



VIETNAM
1970





CARMEN MATTRE

4528 E. BOSTON RD

BRECKSVILLE, OHIO

440-838-0463

44141

BRAVE AND THE BOLD



H TROOP 17TH US CAVALRY

UNIT HISTORY

TROOP H, 17TH US CAVALRY, 198TH INFANTRY BRIGADE

On 10 May 1967, the Department of Defense announced: "A new infantry brigade will be sent to Vietnam". The new unit, the 198th Infantry Brigade, was formed from units of the 1st and 2nd Armored Divisions, Fort Hood, Texas. Of these units from "Hell on Wheels" and "Old Ironsides", H Troop, 17th Cavalry was one.

On 22 October 1967, Military Sea Transports brought the 198th and H Troop to Da Nang on the USS Gordon and USS Upshur. Upon arrival at Da Nang, the troops and equipment boarded LST's and headed for Chu Lai. Four days after arrival, the units became part of the Americal Division.

On the 28th of October 1967, the 2nd Platoon, H Troop, 17th Cavalry, became the first element to begin troop operations escorting a convoy 70 miles south to LZ Carentan where the 198th was temporarily set up. The first and third platoons and headquarters platoon became OPCON to the 196th Infantry Brigade and conducted operations to include bridge security, search and clear, and convoy escort missions.

On 15 November 1967, the troop minus was released from OPCON to the 196th with no contact made during this period. The second platoon at LZ Carentan had taken part in one contact mission channeling the VC force into the waiting guns of the infantry.

On 16 November 1967 the troop moved to its present location on LZ Bayonet taking over the 198th TAOR from F Troop, 17th Cavalry who became OPCON to the 196th Infantry Brigade. On the 21st of November 1967 the 2nd platoon returned from LZ Carentan and brought the troop up to full strength.

On 2 December 1967, two ACAV's from the 2nd platoon moved to secure the Binh Son Bridge with a platoon of popular force troops. At 0130 hours 3 Dec 67 the bridge and District Headquarters came under a mortar and ground attack from six VC companies. The 23 vehicle took a direct hit from a 57 R/R wounding 4 crewmen. SSG Bandy, section leader, was instrumental in thwarting the enemy attack and was awarded the Silver Star for leadership. He was the first soldier in the 198th Infantry Brigade to receive such an award. Five purple hearts were given to the men who were wounded and a Bronze Star with a "V" device was awarded Cecil A. Smith driver of the 23 vehicle for outstanding performance directing the tracks firepower after his track commander was wounded.

On 16 December 1967, the troop was informed that a POW was to lead them to a weapons/ammunition cache. The tracks were lead toward Dong Binh (1) and an extensive area search began. The POW showed the cavalrymen to a tunnel location. After a few frag grenades were tossed, a steel plate covering was forced off of the entrance. The men waited as three men emerged from the hole. The second enemy threw a hand grenade but caused no casualties. He was immediately killed. The third VC attempted to escape and was severely wounded. A fourth VC managed to escape but was also wounded as the blood trail he left indicated. Medical supplies and two machine guns were found in the tunnel. A second tunnel revealed propaganda and flags.

On 21 March 1966, elements of H Troop departed Landing Zone Bayonet for Hill 68 which was to become a fire support base for the 198th. Three 105mm howitzars from the 1/14 Artillery were inserted without incident. On 25 Mar 68, the base came under attack at 2015 hrs from an unknown size enemy force. A recon patrol from the 1/46 Inf. initiated contact just after leaving the perimeter. The 2 hour battle ended with no breach of the perimeter. Only light US casualties were suffered.

Operation Russell Beach starting 13 January 1969 saw H Troop in action again on the Peninsula, 8 miles northeast of Quang Ngai City. This operation saw 12,000 innocent civilians relocated to pacified areas. The combat phase of this operation ended on 9 Feb accounting for 210 VC killed, 59 individual weapons and 6 crew served weapons captured.

On 3 June 1969, on the start of an operation going to LZ Stinson, the 36 vehicle was hit by heavy rocket propelled grenade fire and automatic weapons fire. LT Palmer and his driver were severely wounded taking a direct hit from one of the RPG's. SSG Werner Hunley braved the hostile fire, hooked up the disabled track and hauled it to safety. This action earned him the Silver Star for valor.

On 9 July 1969, H Troop moved to the peninsula area and became OPCON to the 5/46 Infantry. Contact came at about 1300 when the troop was subject to intense rocket propelled grenade and automatic weapons fire. The troop immediately faced the heavy attack and placed accurate return fire on the enemy positions. Many casualties were inflicted on the 5/46 Infantry. Due to the many mines, H Troop was called to transport the infantry to security.

The level of activity subsided from the end of July until the middle of September except for a few minor incidents of sniper fire, etc.

On 25 September 1969 the troop set up a night defensive position in a place later named "Little Bayonet". At 2300 hrs, the insurgents attacked with RPG's and mortars. Flare ships and "Spooky" was called to help ward off the attack. The battle raged for 2 hours with neither side giving any ground. The second platoon leader took two direct hits from RPG's but did not evacuate his position but continued to fight. SSG Holloway on the other side of the perimeter placed effective fire on four VC, winning him the Bronze Star with "V" device.

The next day, 26 Sep 69, saw the third platoon move from "Little Bayonet" to the north. About 2000 meters from their former position they engaged an unknown size enemy force. The 38 vehicle took a direct hit from a 57 R/R fired from the woodline. The platoon immediately put suppressing fire on the enemy positions. LT Paul Weikel called for a Helix who brought three air strikes on the enemy positions. A search of the area revealed a small base camp area with laundry and hammocks still hanging from the trees.

On 26 October 1969, H Troop started the day with a cup of coffee and plans for the day. At 0730 the 3 Platoons split to cover and sweep a large area in the "Horseshoe" area west of LZ Stinson. The 3rd platoon jumped 6 NVA with packs and weapons and opened fire on them killing one and wounding one more. The first platoon immediately moved into the valley just to the north and immediately received sniper fire from a spider hole. The cavalrymen opened up, killing him instantly. A search of the area produced 7 more NVA who were killed by the

men. The score went higher when 1LT Stanley Bulger, XO, spotted an RPG moving in the bushes. Grenades and small arms brought the end of another 2 NVA. Total catch for the day was 11 killed, 3 detained, 10 AK-47 rifles, 1 RPG launcher, 11 RPG rounds, 31 Chicom grenades, and 5 ruk sacks.

On 24 Nov 69, thanksgiving day found H Troop on the peninsula being visited by the Brigade Commander with a turkey dinner with all appropriate trimmings. Combat operations were held to a minimum. After the dinner and the normal day's activities, the troop moved into their NDP. The second platoon spotted movement outside the lagger and sent 4 vehicles to investigate. A search and recon by fire revealed nothing. As they were moving back to the NDP, the insurgents fired an RPG through the perimeter hitting the 35 vehicle. The casualties were minor frag wounds to 6 personnel. It was a Thanksgiving to be remembered by H Troop.

