

MISCELLANEOUS

- ① LETTER TO ADVISORS ASSIGNED TO PHUOC-BINH - THANH SƠ DURING '62-'63 ONE YEAR AFTER THEIR RETURN TO U.S.
- ② LETTER FROM SPECIAL WARFARE MUSEUM WHERE MANY PAPERS AND ARTIFACTS FROM US ADVISORY TEAMS ARE LOCATED.
- ③ BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF CHARLES K. NUCSEN - UPDATED TO A DEGREE

Dear Phuoc Binh Thanher:

23 July 64

It has been a year now since we have gotten our feet wet in the Ma Da and spent our time flying over the jungles of Zone D in our HULB. As I recall those days of eatin' Chinese soup at Dong Kai, drinking beer in Tan Uyen or swilling at Han Quan, I really think of some of the most interesting and purposeful days of my life. But I am not writing this letter for purposes of recalling the "good ole days" as much as I am to write to all of the people that formed what I feel was one of the finest and most successful advisory teams in Vietnam. In my travels across the country I have run into so many of you that I feel it appropriate and incumbent upon me to write to all of you giving the latest information I have.

One of the first people I ran into was Walker at the Army-Air Force football game in Chicago. He is on reserve duty in the Chicago area. I have visited Bob Rafferty at his home in San Antonio, where I was treated to one of the most delicious dinners I have ever had. Bob's wife Vi, is one of the finest and prettiest young ladies I have had the pleasure to meet. Bob is with the G-3 Section, Fourth Army. He says that it is a myth about Army headquarters being an assignment in which one can relax and enjoy.

At Ft Benning I ran into Ron Kuder, Frank Liston, Ron Mullenix, Mac McCall and Bill Silber. Ron Kuder and Frank Liston were in the career course. Ron was assigned to the 11th Air Assault Div and Frank to the 5th Inf Div (Mech) at Ft Carson. Ron Mullenix was awaiting to attend the career course this Fall. Tom Boyle was in the same category as Ron, but he was on Desert Strike at the time of my visit. Mac McCall had spent two months with a brokerage firm in New York until he felt "the call of the Wild" again and reupped for the regular army. He is an instructor in the Ranger Department, for which he is eminently qualified. Bill Silber, who has recently been promoted to Lt Col is assigned to the Defense Committee of the Infantry School. He learned that trade by holing up in Han Quan. He and his wife had me over to the house for a hard to beat steak dinner.

I visited Jamie Jameson at Fort Knox. He is with one of the training brigades and still has our favorite monkey--Philbert--with him. I have a feeling though he is looking for a new home for our Phouc Long pet. Jamie was still wearing his shoulder holster and had his cigars neatly tucked into a pocket on the sleeve of his civilian sport shirt. I had a delightful time with him and his lovely wife and some house guests. Andy O'Meara is at Ft Knox also. I did not see him there, but did have him over to our house during the Christmas holidays while he was visiting his sister here at West Point. He is still talking about that "high speed" approach to Rang Rang where the armor was so successful in sitting on their butts and eating delicious "C" rations.

Jim Ellis, the guy who single handedly cleared the jungle and made the air strip at Rang Rang (and laid the mine field) visited West Point for a football game. He is now an Engineer Company Commander at Ft Bragg. The Guy who brought the mines into Rang Rang, our friendly G4 and Commo, Jim Steinback, visited us one Saturday afternoon with his wife Jane and small

children. Jim is finishing up the Signal career course at Ft Monmouth. Jim married over his head and has some mighty fine children. He is still cheating at volleyball.

I have not visited, but have heard from the Bragg contingent. Jim Pitts is in the G-3 Section XVIII Abn Corps, Homer Morrison is a Special Forces Group XO, Bob Keenan is General Yarborough's Aide, Frank Rivera is hanging around the Special Warfare Center someplace, and Paul Langford is with G-2, 82d Abn Div.

I've been hearing from Le Roy Fargason, who is still at the MP School, Ft Gordon, teaching Counterinsurgency. Le Roy is applying for RA, I know we all wish him success. I saw a Col Bill Knowlton, who indicated that Bezo Nauert had just come into his training brigade at Ft Knox as Headquarters Company Commander. That just about brings all of the old timers home.

Last but not least our friendly deputy, regimental advisor and traitor to the 5th Division (jump status), Bill Miller is with the Combined Arms Division, Infantry Section, QPO, DA. Right where he belongs at the top. I had a phone conversation with Bill earlier in the year. The Pentagon has not changed Bill's refreshing outlook on life.

