

March 30, 1997

Daniel,

Was going thru one of your SITREPS--reference KIA LIST:

Sgt Lee WAS NOT KIA at time of ambush of Green & Henshaw. Don't know when he was KIA but did not happen until after 2/68. I regret not having a roster of the company (though I did have one until 10 years ago) or I could identify him.

Read that you are putting together an article for a magazine about the early days of Co E. Mike Malone and I were the guys that put the company together. I collected the men, devised the SOP and planned our operations. Mike honed and inspired the men and dealt with our bosses. It was a great partnership. He was my boss...and my friend. He relied on my recon experience (A-team, MIKE Force and Project Delta) and allowed me to devise our initial operational procedures. They must have worked--aside from the deaths of Green & Henshaw, we conducted dozens of successful operations without a casualty. Our first KIA's (Green & Henshaw) came because Lt. Green disobeyed my orders.

If you need further info or questions answered--let me know. I've sent Lazarov several company SITREPs from 68. They don't identify individuals but do give information of the lack of KIA during much of 68. That may be helpful in pinpointing dates of unknown KIA's.

If you want more info on the early days, write Bob STEIN and Phil MAYER. They were platoon leaders--Mayer being the first one we had and the guy who got the basecamp set up whilst I was off recruiting the troops.

Sincerely,
Mike Rankins