On 10 December 1969, H Troop received 9 new Sheridan M-551 Armored Reconnaissance Airborne Assault vehicles in a ceremony at the 1/1 Cavalry helipad.

On 1 April 70, the first platoon put a scare into some NVA as they were rooted from their noon meal. The action took place in the peninsula area. The base camp invaded contained some "L" shaped foxholes with a built in sleeping position. The troop searched the area finding adequate food and clothing to keep the enemy for several days.

The troop was assigned to escort a convoy on 29 May 70, the first in over one year. Light sniper fire was the only enemy contact encountered but the 22 vehicle hit one anti-tank mine on this mission killing the driver and wounding the rest of the crew. The remainder of the mission went without incident. The mission consisted of 114 five-ton trucks from 23rd S&T with H Troop escorting. The mission lasted the whole day traveling from Highway 1 to Trabong Airfield, a journey of 22 miles.

On 6 June 1970, the troop pulled escort for another convoy down Trabong road with incident and with no casualties. The mission saw 60 five-ton trucks loaded with artillery shells complete the mission to Trabong Airfield.

Troop H, 17th US Cavalry is presently assigned to the 198th Infantry Brigade and operates in the Brigade's TAOR. The Troop performs its mission with the goal of finding the enemy and defeating him wherever he is found.



CAPTAIN OLIVER L. CROOM JR.
COMMANDING OFFICER

TROOP H, 17th US CAVALRY
198th INFANTRY BRIGADE
REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM



1LT PHILIP F. KINDIG
Executive Officer



1SG TIMOTHY HIGHTOWER



SPC VANCE W. PARROW
Acting First Sergeant



SSG JERRY POOLE - Commo



SGT DALE HARRIS - Clerk



SGT WALTER CLIFTON - Operator



SP5 COVEL STEPHENS - Clerk





- SP4 JIMMY LANDTROOP -
Mail Clerk



"Finally she wrote!"



"Gotta send 'em to get 'em"



SSG DONALD OPIKA - Commo Chief



SSG ARTHUR WOODS
Maintenance Chief

SP5 ROBERT REIMOLD



SP5 PAUL NANTZ

SGT LOUIS MILLIO





SP5 LEROY HARRIS - Supply Sergeant



PFC GENE CLEARS

SP4 JOHNNY MALTEBA



"Clean as you go"



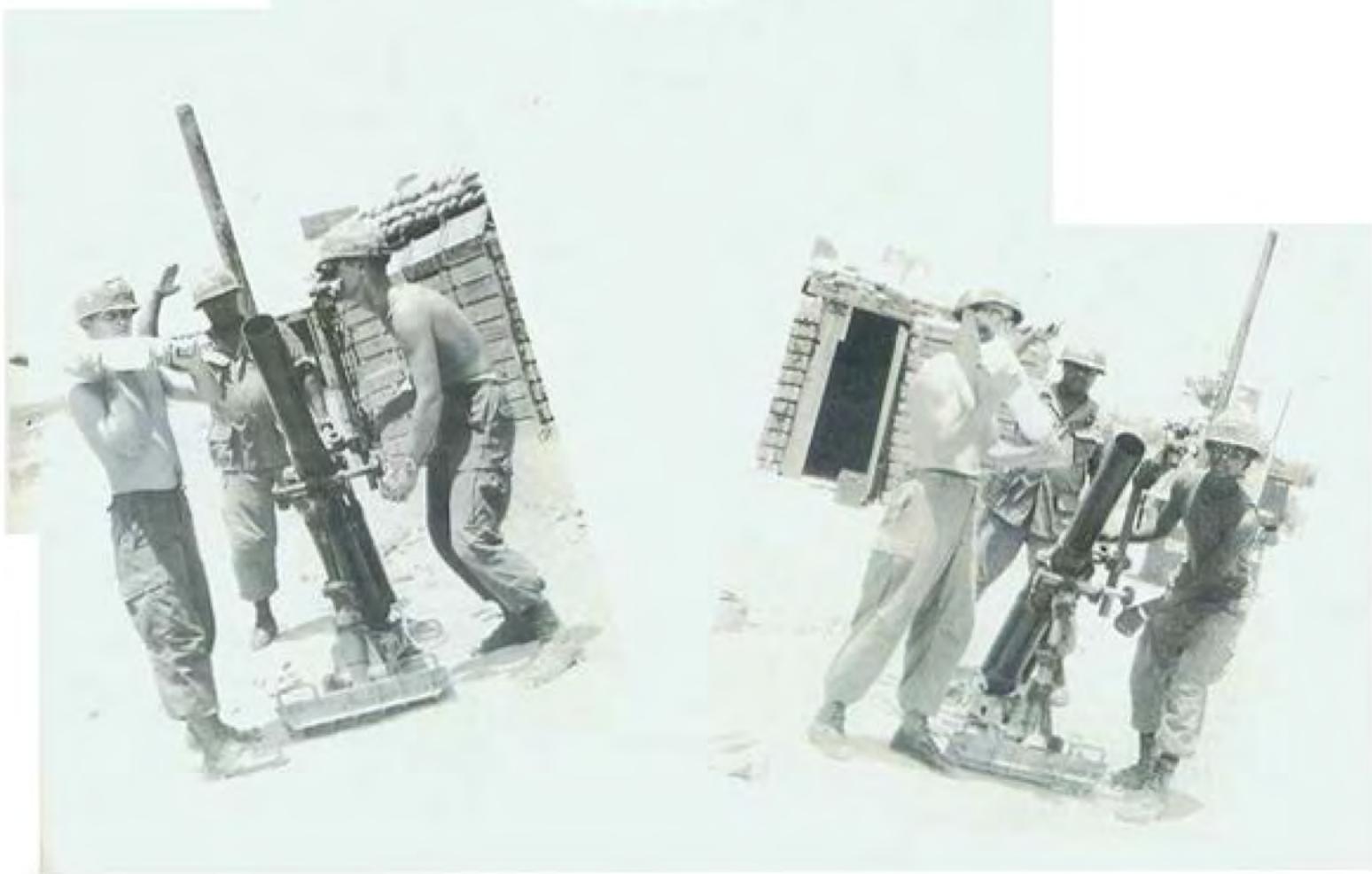
"Do you have the same size in
yellow?"



SSG JOHN GREER * Mortar Section Chief
"100 VC inside WHAT wire?"



