

YAHOO! MAIL**From:** "Wes Gager" [REDACTED]**To:** [REDACTED]**Subject:** RE: 1/7/68**Date:** Mon, 12 Feb 2007 16:57:17 -0500*LZ Sally*
2nd Plt

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I sent you the wrong story. I'll send you an account of the day we built down "The Street Without Joy" later. I got a cold and ain't feeling too swift right now. It's probably reflected in my last dizzie e-mail. The that was with me that day, up north, I think was Gene Jerge. We were cash and trash. We stopped at the infantry's guys little base camp, loaded up

C-rats etc. They put a grunt on board to show us the way and kick loaded told us he had been wounded three different times while in the field and his

unit took pity on him and gave him a cushy rear area job. We went out were busy delivering goodies to small units doing sweeps. Along the way we heard that old, familiar pop,pop,pop in the key of AK-47 and yanked at what was left of the collective and started evasive maneuvers. I felt annoying tug on my sleeve and without looking back yelled over my shoulder,

"not now". The tugging persisted and when I thought we were clear of the gunfire I turned around and saw that our helper had just qualified for fourth oak leaf cluster for his Purple Heart. The only good thing about was that it was one of those Hollywood shoulder wounds. I'm sure it did feel that way at the time. I felt real bad for him and we headed immediately

for his unit aid station. We dropped him off and asked his buddies for case of Willie Pete. They accommodated us and we flew back to the area where

we had relieved the fire. At roof top level and hauling ass over those thatched hootches that straddled Highway 1 the guys in back carefully distributed the whole case. We sure didn't want one blowing back in our face. It took us a good long way but when we finished we honked up in a nice cyclic climb and admired our handy work. Smokin' vill for as far as the eye

could see. Probably should have been court marshalled for it but we were pissed. John Moore is areal beauty! Shit, I told the story anyway. I finished last fire season but haven't worked in a few months. I managed to pass flight physical last month and may turn another trick this year. Wes

>From: Dick Detra [REDACTED]

>To: Wesley Gager [REDACTED]

>CC: Ron Piecuch [REDACTED]

>Subject: 1/7/68

>Date: Sun, 11 Feb 2007 15:35:01 -0800 (PST)

>

>Hey Wes,

> How they hanging you old slick driver? I got a call from one of yc
>door gunners, Ron Piecuch. We talked about when you were wounded duri
>Rapid Fire V and sent out of the company for three months? And instea
>taking your million dollar wound home you returned to the company. Th
>when you were up at LZ Sally you took fire from a hamlet along the rc
and
>went back loaded up with a bunch of grenades and went back and set th
>place on fire. Can you give me your memories on that tale so I can pu
>in the book I'm working on. I copied Cooch, maybe you two can hook up
>and share a little. John Moore was your crew chief on that one and Ge
>Jones must have been the AC. Hope you are healthy and keeping your
>heat-on's to the wek-ends. Don't take me too serious...you know how c
>some of us BW's are... Do you ever here from Bob Mudge...he was at th
>Florida reunion with us? Are you still flying?

> Take care,

> Dick

>

>

> Dick Detra

> 188th AHC

> Black Widows/Spiders

> 6/67-6/68

> 415-725-1612

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