I have heard very little about activities in PBT. Bill Silber the latest to return that I have spoken to, filled me in a little. I have the feeling that the spirit of success instilled by Col Dien is not there any more. The most distressing news that I have heard in a long time was the newspaper story about the ambush on Route 13 south of Hen Quan, close to Chon Thanh. Three American advisors were killed. A Major Joe Burkett, presumably Binh Long Sector advisor and two captains-- probably ranger and intelligence advisors. I know the former Binh Long people have a feel for what happened. I am sending a copy of this letter to Dave Thoreson at Ft Leavenworth in hopes that he can find the time to fill us all in on what has happened in PBT over the past year. I understand Dave received his second purple heart not long ago.

I have also heard from Stu Methvin and Jim Roseithau, both of whom were still in Saigon at last contact. Jim was cited recently by the State Department for his outstanding work in Vietnam.

I have not heard from or about Wharrie, Larsen, Owen, Zummo and many of the others. I did hear from Jim Yealy, who is still in Japan. Doc Gardner is practicing pediatrics in Queens, but I'm certain he misses his montagnards. I hear the "Worlds Greatest Fighter Pilot", by his own shy admittance, Les Frazier, is in Tucson, Arizona.

Open invitation—if any of you are coming to the Fair, we are only one hour away. We have plenty of room and a big basement for over flow.

If any of you have additional news send it to me and I will send it out.
I'm not volunteering today, but there are many times when I wish I were
back.

My Best to All of You,


Bob Nelsen
QMN

P. S. The latest information I have about Col Dien is that he is in ill
health, TB and malaria, and holds down the position of IG to III Corps.

War-Weary Villagers Forsake Scorched Earth

By KEYES BEECH
(Chicago Daily News Foreign Service)

PHUOC VINH, South Viet Nam — The 433 inhabitants of Bau Ca Tre, a 25 minute helicopter ride north of Saigon, have had it.

Twice in two years Viet Cong Guerrillas burned Bau Ca Tre to the ground. Each time the villagers patiently rebuilt it. But three days ago Bau Ca Tre was burned for the third time and its people have called it quits.

Carrying their few household belongings on bamboo poles slung over their shoulders, most of them streamed toward the nearby district town of Tan Uyen. Some walked over to highway 16 and caught the bus for Saigon.

For Maj. Nguyen Huu Man, 35, the bespectacled chief of Phuoc Thanh province, what happened to Bau Ca Tre was a sign of the times. Unless he gets more troops Maj. Man must abandon at least four more hamlets or have them go the way of Bau Ca Tre.

Village Blood Bath

Actually his decision has already been made for him. He will get no more troops. Therefore he must abandon the additional hamlets.

Maj. Man has a highly personal reminder of his problem. Looking out of his office window in this provincial capital of 2,000 people, he has an excellent view of a memorial to one of his predecessors mounted in the town square.

Two years ago the Viet Cong took over Phuoc Vinh for the day. In the blood bath that followed they chopped off the head of the province chief. Hence the memorial.

Nevertheless, Maj. Man considers himself fortunate. "I have no wife, no children," he said. "And my mother is well taken care of. If I die nobody cries for me."

Jungle Hideout

Maj. Man is responsible for one of the least desirable pieces of real estate in South Viet

Nam. The poverty of its soil is matched only by the abundance of its Viet Cong.

The major's province is one of three lumped together for command purposes. Eighty-five percent of the area is covered by jungle. This explains why only 200,000 people live there. Maj. Man was lucky enough to draw "Zone D," a heavily forested area that was a notorious Communist hangout in French colonial days and hasn't changed much since.

"In this terrain the Viet Cong can muster and move a battalion on four hours notice," said Capt. David P. Thoresen of San Francisco. Twice wounded by Communist fire, Thoresen spent nine months as adviser to a South Vietnamese ranger battalion.

A week ago the Communists let government forces know just how good they were. They ambushed two ranger companies en route to the rescue of Bau Ca Tre.

Red Ambush

In 40 minutes of fighting they reduced a force of 186 men to 99. Fifty-one rangers were killed.

Two-thirds of the dead had single bullet holes in the head in addition to previously inflicted wounds. To U.S. advisers this indicated that the Communists deliberately killed the wounded.

"This was a first-rate outfit," Thoresen said of the ambushed rangers. "The trouble was they did too good a job. They so disrupted the operations of the local guerrillas that the locals called for hard-core support—and got it."

The Communist ambush showed every evidence of meticulous military planning. In addition to trapping two ranger companies, the Viet Cong had laid three different ambushes for possible rescue parties. Altogether an estimated 1200 Viet Cong troops took part in the operation. Most were armed with captured U.S. weapons.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY JOHN F. KENNEDY SPECIAL WARFARE CENTER AND SCHOOL
FORT BRAGG, NORTH CAROLINA 28307-5000



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

22 April 1992

JFK Special Warfare Museum

Charles K. Nulsen
Box 355
West Springfield, New Hampshire 03284

Dear Mr. Nulsen:

During a recent check of our records it was discovered that there is no current donation form for the items you donated to the JFK Special Warfare Museum in 1989.