"Hanging"





SP4 WALTER PARKER & SP4 JAMES RIGGS



SP4 ROBERT THOMAS & SP4 GIVENS

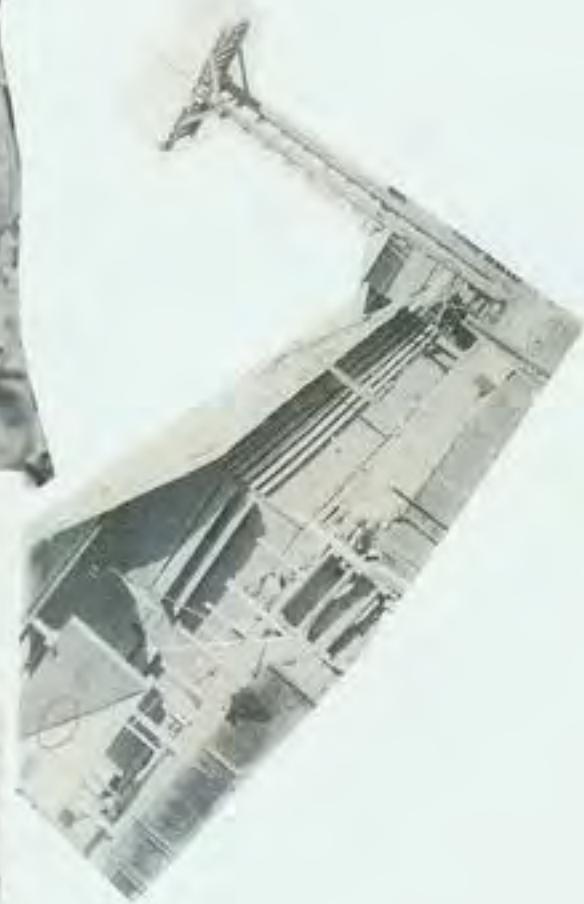


"The Bod Squad"



SP4 WILLIAM DUFF







M113A1 Armored Personnel Carrier



Vehicle Tank Retriever
"The Beast"

"HELL RAISERS"



M551 Sheridan "Big Boy"



THE MOTOR POOL





Horse Troopers



"Peace"



A flat tire??!!



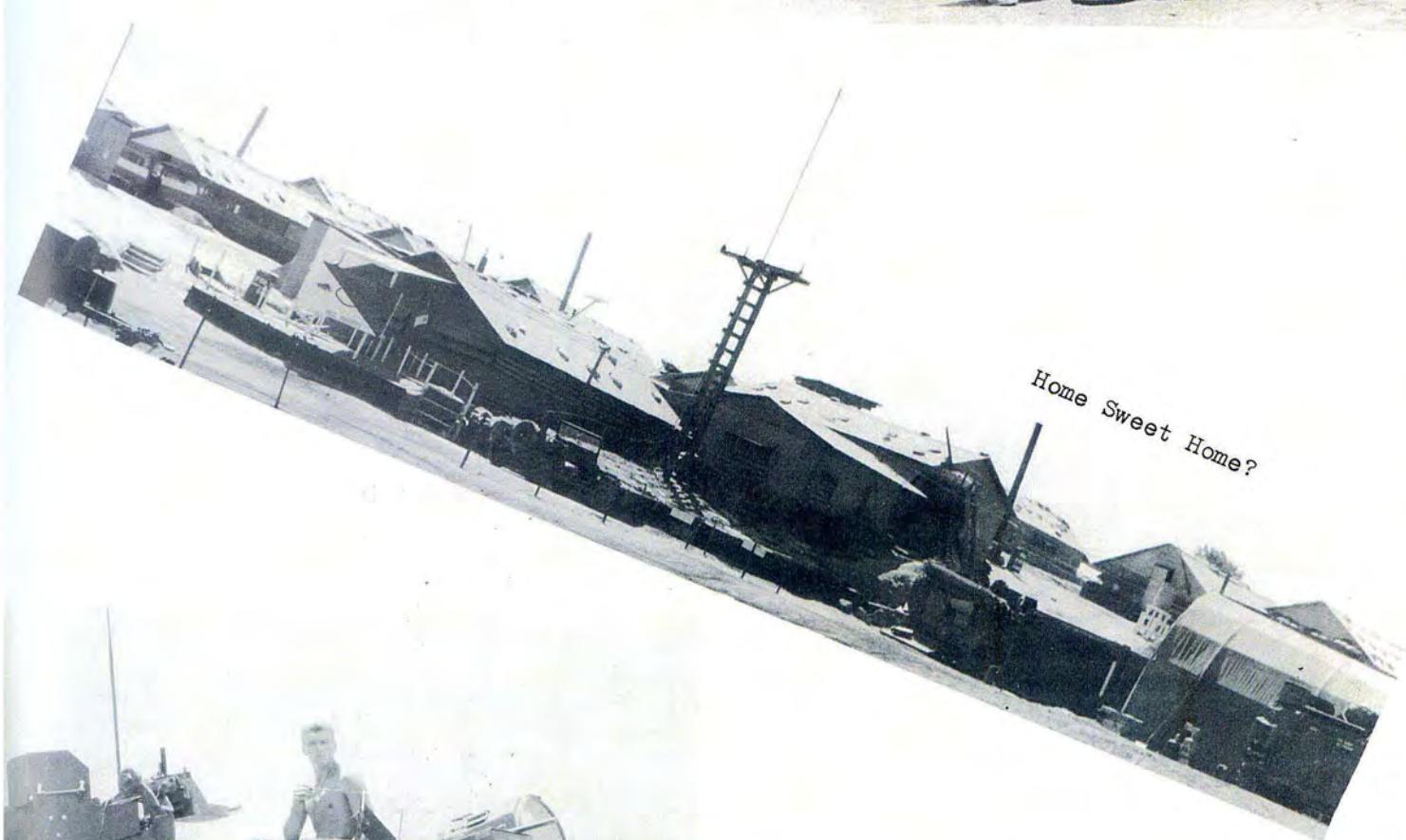
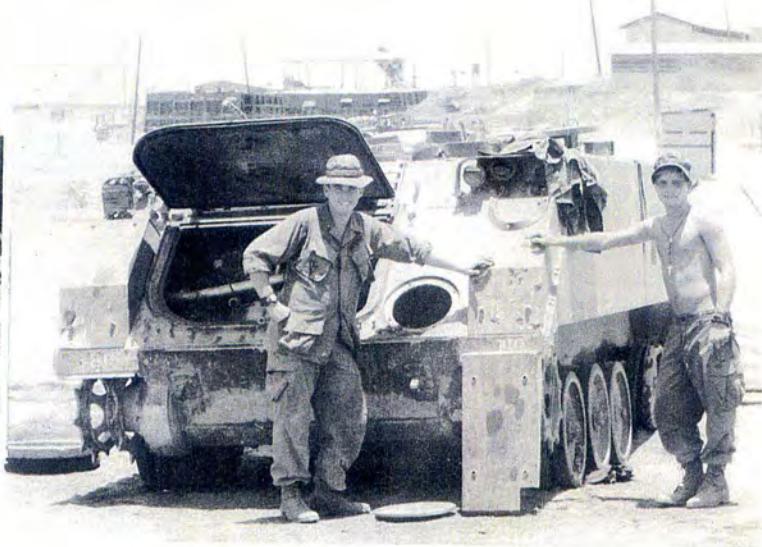


RIDIN' THE TRA BONG EXPRESS





Sham Time



Home Sweet Home?





The Wild Bunch (1st Platoon)



What do you mean, our resupply went to the 1st platoon?

