

02-28-96

From:

07:59 PM

Date: Wednesday, 28-Feb-96 07:59 PM

From: \ America On-Line:
To: Daniel Pope \ Internet:

Subject: No Excuses

Hello Daniel, my name is Neil Corvino. I'm one of those who have not made the effort

to join the association. I have no excuses. My application will follow. I served with with Co E (LRP) from Oct 67 to Nov 68. I was interviewed by Maj Malone

not long after arriving in country at Bien Hoa and being asked if I wanted to

volunteer

for a special unit in Pleiku . Maj Malone, my 201 Folder in hand, asked me what a city fella(NYC) like me new about trees. About all I could answer was

that the only trees I knew about were telephone poles. He looked up to say

that he would change that. He did.

Daniel, I mentioned above that I have no excuses what I have are a couple of

demons. I did not distinguish myself with Co E, I don't mean with commendations or

rank. Inside me I was running away all the time. I wanted out of the field

bad. So

bad that I began thinking about myself as a coward (the feeling has lingered

with me

still). The feelings started after I shot Benny Diggs in the arm during a firefight. I didn't tell anyone at the time but Benny and I knew. We were checking out a bunker/tunnel

complex around An Khe, I was the RTO. While I was calling in the position we

started

drawing fire, as I turned to return fire Benny moved to change position that's when My

round hit him in the right arm rear bicep. We were able to break contact. I

I remember everyone bugging out and leaving me and Benny. Benny was laying back in a bunker opening not to interested in moving, I was breaking down the

PRC-25 long antenna. When I was done I said to Benny that we had to catch up

with the rest of the team. Benny wasn't moving, he was probably going into shock. I remember screaming at him "I'm gona leave you here, mother fucker".

He held out his good arm, I helped him up and we caught up with the rest of

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the team. The team was able to find an extraction point and we were pulled out by a Medevac chopper. I think I broke after that mission. I didn't tell what had happened even after I heard that the docs said that the wound looked like it came from behind. After that I couldn't take the field anymore. I developed a cyst at one point, I received treatment then while convalescing I began doing clerk work in the company orderly room. While I was dodging paperclips the other members of the 2nd Platoon were pulling missions. The detail lasted until I rotated home (about 6 months I think). Daniel, I have yet to justify my behavior and I wonder if I should. What would be different? I could be dead. You and my wife are the only ones who know.

Upon reading the KIA list in the 10 Jan 95 newsletter I saw no mention of Emory Smith. I don't remember the date, his name is on the Wall. Lt Greene was the 1st Platoon leader, KIA early in the unit's history ('67). Sgt Lee was KIA in '68, I think he was in the 3rd Platoon.

Along with my application fee I will include a donation for the NARA. Thanks for being persistent with newsletters, they finally worked.

Neil

Mailing address:

PS: If you have Benny Diggs address could you send it along.