybe his conscious bothers him. I sent Jack a copy of our 308<sup>th</sup> Narrative (history with patches) and the picture of the 308<sup>th</sup> sign (Camp Eagle - 101<sup>st</sup> Moto) and told him I have no fight with him. Hope that he enjoys them.

I got a long letter from Gary Beau lieu after I finally got his address down right. He wants prints of D7 & L2 Sally plus a video so they will be on the way in a couple of days. He has done a bunch of things since he was an Maintenance Officer at DT following Namow's death. I always felt that Gary thought he wasn't appreciated at DT so I told him what a good job all of the 603<sup>rd</sup> had done under some really crappy conditions and kept us flying in safe aircraft. He appreciated the letter. I'll have his stuff in the mail by tomorrow.

I've been going over your last few letters and I'll try to take care of all of the stuff you have sent to me. More later after I get the history in hand.

Take care,  
Jack

5/18/2000

Dear Dick:

Here is the latest. I'm returning the VSO poster so we can bring it to the reunion if you want to. Someone might get a kick out of it. I really think that it would be too much cost to reprint it for the history.

I have the latest bill from T&S. It's \$110.11 and covers the two station mops which really took up a lot of time to recreate. Things like this are really time consuming and will cost a bunch to make.

The cover sheet for the history now has the medals that the Company was given. Everyone who served with us can wear these ribbons and if they were wounded they can wear the last ribbon the UN wound medal.

T&S added the 25<sup>th</sup> Div photo to the Cu Chi photo of Smokey. I think that this makes a pretty good collection for us to take to DC. I'll have them run out a set of 20 or so prints of all of the patch photos. I think we should have a bunch of LZ Sally and DT prints of the base camps as well.

If the station mops are OK just let me know and when we put the history together I'll have T&S run prints for the package.

They can print all of the stuff we have done so far including the current typing and run it front to back on paper so we can save some print money. They can bind the whole thing up with a spiral plastic binding along the

left side of the manuscript. He couldn't give me a cost figure until we get a page count but the bindery would run \$3.00 per book to punch them and put the plastic spiral binding in place. Some of the color pages ie Base Camps, front cover, organizational diagrams will run about 60¢ per page to reprint and the normal black and white typing runs a 5¢ or so per page. Try charge to locate and assemble but cost is based on number of pages. I'm trying to work with them to hold costs down as much as I can.

The typing seemed to be coming along pretty well. I will push her next week to get it all out by the second week of June so we can reprint ASAP. When she gets the part on 269<sup>th</sup> and 308<sup>th</sup> done I'll send on to Sloniker. I'm just not sure how you want all of this to go together so I'll follow the UHPA outline and put them in that order. I'm not sure that we will have time to send much of this back and forth for proof reading etc. I'll do what I can to get it to you so you can approve what we have done as best that I can but we are running out of time it seems.

I haven't contacted Sloniker or Tredway as yet but I will. I have another friend here who ran a print shop but he sold out some time back. He may have kept some

of his tools and maybe he can help us build a fence. He is an old Car VN-vet and my want to help us.

Do you have a current address for Gary Beaulieu. I sent him two pieces of mail at the addresses on the roster and both of them have been returned. Woops just checked the latest roster and see a new address for him. I'll send it to the new address and see how that works. I also got my letter to Mrs Wofford back undeliverable. I sent it to his address in Clarksville but it was returned with comment that the forwarding address had expired.

I got a call from Jim Step, Bunker 4, who said he was interested in a video but so far no follow-up. I talked to Carl Zito and I'm sending him some prints and a coffee mug. Bring your video on Smoke to the reunion. Maybe I can get it edited into the copy we have. I'll bring along a copy to show anyone who is interested.

I will bring your copy of Lest We Forget - Kingsmen Story to the reunion. Meacham hasn't responded and most likely won't. Maybe he will be at the reunion and we can see what a hero looks like. I'm still trying to get a copy of WT Grant's book on the 17<sup>th</sup> when they were at Camp Eagle. I do bet its a pretty wild tale of how they won the war.

I wrote a new paragraph on the move North and the 308<sup>th</sup> patches. I'll add it to the patch collection paper.

We really had a good time at our HS reunion. Some of my class mates have really not aged well and look pretty old at 68. There are some that have done much better and there are some who have done extremely well in the business world and could buy and sell me several times. Oh well no one said that you would be a millionaire in the Army.

We are getting real short on adding much else to be typed so if you have stuff send it ASAP. I'll do the best I can to get it all together for the reunion.

Take care,  
Jack

4/20/00

Dear Dick:

Here are some more ideas and prints for you to ponder over and give me guidance. I will address each one with my thoughts plus some stick on notes.

First on the USO show poster. T&S tells me because of the size of the print they cannot scan it so the only thing they could do would be take a digital picture then feed it into the computer and print it out. It would cost \$10.00 to get the digital picture and then about \$40.00 per print to make it about the same size as it is now. If you went much smaller ie. 8 1/2 x 11 it would be a pretty small document.

My thoughts: This is a neat poster but it was a one day event and with all of the other significant things we have to put into our history I'm not sure that \$50.00 plus is worth the effort. I think that the pictures of "Guns Up", Cu Chi (Smoky) and Camp Eagle (308 sign) are really meaningful in our history and are appropriate for the banner. I remember the show and have a picture of the girl getting into my lap (looks like you are in the background) from Bagnashki and think that it has some historical value but not that much. Maybe if we get lots of money ahead we can do something with it but for now let's hold off on this. I'll hold the poster and send it to you when you decide what we want to do.

Dick — get rid of the silver ink pen — my old eyes just don't focus on that color and

have a real problem trying to read it.

The narrative is being worked on by the typist. I haven't checked with her in the last week but I'm sure that she will get it out ASAP. She looked it over and didn't seem to find any problems with getting it out.

I'm sending along a charge sheet from T&S for \$42.12 which covers the patch collection corrections, the cover sheet for the history, the Camp Eagle changes and the Gruel Up prints. They have been pretty cooperative in trying to keep the costs down.

I received a letter from Jim Meyers. Copy is enclosed. Looks like he may be at Reunion along with maybe someone else.

The dedication of the flag at the wall and placement in a museum would be a great tribute to the company and those who were lost. I would think that the names of those who were with the 188<sup>th</sup> would be the ones put on the flag - Not all 188<sup>th</sup>/C 101 on the flag. Historically we should only be concentrating on the 188<sup>th</sup> since that's all I was Commander of and you a member before it was deactivated. Would we leave the battle streamers on the flag as well?

I guess that's where they belong and really only the place they should be shown from a heraldic standpoint. I can't think of a better place to display the flag unless it would be in the US Army Aviation Museum at Ft Rucker but I'm not sure they would want it there. Where are the momentos left at the wall on display? I don't think I have read anything about a place where they are on display.

When we get the unauthorized patch collection narrative done I'll send each of the contributors a copy. I got a call the other day from Jim Stepp who was asking about the video, DT print & Guns Up. He said he would send a check soon. I will send him a copy of the unauth patch narrative since he is mentioned and had a bunch of questions about what had happened that night. It may answer some of his questions.

I'm sorry to hear that Lobby Wofford died early this year. I had sent him a couple of letters but he didn't respond to any of them. I will send his wife a letter expressing our sympathy. I'm sure that he must have been pretty angry about being relieved but that happened and sometimes because you just happened to be the CO and when things get screwed up you had to take the fall. That was just the way the game was played.

Don't be concerned about telling about the use of Marijuana or Alcohol by the troops. It did happen and as hard as I tried I couldn't keep it out of the unit. I found some that people had and we did what we could but it was there and was used.

It sure wasn't anything that I would have encouraged and that goes for Alcohol as well. I felt that anything that would reduce a person's ability to function with a clear head was something that we needed to cut back on. After all I did

approve the use of alcohol in the area against the orders of the 101<sup>st</sup> which had an order that there would be no alcohol north of the Kai Van pass. I think we did pretty well in our management of the use of M-1 and alcohol - I don't think it was out of control nor did it conflict with ability to do our job. I'm sure that you know more about the use of weed than I did and that doesn't bother me at all.

I sent Gary Beaubien a couple of pictures off of Dognash's disk. Haven't heard anything from him. I haven't heard anything from Parker either after the pictures of him playing his guitar. I haven't heard anything from MacAdam on his book either but I did send Richard Green my review of his book for the next newsletter. I have ordered a copy of W.T. Grant's book on the Kingsman just to see how he covers our actions.

Richard Jellessen (~~HBO~~ Hist Channel) sent me a check that bounced. I called him and he sent me another with a letter apologizing for the mistake. Something about changing banks and an old check book. He did say that they are continuing to work on a program and that they will be in touch to get more info on the project. I'm going to send him a copy of the "Cu Chi - Smoky print." He said he flew with the 116<sup>th</sup> when he was in country and maybe he will like this. I'm not sure that he flew out of Cu Chi or was under the 765<sup>th</sup>.

but the 116<sup>th</sup> did when I was there. If we work this right we may be on National TV.

I went over some of the letters I sent you and that you have saved. There is a bunch of information there that I wouldn't want to try and repeat. I'll send it along with all of the rest of the stuff so you will have it for the narrative of our history.

Right now I have used up all of the tweeds from the videos. When we get a few bucks ahead I plan to send some to Richard Green to help with the newsletter. We also have to think about the banner for reunions which will run about \$215.00 but will be reusable for many occasions once we get it done. It will be much more usable for reunions etc than the flag which should be in a museum. I will be ready to say some words at the wall if you want me to. I just hope that we have a good turn out.

Well I guess I've run on enough. Let me know about the cover and the patch narrative.

Take care,  
Jack

P.S.

We leave on the 9<sup>th</sup> of May to attend our 50<sup>th</sup> High School class reunion. Nancy and I met in 10<sup>th</sup> grade - went steady in 12<sup>th</sup> grade and got married in my senior year of college. We have known each other for ever. Looking forward to seeing some of our old classmates. Will be out of pocket for a week starting on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

3/31/2000

Dear Dick:

Add on letter to the one from 3/29/2000.

Picked up all of the prints from T&S. I'm sending you 10 each as you requested. I sent Scribe's prints of Sally, DT, 188<sup>th</sup> patches and Guns Up. Told him you would return his patch after you get copy made for patch collection. I sent Bagnashi copy of 188<sup>th</sup> patches, Smokie and Guns Up. Also thanked him for the disk. I sent Richard Green prints of L2 Sally and Smokie. He was never part of 269<sup>th</sup> but thought he might like copy of Smokie. He sure should like print of Sally. I will also return disk to you. T&S has picture of Smokie in their computer so we can run prints of that any time. If you want to do any more of the photos you'll have to send the disk back.

I'll send Gary Beaulieu, Maint off, a copy off of Bagnashi's disk that has him and Parker and Bagnashi all standing together in front of a tent some where. I'm sending a copy of a picture of the Maint camp at DT also. Has he ever helped up with input to history? I doubt that he has — he was pretty passive as an officer when we were in DT.

This should give you a little more to do. Send the history narrative I'm ready.

Take care,  
Jack

3/29/2000

Dear Dick:

I just sent Richard Green a long letter with a picture of LZ Sally (new print) and asked him to stay with us. I haven't had an opportunity to read what Frank Lester wrote about his experience with the Company were but from Dick's response it must have been like some of the other stories of VN have been.

It must have been something like my feelings about the book on the Kingman Company that MacLean wrote.

If our history has stories that indicate that the higher level chain of command were all confused and were glory hunters or the only people worth their pay were Warrant Officer pilots I'd be disappointed as well. I think that we will do a disservice to all of our guys if we see others as RAMFs or all officers are RZO's and FNG's were no good until they had been in Country for six months and so forth.

We had some people we worked for and with who were dummies and we had some good and bad Officers, WO's and EM's but a few stories I've seen lately have really turned me off. We were not all night every night drinkers who flew stoned all the time. Did we drink — some did — Did we have some stoned - you bet, I bet, the history doesn't have to focus on that as the whole life style of a unit. Things like the convoy trip to Hue was true and happened but it wasn't the whole story of what we did everytime some one got away from the Company area. I don't

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want you or anyone else who contributes to cover up actions that may have been dumb but when everyone but the author was dumb, drunk or a妓女 bound there is something wrong. I would have sent anyone who pulled a gun on a crew member or co-worker and threatened them to go on a mission to the LBD if I knew about it. We just screwed up by not taking care of McTeer long before he blew him self and Joe away but I was never informed when I should have been. I sincerely regret that I didn't know about him because he would have been history but because I didn't know he is now a part of a history that I truly wish wasn't part of our past. Any way lets be straight with our actions and if we did a dumb thing OK but I don't think we ever treated an other units crews as dummies just because they were not part of us.

Now what's been going on with the development of our stuff. I have put in a new LZ Sally print with corrections. I'll send copies to Green and Soren. When I went over to make his patch part of our collection I saw that we both missed a big item on all of our patches. As we print out copies of all of them the patches will be corrected and then all of the future prints will be straight. T&S said if you have the original of the DT picture they can reset the DT diagram and maybe improve the quality of the print. They can highlight the letters and numbers on the print so they stand out like the LZ Sally print. If you want to correct it

send me the photos of DT and any corrections and it will be on a CD like the other stuff T&S have done. I'll add the SIG & Service patches to the organization diagram of the 188<sup>th</sup> so that all patches are on it.

On the post card you sent me you said we should put dates under unit info - Nov 66 - July 67 Da Nang - Phuoc Hoa - Da Nang East - LZ Sally - ect. What print or document are you referring to? If you mean on the banner - that can be done. If you mean some other print let me know. I will have T&S do anything you think needed but they do charge us for corrections/changes by the time they have to put in but for accuracy we'll do it.

I went over the CD that Bagnash sent you - there are 150 pictures on that disk. We were going to print them on a 11x17 sheet until we saw how many were on the disk. I will go over the disk and pick out some good ones and print them on the color copy machine. He has some really good pictures but hell be should have if he was Signal Corps. That's what they were supposed to do.

The reunion coordination will most likely have to be a shared project since most people will look to you because of your involvement in the history. I'll try to help as best I can. I really wonder about trying to do anything that is not held right there in DC. Trying to get a bunch of guys down to De Palms house and back would be a real task. Once you leave a parking place around one of those DC hotels you would never find one

when we got back. Plus I can see a bunch of guys full of Bar-B-Que and beer driving back to DC in the middle of the night - lost and in DC traffic - I don't think so.

I think I told you we have a few bucks up from video/T-shirt sales so the prints are surely paid for. The guy from HBO who is doing the piece on VN helicopters is:

RICHARD JELLESON

Put letter  
6/10



HOME ADDRESS: (I THINK)



Any way he bought a video and said he would be in touch with you for more history when they do the piece. You're going to be famous yet!!

Congratulations Karma - good job. It's nice when someone takes time to recognize someone for doing a good job. Enjoy the lunch I'm sure that it's richly deserved.

Looks like my pen is about to die on me. I think that the pretty well keeps you up to date.

Take care,  
Jack

2/13/2000

Dear Dick:

Here is the latest from Lawton and what we might want to do about typing the history.

I talked to T & S and in the long run I think that they might be more expensive and time consuming than we want. I went to a friend of mine who is a dean at our local college and asked him about typing like term papers or other papers that they publish. He said that they have people who are trained and who are looking for work. He said that he couldn't tell me exactly how much it would run but after we tell him how much we have to do he would be better able to tell me how much it would cost. He needs to know:

Do you want the typing done in Word Perfect or Microsoft Word format? He has both on computers in his department. If you have a program you are using on your computer that's what we need to write in so you can work over anything they do.

Do you have pictures or graphs that you will have to incorporate into the text? I guess they can leave room within the text to scan in and place pictures with text around them. If not we need to indicate where you are going to refer to a picture and do a foot note and place the picture on a separate page.

How many pages do you think you will have to type and will all of it be in longhand?

They can handle your long-hand pretty well since you write clearly and make sense - most of the time.

I am kidding but I'm sure that they will make out OK using hand written material. I'll be able to help them interpret as well so kinda describe for me what the format will be.

I'm sure that the College people will be more used to this kind of project since they do this for students all the time and my buddy has written a couple of books that his people have ~~typed~~ into a format for printing. They can put it on a CD if your computer reads one so you can review it after they are done and T&S can print manuscript from a CD for publication if we want to go that route.

T&S is now installing new color copiers and a whole new graphic printer that will be something. They will have it up and running this week and I will get some prints from them. They have a new machine that will produce a banner of almost any size and can be made up with anything we have in the computer so far.

For example they could take "Guns Up" and print it on a 3 foot by 5 foot cloth/final banner to hang up at reunions or whatever so people could find us. It could be put between 2 wooden sticks and used in a parade. It's full color and really detailed. They can scan most any photo or slide and reproduce it. Now the drawback - it would be about \$150 to make up a 3x5 banner. They haven't got all of their prices set as yet and they haven't even got the machines installed but by next week

they will have some samples for me to send to you.

I took you check to them and we are all paid up now. They forgot to tell me about the tax so I paid the sales tax as my little part of the project. I'm sending you a copy of the receipts that show our bill and that it is all paid up. They changed the writing on the QRLL report for the 269<sup>th</sup> (Copy inclosed) but the Color Copy was off so it isn't good quality. They will run a new one on their new equipment when it's up and running. I'll send you and Hank Debe a copy of the 308<sup>th</sup> picture when the new machine is working. It will be on heavy stock and glossy on the front. We can run a brunch for the reunion if you want.

I think we could run pictures of both DT and LZ Sally with the narration for the reunion as well. I will have 2 T-Shirts left and "Guns Up" shirts. I don't think that we need to take on calendars right now because as you say our plate is full.

I got a note from Greg Pepper and sent him a copy of the video which he ordered. I also talked to him on the phone. I hope that his slides are good - you know we can scan them onto a CD at T&S but it runs about 12.50 a slide but then it can be printed out of the Computer or the Color Copier at their place. Their slide scanner is really neat and can be used to clean up any slide or crop it as you want.

I think that you might want to ~~use~~ use both the original pictures of the patch patches

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and the ones we have now from T&S. It would be good to show the Auth and Unauthorized ones that we have.

I hope that you saved some of the letters sent to you that described my memories of what we did.

I tried to send you some of that as I've written but I would be glad to go over anything you send me. I will try to remember some other actions but you really have more to draw on than I do with the ~~action~~ reports and logs that you have gathered up over the years. I can only remember part of Delaware, and TET and FSB Bunt but I'll give anything a good try if you can send me some detail.

I do not remember doing anything with SOG or LRP's while we were at Selly. We did work with SF's at Dogrik with Bo Shitz but not up North as I recall. I'm sure that C/100 did a lot of work with them after I left because we have a book about them going over the border.

I have gone over all of Richard Green's tapes and he has a bunch of good stuff but I'm not sure that it would help us much. I'll send all of them to you in the next week or so. I think that if you have all of the data/film available in one place someone could kinda keep track of what we have. I taped a video of the females that were in VN and on the tape there was a picture of a UH-1 with "Comanche" on the door. Did we have one like that? I think I saw a quick picture of a UH-1 with our tail (bullseye) marking on it.

(7)

It went by pretty quick but it must have been at least one of the 269<sup>th</sup> birds (no color to tell if the center was red) but it looked like our Marking. I'll run you a copy if you haven't seen it. It's pretty good and covers a bunch of nurses and Donut Dolly's that flew around to play games with us. I had an experience with them at Cu Chi a couple of days after I got there on my second tour. We got hit one night and I, being an old time second tour guy, wasn't too quick to get out of the hood. When I got to the door in my shorts I heard an artillery round whistled by and hit the road beside my hood. Well I dove out the door and hit the gravel walk flat on my face and got scratched up all over my elbows, knees, chest etc. I made a run for the 269<sup>th</sup> bunker and when I ducked inside there were 4 or 5 Donut Dolly's there from our club. Me in shorts and bleeding them partying with the 269<sup>th</sup> guys. Kind of embarrassing.

Sounds like Linstu might be of help to you.

If I need to help you with Mike Linstu let me know,

Let me know about the format you need on the narrative and I'll do my best to get it done as inexpensive as possible but in a form that we can use.

Take Care,  
Jack

3/14/2000

Dear Dick:

I need help with this one. I got your unauthorized Combat Patch Collection narrative and we have a problem. When T&S put the patches into their computer they do away with the image of the original patch when they clean up the final presentation. All we have are the clean digitized representations of the originals. I have a couple of printouts of the originals that you sent me but all I could do is cut them out and paste them into any narrative that would then have to be copied on a regular copy machine. I really think that the digitized copy will do everything we want to do and if you want to put a separate sheet into a book or publication we need to take the originals and re shoot them on a separate page. I could maybe cut out what I have - reduce it on a copy machine. (Mine are about twice as big as the originals) and do a layout that way. I'm not sure that I have all of the originals in the stuff I have either. I did not get a copy of the new 108<sup>th</sup> Sig patch and I'm not sure that I have a 308<sup>th</sup> patch of the original. I do have digitized patches of all of the originals and the other day we went over all of them at T&S and organized them into better usable formats. I'll send you copies of all of it when we get it done.

I got a call the other day from RAY SCRIBNER who was on the "Raen Gasin".

~~He~~ found us off of the internet and he called to tell me he was ~~thrilled~~ about finding us. His address is: RAY SCRIBNER



I forgot to get his phone number but ~~am~~ sure that he will get in contact with you soon. He wanted to get a video and has some pictures for you as well. I have made copies of the pictures we have of 122 and I will send them to him soon.

I'll hold up on the patch collection until I hear further from you. Help me with a little more detail on the layout you want. Do we want to just put the patches on one sheet and then refer to them in the text - I don't think that they will work out well dispersed throughout the text. Let me know.

Jack

3/10/00

Dear Dick:

I think that I have everything done on pictures/patches and have included copies for you to go over. If you don't mind I will keep the CD from Bagnacchi for a while until we get everything done with it. T.S. loved the CD since they could just plug it into their computer and run the pictures. I had them print off 5 of the pictures of Doc Parker - playing with his guitar in his shorts. I will send them to him and offer to be character references for him with the medical community. Guess he can prove that he really built his own hospital, which many doctors can't say about themselves.

We now have enough stuff in T.S.'s memory that we had to go over it and reorganize the files. I will go over all of the patches and organize them into groups that correspond to the battalion they are associated with. Also I will go over the colors to make sure that there is only one patch that will be used in each reproduction. We have the 188<sup>th</sup> Sig patch on the computer now along with the old black one they used in 67-68. When we get all of the patches organized then we will use only one for each new project we put together.

You wanted to run off 10 copies of 308<sup>th</sup> & 269<sup>th</sup> patch collections - Do you just want the patches as we have them or do you want the copies of the pictures of Camp Eagle (308<sup>th</sup>) sign and Smokey (269<sup>th</sup>) picture? I wasn't clear on what you want. I'll hold off sending anything until we get all of them organized and

The pictures of Camp Eagle, Smokey, Dan Tieng and L2 Sally are done. Those along with "Guns Up" should give us something to sell at the reunion. I'll have T & S run out some copies of the prints we have put on mugs and if anyone wants a mug we can get a detailed order form made out and I'll send them later. I have some T- shirts left yet and now only get videos when some one orders one. I sent a bunch of stuff to Vickroy to include shirts, video, mugs and some pictures from my stuff and yours. He said that he would send you some pictures or slides soon. I hope that they help.

I tried to hold T & S down on costs, telling them we would buy more stuff in the future, and they did the L2 Sally photo for \$50.00 and the Smokey photo for \$20.00 so we owe them \$75.60. I asked them about the banner and to do a 3 foot by 5 foot banner that would be on vinyl it would be about \$210.00 They thought that the use of the three ~~old~~ photos would be very colorful and the top in bold print and colors would be neat. The banner could then be used at any reunion or meeting and would be very durable. We can discuss that later after we get all three photos in final configuration. I'm sending an order/invoice from T & S. Note they scanned the New big patch into the collection for free.

Are you in contact with Bob Crow? as he

going to set up the mini-reunion in Washington? If he isn't going to be involved someone needs to set up the time and place and let the others know about it. It appears from Richard Green that Bob has just about quit corresponding to him. I sent in my reunion registration to VHPA so I'm in for the trip for sure. Mike Vickery said he would probably attend as well. Richard Green indicated he probably wouldn't be there. Do you have the flag and do you plan to take it with you? Richard Green sent me a letter and talked about a book "Dear Mom, I'm Alive - Letters home from Black Widow 25" by Randy Mains. Said that it had a bunch of credit he took for missions that others did and they jumped his case at one of the reunions. Do you have the book if so I would like to read it as well. I will write something for the newsletter but so far I haven't heard a thing from Meacham. I think that he felt that he only "strayed" from the truth on his description of the LRRP/Ranger missions from his E-mail. Also in his book he said he flew 66-16121 and in the E-mail he identifies the aircraft as 66-17121 - what the hell does he have straight - I don't know!! Any way I haven't had a response from him yet - want to bet that I won't get one from him?

Pick you are right - the new address labels are bad. I'm not sure that I would use too many of them. I have just about used up all of the labels that Richard sent to me with the 188<sup>th</sup> patch.

I really save them to use them on only some of the stuff I send out. I think that the others are pretty neat.

I sent a video to Richard Jellerson the History Channel guy and I haven't heard anything from him yet. He was supposed to pay us for it and so far nothing. Have you sent him anything on the 1880 for him to use? I'm sure that he can afford to pay us for our efforts. The Commander of the ROTC Department at our local university has our tape as a reference for his history study. I told him he could use it and I would do a presentation if he wanted me to. These kids ~~don't~~ even know where VN was or what happened. Really interesting.

I need to get this into the mail. Sounds like you guys have been in the monsoon season from the weather reports. We are about to get into spring so the bike riding weather is getting better - time to hit the road and ride off the winter fat.

Take care,  
Jack

2-22-2000

Dear Dick:

Just for your information here is a copy of the letter I sent to Meacham. If I tick him off that's OK because he really paints most of us as a bunch of hard drinking, fighting, wild men who did not much other than fly. Everyone above his level was incompetent, screwed up or glory hunting and he was the only one that could fly an insertion mission into a single ship LZ. I wonder what we did for P-36 because we shouldn't have been able to do what we did. One place where he says he stopped a crew from doing a stupid insertion by pulling a gun and holding it to the AC's head is pure BS. If he did do something like that I would have Court Marshalled him out of the service or had him put into a psychiatric hospital. Any way I sent him a picture of the 308<sup>th</sup> sign on heavy stock so he can always remember he lied about us in his book.

I'm sending a bunch of copies of stuff that came off of TES's new color copier. They are better quality than the ones off of the old machine and the one of the 308<sup>th</sup> sign looks pretty good to me. I would think that the way to go would make up a bunch of copies of the DT print, 308<sup>th</sup> and Guns Up for the reunion. If we get LZ Selly done as well I'll let the guys that are there would buy them.

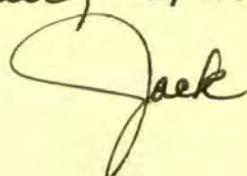
I have ordered the other book on the Kingsmen by W.T. Grant. I'll hold your book and after I get Grants book read I'll send them both to you. I wonder how Grant treats us in his

book? I guess I'll soon find out. I sent you a box of Richard Greens tapes. He sure has a bunch of them but not much we can use. I also have a video of the "Women in VN" to send you but I don't get it from the guys who is running copies for me for a couple of days.

This weekend we have a training camp in a place in Oklahoma where we have some pretty good hills. We will ride on Fri/Sat & Sun and do a hundred miles or so getting ready for the upcoming racing season. It's really a fun camp and we have an Olympic coach coming down from Colorado Springs to give us pointers on how to train. There will be 40 or so people there from Oklahoma City, Tulsa and Lawton. More fun than playing golf.

Soon as you get me the narration on the history I'll work directly with the secretary to get it done. I would sure check out those disks you got from your printer to see if we just screwed up when we tried to see what was on them. They should still have that in their files and if we can get that on a disk or CD we can run it on T&S's new machine and get really good copies. It's up to you but stuff off of a disk or CD can be run real easy on these new machine with good results.

More later, Take Care.



2/21/2000

Dear Dick:

Happy Presidents day. I have finished looking at all of Richard Green tapes and he has done a good job putting them together. They don't mean a whole lot to me because it was taken during C/101's time in Country. It would be helpful if someone in C 101 would take over and do their part of the history but until that's done I think its best if you have access to all of the historical data.

I have continued to look into the unbelievable BS that Meedan put out in his book and have a bunch of stuff I'm going to send him to let him know that I don't appreciate him taking our story and events and making out he did it. I found in the VHPA directory that UH-1 H 66-16121

assigned to C/101 Avn, 101 ABN was shot down on 10/24/68. The 1P, WO1 Richard S. Riley, jr., went on a MEDEVAC UN-ARMED while giving an in-county check ride between Phu Bai & Da Nang and was killed. SP-4 David L. Sparks was killed on the same mission. Neither one of these show up on the list of KIA's on the web-page but they are in the VHPA Directory on pages 190 and 215. We might want to check this out with the C/101 guys for ~~information~~.

There is a separate book on the Kingman entitled "Wing of the Eagle, A Kingman's Story" by WT Grant the only other guy in the 17<sup>th</sup>/301 that could fly as well as Meacham according to ~~Meacham's~~ book. I have ordered it and when I get it I'll compare them and send both of them to you along with a copy of the letter I sent to Meacham. I am going to send Meacham a print of the 308<sup>th</sup>

(2)

sign at Camp Eagle and let him know that we give credit and respect to the 17<sup>th</sup> even though he didn't do the same for the Black Widows. I have a copy of L50 picture and a print out of the nose art from the Web with a big print of the door with "Snoopy" on it that clearly shows that this was all 188<sup>th</sup> and didn't have a thing to do with his heroic tour of duty with the Lingson.

The guy really pissed me off as you can tell.

Anyway, when you get the manuscript here we'll get going on getting it typed for review and publication. Sorry to hear about Finster - hope he is doing well now.