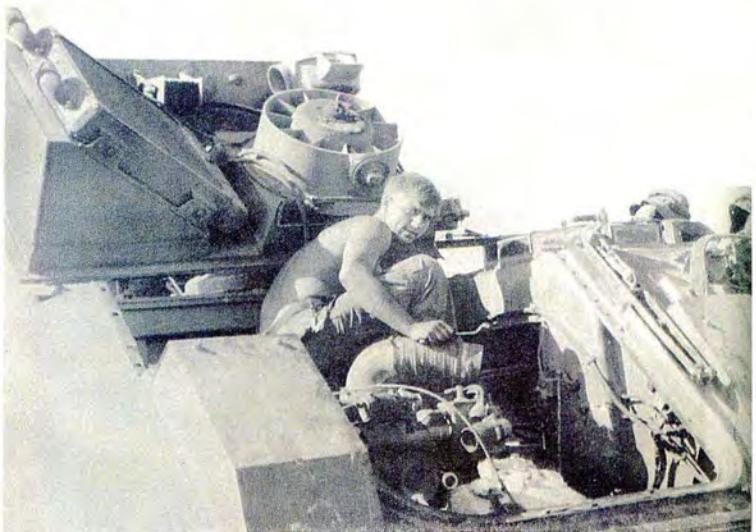
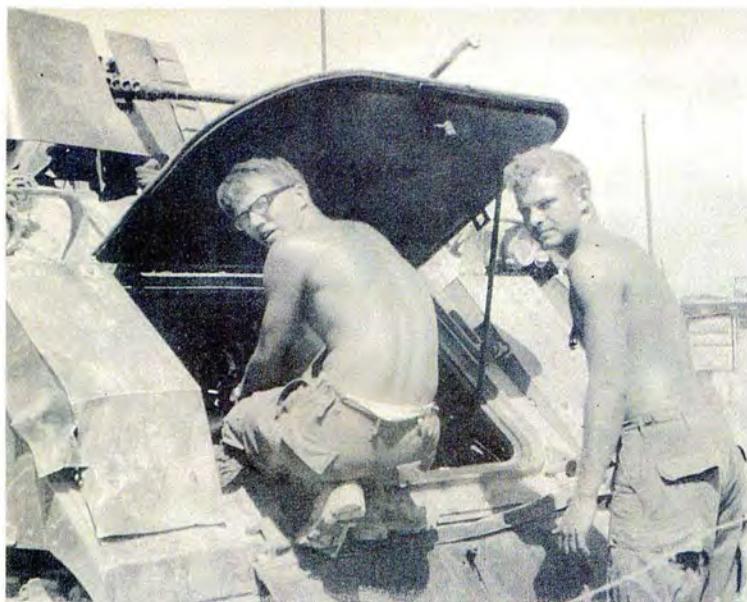


Moving Out



Where's Abbott?





Anybody seen the Instruction Book?



One Indian, seven Chiefs



Broke down again!



Now hear this!





Short!



Water run

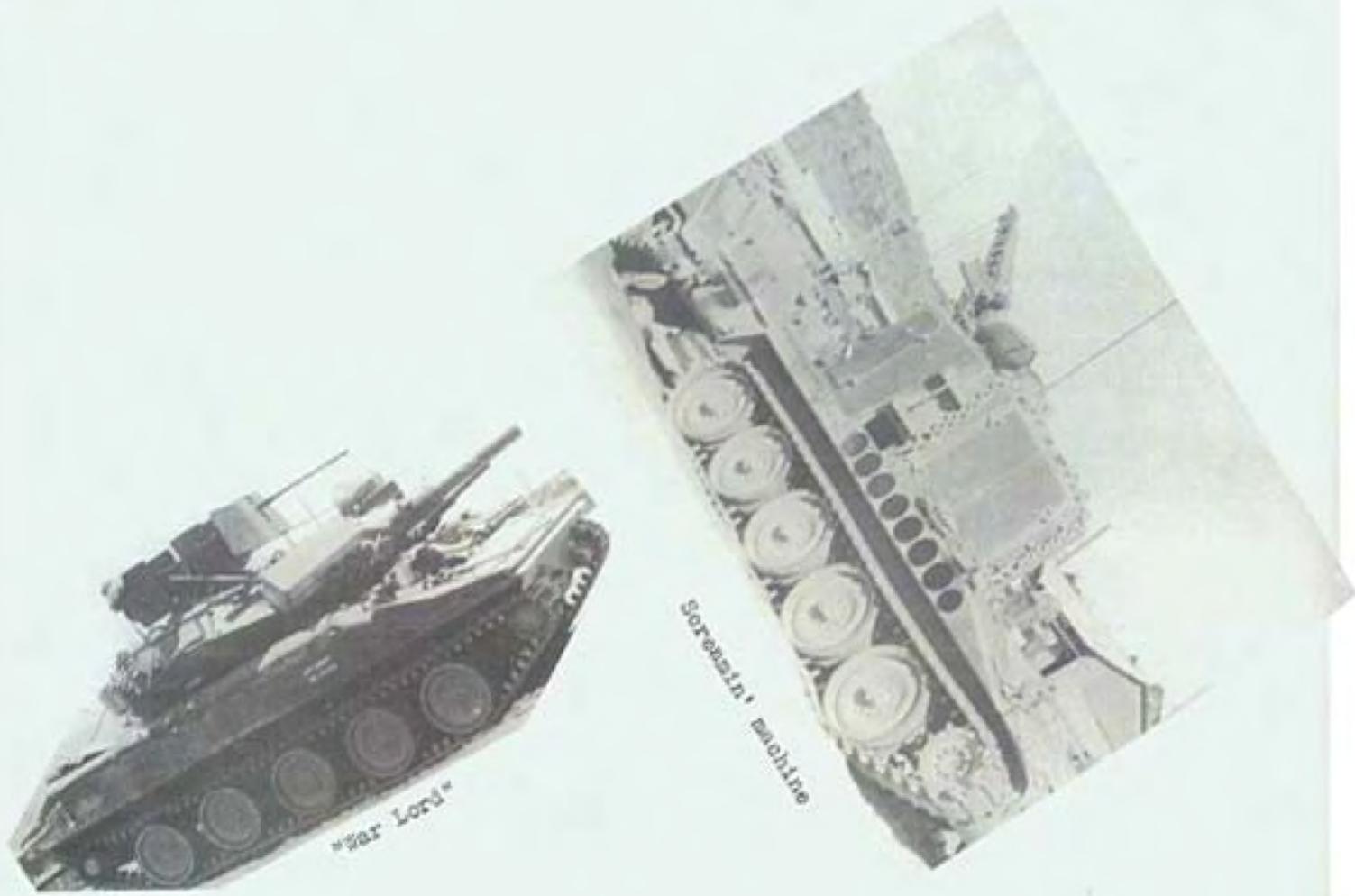


Lack of Maintenance?



THE ACTION ARMY







The Second Platoon



"Profile Pillar"



LZ Bayonet





This end first?



Headquarters (REMPs)



"Don't it make you wanna go home now."





