

mark A. Miller

Dec. 1994

75TH Ranger Regiment Association

Fellow Ranger:

Daniel Pope - Unit Representative For
Typhoon Patrollers - 1st Field Force Co. E 20TH
Infantry (Airborne) Long Range Recon Patrols and
Charlies Rangers - 1st Field Force Co. C 75TH
Infantry (Airborne) Ranger

Received your letter and it sounds like you have a lot of good ideas and the drive to go with it, sounds great to me and I hope I can help you in some way or another. I'm in agreement with you that we need more support and strength, being that we were one of the biggest and best L.R.R.P. / RANGER companies in Viet-Nam. Seems everybody loses touch and forgets what it was all about, I certainly hope not.

Just received my December 1994 copy of Patrolling and low and behold on the inside page was a picture of my platoon in Viet-Nam. 1st Platoon (Satin's Playboys) Company E. 20th Inf. (Airborne) L.R.R.P. - 1st Field Force. I'm in the back row about sixth or eighth over from the right depending on how you count. My bare arm is on my buddy Stevie Northington's shoulder.
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I don't have a boonie hat on and my m-16 is stuck up behind Steve's head - Small world.

Dan, getting to the history of both companies I'm a original member of E Co. 20th Inf (Abn) LRRP 67-68 and I feel I can contribute alot of information on it's formation if I can jog my memory bank - First names and places are tough. I have some pictures and slides. While reading the book Rangers/LRRP's in Viet Nam by Shelby Stanton (publisher Ivy Books) he talks about on pages 201-202, E. Co 20th Inf (Abn) LRRP - 1st Platoon at Bao-Loc. They mis-printed Co E with Co F on the bottom of page 201 twice - should be E not F company. The 1st Platoon was working as a platoon for the 1st Brigade 101st Airborne in the Bao-Loc area. We were ambushed following a blood trail up a incline of a trail (dumb move I agree) Our platoon leader 1st LT. Green, was ex Special Forces and very Gung-Ho. In the initial ambush Lt. Green was blown away never to be recovered by a hand detonated Bouncing Betty mine. Green had just taken point away from Sgt E-5 Henshaw who dropped back to second (over)

in line. Sgt Henshaw was killed by small arms fire after the explosion. I was third in the file with fairly good interval. The incline and the way the mine was hastily set up pointing out-ward instead of down the slope saved me, I was only knocked down by the blast. Sgt Valdez at the tail of the column caught shrapnel. SFC Brinker also lost a leg to short rounds from our own artillery on this mission.

Shelby Stanton's book also says that E Co 20th Inf (Abn) LRP had 5 KIA's while I was with the company between Dec 1967 and Jan 1968 which is true. You will have to check after action reports to verify these names 1st LT. Green, Sgt E-5 Henshaw, ✓ Sgt E-5 Lee, Spec 4 Fred Wiedner and another L.R.P. from 3rd Platoon (I believe) was killed by our own gunships.

Here are a few names and addresses of LRRPS/RANGERS who served with E/20th/C/75th; you may have these people, but maybe not all of them.

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James W. Miles

Everett Cress Jr.

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Norman M. Phillips

Tim Mattingly

Johnny D. Parker

James McFarland

David S. Bechtold

Michael A. Nedbalski

*

Donald L. Lincoln

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Well Dan, will close for now, hope this helps some
what. IF you need any help, let me know what
I can do.

Your Fellow L.R.R.P./RANGER

Mark A. Miller

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P.S.: I know Ranger recognition is already in the making, but I will enclose a letter I sent to the 75th Ranger Reg Assoc. on my feelings on the subject.

Also I will enclose a copy of my citation for a Bronze Star w "V" medal for the records. These type missions weren't uncommon as you know in LRRP/RANGER companies. We received very little credit being that we were usually attached to some Division or Brigade. They took care of their own First.

Dan, do me a favor if possible - send me Vaughn Davidson's address - he's a brand new member in the association and served with F/20th.