Take Care  
Jack

Letter is  
mailed  
2/1/00

1/26/2000

Dear Dick:

Lots of things going on right now so I need to keep getting stuff out to you ASAP. I think I have good news and bad news right off the bat. The good news is that all of the printing from T & S is done (enclosed) and it looks pretty good to me. The bad news is that the final bill is still \$100.00 due to them. They estimated that they put in 40 hours of computer/operator time at \$25.00 per hour so we owed them \$400 for the whole job. You had sent \$300 and I had paid them for everything before we started the Hop and Chain of Command so we owe them \$100.00.

If we sell the T-Shirts I have left we will have some left over to help pay for other stuff so we need to move shirts before the reunion. They will still run our stuff off on a zip disk or CD when we get done but they will have it on their hard drive and can print copies anytime. They are installing a whole new printer/color copier which should even make the quality of the copies even better in the future.

In sending you a calendar from me with a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I just wanted to see what they could do with some of our pictures and they did pretty good. I will keep the original pictures they used for a while in case we want to run any more of them. They charge me \$20.00 per copy for single prints and if we could go up to 24 they would charge \$12.50 per print. We could change the pictures each year and use some of the photos you have to make a unique calendar each year if anyone would be interested.

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Speaking of photos - somewhere I'm short some of the pictures I sent to you - which is no big deal but I hope that somewhere you have them. The reason I know this is that I had some pictures inside the Company command tent at LZ Sally and I was looking for them to send Mike Vickroy some copies. I had one of him at his desk - looking out through the wooden dividers in front of my desk. He had dark rimmed glasses on - I also had a picture John Schleifer at his desk that I can't find now. Do you have any of these left over in your collection. If not they may be at the photo place you used to make copies. The original of the Music Competition was with the ones that are missing as well. I would like to send Mike Vickroy one of the pictures of him. I'm sending him a copy of other pictures I have of our area at LZ Sally and Da Nang plus a print of "Run Up". It may very well be a good source of information on the Company. Mike did call me last week and said that he would be in touch now that he found us.

I'm sending two things out of the VNPA newsletter. Do you get copies of this or should I keep an eye out and send you stuff that I see in it?

First the history of Northern I Corps. In 1964 I took my platoon, "Raiders" from Saigon up to Da Nang and was assigned to the 52<sup>nd</sup> Avn Bn and supported the Marin Naptl Sqdn + 1 MM - 365. That's part of the history of I Corps and I'm putting together stuff to send to Mike Sloniker to help him with the next membership directory. We were the first Avn Bn ships to

(3)

operate out of Da Nang and we had a turkey shoot for about a month. When we got back to Saigon we was met by Gen Delk Oden and went right up to Gen Westmorelands office for an hour debriefing about our operations. We also helped the Marines hook up rockets on their H-34s and do CAs with them. I got an honorary patch as a Marine squadron Gun ship member. I have copies of some of it and it should help Sloniker.

Now the last half of the history is us. As you know we were involved with Delaware when the Cav went into the Northwest of the A Shau and got mugged. They staged right out side of LZ Sally on the morning they went in and then we went down and took the 109<sup>ST</sup> in to Vogh and Lastone. Maybe you can help Sloniker with the history from our move north until C/101 was formed.

I'm also sending an article about a book on "Nose art" being done by a guy in Illinois. You might want to send him some stuff on our nose art when we get it done. Maybe all of this will help to get our story told.

That's about all for now. Weatherman tells me we are going to get freezing rain and up to 3 inches of snow tonight or tomorrow. Neat!! I called my daughter in Greensboro NC this morning and they have 20 inches of snow with more on the way. Aren't you glad you live in California.

Take Care,  
Jack

1/11/2000

Dear Dick:

The New year rush is over at T&S and they have gotten out all of our projects now. I have attached notes on each of them with comments. Look them over and let me know if we need to change anything. Just mark on it directly or stick a note on it and I'll take care of it. I think these are looking pretty good. The money you sent has kept the people at T&S happy. I think that we have a little credit left so far but any corrections will use up a little of the credit we have.

I thought that those pictures on the back of the VHPA directory were really good. If Tracy Roush doesn't help you I can make more copies and use Kodak to do copy quality prints if you want. How about the guy who sent them to VHPA - we have his address don't we?

In sending your copy of the 13<sup>th</sup> Valley along with the other stuff from T&S. There is no doubt that we had a pretty good life compared to the life the grunts had to live out. I know that some of them had it really tough and a year was a long time to slop around in the mud & mud. The thing that gets me is that most all of the Company commanders and down really had mouth the Battalion commanders and the Brigade S-3 operations officers. I had a lot of contact with them in the E&C and listened to their radio conversations with the ground. Most if not all of them were busting their ass to support the ground elements with everything they asked for. Of course they also ordered them into harm's way trying to kill as many VC as possible which is what

(2)

war is all about. UN just happened to be a real shitty place to have to fight a war and any ground action was going to be tough on any trooper. Most of the Battalion Commanders were the top officers or they wouldn't been put there plus they were directly supervised at 1000 foot separations by the Brigade, Division and MACV Commanders on almost every operation. Any way it was a hell of a novel and I enjoyed reading it. That makes about four books where we were involved by my count. Now you need to write your novel and pull it all together.

I sent a box of pictures etc off to Irwin Cockett this morning. He may be able to help you with data on the 269<sup>th</sup> — at least I hope so. He was a pretty organized guy and I indicated how helpful orders, pictures, medal citations were to filling in history and finding people. The picture of the command group of the 269<sup>th</sup> was just what I wanted. Some where you have a page of photos that I didn't get back. The command group was one and the singing group at the 269<sup>th</sup> O-Club are not in my photo book. It doesn't really make any difference to me as long as you have them available for yourself. No one in my family is much interested in them and when I go they will toss them out most likely.

You know that the 269 turned out a couple of General Officers out of their command. Cockett got to BG, Chuck Franklin to MAC GEN and Merryman LT GEN. Not bad for a bunch of Aviators.

I got a Christmas card from Geoff Sandel — I hope that he has sent you the photos you need.

I also got a box from Richard Green of videotapes. I am viewing them one by one and it's a long slow process. I think that you said you had seen them. They are mostly pictures sequenced onto video with music but no narration so it's hard to figure out what you're looking at. When I go through all of them I'll send them to you so we have them in one place for historical purposes.

Cockett and I talked about Doht. Cockett was the one who sent Doht to us at DT. Cockett was one who wanted to help us out and he thought Doht would be a useful officer because of his prior SF experience. Some time back you wrote about Doht's actions when the ship got shot down. What he did doesn't surprise me too much. As an infantry man he would want to get to the SF buddies that were on the ground so they could cover each other. When you under fire like that it's pretty much everyone for themselves until you get into a defensive position and can cover each other so when he did what he did it's understandable. Cockett was in the hospital together with Doht when they both got back to the States. I'm just glad that I never had to go through something like that because I'm not sure I would know what I would have done.

Remember when Pekarsky and I went into the jungle coming out of an LZ. When we hit the ground without any crash we all just sat there for a while. When we got out we couldn't see anywhere but up and was I glad that there were no VC around. It was a while

before we got some troops around us as we tried to pull guns, radios etc off the ship and get out of there.

I don't know who hoovered down into that hole and let us get on board but it was close. I remember looking up and seeing the rotor blade tip knock off tree limbs and there was one big branch they were about to hit. If they had hit it we would have had two ships down there.

Glad to hear that you found Mike Vickroy. I remember him well. We went to get a typewriter for him and found that there were all sorts of electric typewriters available. We got him a brand new one and then we found out why there were so many available. The old manual ones never broke down and the electric would break down and there was no one to fix it. We took real good care of that machine. What is he doing now? I have a picture of him at LZ Sally in our HQ's tent. He was there when the grenade went off — too bad.

We are having a heat wave so we are riding our bikes two/three times a week. Now that SF and the Cowboys are out I can ride on Sundays too.

Hope the new stuff is OK. Give me the rest when you want T&S to go to work.

Take Care and get over the flu.

Jack

12/29/99

Dear Dick:

I'm still trying to recover after five days in paradise. Wow-what a place Hawaii is. We had a great time, ate too much and didn't get enough sleep but that's what vacations are for. It's pretty pricey there but what a nice place to spend your time on the beach. We were next door to Fort DeRussy and the Army Museum of Hawaii. We went through it-pretty interesting-and took two tours of all of the points of interest. They have a Cobra there on display with National Guard markings on it. They need to redo it and get some history of its background on display. It's pretty sad the way it is right now.

I ran down Irwin K. Cockett Jr. who was the XO at the 269<sup>th</sup> under Merrymon and was wounded in 67 flying a gun ship or a smoke ship when we were pulling out some special forces guys who got in trouble around Tay Ninh. He would have become the Bn Co when Merrymon left but because of his wound he was shipped out and ended up in the hospital with Guy Doht. He sees Doht quite often when Doht goes through Hawaii on his travels.

Cockett retired as a Brigadier General and is still active in veterans affairs in Hawaii. We talked for two hours one evening at the Hale Coa Hotel. I'm sending him some pictures of the 269<sup>th</sup> plus copies of some of the other stuff we have

put together. I had a picture of all of the Commanders in the 269<sup>th</sup> that I sent you. I was looking for it to make a copy for Cockett but couldn't find it so you must have it yet. If you do please make a copy for me and him - you can keep the original for your files - and send them to me. In the picture there was Maryann and Burns, Co of the 178, me and a big guy, Co of 242, and Hq/C Co of 269<sup>th</sup> reading down as I remember. I'm going to send you Cockett's address as well so we can add him to the roster. He seemed very interested in what we are doing and he has kept in touch with some of the 269<sup>th</sup> HQ's staff over the year.

His address is:

IRWIN K COCKETT JR. BG (Ret)



I got your "W-Half Rat" shirt and the article about poor old war. You have more talent than I thought or did Karma do all of the work?. I can see why you were able to sell a bunch of them in short order. I see that W-Half has been to Hawaii since he knows the hand sign for Hang Loose.

It's been a busy time around T&S for the holidays so the cover sheet for the 269<sup>th</sup> lessons learned hasn't been done yet. Chip has taken the week off between Christmas and New Years so

set will be next week before he can get to work on it. He has cleaned up all of the other stuff and I will send it all when he gets it done.

I received all of the videos from Richard Green that he has made. I'll review them and then send them to you to keep so we will have a central location for historical stuff. I'm not sure what we can do with it since it's not 100% but maybe they can get something together in the future.

I'm about 100 pages into the 13<sup>th</sup> Valley. I don't think that it is as good as Platoon, B Co. or Absolution but it isn't about things that I was really familiar about. The guys from C/101 might relate to it better.

I got a note from Spradlin who is no longer with TEXAIR. He is working for the FAA now. He has turned in the paper work for the PH and has been told that it might take a year or two before they make a decision. If he gets it I would drive down to Houston to see him get it pinned on him. Better yet I would love to pin it on myself.

I also got a Christmas card from Geoff Handel - has he sent you a slide or picture of F.T.A.? I hope that he has.

Nancy and I are making plans for next year's VHPA reunion. Since my kids live in NC which is right on the way to Washington we plan to drive there and leave Nancy with them. I will drive on into Washington

and be there afternoon of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and stay through the 4<sup>th</sup>. Then I will drive back to Greens NC and pick her up and return to OK over the 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> July. Most of the activity will be there in DC on the 2 thru 4<sup>th</sup> as near as I can tell. She said she would rather stay with the grand kids and go to a laser show instead, which will be going on that time frame, rather than hear war stories from a bunch of old helicopter pilots. I think she has a point.

My son-in-law saw the copies of *Patriot and Absolution* and was so interested he took my copies to read. He was aware of the time being the same when we were there and he has seen the video so he wanted to read them. I'll be interested in what he thinks about them after he reads them. He was a pretty liberal college kid when he married our daughter but now that he has been involved with the working world for 12 years now he has a whole different outlook on what we did.

Any way you and Kama have a happy New Year. I'll send the next batch of graphics when they get them done. By the way we had a good time at their Christmas party - lots of good BBQ and Chip our Harley rider came in a suit and tie - didn't hardly recognize him.

Take Care and Watch out for Y2K,

Jack

12/10/99

Dear Dick:

This will be an update on current projects before I take off for Hawaii. T&S has all of the changes to the unit diagrams and the new job of redrawing the 269<sup>th</sup> Ops LL cover sheet. They have a lot of Christmas business so they may not get it all out until after the first of the year. They looked over the 269<sup>th</sup> Ops Cover sheet and indicated that it would be almost impossible to clean up or enhance the art but they would be able to remove the stuff you wanted and redo the border no sweat. The artwork would show up any changes so obviously that it would take away from the authenticity.

It's not like doing a patch where colors aren't faded together like they are in a picture. I'm sure they will do well enough and after all it is a piece of history that has faded over 35 or so years.

Now here is a request and I don't want you to ask me any questions right now. Send me 12 of your favorite photos of the 188<sup>th</sup>. They can be any size but need to be as clear as possible. They can be you or aircraft or people or anything that is clearly 188<sup>th</sup> oriented. I'll send them back later and I need them as soon as you can get to it.

T&S said that they would give me an accounting of the money we have used up so far and the last \$100 you sent should still be pretty much advanced payment on our projects. I now

work directly with Chip the computer operator that does our stuff. He pulls up anything we want to change and I look over his shoulders and we change things. They don't do that with every customer believe me. Compared to the product and price you were getting in SF how are we doing? It just seemed to me that it was pretty expensive but I'm not sure what the going price is anywhere else. I also do a lot of other business with them on T-Shirts for cycling events we do here and have done so far at least 10 years so I've given them a lot of business. They invited Nancy and I to their X-Mas party which will be next Friday evening at one of our best Bar-B-Que restaurants. So we will get a free meal out of the deal.

Another thing that they can do now is take a slide and scan it into the computer and then change it as they want. It's a new thing they bought and it's expensive but if you have slides that we want to use in anyway they can do something with them. They can also put slides onto a CD disk which can then be duplicated for anyone to use on a computer. They demonstrated it to me and it's a high resolution scan which allows it to be blown up or cropped to cut things out. They want  $^{*}12.95$  per slide and  $^{*}25.00$  to record them on a CD disk which will hold 650 megabytes or 40 settings. Then they can duplicate each CD for another  $^{*}25.00$  per disk.

It's far more technical than I understand but it works well.

Because of your work with Ralph Young I have now made contact with the two COs of the UTT that are now working with Ralph as well. I sent him a bunch of my stuff and he did a write up of one of our operations in 65 just before I got hit. When he sends me a copy of the final product I'll send you a copy. The story makes me look like a hero but it's just the way it happened - sometimes crazy actions turn out to be the thing to do at the time.

Good to hear that you and Frank Linestugot together. He was a good officer and appears to have continued to do good things since he got out of the service. I don't know where he got the idea I wasn't happy about my bar stool. I have a picture of it and without it I wouldn't have been able to see over the bar at the Black Baron Club. The guys that built the bar were much taller than me and they leaned up against the bar and determined that their height was right for the bar. It was of course about a foot too high for me so they made me a neat stool to stand on. I thought that ~~it~~ was great. Jim Merriman wasn't much taller than I was but he never hung out at the bar. He would drink his evening Martini in his little booth where he lived by himself. He had a two room house next to the shower and Cropper.

I'll check with the printer to see what they need on any projects as far as software application. This may change how we would like to have them print out our stuff after we get things done as we want. If your computer can read and print out from a CD we may want it transferred that way. We had talked about ZIP disks as well. After you get your computer squared away let me know what we want to do. If you have the graphics program I'm sure that you can do about the same as they are doing here for us. They can do anything you want them to do to include type setting. They charge something like \$25.00 an hour to do this but they are pretty good and if you want them to do text they will.

I hope that you and Lorna have a very Merry Christmas and a happy and productive new year. Look forward to getting our history down and you writing your first novel on the BW's.

Take Care,  
Jack.

PS. I read "Absolution" on the bus going back from Benson Missouri last week. When I got to the final chapter I was crying over the recovery of his spirit and the reunion with his fellow warriors. I'm sure some of the others on the bus were wondering about the tears in my eyes but they were for real. It's kind of fun to compare Absolution and Platoon, Bravo Company since they cover the same actions but are sure different.

Jack

11/29/89

Dear Dick:

More stuff for you to look over and make corrections on - Write directly on the prints and return them and I will get corrections made.

I sent Ralph Young a bunch of stuff from my first tour and he has rewritten some of his material because of the stuff I had. I'll make a copy and send it to you later. I also got in touch with my old Company Commander (retired Maj Gen) and he is going to send Ralph some stuff he has that took place after I got Clanked on 9 Feb 65. I'm sending the book Ralph sent to you. He does good work and several of my old Aviator buddies looked it over and made positive comments about it.

I got a note from John & Donna Moore thanking me and you for the T-shirt. I sent him a copy of the video per his request.

Good Newsletter - Maybe we will move a few T's or Videos because of it.

I gave T & S the check and it will cover the current projects ie. Map and unit chain of command.

I'm making this out in a hurry because I need to get this in the mail. We leave in the morning for four days in Branson, Mo. We are going over to see the Christmas shows and eat like pigs with a group of old retired folks.

Hope you have a happy Thanksgiving. Jack

Dear Dick:

10/19/99

It's time to go over the next batch of production from the printer. First the BW Map. I couldn't find Dong Tam on any of my maps. Where is it? Do we need to place any other cities on the map - if so just write them in and we can change it in an instant. I tried to do the locations without the arrows but it didn't look very good. We can do it if you really want to do away with them. We did do some operations around My Tho with the riverine force and Muek Hoa and Duc How around Cu Chi but it is really cluttered if we try to work them in.

The 308<sup>th</sup> picture is about as good as we could get it when we scanned it into the computer. The color on the patches is so clear that the color on the picture is degraded but when we reduce it to 8 1/2 x 11 it should print out better. Is this the way you want the patches placed around the picture? I don't remember the 132 A3HB being in the 308<sup>th</sup>. I flew with both the 200<sup>th</sup> and 272<sup>nd</sup> after I became XO of the 159<sup>th</sup> but didn't fly with the 132<sup>nd</sup>. If this picture is OK I'll have it done in 8 1/2 x 11 and send Hank Decker a copy. Again any changes you want to make do it on the picture and send it back.

I've done the two narrations on the 269<sup>th</sup> and 308 with the patches. Anything you want to change just do it and we can fix it up.

Back to the Map - I thought about running small patches of the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Med, Spider, 4<sup>th</sup> Sig 603rd TC across

the bottom of the map. Leave the larger HQ's patch where it is but small ones across the bottom. What do you think?

If you have taken care of Luther Lassiter  
I'll not do anything more about that. I do  
have some pictures of the "guns up" print that aren't  
the best in color that I could send him. They are really  
OK but the red is sort of washed out and I don't want  
to send them to BW's who want the print. Only the  
best for them.

None of the disks had anything on them  
as far as the printer could tell. He keeps telling  
me he is going to charge us more for what he's done  
but so far we only owe him about \$7.00. He will  
charge us for the LZ Sally map but that's OK. We try  
to keep it down as best as possible.

What do you want me to do about the patches  
for the PCAM they? The 8" x 4" seems a little  
small for decals. I can get prints of the patches,  
C Company was the bright blue diamond wasn't it, and  
the 101<sup>st</sup> from the printer and send them. Let me know.

I sent Ralph Young a box of my photos and  
news clippings from the UTT time. He called and said it  
was the "Mother Lode" of info on the UTT/68<sup>th</sup> Co.  
This has now resulted in me getting involved with  
the history of the UTT/68<sup>th</sup>. I ran down the former  
commanders, MG(Ret) Jim Jagger and Pete Booth, and  
am sending them copies of the UTT write up from  
the book Ralph sent you on Ann 61-63 in VN.

He has done an outstanding job. I'll send your book back ASAP but right now several of my old Aviation buddies are reading it and thinking about sending stuff to Ralph as well. One of my friends was in the Aerial Rocket Artillery 2/20<sup>th</sup> in the Cav and then flew Mohawks over I Corps and the DMZ. He has some stuff that Ralph might like as well. He has taken on a monumental task but one that is long over do. I hope that the stuff he sends to you will be of help with our project.

I got a couple of pictures from Greg Brewer that he found in the Archives. He is really something else to help us and not been part of the 188<sup>th</sup>. I'll drop him a note and thank him for his work. The attrition reports should be helpful in doing a complete history.

Dick I can't remember the color designations we used on the aircraft. The way you list it in your letter would be ok or like Ralph does in his book on ~~an~~ drawing of a tail boom. This works for me.

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>CALL SIGN</u>	<u>TYPE ACFT</u>
-----------------	-------------	------------------	------------------

I talked to Chuck Boyle and ordered one of his books. I also sent him a print of "Hem Up". I got a copy of The Price of Exit and all I can say is I'm glad we didn't have to go into Ripcord or do something 819. That must have really been a ball buster. Dan Kingman our OP's officer was shot down around that time with a shoulder fired antiaircraft missile in that area as I recall.

I think that in one of your letters you mentioned the loss of an aircraft from the 17 ATC during Operation Deliver. As I remember after the original CA into Vichy and Saigon we went into runs back and forth to reinforce. During the late afternoon the weather was bad over the hills and an aircraft from the 17 turned up missing. I think that the crew was a CW 3 Link and a LTC Olsen. They just disappeared and some time later, like a year or so, they found a tail boom during an operation going out by the A Shan. We went out a looked but couldn't find anything during the day that we did Deliver.

I have done a forward to the history of the time of my command. I hope that this will do the trick for you. I'll start to work on the 159<sup>th</sup> time as an XO but it was pretty uneventful.

I hope that the stuff we are doing is helpful for your efforts. I'll check into doing the 308<sup>th</sup> picture as an 8 1/2 x 11 vertical. We may have to go horizontal with it. Let me know what we need to do next.

Take care,  
Jack

mailed  
letter 10/6/94  
Book

10/1/99

130  
Galliers  
Sgt

Dear Dick:

Here is a bunch of the patches that we have done a second redo on and a copy of the map for you to check over. It doesn't take very long to change anything you want changed so just let me know. The 308<sup>th</sup> picture I did with the three original units that moved North. We can put any patches you want with it so again just mark up the picture anyway you want it and we can make the change.

All of the T-shirts are gone with a little note from me saying that you wanted these people to have a shirt. I have 13 XL and 5 L shirts on hand and 5 green screen prints. I also have 3 of the green runs that are not up to full quality — the print machine was a little out of adjustment on the red print so the tracers look a little washed out. They are OK but not good enough to sell to someone. The printer gave them to me free so we can send them to anyone free if you want. I paid half of the bill at the printer so all we owe him now is \$47.00. He will count some more when we do up the few information sheets with the patches for each unit assigned to that Bn. If we can just sell the shirts I have on hand we will be able to pay off all of the printers bills and then some. Maybe the newsletter will generate the interest.

The Newsletter is great — Now we need to get it out. Bob Crow has the sign in roster from the reunion and I don't have any idea of how many were there. If he won't respond then send it out — We can't wait for ever. People will only

get interested in what we are doing if they get the information that's in the newsletter.

I sent off a package of prints of the patches we used in the 1967<sup>th</sup> and 68<sup>th</sup> to Ralph Young. I have some pictures that he might want to copy as well. I would be interested in seeing the book he has done on the 61-63 time frame so send it when you done with it.

Now here is a new task for you:

I got a call last night from a guy who is looking to find BW 13 gun ship. Here is his story.

LUTHER LASSITER

CA was a radio/telephone operator at LZ Pinkey with B Co 2<sup>nd</sup> 501<sup>st</sup> INF in Mar <sup>April</sup> 68. His BN call sign was Blue Falcon. They were being overrun, it was bad and he was talking to BW 13 on his radio. They made gun runs around their position and saved them. He said that BW 13 was a gun ship - C model they said if it wasn't for them they wouldn't have made it. I told him that our guns were called Spiders but maybe someone used BW at the time. Do you have any information on an LZ Pinkey around March 68? He was at LZ Sally and Camp Evans and remembers when we moved into Sally. Said he wants to contact the crew of BW 13 if he can find them. He saw an article about

1/3/77  
Mountain man

(3)

Pat M Huey in the newsletter of the VNACA on our Web-sight and called me. He spent some time like 42 months in country in 67-68-69 and had been a lot of places we had been.

I'll send Richard Green a quick note on the address of Lewis Henry and encourage him to get the newsletter out ASAP. He is a good man and does a good job - if we sell some T-shirts we can send a little to help pay for the newsletter as well.

I think I told you that I did well in Texas. I was 4<sup>th</sup> in the 5 Km & 10 Km time trials. I got 2<sup>nd</sup> in both the 20 Km & 40 Km road races. The time trial is a ride against the clock and I just didn't go fast enough. In the road race we all go at the same time and I can keep up in a group and then have a sprint at the end to move up. I did that in both road races. My computer on the bike will record the top speed and I was doing 43 MPH at one time. Of course that was down hill but we were moving at times. We average around 20 MPH for the entire ride.

In going over some of your last letters I read that A Co 92<sup>nd</sup> En Co Sharon DeGone would like to have the current BW's receive our newsletter. Can you send their address to RAG and get them on our roster? Her letter that you sent me a copy has no current address only her phone and fax numbers.

That's about all for now.

Jack

9/16/99

Dear Dick:

There are just a lot of stuff going on isn't there. I wanted to bring you up to date on where we are with several projects. The computer guy who has done our patch collection is on vacation right now and will be back next week so any corrections will have to wait for a week or so. He is a real character - he rides a Harley and wears black leather stuff, has long hair and looks like a hood but he is a real neat guy and is really interested in what we are doing. The people who run T & S Printing are great now vets and the owner flew LOH's in the Cav. He was a wild and crazy captain who was a scout ship driver for gun teams in hunter/killer operation. I paid them \$ 50.00 the other day on our account and I talked them down to \$ 97.00 for the work done so far. We will owe them some more after they do the maps and patch lay out with the Battalion information which we will worry about later. If I can sell all of the T-Shirts we have the proceeds will almost cover all of the patch work. I'll have them print the patches in an 8 1/2" x 11" standard sheet. I can arrange them by battalion so it can be used in a group format.

I asked them if they can print out patches on vinyl adhesive backed material to be used on the P-51. They can. I will write the museum and get the size of the area where the patches would be applied. The printer can produce a 10 1/2" patch and 1/101 patches in most any size and on various materials to mark up the aircraft. If they are going to print

Letter mailed  
already

the patches on directly we can run out 11 x 17 prints of the patches so an artist would have a large example to paint from. Anyway I'll write them and see what they want and see if we can't fix them up. When you do color on large vinyl sticky backed cut outs it does get into some money but maybe they will help us out.

T-Shirts have been sent to Dennis Piergent and John Moore. I sent a letter with each as you requested. I got a call the other night from a [REDACTED] asking about a video. He was a crew chief on 68-15562 from March 70 to Jan 71 in C101. I told him about what we are doing and that I would put his name on the roster. He said that he had no problem remembering his aircraft # because he has it tattooed on him - this is hard core as far as I'm concerned. I'll send his address to Richard Green ASAP. Your correct about Bob Crow and Richard Green. I've sent several things to Crow - no response. I've received several long letters from Richard Green and he gets right back to me on everything. He is a good guy and I hope to meet him in Washington DC.

It appears that we can scan the photo of the 308<sup>th</sup> sign into the computer and print it out in color on their color printer. It can be down loaded onto a ZIP disk or onto a CD if that's what we want to use. They will download all of our stuff when we want them to on either disk. We can put the 308<sup>th</sup> & 269<sup>th</sup> on two separate disks, makes good sense to me.

I'll get started on the details of the time I spent in the 269<sup>th</sup> prior to Change of Command and the flip flop of CO and XO for the 159<sup>th</sup>. I think for no other reason than it doesn't matter now I'll not say anything about McWhorter's job as CO. He tried hard after he took command and he had a hard job with all that had happened to the Company before he took over. I will cover how the people in the 269<sup>th</sup> viewed the Company as a hard luck unit as best and just a plain screw up at worst. Any way I'll give you a couple of pages for a forward.

Dick there must be certain things that are supposed to happen that we just don't know about. Ralph being obviously found the original history of the 100<sup>th</sup> that I had Alroy do right after I took command. By the tone of his letter it was in the Archives and he was going to use it to build part of his history project. What this has done is open up another project for me. I have the pocket patches from the UTT/68<sup>th</sup> Avn Co which was the armed helicopter Co I served with during 64-65 in my first tour. I was CO of the 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon and I have the flag we flew on our truck that we used to go back and forth to the Airfield at TSN in Saigon. I also have some pictures of our aircraft which I will send to him. I found one of the KODAK copy machines at Walgreens and they can scan pictures onto prints or CD's or disks for about  $2.00$  a page so I'm sending

him copies of that stuff and hope that he can use it. The only reason I had the pocket patches was that when I was wounded in Feb 65 I was medevaced out of Saigon to Clark AFB in the Philippines and had a pair of jungle fatigues on that had the patches. I had that set of fatigues - one set of khakis and my showy kit. I didn't leave Country with much. Everything else came by slow boat about 6 months after I got back to the hospital in Denver and then about half of my stuff had been taken by someone in VN. I also have about 6000 feet of 8mm film of the UTT/68<sup>th</sup> doing all sorts of shoot-em-up stuff. I have pictures of us providing gun cover for an assault in an LZ with H-21 left skids. Now that was some time ago. When you get done with his book I would like to see it - I'll send it back. I had a year book from the UTT/68<sup>th</sup> that I sent to Gary Pausch for the VHPA data base that had pictures with names of all of the original members of the company that came to VN in 63. I'll tell him about that and maybe he can get a copy from VHPA.

I have reservations in DC at the Grand Hyatt which is downtown near the Renaissance where the reunion will be held. I'm sure that many more and maybe some others would show up if we let them know about the reunion. I'll let him know about it.

Keep in touch and take care.

Jack

Mailed  
package, disc  
patch collection  
T-shirt for John Moore  
9/9/99

8/31/99

Dear Dick:

I have several things to bring you up to speed on so here goes.