"Chaz"



U.S. ARMY
12866568

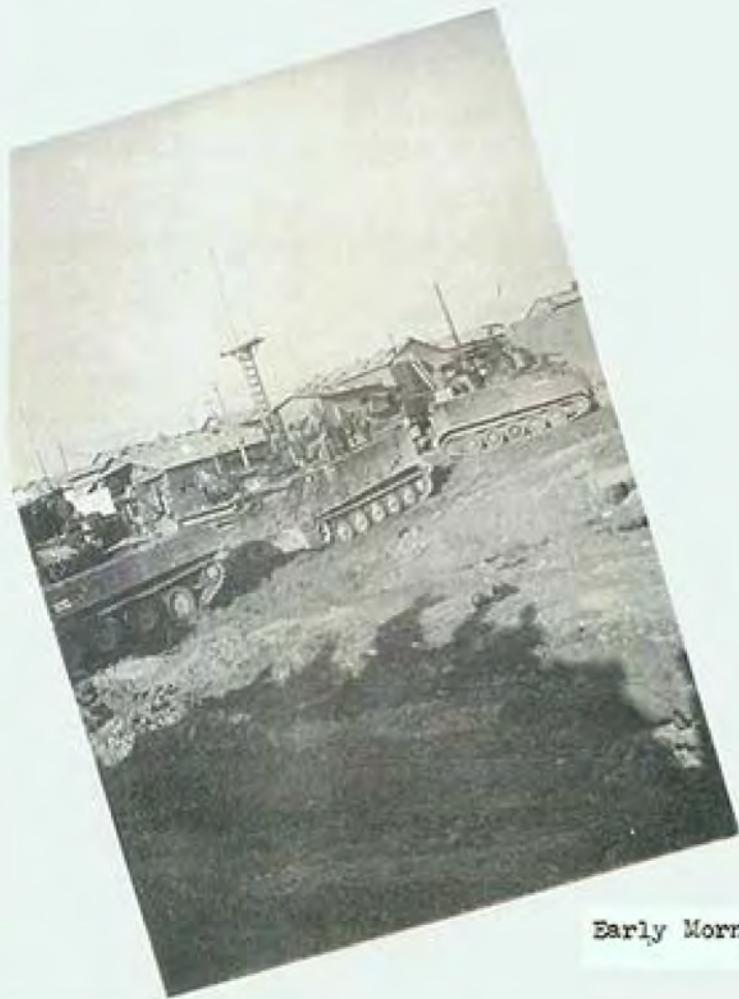


Get in line, gentlemen.





"It's what's up front that counts!"



Early Morning move out



All present or accounted for



Mess Hall Magicians



Time Out



Baby son chop chop



2LT Plath and crew



1LT Blanton



Romeo Sierra Time





1LT Eldredge

We gotta get out of this place.





"Radio Rick"



Going home to "Bravo Chicken"



Extended again!



Boom Boom



Big Brother



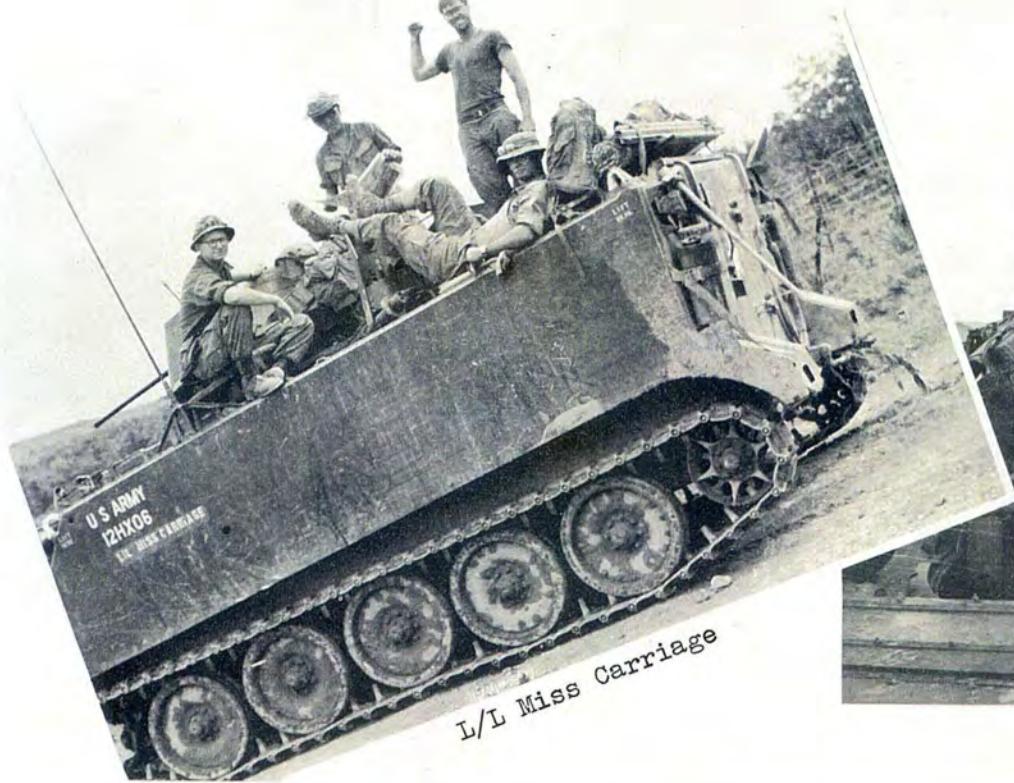
Why is this man smiling?



2LT Plath



Pony Express



Hoss







"The Old Man"





"Shorttimers"



The Beer Wagon



Coolin' it



0725



Building a freedom bird?



H Troop Soul Power



SFC GLENN SIMMONS * Mess Sergeant



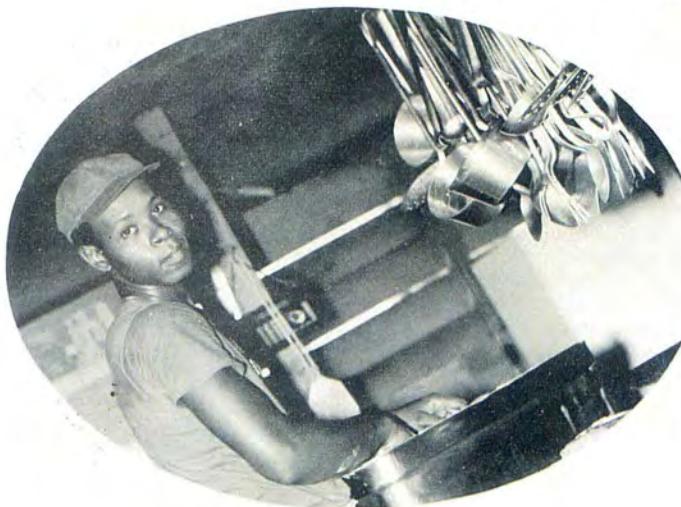
SP5 ROBERT MORGAN



SP4 RUSSELL MOTT



SP4 LARRY HUCKS



SP4 CURLEY CALDWELL



CHOW TIME





"George"



"Bayonet Bunnies"



Praise the pill





But we just had ROAST BEEF for breakfast!







