

I II

10-25-96

Dear Mr. DeTra

I was stationed at Da Nang
From April 1967 to Nov 1967,
I was with A. Co, 2nd BN, 12th
INF, 4th INF Div until Gen.
Westmoreland decided we would
become part of the 35th Div
on August 1, 1967 in a 3rd Brigade
swap of units between the two
divisions.

In Sept my platoon became part of
D. Co, 2nd BN, 12th INF 35th INF Div

I first came to Vietnam on the
USS, Buckner from Tacoma, Wash
when my provisional INF BN left
Fort Lewis. I was with D. Co 87th INF,
I landed in Vietnam at Da Nang
in November 1966 after stopping at Qui Nhon

When I arrived in Da Nang ^{+ Cam Ranh Bay,}

The base camp was fairly primitive
Our unit lived in tents with wooden
floors when in base camp.

The mess hall was a tent, we often
ate outside in the rain sitting on
sand bags. We had gas lamps in the tents & mess hall

JP-25-01

II

I

We mostly were out on Infantry operations seeking Viet Cong and NVA Units in the area.

We often went to the Ho Bo Woods, Bo Loi Woods, Iron Triangle, Sui Tre area, Nu'A Ba Dinh area, The Cambodian border and other parts of War Zone C.

We often swept the Michelin Rubber plantation looking for VC. If we fired or damaged the rubber trees, the U.S. Govt was supposed to pay the Michelin Co. \$75.00 for each tree damaged.

We were glad to have a base camp area, that was in the rubber tree plantation, since we had some shade and hopefullly a bit cooler ~~out~~ out in the sun.

We had to man the bunkers when we returned to base camp. We had 50 caliber machine guns, phl gas in 55 gallon drums we could detonate, claymore mines, and Trip Flares out in front of the berm line. Sometimes snakes and rats would

come into the bunkers. III
The PX was in a small French Building
you could barely bless yourself in.
There was an old pool there too, by the
Officers club, but we never had an
opportunity to use the old or new pool.
The Canteen was a Palm + bamboo
roof and sides. The Floor was concrete
and the beer was cold usually.

We went out on Infantry operations
by Truck Huey helicopters, Chinook helicopters,
C-128 ~~Providers~~ Caribous, and by foot.
We had to wade thru the flooded
Saigon River in the monsoon season.

There was a place on the west side
of the camp we would patrol out of,
by getting thru the concertina wire.
There was an old French Catholic
Church in this area. It might have been
Our Battalion aid station was ^{abandoned} ~~owned~~
an old French house.

We also operated out of the
Tan Nien base camp when the
1st INF Bde went up to the ^{Oregon}
Chu Lai area to form Task Force and
later form the Americal Division.
My first Infantry operation was
Operation Junction City, it was the
largest U.S. operation of the war
at that point. We never had any live
entertainment, though we were out on operations usually

The 3rd Bgde, 4th INF Div ~~IV~~
was under the operational control
of the 25th INF Div while it was
in Dan Tieng and till the Bgde swap
with the 25th Division, August 1, 1967,
I also considered myself 4th Infantry
Division until the official Brigade
exchange. Most of the old timers did
not like losing the 4th Infantry
Division designation, it seemed to ~~be~~
hurt morale at that time.

Our base camp was known
as Camp Rainier. I believe we
even had a Totem pole that was
brought from Fort Lewis, Washington.
Camp Rainier was named after
the great Mountain of Western Wash.
The 77th Artillery BN, Commander
LT Col. Vesey later became Gen. Vesey
Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army.

The 77th Artillery gave fire
support to our BN - 2/12th INF and
the other units of our Bgde. The
3/22nd INF and the 2/22 mech INF.
The village was off limits all the
time I was at Dan Tieng so I
can't give much info on it.

We sometimes performed security
at the base of Nui Ba Dinh (The Black
Virgin Mountain, which was 3,200 ft high).

V

We ONCE encountered a Tiger on a sweep thru a pineapple field in the Nui Ba Dinh area.

I remember the Aviation units near the air strip but NOT the individual nickname.

I remember they would show films once in a while near the area, the new PX was built at, I recall seeing a "Batman film" that was released at that time (1967).

We had a red indian head stenciled on our camo helmet liner to designate our white warrior nickname, A Co 2nd, 12th INF.

I do not recall any unauthorized patch for 2/12 INF. ^{A 12th INF patch exists but it was probably before Nam.}

Our Bgde Commander was "Fullback" in our radio call sign.

The 2/12th INF Bn Comdr was "Fleet".

MOST of the lower enlisted men and SgT E-5s were draftees, in ~~the~~ A/2nd/12th INF. We operated in jungle (triple canopy growth), rice paddies, rubber plantation, swamps, elephant grass, and lower terrain of Nui Ba Dinh Mountain.

I recall the jungle and dampness, and constant Infantry operations would wear out boots and fatigues very quickly.

I didn't recall 29 of 31 Hueys were KO'd 6-24-67. New wooden hootches were built circa 9-67. We had USN Sea Bees drilling wells in our base camp circa 8-67.

Village

Berm line

DeCo
2nd TB
a-co on line
Shannon
Rubber
Jatun trees

Rubber trees

Rubber trees

B, Co

2nd TB

INF

Cammo Unit

Road + walkingway

Berm line

Village

2nd TB
C, Co Area
Gunner

Rubber trees

Road + walkingway

2nd TB INF

Hq, Co
Rubber trees

New PX

new pool

BN
Mid station
old PX
old Post office

A 1ST INF DIV, INF BN
under LT. Col Al Haig Took
off From The Dau Tieng
Air Strip in an Infantry
operation during The early
part of The Viet Nam
War circa early 1966 Ap Chia
Feb battle?

AFTER Suoi Tre near Nui
Ba Dinh, Gen Westmoreland ^{visited}
The 2/12 3/22 2-22 INF
of 3rd Rgde 4th INF Div
all received the US Presidential
UNIT CITATION For Suoi Tre
battle 2-67
2/77 Artillery also received
PUC For Suoi Tre,

According To Viet Nam order of
battle Dau Tieng base camp
used by 2/27 INF 1970 25th Div
1/28th INF 1st INF Div
Summer 1969 at Dau Tieng
2/28 at Dau Tieng 2-1970

4-23rd ^{Mech} INF VIII 10-70-12-70 at

Dau Tieng 25th Div

SP-4 Donald J Evans received The Medal of Honor for heroism at Tri Tam 1-27-67 posthumously. He was with A Co 2nd 12th INF 4th Div. He was a medic and was born 7-23-42 Covina, Calif.

The Viet Cong on at least one or two occasions in 1967

used explosives to damage the bridge over the Saigon River at Dau Tieng Village on the edge of our base camp, Camp Rainer

The bridge was guarded by the 3rd Brigade Military Police and a .50 cal machine gun was positioned there to prevent attacks.

Our Bn. Medical Aid station was just outside our Bn area in an old French house

I recall one night a buddy got Hawoi Hawwah on the radio, I think it was generally out of range

of the III Corp area's reception

PH 201-648-3706 days

Sincerely

Pete Cullen <sup>base camp
Dau Tieng
4-67 to 11-67
4th + 25th Div</sup>

rifleman - A + S. Co 2/121 INF