I'm sending a video I taped off of our Public TV Station that covered a long period in VN. The part that covers 66-68 has a lot of order of battle info on who fought who on both sides. I thought that you might want to use it in our history. You can keep the tape and use it as you need. I'm sending a copy of the 100<sup>th</sup> video as you requested. I just sent a copy to a William H. Sheehan III at [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] He works at [REDACTED]

or I guess more correctly his wife Theresa A. Sheehan is a Vice Pres & Trust Officer at the bank. Anyway I couldn't find them on our Mailing list so I sent a letter along with the tape encouraging them to become involved if he served with the 100<sup>th</sup> or C/101.

I told them about the history project and the reunion with VHPA in Washington and asked that they contact us so we could get them into the loop for future activities. I'll let you know if we hear any more.

I sent a copy of the updated patches to both Bob Crow and Richard Green. I asked for comments but have received only one from Richard Green. I sent Green a Coffee Mug with 101 patch and BW 36, C Co patch with his name and Sig Corps

on the mug and he thought that it was "Beautiful". He also sent a long letter about how things had gone bad when C Company was operating as a unit with new people after we left. It didn't sound too good with some pretty bad leadership. Glad I wasn't there.

In sending the second revision of the patch collection with the changes you sent back to me on the first rev. Check these out and let me know if we need to do anything more. I think we have every one of them down now except the 25<sup>th</sup> Div patches. They have not done the VI map as yet but will get to it pretty soon. They haven't done the sign for the 308<sup>th</sup> Div area as yet as well. What are we going to do with that? Do you want the back ground and barbed wire removed after its digitized or what? Please give me some guidance on what we're going to do with that. When we get the patches all squared away I'll have him do the print outs on the two battalions along with the patches worked into the info.

I sent a copy of the "Guns Up" print to Jim Henry now along with a letter thanking him for his letter. I told him about the letter we got from Cashman covering our support of 2<sup>nd</sup> Bde. He might attend the YHPA reunion in Washington DC since he lives there. I'll keep him informed.

I saw a notice of death of James D. Wallace II Bn 25 in C Co. I sent a copy of this to both

Crow and Green to take care of on the mailing list. I also pointed out that if others in C Co feel that the newsletter and logo material we are selling is too much 188<sup>th</sup> in orientation, it's because they haven't done much to document or push for C Co. I believe strongly that unity and history should cover all of our activity from Campbell in 66 to A Co 9<sup>th</sup> Bn at Campbell currently. We can only tell the part that we lived in detail, they need to tell their part.

The CD disk you sent me does nothing on it. I took it to the printer to have him print it out and it had nothing recorded on it as far as he could tell. Is this correct? He can print our patches on it but said a zip disk would be better for future use. Do you want me to send the disk back or hold on to it and have the printer put the patches on it when we get all done working them over? Let me know.

I have been thinking about what I will say as a lead in to the history when I was CO. Dick, I need help - how much do you want me to say. I can go into some detail of how the unit was viewed by the 269<sup>th</sup> and why I accepted the offer of command from Kerrynon. Or I can be brief and just cover my move from the 269<sup>th</sup> when I took over. Please let me know.

The time I was XO of the 159<sup>th</sup> was pretty boring. We didn't do much but

④

haul equipment around and try to keep so old and tired CH-47's of the 200<sup>th</sup> Co flying. The 272<sup>nd</sup> came to us directly from Ft. Sill with all brand new aircraft and enough spare parts to supply several companies. They even had washing machines, air conditioners and a bunch of creature comfort things that nobody had in 68. Anyway I will provide you information on both units.

You asked about in country R&R. Yes - we had set up a procedure where we would rotate a crew at a time to R&R at Vung Tau and Da Nang as I recall. We would send a ship down and they would turn the ship over to the crew leaving to come back. That way the ship was never out of service but the full crew was able to have a few days off. I think we had a three day rotation so the crew got about 3 days there. We had a deal worked out with another unit so we could sleep on guys together. Dan Tengman, Ops Officer, was in charge of the details of who went when. He just told me who was gone when they went. I don't think we had any problems that came up from doing this - I'm sure that Chuck Steer the CO of 308<sup>th</sup> 159<sup>th</sup> was aware of what we were doing because he was sending people to the same place.

I just got a letter and computer diskette from Greg Brewer. He said that you have a copy of the same diskette photos. I'm going to the printer and have copies made later today. He said he liked the

T-shirt. He sounds like he would be real helpful in getting our information. Nice Contact Dick!!

Looks like we need to make plans for the Washington DC reunion since they are already short of rooms if the VHPA newsletter is correct. I'm still working out a schedule to make it to the reunion but haven't made up my mind on how many days I'll spend there. I may drive out because air travel around the 4<sup>th</sup> would be a nightmare. Driving will be bad enough but since we live there for 3 years I would like to get out and see our old neighborhood. We need to get all of us in 188<sup>th</sup> T-shirts for the reunion so we can recognize each other.

I think that this pretty well brings you up to speed on what I've done. We are real busy now in the senior olympic racing events. I do the North Texas Senior Olympics in the weeks after the Texas State Championships a couple of weeks later. We are doing a race somewhere almost every weekend now through Sept. We are going to spend a week in Oct at the Albergue Bon festane, then Branson Missouri on a bus trip and Christmas in Hawaii. Lots of things going on the rest of the year.

Pike Carr,

Jack

7/19/99

Dear Dick:

I talked to Rhonda Oats the other day and today I sent her two T's plus a pint of Guns Up. I also sent her a copy of the patches we used on the coffee mugs. I tried to explain what our options are concerning the marking of the coffee mugs so she could put them on the Web-page. I thanked her for all of her help with the Web-page. She said that they have received a bunch of hits on the web just before the reunion so the word must be getting out. I will write Dick Green as well to be sure that we get our information in the newsletter.

I'm sending along the first print out of the patches from the printer. The corrected copy of the 242<sup>nd</sup> patch is attached next to the one the printer did at first. You can write on this directly to correct any patch you want to change. Send this back and then we can change it as needed. I had them hold off on the 25<sup>th</sup> Div Aviation patches and the 602<sup>nd</sup> TC until I hear from you. Do we want to digitize and clean these up as well? It will cost us a little more but the good news is that I talked them into reducing the cost we have run up. I do a lot of T-Shirt business with T&S for a bike ride we do here in town as a fund raiser for St. Jude Childrens Hospital. Plus I pointed out that I just paid him \$500 for T's, mugs & prints for the reunion so he knocked \$50.00 off of the bill. We don't have to pay him for awhile and if I can sell some of the T's we have available now we can cover a lot of the cost I have sunk into

the project. He charges about \$25.00 per hour to scan and clean up the patches so I'll guess that it might be an other hour or so of work to do the 25<sup>th</sup> and 602<sup>nd</sup>. I haven't done anything about setting up the data pages that you outlined with the information and patches of the 269<sup>th</sup> and 308<sup>th</sup> BNS. I wanted to wait until we have the patches all squared away. He will download them onto zip disks and asked me if we need 72 DPI JPEG file for our use. I have no idea of what that means - do you? I asked Rhonda if this would be what she needs for Web page purposes when I sent her the T-8s today. I'm going to return all of your original copies but I think I would need them back - Maybe not - when we do the final. If you can mark up the copies with all of the corrections maybe we can do without the originals when we print out the final prints. Also if you have a zip disk that you are collecting data on send it along for the download of the data. Don't send any money right now - we can hold off and see how T-8s or mugs go and maybe we can pay for it with proceeds.

I will send you some narrative on my time with the 159<sup>th</sup> and the time - less CO of the 188<sup>th</sup>. We really didn't do much in the 159<sup>th</sup> since all we did was haul cargo with the C-47's. I'll do my best to get in some data.

Good job on the PCAM display. You right about this being a real neat deal having our aircraft on display with our markings. That doesn't happen very often. We need to get that in the VHPA newsletter

and on the Web page as well. I cannot recall if we worked with the 2/17<sup>th</sup> Cov or not.

The Memorial and ~~she~~ (can't spell for crop) sculptures are something. Karma is a little bitty thing to be hitched to a big bug like you. First time I've seen her. Looks like she is recovering well from the medical problems she had. The area looks neat too. We had some snow capped mountains in New Mexico on our ride. I'm going to send back your snap shots on the memorial. Thanks for sending them along.

We are traveling again on the 1<sup>st</sup> of Aug. We are going to drive out to <sup>NC</sup> Charleston, S. Carolina and stop to see my family that lives in Birmingham. Haven't seen them in years so now that we have time we're going to use it. I also won a free trip, 3 day 2 nights, in New Orleans for being the biggest fund raiser for the local YMCA summer youth program. Don't know when we will go to New Orleans but maybe when it's a little cooler.

Need to get this into the mail and run some other errands so will stop for now. Check out the prints and let me know.

Take Care,  
Jack

Letter  
7/15/99

7/10/99

Dear Dick:

Boy how I had a couple of three weeks. We got back from New Mexico in good shape after doing 300 miles in five days of riding. We climbed a total of 18,700 feet during the ride. One of the geeps had a recording altimeter that totaled the gain in altitude any time we started to ride up hill. It didn't subtract the down hill rides since we were coasting and not working hard. We did one hill between Santa Fe and Taos that went uphill for 11 miles and gained 6,000 feet in altitude before we got to the top, then we went down hill for a while and then back up again for about 5 miles. That one ate my lunch and I was wondering if I was really in my right mind for doing this. We all made it though and all in all had a pretty good time.

We stopped at the UN Memorial at Eagle Nest, NM. The memorial is for a young Marine LT who was killed in UN. His father built the place on a bluff that looks out over the valley in Eagle Nest. There is a picture there, black and white, which has our circle markings on the tail, so I couldn't tell if it was really our aircraft. He has a UH-1H on display just out side of the museum. I'm sending along a picture of a couple of us by the helicopter. The fellow with me is a retired Major, Army Aviator, who was in UN a couple of times and rides with me all of the time. You can see by my riding jersey that we call ourselves the "Geeger Racing Team" which is what we are a bunch of old geegars.

The reunion at Nashville was great. We had

Thirteen BW's on Friday afternoon and there may have been more that came later in the weekend. We sold 10 T-Shirts, all of the Coffee Cups, one video and 5 of the 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ x11 prints. I took all of the proceeds and paid off our bill at T&S. I had to put \$180.00 of my own money on the bill to pay it off but we still have 26 T's left, one video and 7 prints which will cover everything and then some when we sell them.

I gave Bob Crow a full set of the 188<sup>th</sup> patches and he took a set for Dick Green as well. I also gave them copies of one 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ x11 print. They can use them for newsletters etc. We need to get the info on the T-5 mugs & prints in the Web page and newsletter if we want to come out on this deal.

We still have a bill of \$150 at T&S for the work he has done on the patches of the 269, 308 etc. They will have some printouts to look at on Monday the 12<sup>th</sup> of July. That is the cost of all of the work they have done to digitize the patches and print them out. I'm not sure that they would transfer them to a zip disk for us. I'll have to ask them but they treat stuff like that as their library of log material. They have cleaned up every thing but the 25<sup>th</sup> Div patches and I told them to hold up on them for a while. They charge us \$25 an hour to clean up the details and if we are not going to do much with the 25 Div aviation units we can save a few bucks. One thing we could do would be hold off

on the 25<sup>th</sup> until we sell off some of the other stuff we have and get a little money ahead. Let me know what you think we should do. I'll send you copies of all of the stuff they have done as soon as I get it and we can decide then what to do. I did go over the patches of C & D/101 with Crow and understand what they should look like when they are cleaned up. He was excited about what we are doing and was pleased to have a copy of our patches, 188<sup>th</sup>, 603, 4<sup>th</sup> Sig, 769, 308 etc which he got at the reunion.

In order to break even we need to get at least \$18.00 for the T, \$12.00 for a mug and \$5.00 for a print. That will cover mailing, boxes, envelopes etc which raps up the cost a couple of bucks each for each one we send out. I gave this info to Bob Crow and he said he would pass it on to Dick Green.

I went to the first reunion of the UTT-68<sup>th</sup> Avn Co which was the first unit I flew with in 64/65. I saw the co-pilot I was flying with when I got hit in Feb 65. I had not seen him or contacted him since I crawled out of the aircraft I was hit in and into a med evac that morning. We had a great time covering the last 34 years. I have a bunch of photos that I've made copies of that I'm going to send him. They are also starting to put together a unit history now. The CO that took command after I left them is going to head up the effort.

(6)

He was there and seemed like a real nice guy. They have started to hold reunions every other year so now I have another activity to do to take up some of my time.

Let me know about any mug you want made up with some ones name on it. They will all have to be made up individually now since we sold all of the 12 I took with me.

The flag looked great set side of our meeting room door. They had the C 100 gun on there as well. Frank Lenstra was there as well as DeFehr and others. It was a great time - Bob got a roster of all who were there.

Interesting Article on the "War in Rusted Steel". I think that there must be a bunch of places like this that we don't know about where guys have tried to get rid of their devils. This may be a lot like the memorial in New Mexico. I'm returning the article so you'll have it.

I'll let you know how the patches are coming along next week.

Take Care,

Jack

6/29/99

Dear Dick:

Everything is ready to go to Nashville. I have a suit case full of T-Shirts, mugs, & two videos plus the prints of "Guns Up" to sell. The printer is still working on the patches of the 269<sup>th</sup> and 308<sup>th</sup>. I have a copy of the first try at cleaning up all of the patches which I'm taking with me to Nashville. When we get a set done I'll send them to you for review before we print out the final copy. Some of the patches were pretty hard to clean up since the VHS art work wasn't the clearest. The hot pack patch of the 187<sup>th</sup> was pretty hard to get done as an example.

The bill at the printer was almost \$500 so we will have to adjust the sell price up a little to cover tax and mailing for each item. I have

set the price of the T's at \$18.00, the mugs at \$12.00 and the Prints at \$5.00 which will cover mailing and packaging and make us a little for future needs.

I'm sending you three copies of the 188<sup>th</sup> patches printed out on slick paper. You may want to use them on any other publications. I'm going to give Dick Green a copy of 3 sets of patches for him to use with the News letter etc. He can use them to turn out address labels as well since he told me he had only a 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon patch to use at present.

You can help get the word out on the availability of the T's, mugs, Prints etc when you talk to other BW's. I'm going to ask Dick Green to put a

(2)  
little information about them, plus the  
price in the news letter.

Well I survived the ride in  
New Mexico last week. We did 300  
miles and did a cumulative climb  
of 18,700 feet vertical during the trip.  
One of the guys had a recording altimeter that  
would record any climb we made and not  
subtract any down hill runs we made.  
Man there are some big hills around  
Santa Fe, Taos and Los Alamos. We  
had one hill that went up for 11 miles  
and gained 6,000 feet in altitude during  
the climb. Kicked my ass before we got  
to the top. We had 50 people on the  
ride, 4 tandems, and several ladies  
that did the ride and we all made  
it without a heart attack. We

did here one crash where two people  
hit their wheels together and went down on  
the pavement. They left a little skin on  
the road and were a little raw looking  
on legs and elbows but no real harm.

Other than that we had a ball.

I need to get this in the  
mail to you and get ready to head  
out to Nashville. I'm sending you  
an XL and Med T which is what  
you asked for. If you want anything  
else let me know.

Take Care,  
Jack

6/17/99

Dear Dick:

Quick note to bring you up to date before I take off for the reunion. I will be out of town for the next week since I will be doing a 400 mile ride in New Mexico on my bike. I will get back next Saturday late and we will leave for Nashville on Thursday. So I will be out of pocket most of the time up to the start of the reunion.

I have the T-shirts ordered along with the cups and prints of "Guns Up" suitable for framing. I have 36 T's (one med and an XL for you) the rest are L & XL. I have a dozen cups, 1/2 4 logos and 1/2 two ~~big~~<sup>big</sup> prints of 1988 IN, BLACKWOODS/SP. 1967-68. The prints of "Guns Up" are 8 1/2 x 11 on slick gloss stock and would be real good to frame. The T's cost us \$9.00 to print so \$15.00 is

a pretty good price. It allows us a little profit after mailing if we send out a bunch. The mugs are \$10.00 so we need to get about \$15.00 out of them because they will cost a little more to mail. They take some more postage and need to be packed to guard against breakage. The prints are \$2.00 so \$5.00 will give us a couple of bucks after mailing.

The word needs to get out on the availability of the T's, mugs, and prints. If you can help on that with your connections I'll try to make sure that Green and Crow get it out in the newsletter. Plus I'll leave the info with them to follow up with people who come to the reunion after I'm

gone on the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> of July. ②  
will just have people write me and send  
a check. I'll get the stuff to them.

The printer is working on all of  
the patches. Some of them are pretty  
hard to make out so he is going to  
set them all up and print out a  
Copy for us to go over and correct  
them before we go to print. He is  
Charging \$25 an hour to clean them all  
up and get them into the system. I  
am having him print a copy of all  
of the 188<sup>th</sup> patches for Crow, Green  
and you since they are all done  
and in the Computer. You can use them  
for newsletter or any other publication  
since they will be clear and crisp for  
reproduction. Let me know if

we need other copies made.

Nice letter from Jim Meyerson. I will be glad to write up some introduction material for the history. The book you sent on the Port is neat. Looks like you spend some time in the fog.

Dick there are two patches for C Co 101 - one has spider with 69 on its back and is gray other is spider (no number) and blue, which goes with what? I remeber the guns became D Co and the slicks became C Co in July 68. Also I havent had the printer start on the 25<sup>th</sup> Div patches. We can work on them after we get

All of the 188<sup>th</sup>, 269<sup>th</sup> & 308<sup>th</sup> patches done  
and decide what we want to do with the  
material at that time. I will send  
all of the material back to you when  
we get it digitized.

I found out yesterday that we are  
going to bring the grand kids back to OK  
when we come home. We will have them for  
a few days and then they will go to their  
Grandparents (Son in laws side) in Fort Cobb, OK.  
Then they are going to be taken back to NC  
when the other G-Parents go there for a visit  
later in July. We will be pretty busy  
taking care of a 10 & 5 year old.

More later when the patches are  
done.

Take Care,

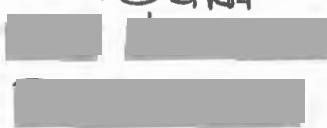
Jack

Black Widow 6 - 188th AHC 1967-1968

LTC (R) Jack O. Johnson



DICK DETRA



6/1/99

Dear Dick:

Happy day after Memorial day. We had another bad weather day and had some damage done in far west Lowton. We are here in the dark since our power has been off from 11:00 last night. I guess that the tornado season is really here now.

I have sent a tape and letter to the PCAM and gave them permission to use it in any way they want to promote the story of #16799. I'm sure that they would be most impressed with a copy of our history when you get it finished. I did cut line some of the things we did and the video does show visually what we did most.

My Captain Chaper will be back in the US in July. She will have to move with her family out to California and get settled in at the language school before she can see if a translator is available to help us. So we are looking at September or so before we will know if she can help. I will try to see if there is any help available from Ft Sill but don't expect too much since we don't have any VN officer training going on like we had in the 60's.

I do have contact with two VN Doctors who escaped and are now practicing medicine here in Lowton. I worked with one of them when I was in the Mental health hospital after I retired from the Army. They may be able

to translate Chapter 6 at a minimum. Let you know later what luck I have in getting some help. We do have some VN repatriates here but most of them can barely speak English so I don't think that they will help.

The digital of DT is great. I didn't know that there were any tunnels around our area. — hell they just came through the gate when they wanted to come into the compound. I talked to our printer about the digital layout and he wants to see it. He thinks he could do our stuff cheaper than what you're being charged — However — you have all of the info to make up the prints and you would have to be here to help.

I'm still working on the location of Pearl Ackley but not having much luck. If you can find a SSN on a set of orders or morning report it would be much easier to find him. Remember he would be about my age now, 67, and he might not be around at that age. We old guys are dying off at an alarming rate now — you young guys have that to look forward to.

I'm sending along several variations of the "Sun Up" picture for you to consider. I'm also sending a print out of the pocket patches for you to use. We can use them for most anything since they can be put on caps, shirts, hats etc. Dick Green might like a copy to use on mailing labels.

my printer will clean up any thing we send him and use them for our momentos. So anything you have in patches send me and I'll get them in his computer. We can do 8/10 also so they can follow our lead.

Now - the T- shirts - The digital print out used to make shirts does not have white in the color option so we must use either white or Ash (which is sort of off white) to print anything that has white in the picture. So look at the "Gun Up" picture and see where we need white and you'll see how much its needed to make the picture. The white dots on the gun run are muscle flashes according to blank and the red line is the old grimes light rotating beam. Any way we're stuck with white or Ash.

We can print out 8 1/2 x 11 prints to frame in any configuration. They will run about \$2.00 or so any time we want them. I'll include a copy of the price list from T&S for T's, mugs and prints. If we can get 36+ shirts they run about \$9.00 plus a couple of bucks for mailing so \$15.00 would make us \$4.00. Mugs would run \$8.00 + \$2.00 for any configuration of name/patch etc. Let me know what we want to do. I'll take along T's, mug & print outs to Nashville and see how they go over. There is a mug for you - let me know if we need to print anything more or less on it. This is about as much

as we can get on a mug - maybe we should put less on them - what do you think? We can do any color on the prints also not just red or black.

I plan on leaving for Nashville on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July - we will be there that night or early on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will stay until the afternoon or evening of the 2<sup>nd</sup> then we will leave on the 3<sup>rd</sup> for Asheville NC. where we will be with the grand kids and my daughter. I asked Bob Crow to set up a reunion on the 2<sup>nd</sup> so I could attend. We can have someone take orders for T's, mugs or prints after I have to leave and I can send them after I get back to Lowton. I'm sure that there will be more reunions on the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> but I just can't be two places at once. Any way with Green and Crow there we can get the information out in the newsletter about what we are doing.

Please send me any copies of patches we want to include in anything we do - I'll get them cleaned up and in the computer.

Hope Karma is doing well - Take care

Jack

Letter  
5/20/99

5/17/99

Dear Dick:

Here is the first run on the T-Shirt for the 188<sup>th</sup>. We can do anything we want to on the design of the front of the shirt. For instance if we wanted to make a little more room on the bottom for the Bag patches etc we could move DT/LZ Sally up under Guns Up and make Guns Up a little smaller. We could move DT/LZ S up and leave GU the same and still have plenty of room for the gun run picture.

I showed this to Hank Holtzheir and he got excited about what we have done with his picture. He said that the white spots are gun flashes and the red line is the rotating beacon light which didn't rotate in a lot of the aircraft. I don't know which is which but it looks good I think.

The print for the shirt comes out of a digital printer so we can run as many as we want at any time. The copy can be changed any way we want in the computer. They have printed all of the pocket patches in the computer and digitally cleaned them up as you can see. We can use them for anything as well. We can run them out in any size and in full color so we can use them for prints/newsletters etc. We could print the Ptn Patch and a name on a coffee mug as well. All sorts of possibilities of what we can do.

In sending the envelope and letters I got from guys requesting videos. You may be able

(2)

to clean up some address information from them. I  
did keep all of the envelops and letters just in  
case someone had a problem with the video  
such as the one Wes Tague had.

Do you think we should take some T-S  
to the reunion in Nashville? I could  
take a few and get orders for more if anyone  
wants one. We probably need to get something  
out in the newsletter as well. I think that  
this would go good at a reunion as a way to  
identify your VN service. I think that our  
price would be somewhere in the \$5-6 range  
for any shirt up to XL then they go up \$1.00 per  
X for larger shirts. If we sold them for \$15.00  
and mailed them for that price we could clear about  
\$6.00 or \$7.00 per shirt. Let me know what you  
think about prices. We could turn some proceeds  
over to Dick Green to do the newsletter or reimburse you  
for research costs or what ever. I have a little  
available right now from videos to buy some T-Shirt  
inventory to start with and I have an extra video  
available that's already paid for so it's profit if any one  
wants it.

Please stop and get this on its way to you. This shirt  
is free and yours. I just bought 300 shirts from this  
business for a benefit bike ride we put on so he doesn't mind  
doing a freebie for me.

Take Care,  
Jack

Letter 5/15/99  
with info on May 16 1979

5/9/99

Dear Dick!

This will be a quick note to have you check your 188<sup>th</sup> video I just sent to you. I sent a copy to Wes Gage and he set it back because the audio stopped at about 10 minutes into the tape. Some flub up at the video store that duplicates our tape. I had three copies made last time — one went to Wes — one to you and I had one left. The copy I had was good but the one I sent to Wes was messed up. The people at Gregus video re recorded a copy for me so I have good copies of anyone but you need to check your copy to see if they messed up more than one during the last batch they did of me.

If it is bad send it to me, they will make it good and I'll send you another copy.

This web page stuff has got me involved with a unit that I worked with in 1964 when I was a gun ship platoon commander in the UTT / 68<sup>th</sup> Aviation Company.

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We were ordered to take our 5 Armed ships plus 10 slicks from Saigon and fly north to Da Nang and help the Marines in HMM 365 get started with in country action. We helped bolt on rocket pods to their H-34's and then flew with them as they learned how to do aerial work. We we left 30 days later they made me an honorary "Stinga" the name for their armed ships. I have a patch with my name on it and a letter from the gun ship crews and a get well card they sent to me when I got shot and had evaced out in Feb-65. I'm going to send them a copy of this stuff for their history since I didn't read any of it in the history they have on their web page. We had a hell of a time with them and their CO at the time a LTC Joe Kiehlin became a two star Marine General before he retired. The best thing about our experience was that their Christmas Card that year, 1964, had a picture of two of their H-34's with two gun ships, me on the right and another on the left, escorting

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them to some place. I couldn't believe that the Marines would have anything with Army Helicopters on it but especially not their Christmas card. For sure their history on the web-page doesn't mention us.

Wouldn't it be great to get the #16779 UH-1 with BW at one of the VHPA reunions. That would really be something. Sounds like they are doing a good job of restoring it and trying to keep it flying.

The books I sent are for your library. I have read them and maybe they can help provide some information to fill in a historical event. I'm tapering a series on Vietnam battlefield which I'll send you when they are done. It covers 1966-67 and out lines some of the battles we were part of. The next two programs are on the Tet Offensive and has both sides of the battle on film. They cover the Chu Chi

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Stay with area and a lot of the actions we took part in. You may find it useful.

If the language school has VN linguists & may be able to get help interpreting some documents. I spent the last two years riding bikes with an Episcopalian Priest, Army Chaplin, who is a woman by the way - Captain - who is going to be the base Chaplin at Monterey. She is in Korea right now but will be in California in June/July time frame. She would help us out since I've been kind of an old veteran advisor to her besides being a bike riding partner. Let me know if I can help or give you her name and address - you're close enough to make direct contact with her aren't you?

I'm sure that you have seen the news coverage on the tornadoes that went through Oklahoma last week. The really big one formed up just 20 miles north of Lawton and moved north east until it hit OKC and blew

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everything away. We had live pictures on the TV from TV station helicopters that flew along beside the twister and sent back live pictures of the destruction. It was unbelievable to watch a city blow apart. The destruction was like an arc light hit with out bomb craters.

It just blew everything away for miles. We have this little old mountain range north of us and all of the Indians around here say that they protect Lowton from tornadoes. We have had only one that really hit our town and it was on the East side of town away from our hills, which people call mountains. I hope that the Native Americans we have here, and we have a bunch, are correct and that the mountains keep them away from us because they are truly terrible.

Hey - Happy Mother's Day to Karma -  
and get well soon.

Keep in touch,  
Jack

4/29/99

Peter  
4/11/99

Dear Dick:

I'm happy that you like the picture. I thought that you might like to have one. I also had one made up for Hank Holtzheier and gave it to him for his office wall. He is still working at Ft. Sill in their mobilization operations center. He came to the 188<sup>th</sup> just before we left for LZ Sally and was a Cobra qualified pilot. Since we had no Cobras and were not likely to get any when we moved the 269<sup>th</sup> pulled him back and he flew Cobras later in the III Corps area.

I must have missed any information that you had in your letter of 4/21 and there is the info on Karma. I hope and pray that everything is going well now for her. I just don't picture you as a nurse to help her recover so I hope her recovery comes about quickly. Please pass on our best wishes.

Sounds like the history is coming along well and the capacity to put it all on disk should help a great deal when it comes to printing. I'm surprised at the detail that UHPA needs but if you going to do something like this detail and accuracy are important. I'm sending you a copy of the current video, with the correction for the 603<sup>rd</sup>, and Tom Calkin's video. I always keep a couple of copies of the 188<sup>th</sup> video around. I have all of the letters from the people who have requested a copy of the video and I can send them to you for update of addresses etc. if you want them. We have a little money ahead

get second  
your letter of  
4/21 and  
there is the  
info on Karma.  
Hey when your  
over 60 you  
have C.R.S -  
right.

(2)

right now and I will use some of it to pay for the work on the pocket patches and "Guns Up" picture. The printer I'm working with is still putting all of our patches into the computer and then digitally cleaning them up so they look new. Once he has them all in he can do most anything with them. We can get pictures of "Guns Up" for anyone that would want one. I don't think we want to try and frame it for them but one ready to frame would be easy to do. They are working on a sample T-Shirt right now and I should have a copy for you to look at in a short time. What size do you wear? XL - let me know. Coffee Cups are about \$12.00 with a name and unit patches on them and of course go down as the number you buy goes up. The printer is pretty good about working with me on this because he was a LOH Pilot for a couple of teams and does a lot of work for the military at Ft. Sill. He got shot down a couple of times and was a wild and crazy scout for a cobra team.

Your book about the rubber plantations did not surprise me. The French really exploited the Vietnamese people and treated all of that area badly. Then they convinced us that we needed to get involved to bail them out after they got their butts kicked in Dien Bien Phu. I read a good book called "Fire on the Lake", I think, that went over the history of Ho Chi Minh and how we could have gone with him and stopped all of the problems we got into. He was asking for help and was more of a Nationalist than Communist but the French sold him out so he went with who would help and that was Russia.