CAPTAIN OLIVER L. CROOM JR.



1LT PHILIP F. KINDIG



1SG TIMOTHY HIGHTOWER



SFC FARROW



PSG EGANA



SSG MOYE



SSG WATSON



SSG WOODS



SFC SIMMONS



SSG JONES



SSG GREER



SSG WAITES



SSG POOLE



SGT MAGNUSON



BROADSTREET
SGT BROADSTREET



SGT LESKO



A/SGT BEZY



A/SGT CASSINSKI



SGT CLIFTON



PFC BRYANT



PFC SMITH



PFC BELEY



PFC BOYD



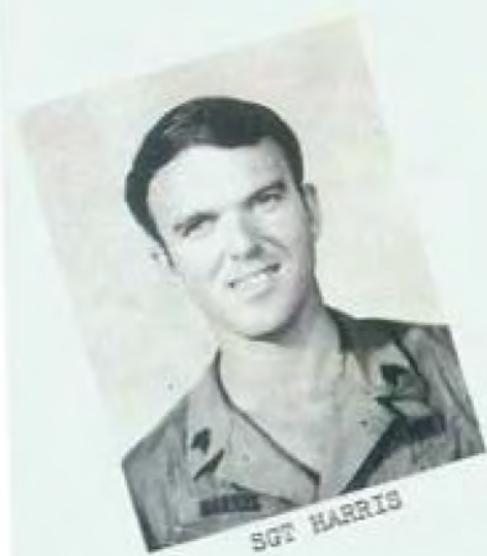
SGT MEYER



SP4 MANZANERES



SPC COOK



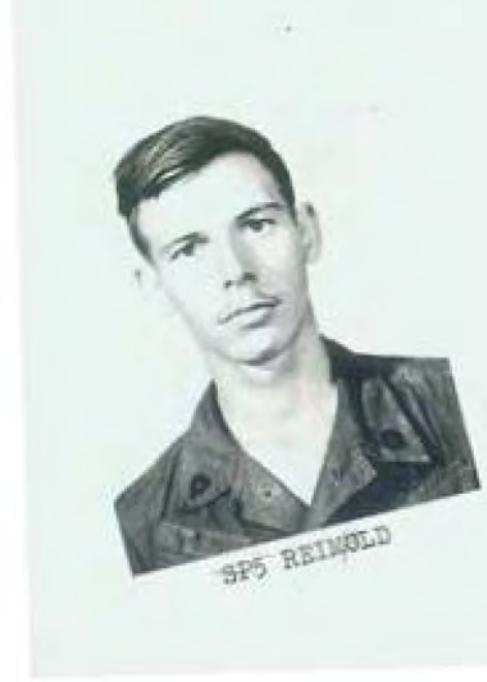
SGT HARRIS



SGT FOSTER



PFC SMITH



SPC REIMOLD



A/SGT BRANCH



SP4 HOBSON



SGT HARRIS



SGT LAXODUK



SPC GADSON



SGT MOCKOW



SGT GUEDEA



A/SGT WATSON



SGT MATHIS



SGT MARSH



SGT BELL



SP4 HARBIN



SP4 MALTEBA



SP4 GALBRAITH



SP4 LANDTROOP



SP4 CRATON



SP4 LINSEY



SP4 AVERILL



SP4 GIBSON



SP4 DROLEF



SP4 KIMBEL



SP4 HARRIS



SP4 WILSON



SP4 HICKEY



SP4 WILSON



A/SGT TATE



SP4 SWARTZ



A/SGT STUMP



SP4 ERICKSON



SP4 JOHNSON



SP4 TAYLOR



A/SGT FRENCH



SP4 DARLING



SP4 FIELDS



SP4 STEPP



SP4 PETIT



SP4 SELBY



SP4 KAPLAN



SP4 BOSWELL



SP4 GOFF



SP4 HANCOCK



SP4 ARNEY



SP4 RADFORD



SPC McDAVITT



SP4 PITTMAN



SP4 MILLER



SP4 STANBERY



SP4 JACOBS

SP4 SEAWRIGHT



SP4 HETHCOE



SP4 PILLAR



PFC PATZNER



PFC NORRIS
Became CSM of Iowa N.G.