By Army regulations we are required to have a formal donation form on file for each acquisition. I've enclosed two donation forms and a self-addressed business reply envelope. Please sign both forms, then return one to us in the envelope provided and retain the other for your files.

Thanks again for your gracious donation and invaluable support of the JFK Special Warfare Museum.

Sincerely,

Roxanne M. Merritt
Roxanne M. Merritt
Curator, JFK Special Warfare Museum

Enclosures

CHARLES KILBOURNE NULSEN, JR.

Charles K. Nulsen, Jr., was born at Fort Benning, Georgia, November 6, 1923. After graduating from Episcopal High School, Alexandria, Virginia, in June 1943, he enlisted in the United States Army on July 6, 1943. He graduated from Infantry OCS, Fort Benning, Georgia, on 2 December 1944 and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant of Infantry. Colonel Nulsen entered the United States Military Academy in July 1945 and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1949.

He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant of Infantry and was assigned successively to the Army Ground General School, Fort Riley, Kansas, and the Infantry Officers Basic Course, Fort Benning, Georgia. In September 1950 he was transferred to the 351st Infantry, Trieste, where he was assigned as a platoon leader. From March 1951 to July 1952 he served as aide-de-camp to the Commanding General TRUST, Trieste. From July 1952 to July 1953 he again served in the 351st Regiment, this time as a Company Commander.

Colonel Nulsen served as a Company Commander in the 511th A.I.R., 11th Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Kentucky, from October 1953 to July 1955. He then attended the 1955-56 Infantry Officers Advanced Course, Fort Benning, Georgia. During the period September 1956 to February 1958, Colonel Nulsen was a graduate student at Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana. In June 1958 he obtained a Master of Arts degree in International Relations from Tulane University. From 1958 to 1961 he served as a special forces instructor in the Special Warfare School, Fort Bragg, North Carolina. While serving on the faculty, Colonel Nulsen was responsible for writing the U.S. Army's field manual on Special Forces Operations and Guerrilla Warfare and assisted in writing the first doctrinal material on counter-insurgency.

Colonel Nulsen attended the 1961-62 Course at the Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and upon graduation was sent to Vietnam where he served as a Senior Advisor to the Vietnamese Commander of Phuoc Binh Thanh Special Zone until August 1963. In September 1963 he was reassigned to the Tactical Department, United States Military Academy, where he served as Plans Officer, Office of Military Instruction, until May of 1966.

From May of 1966 through February 1967 he served successively as the Brigade S-3 of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade, and Battalion Commander of the 3d Battalion, 21st Infantry, in the Republic of Vietnam. From March through July 1967, he was assigned to the G3 Section, I Field Force, Vietnam. COL Nulsen was Chief, USMA-OCS Branch, DCSPER, DA, from September 1967 to July 1968 after which he attended the Army War College graduating in June 1969.

From July 1969 through September 1970 he was assigned as Deputy G1, XVIII Airborne Corps, and commanded the First Brigade, 82d Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, North Carolina from 30 September 1970 to 17 January 1972. He was then assigned as Deputy Director, Military Advisor School until 1 July 1972 when he assumed the duties as Deputy Assistant Commandant of the Institute for Military Assistance, JFK Center for Military Assistance, Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

On 20 August 1973, he was appointed Acting Director, Joint and Strategic Forces Directorate, Concepts Analysis Agency, Bethesda, Maryland, an activity reporting to Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the Army. He retired from the United States Army on May 1, 1975.

From September 1975 to June 1976, he worked as an assistant to the President, Information Management Systems, Inc. In July 1976 he accepted a position with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in its Division of Safeguards.

Retired from NRC 1988

Independent Contractor 1988 - 1990

RETIRED TO NEW HAMPSHIRE 1990

CHAIRMAN BOARD OF SELECTMEN, TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD,
1992 - 1995

RETIRED AT LAST 1995

LIST OF AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Silver Star

Legion of Merit with Two Oak Leaf Clusters

Meritorious Service Medal

Air Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters

Army Commendation Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster

Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Gold Star

Combat Infantryman's Badge

Master Parachutist's Badge

Ranger Tab

Vietnamese Ranger Badge

Philippine Master Parachutist Badge

Inducted into the Infantry OCS Hall of Fame, July 1969

List of Publications

"History of Miramare Castle," unpublished, 1953

"Military Aid: An Appraisal," unpublished Masters thesis, Tulane University, 1958

"Retooling for Guerrilla Warfare," Army magazine, August 1972

"Rap It Out," Army Digest, November 1970

"Light Infantry Against Guerrilla Units," published by the Army War College, 1971

"Firepower in Practice--Asset or Crutch?" accepted for publication by the Military Review