We seem to have a history of backing the wrong horse in a lot of races it seems.

You know thinking about the rubber plantation development in VN really points up how they stuck it to the people. I never got to the pool in DT as far as I can recall. I did get to Vung Tau on my first tour and took a swim in the So China Sea but no pool action at DT. From the time I took command until we moved I was up to my arm pits in aligators trying to keep Jim Murphy out of my hair. He never told me up front that the 100<sup>th</sup> was in trouble but the talk all around the 269<sup>th</sup> was that they had really gone through some bad times and had sustained a bunch of losses which they shouldn't have. The XO, Erve Crockett, flat told me I had to pull the unit together or I wouldn't last very long as the CO. I was just arrogant enough to think that I could and it was never a bunch of big things that needed to be done but small things that were eventually changed that made the unit a great combat outfit. I had some great help from Danny Kingman and Hank Holtzhausen and Pearl Ackley, and ~~Ed~~ Holtz and some others who came to us in Dec/Jan before we left for Sally. As it was you almost had a new CO when we got our ships RPG'd on the maintenance comp right after I took command. Anyway I missed the pool at DT.

I had a friend run off a copy of the information you have put out on the Web page.

It looks really great and by my print out the request we made for information was the 235 they had received so someone is interested in what we have to offer. This should bring even more involvement from former members when they see our page. Great work, Dick.

Well I need to get ready for my weekly Kiwanis meeting. Great bunch of guys and girls who do some neat service projects in our community. This is another of my volunteer things that keeps me off the street.

Tell Karma to get well and I'll send you a T-shirt when we get one made up. I'm really glad that you like the picture - it is a neat snap shot of what we passed off as just another night in Comsat - no big deal - huk.

Take Care,  
Jack

4/20/99

Dear Dick:

I need to bring you up to date on a couple of things and send along a picture that you might really appreciate since you have been there and done that in the past. My way of saying thanks again for doing what you're doing. I hope that you will enjoy it and take pride in the part you played in our time in VN.

I think it is a real hoot that the people of the Bay area are still up in arms about the Marines attacking Alameda. The articles you sent are something and tells me a little about the Bay area - protesting a training exercise. Something else now.

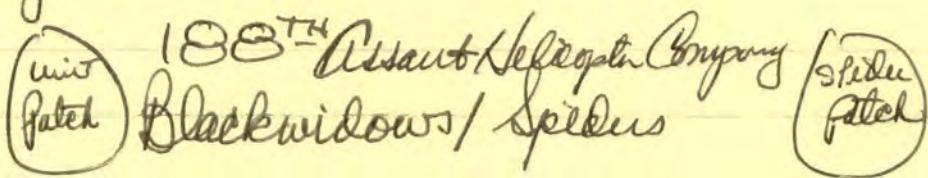
I'm going to be at the VHPA reunion on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of July this year. We, Nancy and I, will go there and then we will go on to Asheville, N.C. on the 3, 4 & 5<sup>th</sup> to see my daughter and grand kids show their horses in a show over that weekend. We will leave Nashville on the evening of the 2<sup>nd</sup> or early morning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> to make it to Asheville. I talked to Bob Crow and he says that he has the old guide on for the 188<sup>th</sup> from Hank Dreher and will be bringing it to Nashville. If you want the flag and streamers to be there I would recommend that Bob carry it, since he will be there for 3 or 4 days. He indicated that we would try for

a reunion on the afternoon of the 2<sup>nd</sup> so I could be there or the evening in case the afternoon is not a go. That will set my schedule and if more reunions are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> you may want the flag to be there after the zone. You may want to contact him about plans for the convention.

I'm sending along a printout from the 101<sup>st</sup> Association of Vets that has information on the KIA/POW statistics for the 101<sup>st</sup>. A bunch of them were from C & D Company 101<sup>st</sup> Avn which might be of interest to you and Bob. If he doesn't have a copy can you fax him this or send it on if you don't want to keep it. When the 188<sup>th</sup> went to the 101 our guns went to D Co and the slicks went to C Co so we had people in both. We lost some people out of the 159<sup>th</sup> as well which surprised me. Day 1970/71 was hell on people who were SA/4, WO & Cpt. This must have been when they were going into Cambodia to cut off the Ho Chi Minh trail.

Dick here is an idea you might want to kick around. I have had the guys who did the picture of the gun run to put our pocket patches into their computer. They can clean them up and reprint them on about anything. I'm sending a copy of the Co patch and Spidi patch for you to look at. We can print a picture of the

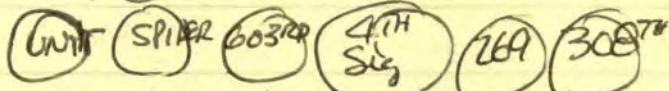
Patches on either side of the Company designation and the gun run under it on a T-shirt.  
Something like this:



Guns up

Maybe some of the guys would like to have something like this — even a shirt with the

188<sup>th</sup> A H C



On any combination might be of interest. They can also put this on plaques, Coffee Ceps, Calendars etc so with some of the pictures you have we could do a lot of things for reunions etc. Like the video we could make a track or two for expenses of writing the history. Let me know what you think about the idea.

I got a video from Tom Cally on the ~~Reef~~ smoke recovery operations. There is a picture of one of our ships, running up, right in the middle of the video. It looks like the nose art on the C&C ship but I

Couldn't recognize who was at the controls. Do you have a copy of his video? If not do you want this one? I plan to take it to Nashville as well as our video just in case someone would want one. The recovery video has a shot of the smoke ship doing its thing right in the middle of the tape. Wish he had done some narration so we could tell more about each part of the tape.

I was in Dallas last week competing in the Dallas Area Senior Olympics and I ran into this fellow with a hat that had wings and VN 67-68 on it. I asked him about who he flew with and he said the 191<sup>st</sup> Avn Co out of Bear Cat. He knew about the 200<sup>th</sup> C.H. 47 Co, who were with us in 269<sup>th</sup>, and never to the west as. He said that there is an extensive Web sight on VN Helicopter units and lots of information on the net. I havent gotten to a computer to look up our stuff so far but I have two friends who I've asked to check out our stuff and print it out for me. I'm sure that you and Rhonda Oates have done a good job.

I wrote John Schibly but havent heard a thing from him. Also sent out notes with every video and got nothing from that either. Maybe they just not interested

any more. I would have expected some stuff from Bob Hemphill but nothing there either.

I did send Dick Green some more information on FSB but which he said he would put into the next newsletter. He might want to put something about T-Shirts or Caps with logo's as well in next newsletter, what do you think.

I'm going to be pretty busy traveling in the next 6 months so I may be out of pocket some. I leave in Jun with 8 guys from Houston and we are going to ride our bikes around Taos, Red River, Angel Fire, Santa Fe, Las Cruces New Mexico. Some places we will go over 10,000 feet in mountains. We go for a week and will do over 500 miles. We are going out to the Balloon Fest in NM in Oct and then to Georgia to see Savana and Charleston SC to visit with our grand kids again in Sept. We are going to Hawaii for Christmas this year - Maybe I can get a helicopter ride from Scott while I'm there. Haven't been in one for quite a while.

Well gotta get some other stuff done so I'll stop for now. Hope you like the picture.

Take Care,  
Jack

mailed  
response  
4/23/09

3/13/99

Dear Dick:

I need to bring you up to date on some things and I just haven't taken time to write lately. I have been sending things to other BW's and it may help us in the long run. I sent a letter to Wes Lager and commented on his letter about FSB B-52. He had it right. I also sent copies of letters we got from 25<sup>th</sup> Div and 269<sup>th</sup> about FSB B-52 to Bob Hampill. I sent him a copy of the video up to the point where we left DT for LZ Sally. I haven't heard from either of them so far. I sent Richard Green a little contribution to help with the news letter and he sent me a bunch of address labels that I will use with pride. We also paraphrased a little of my letter to be used in the next newsletter. What he has is good but I'm going to ask him to add a little more about how absolutely magnificent the company performed at B-52.

I called it a "Rat screw" only because of all of the confusion going on with all of the other aviation units that were involved. With two aircraft on the ground burning and no one in charge we followed instructions, changed frequency and did what needed to be done which was resupply and Medevac FSB B-52. What was so great was that because of the P2 and LZ being so small and under heavy fire we formed up into flights of two and got our work done. Each crew performed on their own and with great courage kept going in and out until we got the job done. It's one thing to fly into an LZ with 10 aircraft, guns covering and a pre-landing prep and quite another to go in with only one other aircraft and

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every one shooting at you. It would have been real easy to have come up with a malfunction and got the hell out of there but no one held back. Each crew was determined and courageous and I think saved FSB but that night. I don't remember if the Spiders were there covering us - as crazy as it was I kind of recall we all just did our thing and I'm not sure we could have really used gun cover because of the situation.

I'm glad that we were able to find John Scribly after so long. I will write him and ask him to help with our history. John joined us when we got to LZ Sally. He was in the orderly tent when the grenade went off but I don't think that he was hit. He did not feel well the day before I was scheduled to go on R&R. He indicated that he had the flu but because we had our own Medics and Don Kingman was around he could take command and I could go on R&R before the Change of Command. When the grenade went off he realized that he was sicker than he thought, or at least in the next day or two, and he was diagnosed with hepatitis and had to be evacuated to the hospital ship off the coast. He was gone when I got back and Richard Adamski was there in command. I got back to the Brigade HQ and everyone asked me if I knew what had happened and I had no idea. I got right back to the company but the Change of command was to be done in only a few days and Hank was there ready to take over so I didn't get to clean up much in the company. John never did get back to us at Sally or Eagle as I recall. I do have a picture of him at our O Club at the 159<sup>th</sup> but I think it was taken before the Change of command.

He may be able to clear up the sequence of events after that terrible incident.

The lineage of the 269<sup>th</sup> is interesting. Jim Merrynon might be one person to send some of this too after you get it all put together.

You asked about the Mobile Riverine footage. It would have had to have been in January/February time frame 68. I took command in Dec and we were with B-36 for about 30 days. Then we went on Yellowstone in Jan - TET in Feb and moved in March so Riverine would have been mid Jan to before TET. We only supported them for a day or two as I recall.

I'm sending a second photo of the gun run that Hank had. He had two of them that night. Now be patient because I'm working on the first picture which is the better of the two and I'll send it to you when I get done working on it. It will be about a month before I can get done what I want done. Just hang loose.

I didn't know if you had sent Bobby Wofford a copy of the original history of the company so I had a copy made and sent it to him. I really feel badly about what happened to the company when they got into country. I mean not much else could go wrong so when Bobby got relieved it must have hurt him, but, he did line all of the aircraft up and give the VC a great target to shoot at. Before I left the 269 for the Change of Command with McWhorter everyone warned me about keeping the aircraft dispersed around DT even if it was a pain in the ass to try and

fuel them, and maintain them getting them shot up again would be a sure ticket out of command. I believed them.

I sent a copy of our video to Tom Oakley with a letter thanking him for all the times they came out and hauled back our aircraft. You know I parked one in the jungle on the day before I took command and they pulled it out and brought it back. They were good people. If he has some video maybe we could use it at the reunion.

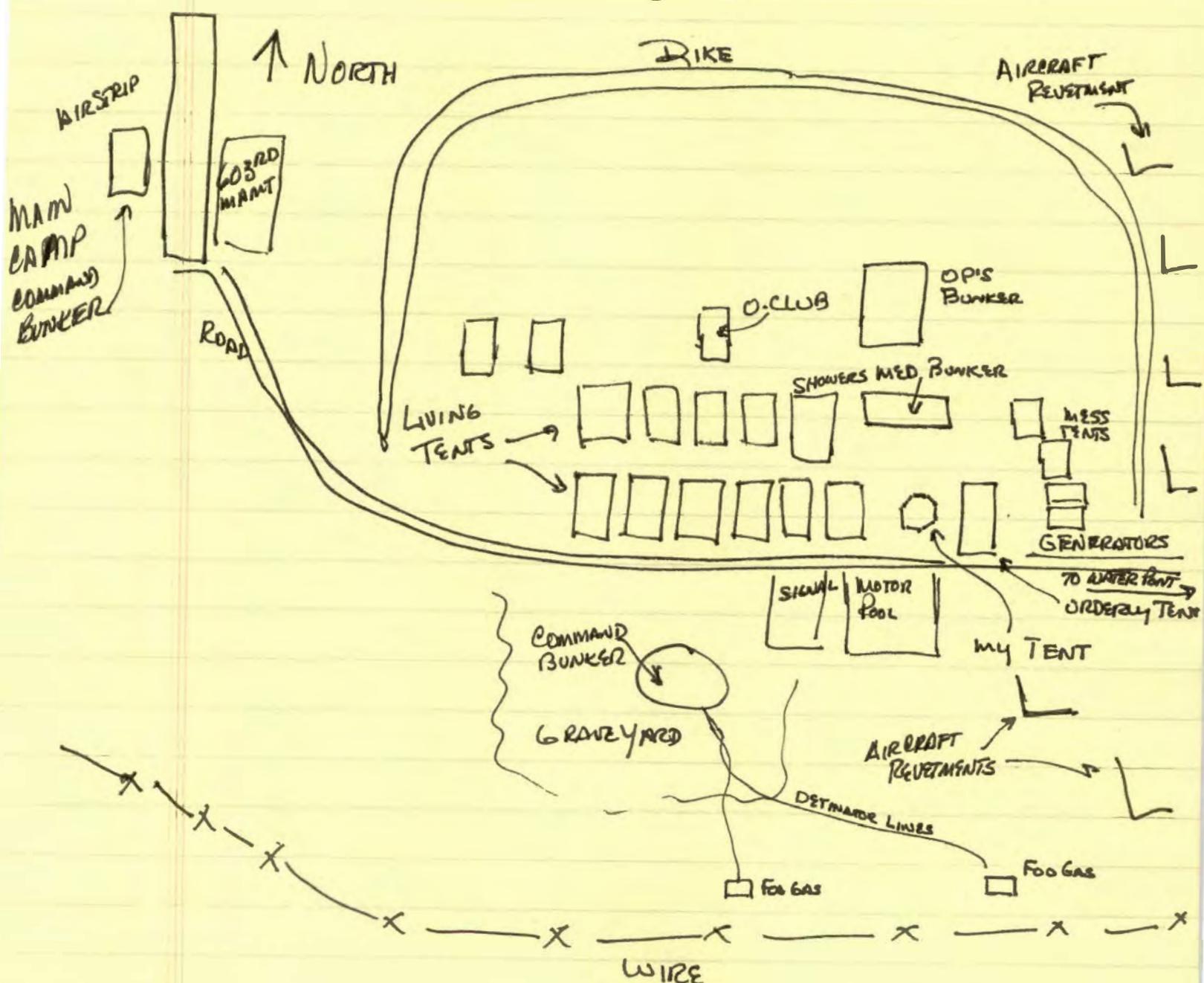
A web page sounds good but I don't have a computer so I'll have to get by using a pen and yellow tablets. Anything we can do to inform people who were there and are interested will help.

Now about the layout of our area at LZ Sally.

We were in the South east to South quadrant of the Camp. The grove/gard was about Center on the south of our area and its where we set up our command bunker for the defense of the wire on the south. We had aircraft all around the south side running around the camp on the East. The road that come down from the airstrip cut through the center of our area with our living tents north of the road and the motor pool, avionics, etc south of the road. The arduy tent was on the south east corner of our area, with the mess tent right behind (north) it. We had two generators north of the road and east of the Arduy tent. My living tent was an 8 sided tent just west of the

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orderly tent. The showers, O-club etc was North of the road and west of the orderly tent / mess tent set up. There was a rice paddy like that circled our area and looks like we were in a horseshoe with the road on the south. Picture may help.



THIS is what I remember. We had to expand the perimeter a fence to the south when we moved in and occupied the reservoir. We had 101 troops on our north and

all around the west side of the air strip. I have some pictures of the area - not too good - but does show our area. The video has a pretty good picture of our lay out as well.

I'll keep in touch - looking forward to reading some of the history as you get it down.

Take care,  
Jack

Dear Dick:

I need to bring you up to speed on a couple of things that are going on now that the new year is underway. It was good talking to you and Lorna and I hope that you two have a great new year in '99.

I sent Doc Hemphill several things after reading his book. I made copies of the cover of the VHPA newsletter that had a picture of us heading the 3/22 into "Yellowstone". I also sent him copies of letters we (the company) received from 269<sup>th</sup> CAB and 3<sup>rd</sup> Bde after our action at FSB Bort. Both Merriman and Dames were very complimentary about our actions that night. I also sent a copy of our video from start to the point where the C-130<sup>3</sup> lift off from DT as we went north. I also gave him a narrative about the action at FSB Bort that is pretty close to the detail that Wes Tager sent to you that was in the BW/Spike Newsletter. I put on the video label that it was to "Broco 6 and the Broco Regs from the Black Widows - DT - 1967-1968. Maybe they can use it at one of their reunions.

I'm glad Neal Haber is following up on the award for my Dakt. I have a feeling that he will not get far unless they can find the original submission buried in some file in Washington. I have a feeling that it never got out of the 269<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> Avn Group after we moved out of their Command. It would have been submitted through those two headquarters and could have been held up anywhere along the line by

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some over worked awards and decorations section. The MACV command was good at awarding a DSC in lieu of the CMH instead of sending the recommendation on and then not getting the DSC to people who had been ~~Medevac'd~~ cut. I hope that they can find some record of what he got but I'd bet it was turned into a DSC or SS by MACV.

Glad to hear that Hank Dreher got in touch with you. He may be able to help the guys from C 101 with their history since he was the first CO of that unit. Hank was a good guy and may have some valuable information for you or Bob Crow.

The library at Ft Sill has copies of the GO's that were issued during VN. I'm pretty sure that their file is not complete but they may be able to help if I can go look up a specific GO. Any information on lineage would have to come out of DA history section which you have already made contact with. I don't think I can help much on lineage or awards unless you can give me a GO number to research.

As of now I have five new orders for the video. I will get copies made and out as soon as possible.

I have a feeling that there will be several more in the next few days as a result of the notice that was in the newsletter. I'm going to send along a copy of a unit order that Jimmy D. Ogle sent to me with his request for a video. He also sent

a picture of himself in one of the revetments at DT. I will thank him and let him know & send them to you when I send him his video. It has some good personal ID info on the set of orders but most of the people have been located so far. There is one new piece of info on John Schreiby and that's his SSN. Might be able to locate him with that data.

I think that I will write Wes Gager and thank him for his letter in the newsletter about FSB Bnrt. We had everything pretty straight as I recall it except I don't think that we landed in troops or just left - only ammo and we had to go into the FSB in two's because of the size of the area and fire we were taking. I am sure that we - at least I made the first trip into FSB and landed at a spot located by a single strobe light. As I remember the guy was flat on the ground with his radio - talking to us - and holding the strobe up about a foot in the air. He was also in the middle of a column of VC bodies that had gotten all the way into the center of the base. They looked like logs on the first landing and after we got back on the second or third lift it was light enough to see that they were bodies with uniforms and red handkerchiefs around their necks. I don't remember that anyone got "bitchled at" when we got back to DT. Everyone should have been given a DFC on the spot after that Rat Screw. I think that we were the only unit that night that got something done. Everyone else was milling

Katum and running helicopters into each other.

Just got the Morning mail and I have requests for the video from LTC Bony wofford and WO Dusty Rhodes. nice little letter from Dusty who will see his picture in the video when he gets a copy. He was the Admin O for the Company toward the end of his tour.

Back to the newsletter. I'm going to send Richard Green some money to help off set the publication of the newsletter and his work in finding 188/C100 people. We should really set up a non profit association with some small fee for being a member and do like other Military Unit Associations.

Dick - you wildass indian - I didn't know anything about the adventure you guys had when you went on the convoy to Da Nang. I knew that we went there because I went down Highway 1 once in my jeep from Sally to our HQ's in DN. I have some 8mm film of the trip but didn't put it in our video since it was only of interest to me. I was sure that we flew in most of our beer/whiskey and other non authorized goodies from the big PX in DN or like. I also knew that our WO (Supply guy) took a generator from the Air Force to help power our living area in Sally. Sounds like you all had a good time and got away with it without getting hurt. ~~But~~ To admit we did some crazy things that could have gotten us all in jail but what the hell we were all young and crazy.

Dick you don't seem to be the type to grab 4  
apple pies when there must have been other things  
to liberate!! I think our supply warrant was  
Mr Liston who was a great liberator of needed  
equipment.

Soon as we get the videos out we'll send you  
the money we have left over. It will help get you  
the set repp and daily logs from the archives.

Take Care,  
Jack

2/11/99

mailed  
2/17/99

Dear Dick:

I got some pictures from Henry Holzhauser who tells me they were taken at Dan Ting. The gun ship seen was down our south fence when we were taking some fire from the village. He opened his camera up and took a time lapse photo and got the fire works. You can see the door gunners tracks because they go straight down when the minis are going horizontal. He said he was by one of the bunkers on the south fence. He also thinks that the C&C ship was ours but I don't think that it is because it has FM homing antennas on the nose and I don't think our C&C had that antenna. Also I don't think that we had yellow step marks on the ship - we were all OD & black as I recall. I would think that the Circle & red dot would show if it was on the tail. The tail area looks like ours but I can't be sure. There is a rubber tree there. No doubt that the ship being hauled in by Hook is ours. White was first platoon wasn't it? Plus you can see the Circle/red dot on the tail - can't tell where it was at DT but Conex contains have a set of skids on the roof so maybe by the maintenance area. Hank feels that the CA with the Nose gun was ours but again there is yellow step marks and FM homing antennas. It's a great picture but I can't be sure that it's one of ours.

I am on my way down to Fergus Video to redo the narrative on the 603<sup>rd</sup> Maint.

We went over the video and there is a way he can dub over the old verbage and put in a new sound track. He cannot edit out the blank space at the start of the tape without almost re recording the whole thing so it will have remain that way. Since the Newsletter came out we have had pretty good interest and I'm sending you a check for \$150.00 that represents money we have cleared. It should help you get more data and pay for the past expenses you have run up putting our history together. I hope that the interest in the video continues.

Right now my wife and I are considering going to the next VHPA reunion in Nashville. Our daughter and her family will be near Nashville during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July showing horses in Ashville NC. We are planning on being in Nashville for a day or so and then move on to Ashville on the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> to see them. They live in Greensboro NC which is a 1<sup>hr</sup> drive from Okla.

I have been sending a note to everyone with their video asking for more support from each of them. Maybe we will get more info that way.

→ gotta go down to the video shop. Keep in touch.

Jack

sent  
letter  
12/10/98

12/10/98

Dear Dick:

I thought that I should get off a note to you before the holidays. We are leaving on Saturday for a two week trip through the Panama Canal which will keep us out of the country until after Christmas. Never done anything like this before and we are looking forward to doing it.

I have read Bob Humphries book and boy were we there with him. I sent for his book using the order form you sent me and I didn't keep a copy of his address. I would like to send him a copy of a couple of the letters we received from the 25<sup>th</sup> Par and 269<sup>th</sup> CAB covering our involvement in FSB Bert. It would have been nice to have him cover our activity that night while they were keeping the perimeter intact. We must have impressed him since we were the only company he wrote about other than the "little bear" who shot them up in Cu Chi. We did so much during TET that those days are a day to me. My flight records show that the C+C was up 15, 16 hours a day during TET and we lifted people all around Cu Chi until it was over. I'm sure we must have moved him around during that time. I might send him a copy of the first part of our video up to the point of our move north. He

wight get a kick out of it. What I need from you is a copy of his address if you have it. I went over the stuff you sent me and I have everything about his book but nothing about his address. Please help me if you can. What do you think about sending a reduced copy of our video?

Dick there is no doubt that you know more about the company than anyone. Do you know who I was flying with when we had a tail rotor gear box transmission failure and parked the ship in 200 foot deep jungle. I had not taken command and was flying a slick in a lift as a petu pilot. We had just come out of an LZ when all the warning lights came on and a big ripping sound occurred. The ship rolled right and the RPM went down to 5000 or so. I put it into auto rotation, zeroed airspeed to dive into a small green opening in the jungle and then went straight down into the bamboo until I couldn't stand it anymore. When I pulled full pitch we landed in one piece and the nose glass under my feet popped out when it hit an ~~mount~~ hill. I got a mayday call off when we were going down and immediately after we touched down we had aircraft over us as we climbed out and pulled guns, radios etc out. We got up on the roof and using the most got into the hovering helicopter. We were #10 in the formation

and the rest of the company went back to the PZ and moved some troops into our area so they could secure the aircraft or pick up. They hauled the ship out and it was repaired later by our DS Maintenance Co at Cu Chi. This would have been in the Oct/Nov time frame. Do you know who I was flying with at that time? Also the guys that came down into the hole that we were in almost hit a big tree with the rotor as they tried to pull us out. It was a piece of gutsy flying.

Thanks for the tail numbers. I will go over the VIB data base and see if I can identify some of our aircraft. They identify some of the incidents by tail number only.

I did contact Doc Parker by phone. He was away from his home over Thanksgiving when we were in Greensboro so I didn't get to see him face to face. I did talk to him and urged him to get with it and send you pictures. In fact I said that you were going to put a contract out to hit me if he didn't cooperate. He said that he would send you stuff some time over the Christmas holidays. He said that he would have time to get it out and make copies over the holidays.

I hope that he does.

I wasn't aware that we had messed up the video on the 603<sup>rd</sup>. I'm not sure that we can correct it since the guy that

helped me edit the video together. He moved to California and my contact at the VSTech doesn't have the skill to reedit the tape. I used the patches you sent and really didn't pay close attention to the patches to be sure that they were accurate. I'll recheck the patches and see if I got one mixed up and maybe my friend's a Tergus video could help us if you think we really need to correct it. Let me know what you think we should do.

Send me a copy of the article on our Convoy out of Hanoi to Hue / Da Nang. I made a trip down there once in my jeep and have some movie films of the trip. I didn't put it in the video because it wasn't of much interest to anyone other than me I thought. It does have some stuff around the Hue Citadel and the river bridges that were blown down during TET.

I'm sending along # 27.15 which is what I have left from Video Sales. Rich Green is going to run a notice in the newsletter and Bob Crow said he would let people know about it as well. Do you think that it would be helpful to put something in one of the VHPA newsletters? I could probably get that done. Let me know.

Dick you and Anna have a great holiday season. May Santa Clause find you and bring you all of things you want.

Happy Holidays  
Jack

11/20/98

Dear Dick:

Got the BW hat from the 101 awhile back and have been too busy to drop you a line and thank you for sending it along. ~~It was~~ it is all future reunions.

I have continued to try and remember the incident with Scott/Mall and I cannot come up with anything to verify what happened. I went back through all of the incidents listed in the Historical Reference Directory for VHPA and can't find an entry that would match up with the incident. The rub might be that the directory only covers incidents that happened through 31 Dec 67 and this may have happened after that date. As I recall right after I took command on 10 Dec 67 we were in Tay Ninh with B-36 for about 30 days. On 1-2 Jan we were supporting 25<sup>th</sup> Div and FSB Bn. Then we did Pct and moved in March to LZ Sally. One thing for sure was that I wouldn't have had any part of a court martial since I had no authority to start one. Company Commanders had Art 15 Authority for EM. Battalion Commanders had Art 15 Authority for some Officers but it was Group Commander or higher for most Officers Art 15. If a court martial was initiated it started with a recommendation for an Article 32 investigation (much like a grand jury) and then if charges were brought on an officer/ACO it came from Group or 1<sup>st</sup> Aviation Brigade.

I only did one Article 32 investigation on one of our gun ship crews who hit some VN lady

②

walking along a dike and killed her. I found out about the death when Jim Macymon called me and asked about solation pay being made out to the family through the 25<sup>TH</sup> Div. The investigation was carried out by someone from the S-3 shop at 269<sup>TH</sup> Battalion and they did not find grounds for charges being filed against the crew. I think what really happened was that the guns took off and bruzed the line of VN people walking along a patty dike and unfortunately hit her on the head with a skid. Any way she died, the family got \$150.00 or so in pay and the Art 32 couldn't find enough evidence to support court martial charges against the AC or pilot. The final report I got back on the investigation was signed by Gen Williams who was 1<sup>ST</sup> Avn Bde Commander then.

I got a contract/release from UDEN Associates, London England. They are using some of our video to do a program on "Classic Aircraft (w/t) "The Helicopter" which they are going to show during Christmas this year. They indicate that they will send me a copy of the PROGRAMME (as they spell it) after they show it in their country. I'll send it along to you if I ever get a copy.

We leave for NC on Sunday. I'll get a hold of Parker and if possible I'll go see him and try to get him moving on sending you some data from the 154<sup>TH</sup> Med. I feel that he is a little flakey on us and maybe a call or visit will move him.

I got a short note from Bob Spradlin and he has put all of the paper work in for the PH through the National Guard since he is still active in the Guard. I sure hope that they will honor his submission which is long over due.

I did find two incidents in the VAPPA directory on our aircraft. I saw one for a UH Spearman 5 Oct 67, UH-1H 66-16152, hard landing autorotation plus another entry on 11 Dec 67 UH-1C 66-00708, 269<sup>th</sup> BN Don Firing AC WO M.K. Hall, Pilot H.B. Smith, engine failure autorotation into trees. I also found 13 Oct 67, UH-1H 66-16125 WAG Boyd Morrow, Sgt Jimmie Green crash on test flight. There are thousands of entries on aircraft hit by small arms fire and glow on which I'm sure cover some of our aircraft. Without a roster of tail numbers it's hard to pick out our aircraft.

I have some nice pictures of LZ Sally that Bob Spradlin sent me. They aren't the greatest but they are of Sally. I'll send them along with this note.

I got a copy of Bob Hemphill's book also. Haven't had a chance to read it yet but I'll have a chance pretty soon. I did see the BW 001 sign in one of the chapters.

We leave on the 13 of Dec for a two week cruise from San Juan PR along the North coast of Colombia and the Panama Canal. We will end up in Acapulco MX day after Christmas and I'm taking a couple of looks

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to read while we are at sea.