SP4 SPURLOCK



SP4 MONTGOMERY



SP4 TIPTON



PFC BOWMAN



SP4 NYBERG



SP4 SAYLES



PFC PARLEY

Best of Luck
Sgt. [unclear] Feb 71



SP4 JETER



SP4 ROBERTS



PFC SEAGRAVES



PFC VELARDE





SP4 GOCHENOUR



SP4 WARNER



PFC CLARK



SP5 STEPHENS



SP5 MORGAN



SP4 DRAKE



SGT CHAPMAN



SP4 PARKER



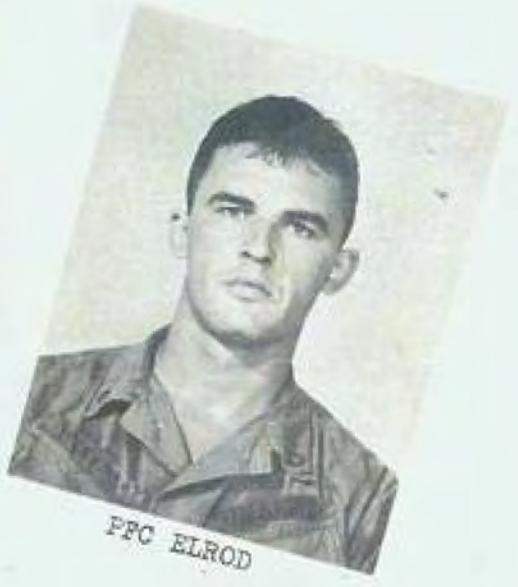
SP4 LENT



PFC WALLACE



PFC HENSLEY



PFC ELROD



PFC FOUNTAIN



PFC WALKER



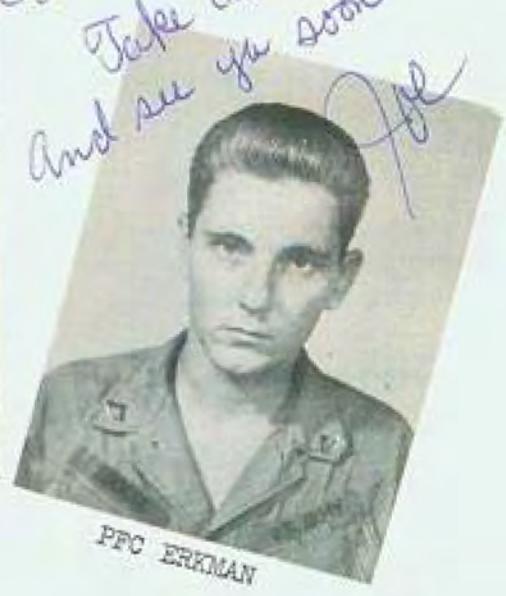
PFC RAMIREZ



PFC LANCE



PFC GAMBLE

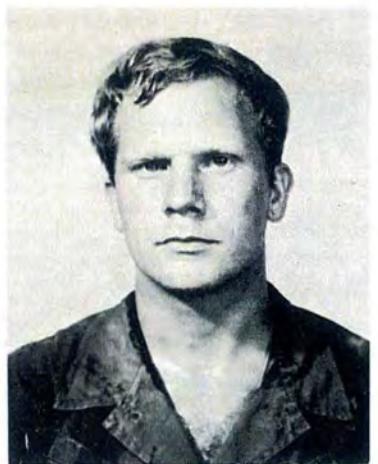
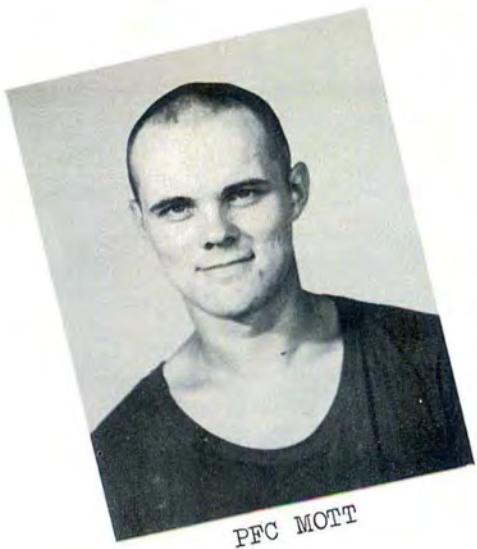
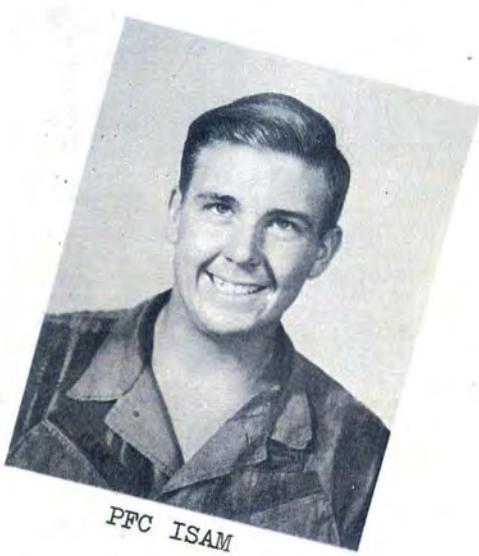


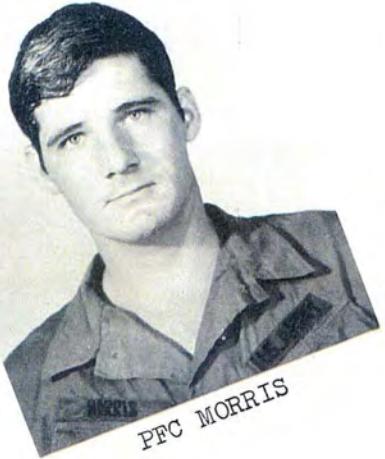
PFC ERKMAN

Carmen
Teekee call 2/3/71
And see you soon
Joe



Undis H. Ham





PFC MORRIS



PFC MATTEO



PFC PATTERSON



PFC MANN



SP4 HUGGY



PFC ALEXANDER



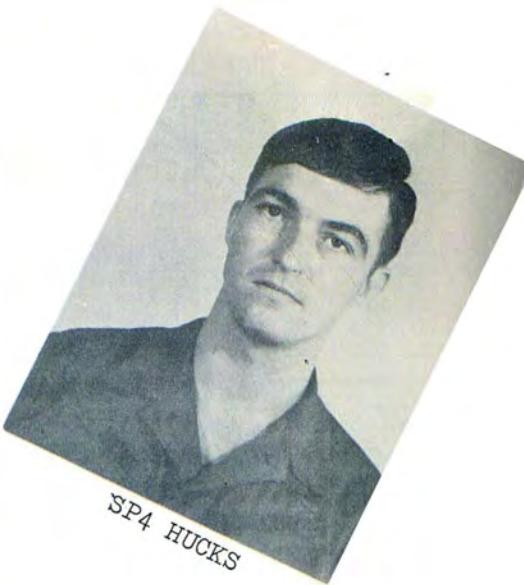
SP4 BENEDICT



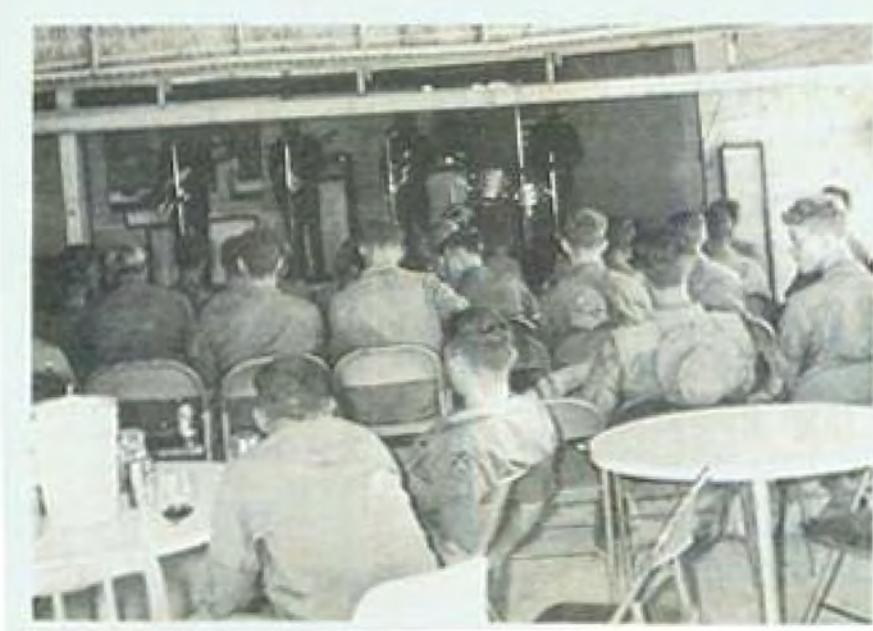
SP4 LAMBERT



SP4 CALDWELL



SP4 HUCKS





Floor Shows were
"Something else!"



P.T. Anyone?



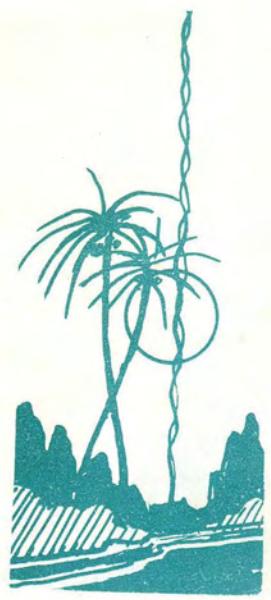
"Give me a pound"







MY PHOTO



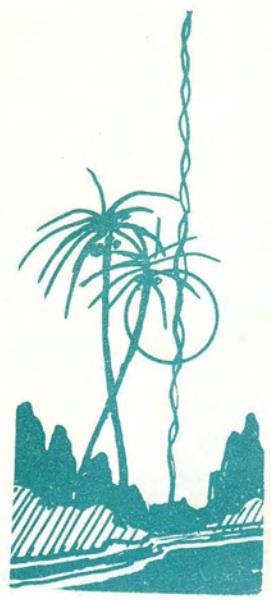
MY PHOTO

Caron (Chubby))
I know the here
I've heard of over great God
you for poor the know
you live one ever as
you live field with
out of the Son so only
possible I'll try making
and box out promised buddy

Just Dick
Shrimper



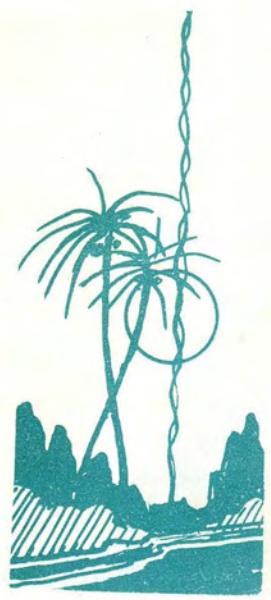
MY PHOTO



MY PHOTO.



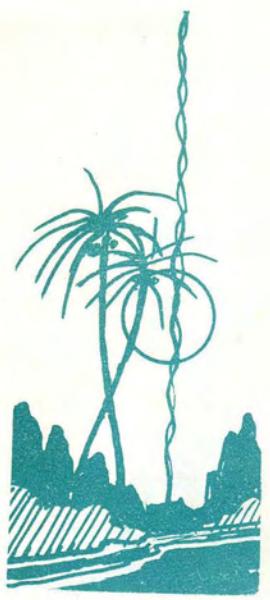
MY PHOTO



MY PHOTO.



MY PHOTO



MY PHOTO.



corner
one of the greatest
guys I have ever met
you take care of 2nd felt
after I'm back to much I saw a fell
don't be drinking back to back to the world. To dad
want to see you back to the world. I couldn't even see
everyone can't E.T.S. no sweat I could get meesed up in
extending for 62 days. A fellow could of song + read
that time. If I'm ever up to the land of song + read
I'll look you up. Otherwise I'll stop right outside
city limit when I come to see you and have you come out
and get me with a gas mask. Your buddy
Best of luck.
You are really a good guy
Short feed

Sorry if we missed or misplaced your unit.
Please tell us where it was and we will add it.
Some things may be from after late 68

Chu Lai Base, Vietnam in late 1968

Al Simms - asimmsjr@aol.com

Base perimeter in Blue - 17,000 men there

no significance to text colors

1985 Map

Please Email corrections & additions
to asimmsjr@aol.com

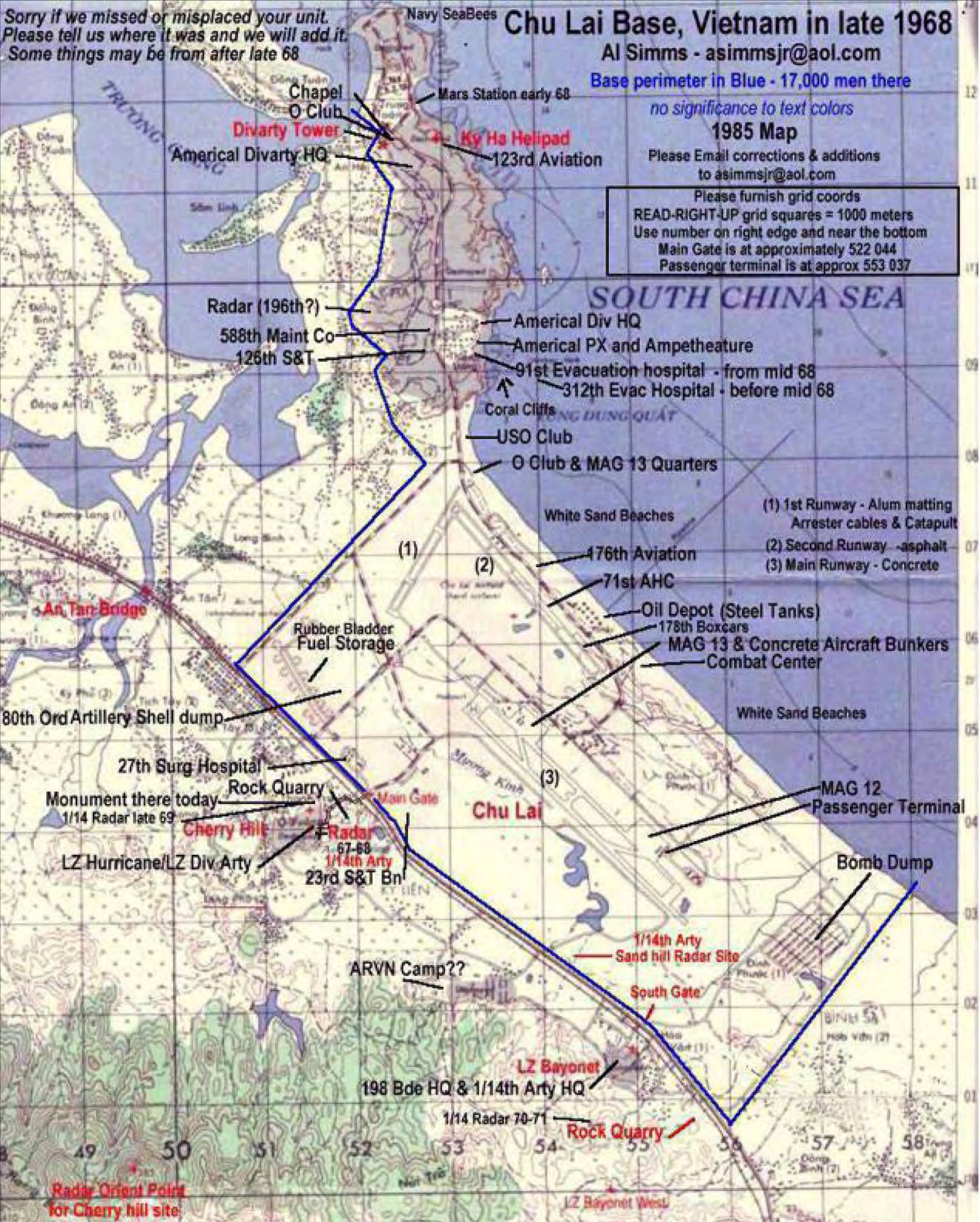
Please furnish grid coords

READ-RIGHT-UP grid squares = 1000 meters

Use number on right edge and near the bottom

Main Gate is at approximately 522 044

Passenger terminal is at approx 553 037



Radar Orient Point
for Cherry hill site

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