Any time you contact anyone let them know about the video. All proceeds will come to you from now on to help off set the cost of research and writing for the unit history. You deserve a break on the cost.

Oh by the way - I'm not moving too swift right now. I was in a bike wreck last Saturday and really banged up my left shoulder, forearm and right hand. Biggest problem is that it busted my bike all up and it has to go back to the factory to see if it is totalled out. I feel sure that it is beyond repair. We were doing 25 miles an hour when the lead guy slipped a wheel off the road and fell over to his left in front of us. I was number 3 in the line and went right over the top of him. He launched me into the air and I did a slow roll to the left with the bike and hit on my back, shoulder and head - then slid clear across the road to the opposite ditch. I find a new sore spot every day.

Have a happy Thanksgiving. ~~I'll~~ let you know if I get any when with Doc Parker.

Jack

letter  
1126148

10/16/98

Dear Dick:

Haven't taken time to write in a while and don't have a lot going on right now other than more travel. We are leaving on November 4<sup>th</sup> for a week in Branson, Missouri. We are going with a group and have several shows lined up to see while we are there. We will see Mel Tillis and Andy Williams plus a bunch more while we are there. It should be a lot of fun since we will all be friends on the bus and have done things together here in Lawton.

When we get back from Branson we go out to North Carolina to see my daughter, son-in-law and two grand kids over Thanksgiving. My S-I-L is a PhD and director of research for Novartis Chemical Company. They make chemical spray that kills weeds and bugs with killing other stuff. They have done well and have a 6 1/2 acre place with two horses that they show. I may try to see Doc Parker while I'm out there - he isn't too far from where the kids live.

This December we are going to take a cruise from San Juan, Puerto Rico through the Panama Canal with several stops along the way. We end up in Acapulco on the day after Christmas before we come back to Lawton. We had some friends who made this trip and they said it was a real fun thing to do.

I'm sending along a couple of articles out of the Star and People Magazine. I'm sure that you have seen them also but maybe not the same pieces.

I think that poor ol' "BD" is finally suffering some post traumatic stress disorder. As many folks as he did in while in combat he sure knows where to shoot himself if he wants to do a suicide. No doubt about it he was one hell of a warrior but how long can you continue to carry on after the war is over.

If you have any contact with John Spearman see if he ever got the Silver Star. I remember right after I took command Neal Haber and I worked over a submission for the SS for Spearman and I don't remember if he ever got it.

I remember Alex Viegas and have a copy of the history you sent me. He was at Ft Worth and he and I talked to each other for some time while we were out at Ft Worth. Part of my plan to buck up the company right after I took command was to have a history made because we had gone through so many hard times without any recognition. Alex did a super job and what you doing is going to really put the 188<sup>th</sup> in its proper perspective.

Dick, I don't remember hearing any gun ships go down in conjunction with the operations we did with B-36. We were in Toy Ninh for about 35 days or so and I didn't get there until after we had been working with B-36 for about a week. I took command on 10 Dec and went over to TN a

(3)

week or so after the change. It may have even been after Christmas because I have pictures of our Christmas dinner at DT when we had a stand down day for Christmas. Was John Hall a tall red headed Captain?

I don't remember any gun ship going down and getting shot up. It would have been in our set repos for that time period I'm sure. Anytime we had a ship down we would respond with a tac E, troops and a recovery operation. If one ship went down they would have had to evacuate it out with a CH-47 and that would have required a secure area. I just don't remember that happening. We had most of our guns flying during that time and during Tet which happened in January. The only one I remember being shot down was Doh's ship during Rapid Fire. If we had lost a ship it would have been destroyed by the VC but we had our guns during Dec/Jan and went missing any that I can recall. I may have been a hard ass on some things but I don't recall relieving anyone for a rescue. Gun ship or slick. We had the C&C plus 4 slicks and a heavy team at TN during our B-36 operation and we all lived there during the operation. I didn't get back to DT until after we were released by B-36. Some of the movie films is our stay in TN when we put up revetments made out of 55 gal drums. I sure hope that I didn't relieve anyone or chew them out for getting a crew out of a hard spot. Hell I did that a couple of times on my first tour and got shot through the

(4)

Am trying to get a crew out of a downed gun ship in 1965. If I did act like an Ass like I owe them an apology. They would have been hero's to pick up their fellow crew men.

I got a call from some lady in England the other day. She had seen a copy of our video and was asking for permission to use some of it in a documentary they were doing about helicopter support in military operations. I told her that as far as I'm concerned they could use any of it. She said that she would send a release and describe the part she was going to use so that there would be no problems of copyright. I don't know how she got a copy to look at but it must be getting around.

I sent Hank Dehr a bunch of photos and told him about our video and Cushing's. I haven't heard anything back from him yet. We need to sell a few more copies of the video so you can get the proceeds to help cover the cost of research. I hope that the next newsletter will bring some more interest.

I have the order blank out for Hemphill's book. Sounds like it might be interesting.

Take Care,  
Jack

letter  
9/27/98

9/17/98

Dear Dick:

Haven't had any thing from you since my last letter after the trip to Campbell. I hope that my long letter about my philosophy of command didn't PO you to the point where you have cut me off. I don't want to do that but I think that it's important that you know how I felt about my command of the 188th.

I had some success in locating Hank Dreher. I did your trick of checking out insurance agencies that cover mostly officers and USAA of San Antonio Tex had a policy on him. While I was on the line

(3)

General Haefling after they left VN. I'm sure that he will be a help to us in completing the last month of the existence of the 188<sup>th</sup> until it became the 101<sup>st</sup> company. He was also interested in the follow on history of "D" company being done by Bob Crow and Company. I told him about the video and he said that he wanted one.

Here is his address and phone:

Henry F and Robbie L. Dreher



He must have done pretty well since his Army days because

(2)

They called him and said I was interested in contacting him about the unit history. Hank called me yesterday and he is very much interested in helping put together the story of the 188<sup>th</sup> and "C" 101. He indicated that he had a number of slides of the area and that he would go through them and send them to you if you want them.

I am going to send him several pictures & had copies made of which will bring him up to speed. I will send him copies of the Change of command, LZ Sally, Little streamer on our flag, pictures from Campbell of the current BW's the parade w/ flag passing in review and the generals at the Airfield. He had made some contact with

he called me from Canada where he spends time in the summer and then moves to Florida for the cold part of the winter but lives in Pennsylvania the rest of the time. I guess his daughter takes care of the house in Penn while they are gone.

I told him about your project and he sounded enthusiastic about helping out.

Crow and Green indicated that they will put info on the video in the next newsletter. I will have some money to send to you when we sell a few more copies.

Keep in touch,

Jack

letter  
9/27/98

8/5/98

Dear Dick:

We are having an unbelievable summer with temperatures over 100 each day for about 6 weeks now. Can't get out in the afternoon without taking heat precautions.

I got a call from Gerald Doht and Neal Haber last week. I'm sure that you have his address and phone number but here is what I have from him:

GERALD DOHT

(Judy Callaghan) SISTER

I'm going to send him pictures of the "Ragin Cajun" which is the ship he was flying when he got hit. He sounded like he was a free spirit just traveling around the world and having fun. He was that way when he was in VN.

Neal Haber reminded me that we put him in for the Medal of Honor for his action in trying to get the SF patrol out of the fight that they were in. Doht said he didn't get anything which wouldn't surprise me since I think a lot of award submissions were just lost to reduce the work load at some higher HQ's. I remember that we put a lot of time in writing up and revising a submission for an award. Neal said that he was going to try to follow up with Dept of the Army to see if they could find any

(2)

record of the submission. After he was shot down he lead the defense of the LZ since all of the SF's were pretty well shot up and he had been hit as well and lost his eye.

We gave me the phone number of Ervin Cockett the Dep Commander of the 269<sup>th</sup> under Murrayon. He was wounded doing a hot extraction during Rapid fire when the SF's lost a bunch of their people. I was at Tay Ninh when he came in with a bullet through his foot - front to back and out of his heel. We got him to the hospital and he was Medevacked out and ultimately discharged because of the wound so far as I know. He was flying either smoky or one of our gun ships the day he got hit. He went back to Hawaii, where he was well known and respected, and after some work by the Governor he was put back on flight status and retired as a Brigadier General. His address is BG Ervin Cockett [REDACTED]

He might have information on Operation Checkmate and Rapid Fire. He flew with all of the units of the 269<sup>th</sup> and was involved in the planning and execution of all of our missions until he got hit.

I don't recall Checkmate by that name. There would be an operations order prepared by the 269<sup>th</sup> if we were all involved and it would be somewhere in the old records that you have been getting copies of. The S-3 John Gugwirth and Matt Cambroad might have records of th

Operations, as well. They were very good at producing operations orders after each action.

I'm really glad that Dick Cadman is getting a last board for the BW's. He is a neat guy and I'm glad that I was able to reconnect with him.

I have made two calls to try and locate Hank Dreher. He does not have insurance through Army Mutual Aid. I have called the Retired Officer Association but got their answering machine. Maybe when I talk to someone real I can see if he is a member. I will also try to follow up with the Association of the U.S. Army which is another organization that many retired officers belong to. There is a possibility that he would be listed in an internet phone directory - which is how I found Doc Parker. The last option might be the Army locator office that is in Washington D.C. I think that you have to write to them with a self addressed stamped envelope and if they have an address they will forward a letter and let the individual decide if he wants to use the SASE to reply.

You mentioned my style of leadership and how we did when I was commanding which is fine. I will be very honest that the 188<sup>th</sup> wasn't held in much esteem by the 269<sup>th</sup> when I came on board. Jim Murray and Eric Cockitt both talked to me about the Company and what had to be done if the

Unit was to survive. I had already had one tour of 8 1/2 months with the UTT, had seen about 10 guys or so killed and had been hit myself so I had a little experience about how to fight and keep from getting killed. I was determined that we would fight hard but smart and that's what I tried to do. I'm not sure how ~~Looy~~ Daffy would have done but he sure got off to a traumatic start. I told you that Jim McWhorter really didn't want to command an assault company and he was about relieved a couple of times after he got in command. I know that one time we were putting troops into an LZ and on the second lift we stuck a bunch of them into the wrong LZ. They were by themselves and without support until we got back and picked them up and put them into the right LZ. I was flying as a Peter pilot with the company that day before I took command.

I almost got relieved when we got three ships shot with RPG's on the maintenance ramp. They came up to the perimeter right in front of a 25<sup>th</sup> Div bunker and shot 3 or 4 RPG's into our aircraft. The only thing that saved me was that we had the number of aircraft allowed on the ramp and they were in revetments when they got hit. The big complaint was that we had flood lights on in the main tents and that gave the VC a lighted target to shoot at. That was a risk.

accepted since we had to have light to go about maintaining our aircraft properly.

I did come into the command with the idea to tighten up our operations. We, Dan Tingman and I, really talked about our flight discipline and single ship missions and how we could go about our business without hanging our asses out too far. I also clamped down on the platoon leaders to keep the wild kid behavior under control.

When we had to stick our neck out we did but we tried to cover it with guns or the air or other support. We also did things in a decisive way so they didn't have a chance to be ready and waiting on us. It must have worked or our luck changed after I took command because we sure did cut down our losses. I really hate that we lost one guy because if not doing anything about McKeever when there was knowledge that he was trouble. Had I known you can let we would have done something to keep him from doing what he did.

I will admit that I was a hard ass on somethings. I also did some things that added to our comfort that would have got me into trouble. We were not allowed to have beer/alcohol north of Hh. But we did and I risked disobeying an order so we could. The ~~food~~ operation we did at DT was another thing that we

did until the CINC caught us loading potatoes at H-3 helipad. We also had movies at LZ Sally which Cushman jumped all over me about when he saw the light on the screen one night.

You can be sure of one thing - we never ran away from a fight and we did a hell of a lot of very courageous things - and we lost no men to enemy action. That's a very important thing to me.

I will admit that I would have preferred to have not been put into the position of having to deal with you and an Article 15. I was frustrated beyond belief when the guards brought you guys into the company when we were breaching ourasses making the move North. I was really tired to the point of exhaustion and I really didn't need to have to punish you guys. It was kid stuff that could have resulted in serious injury if the guards had shot first and asked questions later.

You can be absolutely sure that I hold no anger about what you did at that time. I hold you in the highest regard now and wish that it hadn't happened at all - but it did.

I'm sending a copy of the picture of you with the flag at Ft Campbell plus the negative if you want to make any more copies. I didn't take any other pictures while we were there so this is the extent of my picture taking.

⑦

Well I've run on too much so I'll stop for now. I have a couple of more videos to send out so I'll get to them. Sorry I can't help you with check mate - most of those operations just kind of run together after so long and remember at my age I have CRS (can't remember shit).

~~Take~~ Care my friend:  
Jack

P.S. Neat address stickers - also sorry karma didn't like the T-Shirt. Blame it on me since I pointed it out to you.

7/22/98

Dear Dick:

Got your letter with the pictures following the reunion at Ft Campbell. The pictures are great. I have several people around here who were part of the 101<sup>st</sup> and I'm sure that they will get a kick out of them. I really appreciate the letter that you sent to Greg Cannon. I sent him a letter as well, thanking him and all his troops, for the great time they showed us. It was a pretty neat deal for them to open up their place and spend the afternoon with us. I'm very proud to say that "It's a Black widow" after seeing how they have taken up the mission of the Aviation company.

When I was at Campbell I talked to the CO of the 159<sup>th</sup> Regt. He was interested in the history of the 159<sup>th</sup> BN and the 308<sup>th</sup> that preceded it so I sent Greg a copy of the extraction report of our move and the establishment of the 308<sup>th</sup> when we left III Corps. I asked that he read it and get an idea of our move north and then pass it on to the CO of the 159<sup>th</sup>. I also sent a copy of the article in the 101<sup>st</sup> Association newsletter that described the evacuation of "Ripcord". I'm sending a copy to you and to Bob Crow as well. It sounds like it wasn't much fun getting the troops out of that FSB.

All of the video tapes have been mailed out now. Hank Holtzhausen, here at Ft Sill, has asked for two copies and the guy we met at Campbell, flew LOH for Cushman, has asked for one more copy. I will

wait for a few more orders before I get more copies made. I will contact Dick Green, and let him know we have the idea and ask that he get it into a newsletter. Maybe we need to send him pictures of the VNHPA group and an after action report to get the newsletter underway. I have now recovered all of the money I had in making the video so anything we clear now I will send to you to help offset the cost of the unit history, flag etc. That may help you out a little.

I have a picture of you with the Co flag during the parade but I put it somewhere so I wouldn't lose it and guess what - ? I can't find it right now. I will have another copy made and send it to you. I did find the negative. Two things happen to you when you get old - the first thing is your memory fails and I can't remember what the second thing is that happens.

I did get the letter from Doc Parker finally. I had to call him twice and had the letter typed for his signature - but I got it. I'm sending you a copy. I also sent copies to Bob Spissel in along with the DA Form 4187 that he has to submit. I also sent two copies of the morning report showing his melanae to Cp Zama, Japan. I hope that this will do the trick.

I'll keep you informed about the videos. Anyone you can contact will help sell them.

Most of the people who have seen it thought that it showed it as it was and seemed to enjoy it.

It was great spending time with you and all of the rest of the gang. My best to Karma - hope that she liked the T-shirt.

I'll be in touch.

Jack.

5/18/98

Dear Dick:

Just a quick note to update you on some things that have been going on.

I did get approval for V. Peck to help me edit the video together so that will save us a bunch of money. I will start working on that as soon as I can. I have one more piece of film to convert into videotape and then I'll be ready to put it together. I did check out some prices on selling the video so that we will at least break even and maybe in the future make a little to help out with the history project. If we run at least 6 to 50 copies it will run \$14 to \$18 per copy. A shipping envelop and postage would run another \$2 at a minimum. With the almost \$500 I have spent on the video conversion we need to sell each tape for about \$30.00 to break even at 25 to 30 copies being sold. After that we can make about \$10 a copy to help pay for flags, postage, phone newsletter etc. I would think that we could sell at least 30 copies when we're all done.

I'm sending you a copy of two letters that have been put together for Bob Spodlin. I sent copies to Doc Parker and urged him to help us out as well. Maybe we will be able to help Bob get his recognition.

I found something that I thought applied to us called the Combat Action Ribbon. I had never heard of it before and when I checked it out

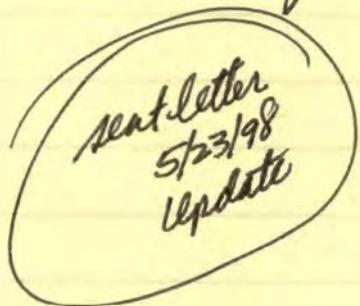
I found that it applied to Marine, Navy and Coast Guard only. Oh well - if any of our guys went that way this would help them.

I got a letter from Richard Green about the video he has. I don't think that anything he has would help us - but it was nice to get a reply from him.

I will try to put information in the video on the dates and names of the operations we did. I am going to rely on the information you provided me to make up this part of our story. I have to get busy now and go all through the stuff you have sent me and make up a list of the things I want to put into the video. I will be sending you the other film soon as I get the video together. I would feel safer if you returned it to the original owners.

More later as I get the video together.

Jack



5/20/98

Dear Dick:

I am sending along two copies of letters I got from Cushman an Hanson from the 101<sup>st</sup>. They need some information on the barbecue and how signs should be made. As you can see he wants some feed back by the 29<sup>th</sup>.

I have had only one contact from a close former member who said he thought he would be at the 101<sup>st</sup> reunion. I would be willing to make reservations for 4 people and pay for them myself so we would have at least that many dinners covered even if no one but you and me are there. I can eat for two - if I need to. I think that the sign that Cushman proposes is OK too. We will most likely see more action if we are included with them than if we go off on our own. I would really like to tour the Aviation unit and see some of their aircraft etc. but that would only be a small part of the weekends activity. I think that being part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bde would be in our best interests - but let me know what you think we should do.

I have a reservation at the Holiday Inn. I don't think we need to try and do a hospitality suite since I don't think we could afford one. They can carry us. Hell they owe us some because their grunts got into our beer supply at Sally one night and liked to clean us out. They crawled

into our area and carried off a whole bunch of beer which we weren't supposed to have up there anyway. They had a no alcohol policy in the Brigade and we flew it in all the time from the PX in there.

If you know of others who are going to be there check with them about eating with the Brigade and paying for their meal. I will let Cushman know after I hear from you.

I started to work on the actual edit and assembly of the video. I have a technician from the school helping me and we should have something put together in a few more days. We need to work out some way to get the word out to those who want one and get some money to pay for the project. Any thing else we make you can use to offset the investments you have made in the flag etc.

Let me know what we want to say to Cushman.

Jack

Dear Dick:

4/30/98

Just a note to keep you up on what is going on with me. First I just got my copy of the VHPA Newsletter and what do I find on the front cover, a picture of us doing our thing during Yellowstone. Great job getting that picture to them so they can put it on the newsletter. I've made a copy for you so you will have one if no body sends you one. The BW newsletter is great. I hope that it brings more input to the history project. I'm sure that it will.

I have made my reservations for both of the reunions. I will have a buddy of mine with me at the Fort Worth reunion who flew with the Cov and also flew Mowbaws in VN. He is an old aviator friend that we do a lot with socially here in Lawton. We will be there Thursday July 2 before noon and plan on going to the Bell tour. We will be around the hotel that night and on Friday the 3<sup>rd</sup>. We will leave Fort Worth late afternoon Saturday the 4<sup>th</sup> to drive back to Lawton. We may go out to Ft Wolters but we're not sure about that. Neither of us trained at Wolters so we don't have any memories of that part of the aviation school.

I plan to start driving to Campbell on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> of July and arrive there on the 9<sup>th</sup> at about mid day. I plan on making the 1630 Division review but can't say for sure that I'll make it. If we want to be sure that our colors are there you may want to take them and make arrangements to carry them. If you are flying in your schedule will be more firm than mine would be and would insure that the colors get there.

I have talked to Cpt Hanson about getting the BW's involved. They are now Co A, 9<sup>th</sup> Avn BN Commanded by LTC MOORE.

I will try to call him and have them set up some kind of get together. You may want to follow up with both Moore and Hanson to have some activity with the Aviation unit. I would like to see their area and their aircraft and if they are to be involved in the Super Saturday display I would like to observe their preparation for the show. Also if we want to have some dinner/get together we should tag along with other dinners that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bde is setting up. I plan on leaving Campbell after the demonstration on Saturday the 11<sup>th</sup>.

Its about a 12 to 14 hour drive and I plan on getting about 1/4 of the way back

then drive into Oklahoma by Sunday the 12<sup>th</sup> mid day. There are plenty of little towns in Arkansas that I can stay in on the 11<sup>th</sup> and I need to be back around the 12<sup>th</sup>.

The video is coming along slowly. I viewed all of Mr Setzer's film and its mostly of the 190<sup>th</sup> AHC. There is some good stuff of them doing combat assaults with the smoke ship but I think it isn't of us. I will call him and ask him if he knows what that was all about. The rest of his film is R&R and not useful for our project.

I'm glad that there is an interest in the video and I'm going to try to make it a useful historical piece that will show one story. I have your copy of the 2<sup>nd</sup> BDE video. Mr Cushman sent you. I will send all of the film back to you soon so that you can make sure all of the people who sent it gets it back. I will return Setzer directly to him since he sent it directly to me. I may want to use some of his stuff even if its another unit because it is just the same thing we were doing and the smoke ship is neat in his film. I'm going to try to get some video from Richard Green and see if it will fit in with what I have so far.

Anyway I hope that this helps bring you up to date. The flag video is great but the tour of SF didn't come out too well. It might have been the video playback equipment I used because it was taped on 8mm and I had to play it back and retape it on VHS, which is what I have to view the tape.

I have a room at the Holiday Inn and you may want to bunk up with me if you don't have other plans in Clarksville. I had them give me a double room - Non smoking - so let me know if you want to share a place.

I'll keep you up to date. See you in Fort Worth.

Jack

4/5/98

Dear Dick:

I'm sending a front page from our paper that talks about a history being done on the 114<sup>th</sup> AHC. Maybe we need to start a 188<sup>th</sup> Association like they seemed to have done. I will try to contact this guy and see what they have done so far.

I got some pretty good color copies of the medals we were awarded by the RVN Government.

I will use them in the final edit of the video.

I have a friend who is the sports broadcaster for the local TV station. I may be able to get him to help me edit all of the video together and save us some money. I think that we have about as much as we can use unless it is really good stuff. I will send all of the 8mm film back to you to send back to the owners. I have a good clean video of all of it but some of it will not be usable.

Some of it was mixed up with film taken in Germany and some of another unit in VN on another assignment. I will put the 188<sup>th</sup> footage together and add pictures of the unauthorized badges and the medals we were awarded. I plan to end it with the names from the wall. I will start it with the unit flag and put the video together to show us in action. I think

that most of my stuff came out pretty good but there is some stuff that I will cut out. If we have much more than an hour of video most people start to get tired seeing rice paddies.

I will use the AFN radio as background and will try to narrate what I can recognize as places we worked. I think that some of the guys would be interested in a copy of the video once we get it all put together. We can show it in Ft Worth and Ft Campbell.

I have not sent any footnoted copies of Cushman's work back to him. I did send him a letter commenting on the work. I suspect that he would be interested in talking about our support of the Brigade when we see him in July. I will try to contact the Aviation Commander and see if he is interested in hosting something for us since our history continues through "C" Company of the 101<sup>st</sup>. I'll let you know what happens after we make contact.

The story in the June 90 Vietnam magazine was interesting but I don't think it was us. The pictures are our aircraft but I was never near Saigon during Tet. We were all around Cu Chi and the area between Saigon and Cu Chi.

I do think that our guns were sent to Bien Hoa with the Cav and helped save the airfield. They were on call to us and not with us

3

all of the time. We also got some gun coverage from other units from time to time. Would have made a hell of a story but I don't think we did it.

I have no idea where the trophy went for winning the 269<sup>th</sup> Musical contest. I do remember the night we did and the people who did it was lead by our happy Doc Lyle Parker. I think that Ken Pokorski might have been the WO who was with me when I parked a helicopter down in the jungle before I took command. We were #10 and had something let go just after we cleared an LZ and we had no place to go but down into 250 foot deep trees. Auto rotated straight in and pulled pitch only when I couldn't stand it anymore — and plop we were on the ground in bamboo that was 50 foot deep. The ship was the one in my film footage after they pulled it out of the jungle and dropped it off at DT. When they took it to be repaired you can see that the tail rotor is rotating freely so something in the gear box must have let go when we were climbing out.

Just got back from a reunion at Iowa State College where I went to school and was Commissined in the Army. An weekend seeing people who I havent seen in 45 years. The weather is finally getting better and we had our first race yesterday in Oklahoma City.

I did 50 miles in 2 hours and 40 minutes and

hell up pretty well for the first race of the year.

I don't know how I placed since we left right after the ride and results won't be out for a few days.

I think that our lineage information is incorrect since we were part of the 269<sup>th</sup> when we were awarded 3 or 4 Crosses of Honesty and the Silver Action medal. Any one who was wounded is entitled to the wound medal as well. It's the one with the red star. Who ever you are communicating with in Washington might add the VN Crosses when they are informed of our association with the 269<sup>th</sup> and the 1 Avn Bde. Might be worth a try.

I'll keep in touch.

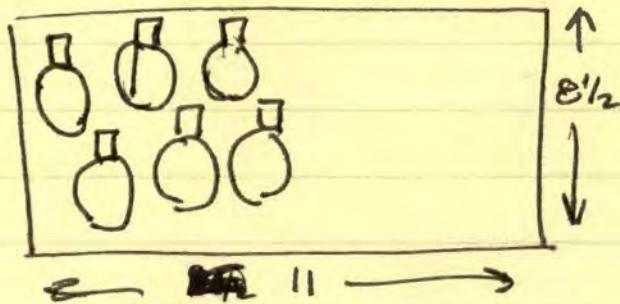
Jack

3/11/98

Dear Dick:

What a load of film and video to go over. I have all of the film transferred to VHS tape now and will go over it to determine what can be put together and make up one tape. I estimate that we will have about an hour and a half of tape when we get it all sorted out. Some of the film is pretty good, some not so good (we were not professional Combat film ~~workers~~) and some of it not usable at all. Some of it was of other units when the person taking the film moved on or went back for a second tour. I need some help from you if you can do it.

I would like to have two lay outs of our pocket patches in color on a white background. Something like this:



with the HQ, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, SPIDER, 4<sup>th</sup> SIC, 154<sup>th</sup> MED  
603<sup>rd</sup> TC & 269<sup>th</sup>. It may take two sheets to  
line them up. You sent me one display of the  
pocket patches that pretty well does what I need.

I am going to use this as the lead into the  
finished tape so all I need is the patches  
from the 188<sup>th</sup> and its attached units.

This transfer of films to video is not cheap. I have spent \$368.00 so far and will have about another \$100.00 before we are all done. They go over all of the films and clean it, cut out bad stuff and work it over before they run it and record it on videotape. I can understand why you need help with this project now that I have put some money into the tape. I hope that someone would want to buy some copies after we are done.

I could use something else for the video. You sent me a copy of a rubbing from the Viet Nam wall which has the names of those who were killed in VN. If you have a clear copy of the rubbing or at least clearer than the copy I have it would be helpful. If not we will make do with what I have.

I plan to use the audio from AFVN Radio and do some voice over dub to narrate the video.

I was able to run down all of the GO's that cover the 269<sup>th</sup>. As you can see we qualified for quite a few VN Crosses. Also there is a Civil Action Honor medal that we should also qualify for as I see it. If you have the lineage documents for the 188<sup>th</sup> I can check out the GO's and get copies. They may have some differences between what we got under the 269<sup>th</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> Avn Bde. I'm sending a catalog from a local store that has some pictures of the medals we would be authorized to wear as a result of the info on the

GO's.

When I get all of the video done I'll send all of the stuff back to you so it can be returned to the original owners.

I remember one night just after I took command when a bunch of the gungies were up drinking and playing "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds" really loud. I think I called the QD and had him turn down the volume on the party so the rest of us could sleep. These I go again being an old hard ass CO. When you think about it I was an old guy then.

I was 35 years old and on a second tour - you guys were 15 years younger and full of it at the time.

I have a full tape of Christmas video - I just didn't go far enough to see it all. I would like to take a copy of our video to Lt Campbell to show to C, 101 Avn Co. I think they would get a kick out of some of it.

It is very hard to research a unit here at Ft Sill. What I need for the GO's that apply to the 308<sup>th</sup> CAB is their lineage document from the Archives. Ft Sill has a library of the GO's issued for each year so if I can get the GO number and year I can get a copy of the GO. I don't think that we get any awards unless we were attached or assigned

at the time of the award. Being OPCON does not make them part of our chain of command.

Many of our awards came through being part of the 1<sup>st</sup> Av Bde as you can see in the GO's I ran down.

If you have a separate copy of the unauthorized patch collection that covers the time from Activation at Campbell until we were deactivated and became C/100\* you might send it to Gen Cushman. We had a long and complete association with the 101<sup>st</sup> and still do today. I want to tie into the current C Company when I go back to the reunion this summer.

I'm sure that Cushman doesn't know that our history and theirs is so interwoven during the time the 100<sup>th</sup> lived.

More to come later — We are going to make a trip up to Omaha to help Nancy's Mother get into a nursing home. Date to go into all of the cold and snow right now but we have to do what we have to do.

Jack

3/16/98

Dear Dick:

It's kind of a slow - damp Presidents day and I'm behind in responding to the information you have been sending me. Wow - what a bunch of info you have run down.

Speaking of damp does are you above water in California? Every report we get here indicates that California is about to slide off into the ocean. I hope that El Niño goes away soon and that you won't have to get into boat building to stay in California.

First - Do you have the video of Gen Cushman's Visit to VB - if not I will send you mine. Do you have volume II of his video? I don't and it seemed that it would be the one that covered LZ Sally and our area. I wrote him a long letter today and told him I was a member of the 101<sup>st</sup> Association and would try to make their reunion in July. I sent the copy of his personal memoir you sent me a copy for me to keep. I have made some notes about the actions he describes and along with the after action report you sent me on our move to LZ Sally it fills in some of our history. I would be glad to send back his memoir if you need it. I made my comments right on the copy you sent me. I also sent some of the comments to Gen Cushman, that should help him fill in his description of what we did for them. His video might be interesting to show

to others at the VHPA reunion in July. Sounds like we might need a theater down there.

I'm sending you copies of GO 21, 8 April 69 and GO 43, 12 Aug 70. They cover award of the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm to the 188<sup>th</sup> and all of its assigned and attached units while we were still with the 1<sup>st</sup> Avn Bde and the VN CoG for the time with the 159<sup>th</sup> after it became part of the 101<sup>st</sup> on 1 July 68. So we do have an award to let others know about if they didn't already know or at this time even care.

→ I have made some marginal notes on the after action report of our move that you sent me.

I had forgotten that we did that, but hell I forgot about what I had for breakfast now so not remembering how detailed that report was shouldn't be a surprise. It was fun to read over our move again. There are pictures of the advanced party trip to Da Nang, Cp Eagle and LZ Sally in my photo album. I did get it back, I forgot to tell you. There are movie pictures of that trip as well. When you compare what we did to the 17<sup>th</sup> AHC (sister co in the 303<sup>rd</sup>) we did one hell of a job to move and get operational in the time we did it. You may not know it but the aircraft that Jim Moreyman had as his C & C was one of ours because it was an H model. I had to take his new aircraft away from him when we

Moved. As I recall we made it the Maintenance Commanders ship when we got it back. We had two or three aircraft at DT that were skeletons when we got the order to move and all of them flew out within a week of the order to move. Cannot believe it when I think about it now. Its a good thing we were young then because I sure couldn't do that again now.

You mentioned Operation Yellowstone. As I recall it was 25<sup>th</sup> Div move to area north of Tay Ninh and was when we got into it with FSB Bert. We did mostly an administrative move of people and equipment when the operation started. It was planned by the 269<sup>th</sup> Bn staff so they should have an Ops plan and after action report in the archives.

Operation Delaware was where we supported the 101<sup>st</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> Cav Div as they went into the A Shau Valley. We made CA's in an LZ where FSB Jagal was established. It was a hot-hot LZ. Had to go in the LZ in flights of 5. We were third lift in - #11 aircraft to land and #10 was rolling side to side down LZ infant of me when we approached. We off loaded troops and pulled over to #10 and loaded wounded - taking fire all of the time. That was the day the 17<sup>th</sup> lost an aircraft out there somewhere and it was never heard from again. The note on page 5 of the Ops report, 308<sup>th</sup> CAB for period 30 April 68 shows 6 people missing on UH-1H lost on 21 April 68. They were hauling in follow up loads and never came back.

In one of your letters you mentioned a VN Cross from the 269<sup>th</sup> CAB. I don't remember one from them but it still has a pretty good library of GO's so if you need a CO or copy of one let me know and I can see if I can find one.

Thanks for info on 101<sup>st</sup> VN Vets association. I'll get in touch with them and see if they want an old helicopter pilot as a member.

I haven't heard anything from Spudlin on his action to get a PT above you any more? If not we need to get him to come up to Ft Worth during the reunion and talk to him.

I see in the after action report that you highlighted the fact that we had a sundry land. You ~~but~~ we did and we used it to store stuff for both em and office clubs. I think we were only one of units in the 308<sup>th</sup> that had one. They were too lazy to get one started and take advantage of funds available. On page 9 of Op report you had highlighted the physical security requirements we were required to provide at LZ Sally. We had to man nine fighting bunkers each night, 3 men each for total of 18 men a night. We had one big command bunker in the grove yard just south of our position at Sally. We covered most of the south and South East side of LZ Sally. We built a big old bunker right on top

of one of those circular UN groves. We had a mini gun on top of it and had lots of fu gas and Claymore mines that could be detonated from the Command bunker.

A few days after we got to Sally I reconned the barbed wire fence around our area. It had big entance routes that anyone could have walked right into our area. Its a good thing that no sappers made an attack on us when we were just getting into Sally. Thats when we put out more mines, tripflairs and fu gas.

On page 10 of the Op Report, 308<sup>th</sup> they talk about maintenance and light discipline. We had a real problem at first because of all the maintenance had to be done on the airstrip at Sally where the Maint Det had set up. If you remember the air strip was right up on top of the whole area that LZ Sally was made up of. You didn't need to have a light on to be seen at night at the Maint Det.

I saw Jim Murray last week here at Ft Sill. We had a big fire support conference and he came back as a Field Artillery representative. He looks great and was enthusiastic about your work. So am I.

Im waiting for the film and video. Thats really great info on our move and set up with the 308<sup>th</sup>. Keep in touch.

Jack

11/19/98

Dear Dick:

Quick note to let you know that Tim Cheshman and I have been in contact and are exchanging info on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bde and the 188<sup>th</sup>. He sent me a video of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bde up to LZ Sally. Do you have one? I just sent him a letter to see if he has a Vol 2 of LZ Sally on. He also sent a copy of this flyer and asked that we try to get it to as many of the 188<sup>th</sup> and its attached units as possible. What do you think we can do on this? I am going to try to make it out to the 101<sup>st</sup> reunion if I can.

Cheshman also sent information on the award of the VN Cross of Gallantry w/palm awarded to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bde. We should have been included. I am going to go to the Post AG and take a copy of his letter and see what we need to do to get the 188<sup>th</sup>, 603d TC, 4<sup>th</sup> Sig and the 154<sup>th</sup> Med detachments added to the order. As far as I can remember that was all of the units attached to the 188<sup>th</sup> at the time. If not let me know. We had some sort of Armanant detachment were they part of the 603d?

I've made my reservation at Fort Worth, now I'm waiting to see if Nancy wants to go along.  
More later,

Jack

Dear Dick:

1/14/98

I am sure glad I got your note of 1/10/98 because I had taken my film to Targus Video on Monday and told them to make a video copy. I went in yesterday and they had cleaned and checked the film but had not started to copy it yet. I work with the owner of the business on the Chamber of Commerce Sports Promotion Committee so they will work with us on putting our videos together.

They haven't offered to give us a price break so far but they may give us some editing help for free when we put it together. I asked about computer generated titles and credits and they said no problem in doing that. They will not copy the bad parts of the film but I'm not sure what we can do about some of the one to one verticle bounce that the helicopter had because of blade track being a little out. They can produce video copies in about any number we would want so if often we get this all together we can make them available to anyone who wants one. Their prices seemed reasonable for making copies - about \$20.00 for a full tape. They charge 12¢ per foot of 8mm film and I had about 1400 feet of film.

Jack Cushman has contacted me twice since he talked to you. He really wants me to join the 101<sup>st</sup> Association and attend their reunion following the VNHPA reunion. I'm not sure that I can get out to the 101<sup>st</sup> following the VNHPA meeting but I am interested in getting involved with the VN 101<sup>st</sup> Association. I'm old but not old enough to be involved with w w II. returns of the 101. I hope that you have some information on joining that association that you can send.

(2)

I will be happy to go over any of your material or the material from Jack Clashman. He said something about sending part of it to all of our people. That might be a little bit too much of a project.

I have received the first volume of the VHPH Historical Reference Directory. I have ordered the second volume and they are shipping it to me later. Volume I covered a bunch of my first tour with the UTT and the 145<sup>th</sup> CAB. There is a history of the 116<sup>th</sup> AHC which was a sister company in the 269<sup>th</sup> when we were in DT. They were in Cai Chi and the two CO's I worked with were Bobby G. Franklin and Al Woodruff. Bobby retired as a two star general. I didn't think he did any better with the 116<sup>th</sup> than we did with the 188<sup>th</sup>. If you do not have a copy of the Volume I I will send it to you. It has some interesting stuff in it. The front cover has a picture of H-21<sup>s</sup> being used in combat assaults. I got my first tour film out and there we are covering H-21<sup>s</sup> which was really a job because they were so underpowered. Couldn't get them to fly in a tight formation and when they came out of an LZ they came out almost single file so covering them with our guns was almost impossible.

I have no recall of being called the "Bastards of Vietnam" The maintenance people may have called us Bastards because of what we did to our aircraft but no other memory of that title for the unit. It might make for an interesting comparison since the 101<sup>st</sup> was known as the "Battling Bastards of Bastone" but I can't give you any help with supporting that title.

I will be staying at the Worthington Hotel

in Fort Worth so we will have a HQ for the 100th to meet. I don't think that Nancy is going to be interested in coming down with me but I might have an Aviator buddy who lives here and flew with the Caw who will bunk up with me. I am going to the Bell tour as well. I went through the Bell plant in 1963 when we picked up some new "B" model UH-1s for Fort Worth. I was one of the original bunch that qualified in the UH-1A or YH-40 which it was when I qualified. I still have my original certificate of qualification from the Bell Co somewhere.

Looking forward to getting the history and video from Chishman. Will try to help out on anything we were involved in that doesn't show it in his work. Keep up the good work.

Jack

Dear Dick:

1/10/98

Quick note to tell you that I got a letter (copy) of the letter Lyle Parker sent you. ~~he~~ sounds like he might have something to help you.

I sure hope that he and Bob Spauldin do take action to submit a request for the file. His replacement showed up at the same time I was leaving the 188th. I think that there is a picture of Phil Snodgrass in the bunch of pictures in my album. I already told you about Parkers wife and her adventures during TET. She was a real adventurer.

Yesterday morning I got a call from LTG (R) Jack Chudson. What a surprise!!

He was really surprised that you are putting together a unit history and indicated that he would try to get us a copy of his memories and a video he made when he returned VN in 1986.

He remembers when we arrived at LZ S and some of the actions we took part in while he commanded the brigade. He was

interested in having me get involved in the 101<sup>st</sup> Association. He was interested in the VN Dept Assoc reunion in Ft Worth and wanted me to try to attend the 101<sup>st</sup> Convention the following week in Ft Glegg, Ky. I just might be interested in trying to do some of that. I don't have any info on the 101<sup>st</sup> Association and I remember that you said you do. Please send me anything you have on location where I can contact them. The 108<sup>th</sup> lineage still goes on in the 101 since the C company in the Aviation Bn is still there. I think that the 159<sup>th</sup> may have also been involved in forming their Aviation Bn at the Div but I'm not sure of that.

Anyway I'd be doing a favor to you if I could get a copy of the film. So we should have a good copy of the film. Now we need to gather up all of the gang. Many thanks.

More later.

Jack

145  
41  
185  
172  
357



1/15/98

Dear Dick:

Thanks for sending the book on the special forces operation. Both of his books sound a lot alike and may have been a whole lot of operations condensed into one fight. I'm sure that some of the people we supported were the ones who fought with the mobile force.

I do not need to have either of the books I sent to you returned. I hope that you might be able to get some names and dates when we supported them. According to Merriman our gens were at TSN with the Cov during Tet. I'm not surprised that Gritz doesn't have much to do with anyone else's history. He was a pretty crazy fellow. I had him in the C&C all day everyday for over a month when supported them out of Tay Ninh.

I was his personal pilot during that time and we flew everywhere when he didn't have patrols out in Cambodia or along the border. I remember three or four big fights we got into during the time we hauled them around out of TN. One was one where they had several of the Americans wounded and several killed as well as a bunch of bodies. That was the fight when Grie Cockett got shot through the foot flying one of our gun ships. I was at the hospital in TN when they all came back out of the PZ and were treated in the E&E hospital.

Good news about the records from the archives.

I remember that we had to fill out all sorts of reports daily and send them to battalion. Poor old Dan Kingman, later killed North of Hue, had to put together all of our reports for a fact hungry battalion under

command of a guy called Ed Todd. He followed Merriman and really wanted to be the hero of the helicopter war. Didn't much care for him and was glad to move out of DT for the 101<sup>st</sup> when the order came.

Dick don't worry about the video - I will have it done by a professional here in Lawton and will have them cut out the bad stuff. I will look over all of my old film to make sure that I have all of the stuff from the 188<sup>th</sup>. I have a bunch of film from my first tour and I may have some of it mixed up. That first try at recording was just to see if any of it was any good. I think the film has held up well for being over 30 years old. Maybe we can use the film during the reunion in July.

I will be looking forward to seeing you and any of the other BW's that will be there. If you could send out a form letter to all of the BW's you have addresses on it, might help get a bunch together. Maybe we can all pitch in a few bucks to help put the history together. I am willing to help out and insure that others would do so if they knew you needed help.

I remember driving down the highway from Sally to Law. In fact there is some film of that in the video I sent you. I don't remember getting shot at but we sure could have - the road was one big ambush waiting to happen. I can't believe that I took that trip just to see the country from a jeep instead of a helicopter - Croozy!!

Now that winter has hit Lewiston there's not much like weather available so I have time to do some other things. There is a big few support conference at St. Silt in Feb and usually Maymon comes out for it. I will try to see him then and get him to help us. Anything you need from him let me know.

Hope that you and Karma have a great New Year. As for the 49'ers - you have two Cowboy fans here. I understand how you can be confused about the best teams in the NFL. Anyway - now that the Boys are going to be rebuilding - good luck against the Packers - it will be one hell of a game next week.

Keep in touch,

Jack Johnson

12/10/97

Dear Dick:

I wrote to both Spauldin and Doc Parker but haven't heard any thing from them. I do hope that Doc will take action to put in for his P.H. As I read the regulation he has to initiate the paper work at this late date if he is to be considered for one. Doc Parker indicated that he would be happy to support any submission for Bob. I hope that Doc will be able to help you with some of the medical aspects of our history. He indicated that he used a lot of penicillin on some pesky diseases that the local female population passed on to our trench. I'm sure he did and I'm glad he didn't tell me at the time. He also said that he did some local surgery that I had no idea he was doing. I guess that maybe a lot of things went on that I didn't know about.

I'm sending along a couple of books that cover other operations while we were in the thick of it. You may be able to piece together our part of their action. I'm sure that we were in the fight for TSN airbase because we were all over between Salgon and Chu Chi during Tet. The info on the special forces may give some names that could provide some help as well. Although this special forces operation was about 1 year before we supported them out of Toy Ninh it sounds like the same group of fighters. They were all Cambodian with only a few Americans with them.

Hope that things are well with you during the holidays. My daughter and the grand kids get here next week for a few days and then we go to Omaha to be with Nancy's Mother for Christmas. She is soon to be 95 so she cannot get out much to come see us.

I hope that we don't get one of those Blue Norther snow storms while we are up there.

Bicycle season is about over for me. Had a pretty good year and got a few more medals to put into a box. The National Senior Olympics in Tucson was a blast. I can't believe how good some of those old guys are. They pinned my ears back in some races out there. I was surprised and pleased to be selected by the United States Cycling Federation as a 1991 All American Masters rider. I really thank my buddies for taking time to nominate me to the USCF.

Dick you and Karma have a happy holidays and a very prosperous and healthy New Year. Keep up the good work.

Jack Johnson

THIS IS WHERE THE 3/4 CAV SUPPORTED BY OUR GUN'S (AS TOLD TO ME BY JIM MERRIMAN) GOT INTO THE FIGHT FOR TAN SON NHUT. GLEN OTIS AND I SERVED TOGETHER IN THE PENTAGON IN 68-71. HE RETIRED AS A

FOUR STAR. HE WAS ALSO CHIEF OF ARMOR CENTER AS HE MOVED THROUGH HIS CAREER. NO CALL SIGNS FOR GUNS SO CAN'T TELL WHO WAS THERE BY THIS HISTORY. MERRIMAN TOLD ME WE STOOD DOWN OUR GUNS ON DAY BEFORE TET BY ORDER OF GEN WILLIAMS. THEY KNEW SOMETHING WAS COMING.

(2)

Hope that things are well with you during the holidays. My daughter and the grand kids got here next week for a few days and then we go to Omaha to be with Nancy's Mother for Christmas. She is soon to be 95 so she cannot get out much to come see us. I hope that we don't get one of those Blue Norther snow storms while we are up there.

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Dick you and Karma have a happy holidays and a very prosperous and healthy New Year. Keep up the good work.

Jack Johnson

11/5/97

Dear Dick:

Good show - sounds like JM did what he said he would do. I'm sorry to say that over the years I've tossed away all of the stuff I had from VN except the photos and a few other things mostly from my first tour with the UTT. I'm going to send a book on the UTT to the data base chairman of VHFA that has pictures and names of all of the people in the unit during the 63-64 time period. It may help someone.

When we moved North to Sally we were attached to the 16<sup>th</sup> CAB, as I recall, and were Opcon to the 101<sup>st</sup> at first. Then the 308<sup>th</sup> was formed and then we went to the 159<sup>th</sup> ASHB when the CH-47's got over to the 101<sup>st</sup>. I don't have anything from those units in the way of patches or newsletters except the one I sent you. I do remember Bill Roberts and he may be in some of those later photos in my book. There are several pictures of the 159<sup>th</sup> staff in our O-Club/dinner room at Camp Eagle. I will get in contact with him.

I was very much aware of Chuck Steens death in Virginia after his tour. I was in the pentagon at the time and had talked to him after he got back. In fact I had seen him once while he was here. He had been out to dinner with some friends and got on the freeway going the wrong way down around Campton Station and got hit head on by another vehicle. It was a real confusing intersection and its easy to see how he got

on the freeway going the wrong direction. He was in a little VW bug and he did not stand up too well against a big old station wagon. He was a real smart guy and would have done well I'm sure in the future.

Your right I'm not listed under the 308<sup>th</sup> but I am under the HHC 159<sup>th</sup> ASHB, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN. The 308<sup>th</sup> may have been redesignated before I got there, I can't remember. I'll look over my old assignment record and see what it says.

I remember that we had to train in a Daily Journal on each day's operations. Number of missions flown, Ammos expended, body count etc as I recall. They went to the 269<sup>th</sup> and they put together a Consolidated daily report on the 187<sup>th</sup>, 116<sup>th</sup>, 188<sup>th</sup> and any other unit assigned to the 269<sup>th</sup>. This might be good information to have. The general orders are orders cut for awards, transfers, assignments etc. This might be good historical information to have but since it comes from the 269<sup>th</sup> it will have all 269 units not just the 188<sup>th</sup>.

The Operations planning files would be all of the formal operations we went on when tasked by the 269<sup>th</sup>. This is what Zugsmith and Lembo did in the 269<sup>th</sup>. They might be interested in obtaining this information and since they live in the DC area they might be willing to contribute this as their part of our history. It would be worth a try. I understand Zugsmith has done very well financially after he got out of the service and might be able to buy us some copies out of his small change.

Dick → I don't remember that the smoke ship went with us up to Sally. It was a 269<sup>th</sup> C-model with the smoke kit on it and we all flew at in support of other units. I flew it a couple of times before I left the 269<sup>th</sup> and moved up to the 188<sup>th</sup> at DT. That was some flying. We would go as fast as we could, right down on the deck and go right between the bad guys and what ever we were trying to do for the supported troops. Most of the time it was for a Combat assault or more likely trying to get a Med evac in to some unit that had really got into trouble and we were trying to get them out. I remember flying up a tree line and putting down smoke so a unit from the 25<sup>th</sup> that had walked into an ambush could break out and bring a bunch of KIA's they had suffered. We would pull pitch until we started to pull off RPM and that was as fast as old smokey would go. It got shot up all of the time and really had some hairy experiences in getting it back to Cu Chi. Since I had already got a PH from my first tour I really didn't mind flying it was a lot of fun because you were out there by yourself and the VC would really open up on you. I'm happy that you have gotten some response from your letter to the VHPD. I'm sending along a copy of your letter in the newsletter.

I'm going to send you a copy of the 1997 Membership directory. You will most likely be able to use it more than I will. You indicated that

they would not send you a copy so here is mine.

I'm also sending a thing I found on locating  
Vets on the inter net. I got it from the VFW -  
it may or may not be helpful.

I ordered the first two historical books from  
the VHPA. Sounds like it might be interesting reading.  
Do you have copies of the first two volumes? If  
not after I get them I can make them available  
to you.

I watched the SF 49<sup>ers</sup> / Dallas game  
last week and your weather looked good. We  
go to Dallas in a couple of weeks and go to the  
Red skin game and the way Dallas is playing we'll  
get beaten again. I suppose you are a 49<sup>er</sup> fan.

I really plan on making the VHPA convention  
in Fort Worth next July. Might be a good time to hold  
a 188<sup>th</sup> reunion.

Keep in touch.

Jack

10/20/97

Dear Dick:

I did have some success in locating Doctor Parker and it wasn't an easy task. I talked to him this morning and he was excited about what you are doing and indicated that he would help. He said he had pictures and a journal of things that happened while he was an doc. I told him that you would get in touch and send him some information on what's going on. Here is his vital data:

DR L. ALLEN PARKER

(note name adjustment)

WORK

FAX

HOME



He moved from California to NC two years ago. He married a younger lady who had connections in NC and he said he had some younger children in school so he has to continue to practice to support them.

I got his address off of the inter net from the AMA listing of doctors. I did get his full address in California (Artesia) but when I called them they told me he had moved two years ago. They didn't have any forwarding address they wanted to give out so back to the inter net. The listing there gave his bio and it fit pretty well like

②

He graduated from Med school in 66 and was in VN in 67. It also went along with his new name listing of L. Allen ect. so I called him and made contact.

I told him about Bob Spradlin and he indicated he would give us a statement that would back up the need for medical treatment. I will send Doc a copy of Bob's letter of May 97 along with information on award of the PW. The way I read the regulation it will be up to Bob to submit. I'm sending you a copy of the reg as well highlighted at parts that should cover this situation. We can get whatever information we have to Bob and then support him as needed. I cannot remember the event but I will support an application as if it was yesterday. I hope that the medical records that were generated at Fort Sill have some indication of treatment for facial wounds in them. This would be the best bet for getting the award. I checked at the hospital and they have no records that go back that far. But if Bob arrived w/o records they would have started a new branch and he should still have access to them since he has remained active in the Guard after getting out of the Active Army.

Sorry to hear that some of our guys aren't over this VN experience and ready to move on. I can just guess at what some of them

must have gone through after they got home. Don't let some one else's anger get to you. This project should help to relieve some of the bad feelings about what happened to them. We had a great group of folks who worked and fought hard, their story needs to be told. Doc told me he used a lot of penicillin combating Clap which tells me some body was doing more than fighting with the locals.

I hope J.M. can give you some help. How much are we talking about for copies of extraction reports? Maybe we can get copies of just the stuff we were involved in or maybe the 101<sup>st</sup> Division Association might have copies of all of their engagements that they would share. Don't be afraid to ask him for help - he is the kind of guy that would try to get some help for you.

Everything goes well here. The bicycle racing season is almost over but we have one more event here at Ft. Sill. I'm helping them put together the Military National Mountain Bike Championship which will go off on the 22 of November. I won't ride but I'm helping them organize the event. It should be a lot of fun and we have a super course picked out. It's tough but fair for a championship course.

Let me know if I can do anything more.

Sincerely,  
Jack

9/16/97

Mailed  
info - Kim Kett  
269th PIR into  
to J.M. 9/21/97

Dear Dick:

Thanks for giving me the latest address for Jim Merriman. I called him and had a long conversation about the 188<sup>th</sup>, Jim MacWhorter and many other things that happened while he was CO of the 269<sup>th</sup>. He wasn't aware of the fact that I was in Lewiston and told me he makes several trips a year out here to get sick. He indicated that he would call me next time he is in town and we will get together for a visit.

His full address is [REDACTED]

He told me that both

John Zugsworth and Matt Kimbrod, the S-3 shop of the 269<sup>th</sup>, were living in the DC area. He said to tell you to contact him and send anything you want to about the 188<sup>th</sup> and he would try to help make it complete and accurate. He would also give you the address and phone number of Zugsworth and Kimbrod who might have some recall of the events the 188<sup>th</sup> was involved with from the time they joined the 269<sup>th</sup>. These two guys were the ones who gave us our missions each day.

Jim indicated that after the mortar attack he had no choice to handle the situation other than relieve the commander. He had told the CO to disperse the aircraft all over the camp and had approval each parking place in cooperation with the CO. They went to each place and agreed that it was a good place to park an aircraft and keep it out of reach of the village which came right up to our fence. They were aware of the fact that the village was more VC

then friendly and they were worried about a sapper or RPG attack which was quite possible. He also told me that the concern for the potential loss of aircraft went all the way up to 12<sup>th</sup> Group Commander and Gen Williams. Murphyman wanted to put the 188<sup>th</sup> at Tay Ninh with the 187<sup>th</sup>. There was more room and security at that base camp. He lost out as dispersion was the key to survival at DT. When they parked all the aircraft on the run way the target got so tempting that the VC couldn't pass up the opportunity to shell them.

I'm sure you remember that it got so bad the month before Oct 68 that anytime we landed on the refuel line we got ~~water~~ rounds on us. We also got hit by RPG's on the maintenance ramp often. I took command and it was only because I had not let more than two aircraft at a time be worked on that I would have been relieved of command. We had all aircraft in revetments and only the minimum allowed on the ramp or I would have been gone. The next morning I had everyone from MACV to 269<sup>th</sup> on the ramp and they were after someones butt.

Murphyman told me that McWhorter really didn't want to command a helicopter unit and felt that he would do better as CO of the fixed wing (L-19) observation unit at Tay Ninh. Murphyman felt that Mac did OK but he needed a lot of support to keep the company functioning. I really felt that being offered the command of the

188<sup>th</sup> was a super opportunity. I had the opportunity to command the CH-47 unit at Phu Loi, the 205<sup>th</sup> I think was the number, and I really wanted to be the CO of the 188<sup>th</sup>.

Merryman told me that on the day before the Tet attack, Jan 29/30 '68 time frame, he got a call from Gen Williams who told him something big was coming. He grounded all gun ship missions and instructed all CO's to get their guns up, maintenance wise, so that every thing that could fly would be available. I was told that all the guns would be under control of the 269<sup>th</sup> who would deploy them. They were made op con to Troop C, 3<sup>rd</sup> of the 4<sup>th</sup> Cav which was the unit that broke the back of the attack on Tan Son Nhut air base. This is also covered in a book I just read called "Battle for Saigon" 'Tet 1968' by Keith William Nolan, Copyright 1996.

We were supporting the 25<sup>th</sup> Div around Con Chi without the guns and they were at TSN. I wasn't aware of the fact that LTC Glen O'tis was the CO of the 3/4 Cav. He and I played handball as partners in the Pentagon after I got back from VN.

He became a 4 star general and was commandant of the Army school before he retired. That may be something you want to look into.

We sure helped him save TSN but the book and history does not say a thing about the 188<sup>th</sup> guns being there. It (the book) does mention the 334<sup>th</sup> Cobras being

(4)

there which was the first unit I flew with in 64/65, then called the UTT.

I have looked into what needs to be done to get a Purple Heart for Bob Sprodlin. It's a pretty complicated process that requires a lot of written back up from witnesses. I'm not sure that we could get all of that unless we are able to find Joe Parker and get a statement from him. I tried to write him and got my letter back as undeliverable at the address you had. I called him, he was out flying, and I asked that he call me back and we will talk about his PH.

I have packed my photo album in this envelop. The first page of two is my house in the 269<sup>th</sup> housing Area. I was so short at that time was so high they made me a stool to stand on. The rest of the pictures are of the 100<sup>th</sup> both North and South. The last part is the 159 ~~th~~ Bn at the 10<sup>th</sup> Ban Camp. Also so pictures at the Pentagon after I got back.

Hope that this will help. Looks like the VNHPA association reunion will be in St. Worth next year. I can make that one. Keep in touch.

Jack Johnson

7/20/97

Dear Dick:

Congratulations on your marriage. It sounds like it will be one to remember. The number of people who have gone on to do other things after their short Army experience is something to wonder. I just don't connect up door gunner and minister for example.

I know that many kids (and we were when we were in VN) changed into much different occupations when they got back to the real world. I'm extremely happy for you two and wish you the very best in life.

We have done some of the same things lately. Nancy and I went with another VN Aviator and his wife to Ft. Rucker and Florida in late April. He flew gun ships with the Cow and Mohawks during his two tours. We spent a day at Rucker going through the museum and around to all the old places we flew out of while we were stationed there. We went on down to Miami and got on a ship and went to Nassau in the Bahamas. We went on the NCL Leeward and had a really good time. I didn't win anything on the boat and put part of what others won into the machines. The only other cruise we made in our life was when we went to Germany in 1958 on a Navy transport used to haul troops back and forth to Europe. We spent eleven days on the North Atlantic in March and the trip and crew support we got was nothing like a trip to the Bahamas. I could really learn to like the new way to go places by modern cruise ship.

I went to Tucson for the National Senior Olympics in May and found out where the tough old guys are when it comes to doing athletic stuff when you over 60. There were 540 cyclists representing their states and there were 98 in my age group. Wouldn't you know it was the largest age group in the competition. We all did our best and I was able to place consistently at 44<sup>th</sup> out of the 98, so I was about middle of the pack. One of my riding buddies placed 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> in two of the events and was the best of the Oklahoma bunch. We did four races in 3 days and it was a blast.

Dick I will be glad to mail all of my pictures out to you and you can go over them and copy any you want. I do not have any of the negatives left since we moved around in the Army from 67 to 77 when I retired and after a while you pitch things out that aren't essential when it came time to PCS to a new place. The Change of command at Sally was taken by the 101<sup>st</sup> PTO. I would think that Hank Apier would have been the last person to have had the 188<sup>th</sup> Company banner and he would have had it when the Company became C 101. He just might have kept it or sent it off to where ever old banners are kept when units are deactivated. Have you been able to contact Hank? He made full Colonel and was in the Pentagon in about 1971 when I left

my job there to go to Lt Leonard Wood to command a battalion. I didn't ever run into him again but I saw where he went from time to time. Have you tried to get into touch with Jim Merriman? We would be able to fill in a lot of information about what happened to the 188<sup>th</sup> when they were in VN. It was under his battalion command the whole time. He is retired and living in the Washington DC area. If you want me to I could see if I could contact him. He was not only my CO but a good friend before and after we were in VN. He had been to my house in Washington several times after we were in the Pentagon as he became Chief of Army Aviation.

Dick I feel strongly that many of our people didn't get recognition for the stuff we did. It shouldn't be too hard to get some one a purple heart if the wound is reported on the Unit Wounding report. I don't know what we would need to do but I would be glad to help out in any way possible to get some one an award that is due them. If you can provide a list of those who are due and something to substantiate the date, time, place of the wound I would think that we could get them approved. I would be glad to see what we could get done through the AG here at Ft. Sill. You know we have the base right here in Lawton. Let me know what to do and we'll try to get

it done. Do we know where some of these folks are now days?

I didn't make the VHPA meeting in Florida. Too much other traveling right now. Maybe when they get closer to Oklahoma I'll be able to make it. I am sending some information on my first unit in VD to the association. It includes a year book with everyone's picture and name and the unit they were assigned to. That might help someone doing a history of the UTT if someone is doing one.

I've got your new address and you have mine now so keep in touch. I hope that others are helping get you the information you need. The story needs to be told and I'm sure you will soon put an outstanding product. Thanks for all of your effort and thanks to Karma as well.

Sincerely,

Jack

1/9/97

Dear Dick:

I hope that you are having a good start on the new year. The pictures of the 188<sup>th</sup> area and Dan Truong bring back a bunch of memories but none that would help you with the history I'm afraid. Some of the area mainly the web was changed after the North attack. I remember when I got there the aircraft were all over the whole area and we had a devil of a time going out in the morning and finding the aircraft. The only aircraft we could bunch up were the ones in maintenance which was near the end of the one runway/parking area down by the west main gate. That is the area where we got all shot up one night with RPG's and lost two or three aircraft right after I took over command. The 12<sup>th</sup> Avn Gp Commander and a bunch of others came in that morning to hang me but because we had done everything we were supposed to do, ie aircraft in revetments and no more than the max allowed which was three, I didn't lose my command on the spot. It was close because of the past ~~water~~ attack they were ready to hang someone. They, the VC/NVA came right up to the fence and in front of a 25<sup>th</sup> Div. bunker with guards to protect us shot the hell out of our maintenance area. The 25 Div guards just got down in the bunker and didn't return fire

until it was all over with. The maintenance crews were really mad at them for not returning fire when the first RPG went off.

I think that you will get some good information from Joe Sites. He moved on to the 269<sup>th</sup> when McWhorter moved on so I didn't know him too well. Chuck Graham was the XO for me and he didn't stay with us when we went North so I didn't have much time with him either. I did talk to McWhorter and I will take a copy of your last "BLACK WIDOWS" letter and send them both a copy along with a personal note seeking help from them. Maybe that will move them to send in at least some information on awards etc. I will also hit Hank Holtzhausen again and see if I can't get him involved. He was with us a short time before we went North but he may just have something.

Dick you are doing a great job of gathering information and trying to pull together the story of the 188<sup>th</sup>. I was very proud to have been the Commanding Officer of the unit and I appreciate the job you are doing. I know that it is costing you a great deal in not only time but your own personal finances so I'm sending along a little money order to help you out.

I don't think that this in any way will compensate you for your work but it may help out a little.

Have you had any luck locating the Doctor who was with the 154<sup>th</sup> Med. He was a real character and had a wife just as wild. I wonder how they are doing now. His wife was in Saigon when ~~Ter~~ went off and was in the middle of a lot of the action around the embassy. She lived there in an apartment that the Doc got. He moved her to Bangkok after ~~Ter~~ and I took a bunch of stuff to her when I went on R&R just before the Change of Command at LZ Sally.

I will try to help get the others to help you by sending in some info. Keep up the good work. When you get anything down send it along and I might be able to help fill in some of the details when my memory is refreshed by the history you have at hand.

Sincerely  
Jack Johnson

12/20/96

Dear Dick:

I just wanted to let you know that things are still going well in Lewiston and I have been trying to dig up more information for you and UNHPA. I hope that things are going well with you and that you are ready for a happy holiday season.

I did get in touch with Jim McWhorter and did my best to lay a guilt trip on him for not getting you more information. He said he had received your letters but just had not gotten around to going through his footlocker storage in the attack to see what he had. He didn't make a full and vigorous pledge to get after it but he did seem to be more interested now. He did let me know that our XO Dan Graham is living in Enterprise, Ala. He was an instructor at Fort Rucker after he got out of the Army. He was the XO when Jim was CO and left us to DEDOS just before we went North. He may have been with the unit from its first organization at Ft ~~Campbell~~ <sup>Campbell</sup>. You might be able to get into contact with him. We plan on a trip to Ft Rucker next year in April. I will try to contact him as well.

I am a member of UNHPA now and got their membership directory the other day. I spent a number of hours looking up names of people I knew and had lost contact with over the years. I also found out that Ken Gritz, past president, was a flight school classmate of mine in 1955. I sent them some more information on my class since they didn't have any in the directory. I also found that there are several members here in the Lewiston areas

as well.

I am going to work at getting you a better copy of the film I have of the unit. I didn't get McWhorter's address but if you have it send it to me. I will make some copies of the photos that I have with him in them during the Change of Command. That may help move him into action as well. Any time you want to use any of my stuff let me know and I'll mail it to you to use as you need. The ~~few~~ pictures I made for you were pretty bad and the originals are in color.

I have had a good year cycling and I sending a couple of newspaper articles. You might get a kick out of seeing how an old guy can still do pretty good.

I hope that you all have a good holiday season and find nothing but happiness in 1997.

I will keep in touch and see if I can't find a few more to help you.

Sincerely,  
Jack

5/19/97

Dear Dick:

I have not been too good at keeping up with you because we have been pretty busy for the last six months.

I sent letters to McWhorter and called him as well. I sent a letter to Chuck Graham but have not called him. I sent a letter to Lyle Parker but the letter came back indicating that the address was insufficient. I contacted a couple of my doctor friends here locally and asked them to see if there was a directory of doc's that would have his current address. They were unable to help me out with anything better in way of locating him. If these guys would help out I'm sure that they could fill in a lot of gaps.

We took a trip to Florida a couple of months back and stopped in at Ft. Lauderdale to look around. They have a really great museum with a lot of historical aircraft. We spent about a half a day there looking around. The old post has changed a great deal since we were there and everything is helicopter now with very few fixed wing aircraft. It was fun to look at the old training fields and the quarters we used to live in.

I did not write down your new address after I got your last letter. Sorry about that.

I hope that the post office department will continue to forward things on to you until

I got my stuff together and get your new address down. By the way I'm moving into a new place in about three weeks, my new address is: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] We got a new patio home with a lot less yard to take care of.

While I was going through some stuff getting ready to move I found an old copy of the 308<sup>th</sup> BN newsletter and guess what there is an article about the 188<sup>th</sup>. There are a couple of names of crew which Moya may not help.

I also found a year book out of the UTT Armed Company which I served my first tour with. I'm sending it off to the VN Helicopter Association.

It has pictures and names of all of the members of the unit for 1964. They may have someone doing the same thing for them and this might help.

Sounds like you are making good progress on the history. Also best of luck in your marriage to Karma. Has she gotten tired of working on the history yet? It is important to keep up the good work. Please send your new address again and I will copy it down.

Keep in touch,

Jack

Mailed  
6/16/19

7/23/96

Dear Dick:

I havent forgotten you I just have been real busy lately and have not taken time to return letters in response to your mail.

You may use anything I have sent to you for any purpose you deem important in carrying on your research into the 180<sup>th</sup>. Anything I have to say is public information and if it helps you or anyone else that's fine. I just didn't feel that what we did at FSB Bunt was that big a deal since we did things like that all the time. I can recall that during our approaches into/out of FSB Bunt we took fire from everywhere. The 50 Cal stuff was particularly impressive because they do look like basketballs coming up at you. You could always tell the 50's or 12.8 mm (I think that was the Chi Com size) because they would go straight up to 3 or 4,000 feet, the 30's would start to bend over and arc at about 1500 or so. The 50's were big, and loud and looked green to me when they came our way. From the side they were red like other tracer rounds. No doubt they were there that night but there was so much other fire everywhere from our own 50's on the trucks that it didn't make a whole lot of difference. You just pulled everything in close and went into the center of the hole that FSB Bunt turned into.

I havent gotten in touch with Jim McWhorter yet but I will. I think that the video I sent you where me & I were digging a hole and filling sand bags was around Song Be. I can't remember but it was before I took command and we did work out of that area. I was involved with Song Be during my first tour and worked with the Special Forces. I also was there when they were overrun one night and lost a bunch of their people. I also am friends with

a retired LTC who was an advisor at Son Be and got hit there one night when they were hit. It wasn't a real nice place to be stationed. In fact any thing along Highway 13 (I think that was it) was not much fun. We used to fly route recon and escort with guns from the UTT in 64/65 when they would go up the highway.

I did get my membership in the VNHPA square away. I received their newsletter the other day and saw a bumper sticker here in town that indicated he was a member. I plan on asking them about a roster of local members. There should be a bunch of them since there are plenty of old aviators around Ft. Sill.

Let me pass on a few more things I can remember about events that happened in the 180<sup>th</sup>. Jim Merriman the CO of 269<sup>th</sup> liked to have parties where each of the dep't companies would put on the entertainment. Usually it was a sing along of some kind. Some of the units would sing raunchy songs which he didn't care for all that much. The winner was given a plaque as a prize and something else like a day stand down. Well we went into the contest and the Doctor we had, I can't recall his name, put together our group and rehearsed them. They did something like "If I had a hammer" and really did get some good harmony from our group. Well we ended up winning the plaque and made Merriman very happy. He had some of the brass from the 25<sup>th</sup> Div there the night we performed and that impressed them too. The Doc was a real character. He had brought his wife over and had her in an apartment in Saigon. He would go down there a couple of nights a week and every thing was cool until Tet. She had VC running all around her place on that night.

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and I think Doc gave her an M-16 to keep in the apartment to defend herself. Well after Tet he moved her over to Bangkok and then she really had problems getting over to see her. After we moved North he was just about out of luck to get there at all. When I went on my R&R just before Change of Command I went to Bangkok and Doc wanted me to take some things to his wife. I remember he had picked up a bunch of brass silverware which was very popular. I mean a whole set of twelve serving pieces and settings that weight in at 30 or 40 pounds. He also had other stuff from the PX that she couldn't get since she was legally an accompaniment and not eligible for PX or any support from the Armed Forces. I had a whole duffle bag full of stuff which was really questionable when I got on the R&R flight. Most of the rest had a little ditty bag but not me - looked like Santa Clause with gifts for everyone. I got together with her and she was a delightful person. Doc was a little on the flower child level of development but a great guy with our troops. He was from California I think. I wonder what has happened to them, they will have some memories about his Army experience.

You mentioned that we probably didn't receive recognition in the form of decorations for enough of our people you are right - It was real easy to just look at outstanding acts of valor and because we did them so often we just didn't do much about writing them up.

I know we put in a bunch of people for awards and they just got lost. Many of the awards were delegated for approval and issue to Division level commanders. So if you were in a division the CG could approve. We had to send everything through the 269 to 12<sup>th</sup> Gmp until we got moved to the 101. If a divisional commander wrote you up it would usually go through as you would

get recognized. They took good care of their people but the Aviation Units didn't do too well. Our Approval had to come from Saigon and they never seemed to get out of the 12<sup>th</sup> Avn Group.

I know I had a few of the citations made out on me got lost and two years after I got back I wrote to the C of the 101<sup>st</sup> and asked about them. It wasn't until I sent a couple of letters that they found them and acted on them. I know that the enlisted men really got shafted on some of the things they did that should have been recognized with Awards. But that was the way it went at the time.

We did have one incident that made me feel pretty bad. I was questioned about a solation payment made over the death of a civilian VN woman who had been hit on the head by a gun ships skid while they were on take off. They paid \$100.00 to each person killed in an accident and no one reported the incident until the 269<sup>th</sup> Sb asked about it when they paid the money out. I asked that the 269 conduct an Article 32 investigation to determine if anyone should be held accountable over the death. They carried out the investigation and found that the guns had buzzed the line of women and one of them did indeed hit her and kill her. I recommended that the SC be given an Article 15 which they did. I was really sad that the person was killed because there were plenty of people who needed to be killed but not in this way. I cannot recall who the SC was but I felt worse that he didn't see the need to report the incident and let me know what was happening. I think that the SC was eventually fined \$100.00 which about paid for the solation payment.

I can remember getting after a crew for flying out in flip-flops and shorts. I didn't recall that it was Joe Walker but I'm

sure that the reason I would chew them out was because of safety and survival reasons. Let me explain. During my first tour a crew of the Sock Trong tigers, gun ships went out at night and were the same clunkily on. One of their ships got shot down and the crew was burned badly and was not ready to try to survive by fighting their way out. We were under strict orders to fly in full protective clothing to include sleeves rolled down as you can recall. All in all I think that it was a good idea. I agree that killing a full crew as a good deal but we got shot at all the time and to risk losing a full crew to a situation where a few minutes more would give them an added protection against fire or ability to fight was the better way to go. If I had to do it again I most likely would do the same thing again. But it was a hell of an act of bravado to out in that condition. Lots of people did some really brave things.

When I retired I taught for eleven years with the FAA's Management Training School. We taught several subjects to the Managers/supervisors of the FAA. I went out to Salt Lake City and taught for two weeks one term so I may have had Joe Walker as a student and didn't realize who he was. We had so many people in the FAA who were former aviators that you couldn't sort out where you had served together. They came to our facility at Cameron University in Lawton so if you see or talk to Joe ask him if he ever came here for school.

Sounds like the reunion was a great time. I remember Joe Sites as being real quiet and keeping the 188\* shortly after I took command. He was replaced by Charley Graham who was my XO. Joe moved on to the bat\* after the change of command. We have a "C" model with guns on it on a pedestal at Ft Sill. Ft Sill was the original home of Army Aviation and was very much involved in using armed helicopters. Jim Merriman was a project officer at Ft Sill working

on Aerial Field Artillery. They were using H-34's and 4.5 inch rockets and firing them like you do Artillery. The guns with rockets were at Fort Rucker and I was an instructor in the Tactics dept when that was first started in 1957, 58 time frame.

I have no idea where John Schiobly ended up. In fact I don't remember if he even came back to the 188<sup>th</sup> after he was med evaced out to the hospital ship just before I left the 188<sup>th</sup>. He was real sick with hepatitis when I went on R&R and when I got back the frigging incident and change of command were right on top of us. I think he went somewhere else after they took care of him on the hospital ship.

As I remember our after action reports were turned into the 269<sup>th</sup> where they were consolidated into a single report that went into 17<sup>th</sup> Avn Group. Some of them were pretty brief and consisted of hours flown, troops landed, body counts etc. The big operations like Yellowstone had a big operations order and details written out but daily stuff wasn't too detailed as I remember. When we got up North the Chain of Command was the 16<sup>th</sup> Avn Group as our senior HQ until we became part of the 101. Some of the details were just not all that important when when we were working so hard and flying each day. We weren't thinking too much about unit histories 30 years later. Sorry about that.

Things are going well with me. The bicycle racing season is in full swing and I'm out every weekend racing somewhere. Keeps you fit and healthy. Sounds like you are getting more contacts to help out with the history. Good deal. Keep in touch.

Jack Johnson

4/22/96

Dear Dick:

I'm sitting in a Mall in Oklahoma City while my wife shops so I'll try to make use of the time by sending along some more thoughts about the 188<sup>th</sup>.

Sounds like your vacation was a success and that the fishing was good. I have never been much as a fisherman but that part of the country is beautiful. I hope that the video brought back some memories and is helpful in getting a history documented.

Your '59 Edsel sounds like a real project. I was flying H-34 helicopters in Germany in 1959 and can remember when we got back in the states and saw the first Edsels that were out. They were something to look at but didn't do too well for God at the time.

One of the things I remember about the 188<sup>th</sup> was the mission I was flying as a peter pilot before I took command. We were doing Combat assaults some where around Tay Ninh and I was flying number 10 in the flight. I mentioned this before but there are some other detail I don't cover. We pulled out of an insert and as we were climbing out something hit of in the tail rotor gear box I think. There was a real loud grinding noise and the aircraft rolled hard right. The low RPM warning light came on and the Audio warning went off at the same time. I was flying as we were alternating stick time between the AC and me a peter, I slammed the Collective

pitch down and made a may day call which was "MD - MD - MD number 10 is going in". I saw a small hole in the jungle that was green so it was not trees, but really turned out to be bamboo, and pulled the act into a maximum flare to zero the airspeed and even back up a little to keep the hole under us. We were only 200-300 feet in the air at the time as I recall. Any way we leveled out over the hole with zero airspeed but good Rotor RPM and down we went. The green bamboo covered our view and we were completely blind. I waited as long as I could stand it and pulled pitch all the way to the top. At that instant we touched down, level, and didn't even make a hard landing. The chin lugable broke in front of my feet as an ant hill punched out the plexiglass. We all kind of sat there and looked at each other and then we went into the normal drill of talking to the flight leader to let them know we were OK and then to clean the aircraft up for rescue. We pulled the machine guns and radios and because we were down deep in this hole we started to stack them on the cabin roof.

It wasn't but a few minutes until one of our left ships was hovering down into the hole to try to pick us out. What really surprised me was that there was a huge old tree that was laying on its side right in front of us and we had missed

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it completely. As the lift ship tried to get down to us we were hand signaling that his rotor blade was about to hit a big limb on this old dead tree and if he did he would be right on top of us in a heap. We had disconnected radios so we had to use hand signals. Well anyway we got them to back away from the tree far enough that we could pass up the MG's, radios, personal gear ect and crawl up on the mast and pull ourselves into the lift ship. About the time we were able to clear the area the infantry we had been inserting had made their way to our downed acft and secured the area for a ~~fire~~ smoke CH-47 to pull out our acft.

After looking at the area we went into I can only say that it was pure dumb ass luck that we put that aircraft down with only a busted Chinook bubble. Here is a picture of that aircraft on the video when it was recovered and left at DT. The tail rotor is free wheeling in the rotor wash as they lowered it down to the ship at DT. I cannot recall who it was that I was flying with as AC or who picked us up but the guy that picked us up showed a lot of guts and skill to come down there and get us out. I don't think they really knew how close that old tree was to their rotor as they tried to get down to us.

Another thing I remember about the unit was the trip north. That was one big job getting a unit of that size moved right after

we had been full out for a couple of weeks with TET. I remember that I had been w/o sleep for at least 48 hours after we started the move and when we were flying north got really goofy when we landed at some place when we spent the night. I was on the verge of hallucinating and could not read a chart and get the radio frequency to call the tower as we approached. That whole move was a gut check for a very tired unit and they did it in an unbelievably professional manner. As I recall we were operational in about two or three days after I reported to LZ Sally Commander Col (later to be LT GEN) Cushman. I remember we had two or three aircraft that were nothing but skeletons, having given up their parts to keep other acft flying, and the Maint Off and crew got them all flying in a matter of days. I don't really know how we did it. But we did.

The operation at FS Ban Bunt started as a tactical emergency in the middle of the night. We were dispatched to some area where there was an airstrip and refueling area but by the time we were cranked and going others had already gotten there ahead of us. As we approached w/ 18 lift ships, two gun ships from some one else, ran into each other on the ground and crashed. They were burning and we could see the fire plainly. With all the confusion on the air and

the acft burning on the ground we were diverted into a resupply area and given a new radio freq to use. I contacted the ground ad was told that we were to deliver Ammo to this unit that was circleup and taking heavy fire. They had been penitiated by VC also. They were in such a small area that we would only be able to go in two ship at a time. We loaded up Ammo and away we went.

It wasn't hard to find them, because there was a circle of fire from their position. I got some one on the ground on the radio and he told us to land on the flashing strob. He had one of those hand held airforce rescue strobe lights and sure enough right in the center of this ring of fire is one little lonely strobe flashing. We drove our approach and landed w/o lights and landed in an area that looked, in the dark, like it was brumby with logs & mounds. We unloaded and re loaded wounded and set up a shuttle back to the resupply area. We made several trips back and forth and as it got to be light we recognized that the brumps in the landing area were bodies of the VC that had penitiated their position.

I am glad that they had all been done in by the time we started to land because we would have been setting ducks for them otherwise. It also is a very funny feeling to let down into an area that was that small and involved with so much fire that it really was a ring of fire.

One of the funny things that happened

after we got to LZ Sally was the night we got called out to stop an attack on the base camp. The infantry had just put up their ground surveillance radars and got them working. We had the mission of having a fire team and a C&C ready to respond to any contacts. It was the middle of the night with an overcast sky and some low clouds when we got called to send out the fire team to investigate a contact which consisted of tanks with infantry on the ground approaching LZ Sally. The fire team got out and went to where the tanks were supposed to be and found nothing, but the radar operator was positive he had them and they were coming at us. We all got on the same radio frequency and the radar operator really was excited about what he was seeing. I was out in the C&C trying to locate these tanks and I finally asked him just how fast are these tanks coming at us. He comes back that they are making 20-30 mile an hour with infantry on the ground with them. I make a comment about that was the fastest infantry I had heard about and if they could go that fast on foot they would make a great truck team. Well, there was dead silence for a few minutes and then the radar operator comes on and tells us to come on home, there must have been a false read out on his scope. I often wonder if he had been smoking something other than Lucy strikes that night or maybe he was just bored out of his head and wanted

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to see us jump and run. Any way we didn't get a chance to kill tanks and save LZ Sally that night.

I don't think I was directly involved in Rapid Fire. I do remember being called to Tay Ninh when several of our ships were bringing in special forces and VC wounded and that the 269<sup>th</sup> XC, Maj Ira Cockett had been wounded in the foot. I flew over to the Med Evac hospital at TN and our aircraft were carrying w/ many of the SF's wounded. I went into the ER with Bo GRITZ the SF's Commander and watched as they interrogated some of the VC wounded and tried to see who they were up against. We also talked to the US wounded and identified the US KIA's. Ira Cockett had been hit in the foot with a straight shot from the front that went from about his little toe right out the back of his heel. It wasn't serious from a life threatening perspective but it was critical from an Army Career stand point. Ira was a Hawaiian, black belt judo, Airborn absolut warrior. He was fearless and had a bright future until he got hit. I didn't know for sure but I think that he was medically retired after he was medevaced that day. He flew with us a lot when we were in the DT area. I remember Bo was carrying a automatic machine gun with a silencer as were most of the other SF's. I asked him how much noise it made and he pulls it out and shoots a burst over the fence at the medevac pad at TN. It was so quiet the no one even made a move when he popped off a few rounds. I keep seeing Bo in the

news now that he has become an isolationist patriot and negotiator for the separatist patriot groups. I will have to admit he was one tough SOB when it came to getting into a fight around TN when we supported him and his SF troops.

I can remember one time we put his guys into an area and they got into a NVA Command post and found all sorts of documents. As they were fighting their way out to an PZ where we could get them out I was circling the area ready to send in the slicks to get them. On one side of the PZ I spotted a whole squad of VC, in the open, coming toward the PZ with weapons etc. With the CIC the only thing we had was the door gunners so I see them on the left and circle left so the gunner can get a clear shot. Man they were so visible that any one would have seen them but the gunner was new or unable to shoot at so clear a target that he wouldn't fire. Well I rip the ship into a right orbit so the right side can get a shot but the VC make it into some brush and trees so we end up hosing the area but can't tell if we have done any good. About that time the SF's work their way out to the edge of the PZ, set up Claymore mines and we fly in the slicks to pick them up. They blow the Claymores, ~~jump~~ jump out of the wood line and make it to our left ships with out much fire. We pull a 180° pedal turn and go out of the area. When the intelligence guys get

got a look at the documents that the SF's brought out they classify them from our guys. I thought that was some crazy thing to do - Classify every documents that we had captured - so we could not see them.

As I remember when we got back to base the crew chief who would not fire on the VC in the open was sent to the maintenance detachment. Your crew life depended upon being alert and ready to fire and this guy didn't do either so he became a support guy in the base camp.

One other thing I remember about LZ Sally was the time we got involved in the sock in the river operation. The Article out of the 101 look which didn't mention us shows the area of operations looks like a sock or boat formed by the river. When we put the troops in and they moved into contact they had the VC traps in the sock area surrounded by the river. We had them but it was about to get dark. The artillery started just to shoot illuminating rounds and a VNAF flan ship was called in to keep it light during the night. We were told to get ready to provide flares also. We unpacked a bunch of flares and got them ready but really hoped that we would not have to drop them. It was hard to hit an area consistently and when they went off under you it was really difficult to fly with all that light knocking out your night vision. Well as would happen at about 2 or 3 in the morning the VNAF decided it was time to go home and the artillery couldn't keep up with illumination and fire into

the AO so we got called to drop flares. We didn't get them to keep up the light continuously but close enough so that the VC who tried to swim or float the river out of the AO got caught when we started to drop flares. The nighty, who were on both sides of the river and had the VC circled had a ball when the lights came on again. We were unloading flares and shuttling Aucroft back and forth all the rest of the night until it got light. The next night we got a USAF C-130 Puff the魔怪 to light up the area and rain bullets on the VC who were still trapped. It was a real successful fight for the 101 but we didn't get much credit.

Dick we have a progression Video transfer business here in Lantau and I picked up some info on transferring both film and pictures to Vids. His prices are indicated on the brochure I'm including with this letter. It would run up to a couple of hundred dollars to make copies of all of my films and pictures but he guarantees that it will be high quality stuff that can be duplicated for others. If we can come up with some money from others or duplicate and sell prints we could afford to do better than what I did. Let me know what you think about that.

I sent off my application to the VNHP association but haven't heard from them yet. Need to follow up I think.

As more comes to mind I'll send you my thoughts. Keep up the good work. Sincerely, *Dick*

3/18/96

Dear Dick:

The more you send me the more I can recall about the 188<sup>th</sup> and the things we did. The video that I was able to make out of my 8mm film isn't the best but some of it is pretty good. If you think that it is worthwhile I will send you the film and maybe some way we can get a professional TV/Video person to make a copy that will eliminate the vertical vibration you can see in the video as the shutter on the movie camera opens and closes. There is also some 1 to 1 vertical that is a result of the helicopter being a little out of blade track (should have gotten after maintenance about that). When you see the 8mm direct it is a little brighter and clearer but some of the film has deteriorated and has some bad spots. I had to change cameras after the first 20 minutes and the quality of the video is better for the last hour of the tape. The whole thing runs about an hour and twenty minutes.

Hank Holzheuser looked at the tape and said that he was going to send you some information out of his records. I think that he said he had some 8mm film also and that he would try to send a copy of it to you as well. Hank was a Cobra pilot and was assigned to the 188<sup>th</sup> to fly slicks until more Cobras were shipped into country. He left before we made the move to LZ Sally and ended up flying Cobras for the rest of his tour.

The phone number you sent for the V.H.P.A. [REDACTED] did not work for me. I tried to call it several times and got the message that

it wasn't a working number. If you could find a better number I would appreciate it.

Dick I have to tell you I remember the night at DT when you guys got caught at the supply point. I did not remember that you were one of the guys that got punished for it.

I remember that we were in about our second day of getting ready to move and I had not had much of any sleep for 48 hours. I remember that the group of you were herded in around the middle of the night, midnight-2:00 in the morning or so, and I was more frustrated than angry at that point. I was really focused on getting the unit moved and to have to take up something like that was just frustrating. I suspect that many things like this went on and no one got caught, but you guys did, and at a bad time when we were working so hard to get the move done. Not many people can appreciate how much of a task it was to move a unit of that size from one end of the country to the other after being full out for GET and be out of action for only about a week. We did one hell of a fine job in getting that job done. Sorry that the Article 15 blew your shot at E-5. I'm glad that some guard didn't shoot first and ask questions later when they caught you all in the supply area. They sure could have and that would have been a disaster.

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Now let me tell you about some of the things that I recall that Not man knew about. I took command and we were starting our operation with Bo Gritz and the SF's at Tay Ninh. I was really going over the Company to see what I wanted to do to make it run the way I wanted it to go. I sent Jerry Kande, X0, over to TN to run the day to day operations and I thought that I could get away with a few days in DT base camp. I think it was in the third day when Jim Mervynon called me at about 5 o'clock and gave me an ultimatum that I could take control of my Company and fight it or he would find someone who could. He would be out every day flying over head watching and listening to our radios. He saw Jerry running the C and C at TN and after two days he got on my tail about being a Commander. I packed my bag with two or three days of clothes and flew over to TN that night. I think we spent a total of 30 some days with them going into Cambodia and along the border looking for and finding the VC and NVA. Mervynon was dead serious. He would have sacked me if I had not put my full effort into commanding the unit by being in that C & C every day. After a while he would let a Commander take a day and let the X0 do some C & C work but if it was a fight he expected the CO to be running the show. He was a tough but fair commander. He was in the Washington DC area the last time I had contact with him.

We had a Commander staff meeting every week at the 269<sup>th</sup> Bn HQ's. Each CO was required to

make a report on what operations we had done, maintenance problems we had, personnel problems and any lessons learned. We had to produce 11 sticks and 4 guns every day ready to fight or you were in trouble. You could sometimes get by with 3 guns if you could rotate a ship to keep at least a light gun team in the air. We did real well and I never got hit over our availability. One thing we did was have some problems with cleaning engines etc. since our aft were parked all over the DT Compound. So we put together a rubber bladder gas tank and an engine stand with a pump from our decontamination equipment, which we had absolutely ~~not~~ <sup>no</sup> need for, and made a portable engine cleaner.

Merry now went nuts. He wanted to have everyone in VN rig up a similar device. We were the hero's after that and he would turn to us for ideas after that.

I told you about our system to get fresh food to DT by steppin in Saigon after each day's missions. Well the 269<sup>th</sup> continued to do what we had been doing after we got caught and were told to stop it. They just went to a different area to put the stuff into their aircraft.

The day that I took command they had a going away party for Jim McWhater. Jim was a little excitable and one day he was on the run to go on a mission when the RPM control on the C.C. wouldn't work. We called it a "beeper" because we would beep the RPM up or down with it. Well Mc Callis on the radio "my beeper won't beep" — "do something" At his going away party the night we changed command someone came up with a collective

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stick mounted on a box with a jeep horn in the box hooked to the beeper switch. Push the switch up or down and it sure as hell would "beep". He beeped that thing all night. I wonder if he has his beeper now.

Dick, I want to get this tape to you now so that you can take it fishing with you. You guys might find a VCR that will play it. I have a bunch of other things that I will write you about in the near future. What you have done is terrific and should have been done long ago. We had a great bunch of guys who did a super job. I'll send you more, thanks for your efforts.

Jack Johnson

2/26/96

Dear Dick:

More thoughts from the dim past!!

I arrived in country around the 17<sup>th</sup> of Oct and was assigned to the 269<sup>th</sup> Bn as the Aviation Safety Officer. Jim Merriman knew me and wanted to have me become the commander of the 188<sup>th</sup>. I worked at Bn HQ's in Chu Chi and flew several missions with the 188<sup>th</sup> and with the 269<sup>th</sup> Aircraft which supported all three assault helicopter companies assigned to the 269<sup>th</sup>. I flew several "smokey" missions, laying down a smoke screen, as a combat assault was being put in. I took command of the 188<sup>th</sup> on 10 Dec 67 and held the command until 10 Jun 68. I went to the 159<sup>th</sup> Avn Bn, stationed at the 101 Base Camp, and served as XO until 9 Sep 68 when I DEROSED to the US. I found an award recommendation sent in by HENRY E. DREHER, Maj who took over command from me. Hank retired as a full Colonel. The award submission was for Oak Leaf Clusters to the Air Medal which went through number 38.

You may not have known that I was on my first tour in VN in May 1964. I flew gun ships with the original Utility Tactical Transport Co (UTT) which was the first gun unit in country out of Okinawa.

I was a platoon leader until 9 Feb 1965 when I was wounded and had to be Medevaced to the US where I spent about 8 months in the hospital at Denver Colo. I got back on flight status and was sent back to VN for my tour with the 188<sup>th</sup> after I finished Command and General Staff

College at Ft Leavenworth, Kansas. So VN wasn't new to me when I got there in 1967.

I got all of the 8 mm film out and ran the whole thing through the other day. I was surprised at how good some of the quality was for being as old as it is. I did run it and make a copy on a VHS tape by using a Video Camera to take the picture off of the screen.

It isn't too bad. I will send you the video but a few friends of mine want to see it now that we have a copy. I think a much better copy could be made by a professional video store but it will cost something to do that. I think I have about 1200 foot with some of it not real good quality but most of it good.

If you want to in the future I will send the original film to you and we can get a good copy made of what we think is good. Also you may locate some other film that we could add to the history.

There are some pictures of Dan Tien on the film and there are some good pictures of LZ Sally.

I can remember when we got into LZ Sally and we about doubled the size of the perimeter. We had to build some bunkers to defend our side cause it was wide open. I remember we put a Minigun on a tripod on a big bunker we built over a VN grave site. We had it wired to a helicopter battery and it would put out some fire.

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we also put foo gas around the wire. That was a 55 gal drum of jellied gas with a couple of phosphorous grenades behind the drum with a Claymore mine behind all of it. When you shot the Claymore it blew gas all over and the phosphorous would light it all off. We never got probeled from the side where we had the foo gas.

I can remember a pilots guide for the airfields but I sure couldn't tell you where you might get one.

Maybe the American Helicopter Society or the VNA Pilots Association might have copies. The chief executive officer of the American Helicopter Society was a fellow named John Zugsworth. He was a major and was the S-3 operations officer for the 269<sup>th</sup> in 1967. He was the guy that planned Operation "Yellowstone" for the 25<sup>th</sup> Div. We did it out of Tay Ninh but I don't worry any thing from the operations now.

I remember the night we got hit at Da Nang and all of the M-60 door guns were used on our perimeter. It was like a red fire hose of tracers going out of our area. I don't think we ever got hit from there again. I didn't ever get into the town because of all of limits when we were there.

We did get hit from the side opposite the Maintenance area one night by three guys with RPG's. They came up to the fence when the runway ran by our Maintenance area and they shot up 3 ships on the maintenance ramp.

The C & C ship was right in front of them in a reverment but they missed it. The guards from the 25<sup>th</sup> Div hit the deck in a bunker when the RPG's started shooting and they did not return any fire until it was long over. I remember a bunch of higher ups came in from 12<sup>th</sup> group on down to get my hide for losing aircraft on the camp but we had put up reverments and had done everything we could to protect them and the crews so I didn't loose my job that night.

I remember one CA we were doing and we had to use the Maint offices airport as a left ship. The pilots reported being hit and having a warning light come on for low transmission oil pressure. We cleared the LZ and as soon as a low wog decent field was found told them to put it down. Well about 100 yards short of the open area the transmission let go and they spun into the trees. They hit flat and smashed the helicopter all up so everyone got out. Cannot recall the Maint Off's name, Gary something, but he was sure mad that we had busted up his aircraft.

I can remember we ate a lot of C rations in the morning when we would pick up the Battalion Commander who was being lifted by our ships. We would put the C rations box with the meat can over the heater out let and turn on the heater. In about 5 minutes we had hot food. They could never get over that when we would hand them a hot C for breakfast.

I do recall the name McKeever now that you put it in your last letter. The sad part was the Sgt Delvey loss. I remember him as being a good guy - somewhat kind of bearing but a good guy. I also remember that McKeever got a good bit of whisky from the Motorpool Sgt's area before he came looking for me. I remember when I got back Richard G. Adamski, Moj, was the Acting CO. Capt Schairly had been Med evaced out and I didn't see him again.

I cannot recall that we had anyone killed in action in the unit while I was the CO. We had some wounded and Danny Kingman got burned but I don't recall anyone killed. I think that was a record of some kind. In my first tour we lost 10 - 11 or so in the 8<sup>th</sup> months I was there.

I have found a bunch of other records that are not too clear but maybe you can use them. They do have some more names and I have highlighted them. The old typewriter ribbon has faded out over the years.

I think flight records were kept in each pilot's file in Washington. I had a copy that we all got when a record was closed out. The records depository would most likely be able to tell you so long as you have their name and SSN.

I would like to get any information you have on the Viet Nam Pilots Association. I didn't know that it existed. I might be interested in getting involved with them.

I have no idea where the patch for c/101  
came from. I don't recall that I ever saw  
one. We were still 188<sup>th</sup> when I left to go  
to the 159<sup>th</sup>.

If you want me to, I will send you all  
of the original pictures I have. I made a Xerox  
copy for you last time and if you want to have  
a professional do what they can with what I've  
got, I'll sure help you out. I'm sure that  
you will take good care of them and get them  
back to me when you are through.

Your fishing trip sounds great. I'm  
not much of a fisherman but I know that  
the fishing is good up there. After I retired  
I taught for the University of Oklahoma for about  
12 years and I got to visit the Seattle/Puget  
area for a couple of weeks on two different trips.

We rented a car and drove all over that area  
and ate as much of the local catch as we  
could.

I hope that this will help. I'm going  
to get with Hank Holzheuser and see if he has  
anything left from the 188<sup>th</sup>.

Keep up the good work.

Jack

2/1/96

Dear Dick:

I must tell you I was surprised and pleased to hear from you and find out that someone is going to the effort to document the 188<sup>th</sup> and its Members who served in Viet Nam. I had not thought about the Company and what we had done for some time and your call has reenergized my thinking about the unit. It was a good unit and did a lot of good work in support of the troops we put into battle. I will try to sum up my memories of what we did and who did it but I must say that the passage of time has worked to make it a piece of history that is pretty vague now.

I got into Country and was assigned to the 269<sup>th</sup> Avn Bn. I knew the Commander, LTC James Merriman, and he asked to have me assigned so that I could command the 188<sup>th</sup>. Jim and I had served together at Ft Sill and I knew him to be a "fast mover" who was going places in the Army. The kind of guy to work for if you didn't mind hard work, cause he would take care of you later. He eventually became the Chief of Army Aviation Branch as a Brig Gen and retired as a Lt Gen. He is still in the Washington DC area.

Shortly after I became CO of 188<sup>th</sup> we were supporting LT Bo GRITZ (not sure of spelling) the special forces unit out of Tay Ninh. The first week of their operation was done with Capt Gerry Kunde running the CC ship. I went over to take over and spent the next 30 or so days working with them in the Area North and West of TN. We would go out near sun down and recon for one ship LZ's and at sun up the next morning we would put in 4 to 8 man patrols. The technique was to

fly the lift ships in a single file spread out about a minute apart. The patrot was loaded in the first and third seat. Guns would escort along each side and in trail. The first ship would hit a check point and take up a heading that we had developed in the previous nights recon. I would direct the flight over the radio like a GCA talking them into the LZ. At a 100 yards out the lead stick would decelerate and go into the LZ which was usually only a hole in the woods big enough for one ship. The second ship would over fly the LZ and as soon as the lead had discharged the troops they would pull up out of the LZ just before no 3 ship would arrive. It would decelerate and drop into the LZ as no 4 would over fly. Then they would pull up out of the LZ and get on the tail of the fly over. From the ground it was supposed to sound like a fly over and cover the fact that we put in a load of troops. They would work as a patrol until our heat came from our guns and if no immediate contact was made they would send the guns to TN and an L-19 would give radio relay cover until they completed the recon. We did this every day almost and one at least two or three times we got into some real hot LZ's. We were able to get them back out every time but it was fun more than once trying to get everyone out.

Later they went north of TN and really got into a fight and lost a bunch of people. I wasn't involved at all as I recall it was the 187<sup>th</sup> that had put them into the area. The 269<sup>th</sup> XO as LTC Irving COCKETT got shot in the foot and I think was finally

discharged from the Army as a result of his wound.

Several of the patrols we put in were in Cambodia I'm sure. We found some HQ's areas where the SF's got into some hot fights and captured documents and people who were important to the NVA and VC units in the area.

We ran daily operations in support of the 25<sup>th</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> Bde. I remember we supported the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bde of the 101 after we got up North.

One of the BN's of the 25 was commanded by a LTC R.D. TICE who I later ran into at the Pentagon. We did a lot of Combat Assaults with his BN. He later became a Maj Gen. We were involved with their units during TET. I remember we put in 15-16 hour days and usually got into some fights but were very fortunate not to lose any of our people hit. I remember one CA where we were to put in troops on one side of a little town between Chu Chi and Saigon. We missed the designated LZ because of smoke and dust from the prep so we pulled a 180° turn and landed on the far side of the village going the other way. It was a blessing because we would have landed in an Ambush in the original LZ. When they got into the village on the other side they didn't run into trouble until they got almost through to the original LZ. Then they ran into all sorts of stuff. RPG's, Heavy Machine guns, bunkers etc. It was a heck of a fight and had we hit the original LZ we would have been blasted.

TET was just one big fight after another they all blend together. I do remember one early morning CA where we were to follow a B-52 on the fight

ran into an area in the Bohay Woods. We were not the lead Co so I was flying not slick. The B-52's hit the area and we followed in after a very short time. The LZ's we were supposed to hit had disappeared. The place looked like the face of the moon and the heat from the exploding bombs was unbelievable. We just got down to a low hover and out went the troops into trees and stumps that looked like match sticks.

Right after TET we were ordered to move to the Hue area and support the 101<sup>st</sup>. As I remember we were transferred to the 16<sup>th</sup> Avn Group who were in Hue and we were op con to the 101<sup>st</sup>. We became part of the 101 when they were made Airmobile.

I remember being in the Div Staff Call when the announcement was made and the Chief of Staff said "I will never be able to accept that the division is not Airborn" They were really upset by the change and as far as I know they never have gotten over it.

While we were at DT we were at the end of the supply line so we never got any fresh food. I knew that there was plenty available in Saigon so I sent a LT, Sgt and a jeep down there to get all the food and other goodies they could get. They had a radio and were set up to be on call so that any time one of our ships was around following an Ash and trash mission or following release from a support mission they could call in and pick up anything they had. We were making stops almost every day and for the first time we were getting all sorts of fresh food that would never have made it up the road to DT. Well that all came to an abrupt stop one day when one of our

ships was on H-2 helicopter and loading potatoes and the Company General in VN came in and saw what we were doing. He came over and asked the crew chief what he was doing and he told him. It was Craighton Abrams and he and his staff called the 269<sup>th</sup> and told Jim Murphy to knock this off. Murphy jumped my case but he put his own guy down there to do the same thing but to load out of a different heliport. We actually had to come one or two times using this system. I'm sure the LT we had there made out a bunch of bogus requisitions to get the stuff and if anyone had followed up would have Court Marshalled him and me. What the heck we got some good chow out of it while it worked.

The move from DT to HUE was something. We were told to move and as I recall we had pretty much got it done in 4 days and nights. We just of all traded off all of the stuff we could not use out in the boonies.

I had made a one day trip to the 101 area and got an idea of what we were going into. We tried to get gas driven coolers ect to keep key our food. We traded chairs, AirConditioners other stuff for tents and other stuff to make field living as comfortable as possible. Dan Kingman, Ops Officer, went up in the advanced party and got a place for us at LZ Sally. The CO of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bde was not concerned about a "Company" coming into his area.

What he didn't understand was that an Svc Co was as big or bigger than an Infy brigade. We had as I recall some 55 officers and 350 enlisted men. We had B oversize vehicles (Maint-vans) and some 35 GP Med tents to house us. We moved in and immediately had to expand the perimeter of the camp. We wanted

into action right away after we got there. It took some 73 C-130 loads to move us. We had a sea shipment of our Maint Jars and CONEX Containers that had admin junk in them. We had so much Canned food in some CONEX Containers that the AF couldn't put them in a C-130. We went as well stocked as we could. The 101 didn't have anything so we were fat cats by their standards.

Remember the Phuoc Yen battle and the A Shau Valley the most clearly. PY was almost an accident - We drew some fire and started the whole thing. There is a good story about the battle in a history that the 101 wrote. I have two volumes of history from the 101 that covers some of the stuff we did but they never talk about us. Remember we were the second flight in the A Shau Valley assault. We put troops into a fire support base called Da Nang or Da Nang. About half way up the road from the LZ to the Valley. The first flight went into the LZ in two flights of 5 because of the small size of the LZ. We were the second lift about 3 minutes behind the initial lift. We were also in flights of 5. The No 10 Acft in the first lift was just putting pitch when we cleared the approach end of the LZ. He got about 10 feet into the air and was hit from both sides and went down end over end at the far side of the LZ. We came right in beside him and off loaded our troops and pulled out some wounded folks. It was pretty hectic for a while - We just came on with all of our lifts and got the LZ secure after a while. During that day ~~one~~ one of the other company's lift ships went down - out there some where - and

they never found them. Funny they was that there was a H-46 Tony helicopter bulk on the road just outside of the LZ we were using. Gives you a funny feeling going over a wall as you go into a hot area.

Can't remember much else about operations since they were all about the same. When we were down south we had much more control over our CAs. I would coordinate with the Co. Cmdr and the slicks would wait in an assembly area. We would pick out IP's from a pre worked map that each AC had. We would go from the IP to the LZ usually two or three minutes from the IP. Guns would lead the slicks and prep the LZ and mark with smoke. We would put as many lights in as needed and then set the slicks back up in the assembly area. I would mark the number of lifts on the windshield so we knew how many troops we had on the ground. This was really important since on several times we would put in an odd number and when we pulled them out we had to leave the max number possible for the last lift out so they could protect themselves. One night I remember we were extracting a number of lifts out of an LZ that would only allow 5 left because of the compound we were returning the troops to. We called out path finders who worked the LZ and PZ but right in the middle of the lift we had a ship hit its tail rotor on something in the compound and roll over into the ditch. No one was hurt but we ~~were~~ sure had to reorganize to get everyone out of the field. This was late at night after a long day and it was a real task keeping everything in place. Made you earn your pay on a day like that one.

When I had Captained my Company of the 188<sup>th</sup> I was given the last 5 dogs, before the Change of Command to go on R&R to Bangkok. I was in the Company HQ tent in my pressed khaki uniform when I looked out and saw one of our 2 1/2 ton trucks bouncing over rice paddy dikes at a really high speed. We had had a real problem keeping our trucks running so I was P.O.'ed to say the least. I got the 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt to get the driver who I chewed out but good. Within about 10 minutes I left the area to go to Marble Mountain Marine base to catch the R&R flight. The truck driver was mad at me and went to the Main area where he got pretty well drunk and then decided

I needed to be sent out of Commission. He came back to the HQ tent with a grenade and in the street in front of the tent he was stopped by the Main pt'n sgt - Cannot recall names - Driver pulled the pin and released the spoon enough to activate the grenade. Pt'n sgt was somewhat hard of hearing and didn't hear the pop. Everyone in the HQ's tent did and jumped into fox holes or behind barriers. The driver had the grenade by his side, arm down, when it went off. The Pt'n sgt caught the fragmentation block in the throat and was killed. The driver lost his leg and arm off but lived awhile. They got him into the Med area of the Bde and he died there. I'm told he was still cursing me when he died.

When I got back from R&R and went into the 1<sup>st</sup> BDE HQs they told me I had better get back up to LZ Sally quick. I was completely unaware of what had happened. The Co XO had come down with hepatitis the day after I left

and was med evaced to the hospital ship off shore.

Maj Adamsky had come down to temporarily command and the whole Co was in shock. I got back only in time to do the Change of Command a day or two later. As I can recall that was the only deaths we had. We had some wounded but none killed up until then.

We had a stick pilot Capt Henry Holzhausen who came from the 269<sup>th</sup> Bf off with us for a while. When we went north he moved back to the 269<sup>th</sup> and then on to the Cov. We also had a gun benny, Capt Eldon Ault, I believe, who was hit and lost an eye while flying guns for us. He was med evaced out to the US and I lost touch of him. Hank Holzhausen is living here in the Lewiston area, retired, working at Ft Sill. I called him and asked that he look through his stuff and see if he could come up with some help for you. I can send you his address later.

I also have a bunch of 8 mm Color film I took while in the 188<sup>th</sup> I havent looked at it in years and dont know what shape its in but I will. Also I will try to transfer it onto Video tape so we can save it. That will take a little time. Hank Holzhausen said he thought he had some film also.

You asked about taking off the Dear Art. I cannot remember clearly but I think it must have happened before we went up North. Seems to me someone in the 269<sup>th</sup> took offense to the FTA (From To America) twist on words and had us take it all off.

Well I don't know if this will be helpful.  
I will continue to think about our team  
and Hank and I are going together to talk  
about what we did. I'll try  
to help as much as I can and if  
I come up with anything more I'll send it.  
I would appreciate anything you might have  
that would help me remember. I realize that  
this is a rough and rapid recall of events so  
I apologize for the form its in. I felt it  
was better to get it down and then  
we can polish later.

Thanks for your time, Money and effort.  
Jack Johnson

1/16/08

Dear Dick & Karma:

Thank you for the update on the Black Hawks of Company A, 4<sup>th</sup> Bn, 3<sup>rd</sup> Svn Regt. You are the man!! Your efforts to keep the history and lineage of the 188<sup>th</sup> alive is awesome. I cannot tell you how very proud I am to say that I was part of a unit whose history continues on because of your work. It's really a shame that other units have not continued to maintain their association with todays units. I think that you can see how much it means to the current unit by what they say in the release they published. I'm not sure that the rest of the Black Widows/Spiders really understand how much importance the current units put on the lineage that you have maintained with them over the years.

I can't thank you enough for all of the time and effort you have put into this.

I hate to keep asking for things from you but I think you are the only one who does what I would like to have. I sent all of my memorabilia on the 188<sup>th</sup> to Ralph Young for his use in his next book. Ralph died and no matter how many times I have sent him or his family letters I have received no response. I sent him all of the after action reports and history

from the 25<sup>th</sup> Div on the relief of FSB Bert. The only thing I have are the two letters from Merriman and Dames plus the DFC Citation I got. You had copies of several articles and after action reports which I sent to Ralph and now they are gone. When you have a chance could you send me copies of that stuff? No hurry — I am just backing up some of the stuff I have in an awards and decorations scrap book.

Thanks again for the update.!!

Regards,  
Jack

1/11/08

Dear Dick & Karma:

The new year is here and it's cold in Oklahoma. We had a wonderful trip before Christmas with a neat surprise in Tahiti. When it was time to leave Tahiti we were told that Tahiti Air which we were supposed to fly out on to LA was broke and we would have to stay overnight in a 5 star Resort. We would leave the next morning at 6:30. Next morning - Airplane still broke so - we stayed another day in Tahiti all at the expense of Tahiti Air. They paid for everything and the resort was Beautiful!! We were sitting around the beach and looking around found at least 6 ladies who were topless. Ah!! the French - Tahiti is French Polynesia. Nancy told me - don't sunburn your eye balls looking - and then don't you take any pictures. Took a couple anyway. Nice place but very expensive. Tahiti Air lost their butt on this one.

When I got my latest VHPA Aviator there is an article which I'm sending to you. Some guy is putting together data on door art and names associated with helicopter units. Since we did a little of this and because you have the most extensive collection I thought that

you might want to send them some of our information.  
in your call.

I sent you all of the patches I had of the 188<sup>th</sup>ocket patch. I think that maybe they were done by Ted Alley or some one. Do you have one of them with the HQ's "Aim High" insert on the bottom of the patch? The ones that Ted had made were bigger than those I had for hats and they were of excellent quality. If you have one or if Ted has access to one I would appreciate having one. I'm putting together a display box with all of the unit patches I have and I need one for the 188<sup>th</sup>.

Mary and I are both in good health and are keeping busy. We go back to the east coast in June to see our grandson graduate high school. Then we plan on going on to Williamsburg, Washington DC and a couple of other stops on our way home. Next Aug. we celebrate our 55 wedding anniversary on a cruise around the British Isles. Then next December we do both Christmas and New Years on a cruise to the southern Caribbean. Next year will be busy.

Have a happy New Year!!

Regards,  
Jack

10/8/07

Dear Dick & Karma:

Sorry to hear about Bw-6 being killed in a helicopter crash. I had seen details of the crash in the newspaper but did not realize that it was a Black Widows aircraft.

I wonder if the unit knows about the bricks we chose for our KIA/DAT's at the museum at Fort Campbell? They might want to add some from their group. We had a bunch of places open in the space reserved for us by the staff there.

I have sent Richard Green a copy of the induction into the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame. I guess that he still does the newsletter for the Black Widows - right? He can put it in the newsletter if he wants.

I was reading the newsletter I got and to page 7 I turned to the next page and thought I was having a senior moment. I know my memory is going but the material I was reading seemed very familiar. It was because I had two page 7's back to back.

So if you have an extra copy of the real page 8 send it to me. It must be something about Rapid Fire V because there is part of a story on my page 7 but I can't figure out from who.

Sounds like you have your retirement

plans pretty well worked out. What are you going to do in Oregon after you retire?

You too young to just lay around the house. There are just too many fish for you to catch so you got to have some other plans as well. Just kidding - you can adjust to retirement real easy.

Sorry to hear about Karma having problems with her back. I think you are right - do other things before you let any one cut on the back. Never seems to work out as well as a surgeon thinks it will.

Thanks for the E-mails and copies of the patches. They are doing good with their art work. They have the advantage of a computer when all we had was cheap Charley in Saigon.

Nancy and I are great. We had a good cruise up the Coast. Next we go to Hawaii. I also looked a cruise in March of 09 to go from Bangkok to Beijing with stops in Ho Chi Minh City and Nha Trang as well as a bunch of other places in SE Asia. Hope they don't capture me when we stop in Vietnam.

Regards,  
Jack

9/20/07

Dear Dick & Karma:

Just a quick note to send along a couple of things you might find interesting. As you will see I have been selected for induction to the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame. Although these articles do not document in much detail the reasons for my nomination you can be sure that some of the things we did in the 188<sup>th</sup> were the main reasons I merited consideration for this honor. Thank you and the rest of the "Black Widows" for making my Combat career look so good.

Since I found Jim Behnke from my first tour he has started an action to submit for review and upgrade my DFC I got for rescuing him on the 29<sup>th</sup> of Dec 1964. I'm sure that if anything happens it will be a year or two away.

Nancy and I leave next week for a cruise up the east coast to visit a bunch of historic cities and see the trees in full color change. Should be a good trip.

Hope that things are well with you and Karma.

Take Care,  
Jack

2/16/07

Dear Dick:

I thought that I should get back your DVD on the Vietnam Nurses and tell you about my experiences with them in 1965. When I was wounded on 9 Feb-65 I went from Saigon, Navy Hospital, to Clark AFB, Philippines to Travis AFB, California to Fitzsimons Army Hosp in Denver. I arrived in Denver on the 15 or 16 of Feb now 42 years ago yesterday or today. I can't remember exact date but for sure I was in Travis on Valentines day and stayed there until I was flown to Denver. When I was in the hospital the big increase in Army units into Vietnam started and as surgical hospitals were mobilized the female army nurses at Fitz were put on orders to ship out to VN. I knew a bunch of them and I was asked by the hospital staff to brief them on what to expect in VN. I held a bunch of group meetings where we went over how to wear Webb gear, put the suspension lining into their helmet liners and what to take in the way of civilian clothing. They wanted to know about how many party dresses to take and I told them to take as much industrial grade under wear and bras as possible because the house girls would wear out any thing frilly when they washed them. It was a hoot trying to tell them what a hooch was and there might not be any bath tubs etc for them.

I even helped them pack out their duffel bags with fatigues and other gear that they were all issued when they shipped out. When I was finally discharged some nine months later there were hardly any female Army Nurses left at Ft. Dix they were all over there. They did one hell of a fine job and yes the DVD brought up some real emotions about a bunch of young innocent ladies who experienced a hell of a lot more than nursing school prepared them for. I was a big fan of Dana Delany and watched "China Beach" because it was pretty much right on for several years. Then at the end the story got a little wild for me but I loved them all for what they did. I didn't get to see a little of their work close up and personal when Doht got shot and I was at the Surg Hospital all night with him until he came out of sedation following his surgery. I remember one thing during that night when one of the nurses would come around to check on him, and they were there constantly, they all smelled so clean. It was a big change from how the VN girls smelled — you know what I mean. It's a good DVD!!

By the way did you see the Black Widow slick that's in the DVD. It's a very brief picture but that bulls eye on the tail is clearly white with a red center and has to be one of ours. Check it out it's about half way through

the DVD.

Over Christmas I bought a new DVD/VHS player and I can copy things from Tape to DVD. I had a couple of tapes from Charley Mawee and Georg Händel so I made copies for you. You may already have them but now on DVD they will last forever.

The work you doing on the unit history is great. You havent said yet are you going to make it a book and try to publish or what? If you plan to publish then another editor would help to check out the material for english, spelling etc. As you know I'm not very good with that and I'm too creative in my spelling to be of much help. There was one thing that stood out in the things you sent.

Air Force pilots at Tug Waa flying "F 101 lead sleds" - the 101 was the Voodo a recon plane. The lead sled was the 105 Thunderchief.

In "the jeans" piece you refer to McWhorter as a "West Point" guy. I looked up his name in the West Point registry and he is not a West Point grad.

In some of the other pieces you describe Bobby Wafford as a very popular officer. He may have been but he violated a direct order to disperse the aircraft for safety. It made it a hell of a job to find them and work on them but you saw what happened to them when they were all parked on the ramp.

Merryman was absolutely clear to me that if the aircraft were not dispersed around DT and an attack got them I would be gone as well. As you will recall when

the VC came up to the perimeter across from our maintenance area a shot up the ramp the next morning. Marryman, Psacki and someone else from 1<sup>st</sup> Avn Bde were there at sun up. They counted the number of aircraft in the revetments all on the ramp and because there were ~~just~~ the number allowed, no more, I kept my job.

I wasn't sure whether you knew about Behnke or not but one of the reasons I got after Ross Scott was because I had used a gun ship to rescue a couple of three people and they did not work very well. They were just too heavy and when a slick would left them with ease I didn't want any gun ship used as a rescue aircraft.

Dick when I landed to pick up Behnke it was pure luck that there was only him his RTO and two wounded VNs Rangers. If there had been any more on the ground they would have surely reached the ship and we would have not been able to fight them off or lift off with any more than we did. That hog just was able to lift off and barely flyable as I went out. It was real close to being unable to fly and then what would we have done. Behnke didn't need reinforcements of two helicopter pilots, a door gunner and crew chief to help him fight or be with him when we all were captured. I was put in for the DFC for the rescue. There have been several others written up for similar rescues in the 69-70-71 time frame and they got DSC's. I was there when the DFC was a big deal and awards and decorations were hard to come by. Any way if I got over Scotty it was because I didn't want him to do something that was full of risk when there

(5)

were better courses of action available. Well I didn't give him any disciplinary action as I recall and he was back in the guns later and most of all he was alive and not a POW. If he is still mad at me because of that - well he can get over it - I knew what a stupid thing I had done later and even though it was brave to go in it was too big a risk as far as I'm concerned.

Go ahead and contact VHPA about me as a sponsor. I'll do the same later when I register. Nancy and I will be gone before the reunion when we go on a Mediterranean & Greek Isles Cruise. We fly out of Dallas on 27 May to Barcelona then we sail to Marseille, Livorno, Rome, Naples, Mykonos, Istanbul, Kusadasi, Athens and Venice. We should be back in Dallas on the 11<sup>th</sup> of June. Then I'll head out to Phoenix. Just keep me up to date on when the reunion will happen.

Congratulations on making 60. Life doesn't end when you approach Social Security age. What does Karma think about having to live with a senior citizen? June 17 I hit 75 - I'm a real senior.

Thanks for sending the manuscripts.

Grace Pace,  
Jack