

WHERE WE MET
From David Shows and Earl McCann

The following is a series of emails exchanged between David Shows and Earl McCann.

From: Earl McCann < _____ >

To:

Sat, Aug 22, 2009 12:40 pm

You know it's strange that we were there at the same time but never knew each other. I was with Parkey (**Parkinson**) from the time he got there, **Hand** and **Carr** left Hawaii the same time I did. I remember Randy (**Kimes**) and a lot more. But can't remember you or Wild Bill (**Elliott**). We have had to have met some where along the time period that we were there.

On Sat, Aug 22, 2009 at 10:29 PM, _____ wrote:

Yeah I've thought about that too. If memory serves, your incident with the WP must have occurred while I was operating out of LZ Betty, and if I remember right either you or Benny (**Gentry**) told me that your team was brought into Betty overnight after that incident. I never remembered hearing about it at the time don't know if I was out on a mission or what. I got to LRRPs in Oct 67 at Ahn Khe

After initial training I went to LZ English and operated out of there until we moved to Quang Tri (LZ Betty) in Jan of 68 (I remember being flown back to Ahn Khe from English for the memorial service when Top and Dave Dickenson were killed.)

I operated out of Betty from Jan of 68 to April of 68 when I went up to Khe Shan for one perhaps two days and was then sent back to LZ Betty.

(at Betty I was on the mission with Doug **Parkinson** led by Lt Utter on the only "heavy team" mission I went on) I got shot April 11 68 on a mission out of Betty, and was medivaced out of country.

In June of 68 I returned to the unit at Camp Evans and operated out of there until I derosed in Oct of 68.

Those are the only bases I ever worked out of while with LRRP As far as I can recall, I never was on Sharon, or Stud or any of the other LZ's I hear you guys talking about.

I met and knew both **Hand** and **Carr** but never served on a team with them as best I can recall. (Although at the last reunion it was proven to us that Ken **White** and I were once team mates out of Betty, and neither of us remembered that.) If you can put together a time line of where you were I'd be interested in seeing it.

P.S. I remember Bob Ankony well from both LZ English and LZ Betty - but he doesn't remember me at all. I've spent some time with Benny (**Gentry**) this year and neither of us remembers the other either.

If memory of past letters is accurate I think Wild Bill (**Elliott**) was in the after my (and your) time.

Do you remember meeting Bob Whitten or Larry Pappert? We were almost always on the same teams from Oct 67 to April of 68.

From: Earl McCann .

Sun, Aug 23, 2009 4:00 am

Bennie was calling in the artillery on Halloween night when we got hit. It was my first mission as TL. I was at LZ English twice. The first time was when we got hit, and the second time was when we were going to Evans. I spent that night in the village with **Carr** and **Hand**. I was only at Betty one time. That was right after it got attacked and the CO was in the tower with the sniper rifle, the M14. I pulled 1 or 2 missions out of Sharon. I knew Penkunis well, he worked most of his missions out of English. Larry **Curtis**, **Carr**, **Penkunis**, and about 17 more all joined at the same time. Mine was the fifth team at Uplift. I left the LRRPS the day Evans got hit. I came in that day from my last mission and went to the Blues in the 1/9th. I knew **Hand** because he was at Uplift for a while. Then we were at Stud and Evans together. So some where along the line we probably did meet each other. I knew Tibbetts real well. Randy (**Kimes**) was at Evans at the same time I was. I knew him when I saw him, but never got to know him personally. I learned a lot from Benny. He was with me for about 4or 5 missions. I left country 8-1-68.

On Sun, Aug 23, 2009 at 11:28 AM, < _____ > wrote:

So if your WP incident happened in late October of 67 I would have been at English at the time or possibly still at Ahn Khe (I don't specifically remember Halloween night in country), I think I had heard that you guys came into LZ Betty following that incident, but I would not have been there at that time, I got to Betty in January of 68.

For certain we were both on Betty at the beginning of Tet. I had been issued the M-14 with 4 power side mount scope on it and carried it on most of my missions. When the shooting started during Tet, John **Barnes** went into the bunker I shared

with Bob Whitten and took "my" M-14 up to the tower. I remember being annoyed at the time that he took my rifle instead of calling me to bring it up to the tower.

As you faced the entrance to the old ruin of a building we lived in - we had made it into "apartments" inside by stacking dirt filled ammo boxes for walls- the bunker apartment Bob and I lived in was the one in the left rear corner of that old building shell, nearest the perimeter wire. The mountagnards had the bunker right next to us along the back wall of the building. I don't remember who else was located where in there - I'll have to ask Pappert if he remembers where the guys' bunkers were.

Any way that is one time for sure you and I were on the same base at the same time.

During Tet was the only time in LRRPs for me that we pulled any guard duty when not on missions. We manned the perimeter bunker directly behind the ruined building we were living in. And we took turns manning the tower on the other end of the LZ.

I had just gotten out of the hospital on light duty in Okinawa when I learned that Bob Whitten had been killed not long after I was wounded.

I have clouded memories of Evans after I came back from the hospital, I know Hand was there for sure, and remember others that I had known before for sure. I do not know what date I returned but it was in June of 68 I honestly cannot remember if I was on Evans when the fuel dump blew up or not, or if I just heard about it later and my mind incorporated it into my memories. I think I was there. Do you know what date that happened?

I never met Larry Curtis as far as I know. But I do remember Carr and Hand. I think I first met them both briefly at Ahn Khe and latter saw them again at English, I remember talking with Hand about an operation he did while I was at Betty but I don't think Hand was stationed at Betty at the time - Just passing thru, probably stationed at Sharon? Tibbetts was in my original group coming into LRRPs and we were on the same team a bunch of times out of English with McDonald as TL and Tibbetts as ATL. Latter Tibbetts and I were on the same team when I got shot out of Betty. Mike and McDonald were still there when I got back to country and went to Evans. Tibbetts was wounded not long after I returned to the unit.

I'm ashamed to say that I cannot remember Randy Kimes from that time, just can't place him, but he remembers me. I believe he came into LRRPs shortly after my group.

While on Betty Whitten, Pappert and I were frequently on teams together with Don Glover as TL, and possibly some missions out of English. Jim McDonald was my first Team Leader out of English.

So all in all you and I definitely must have met while at Betty, and possibly again at Evans, but apparently only briefly as we bounced around from base to base.

By the way I brought no pictures home with me and found none of me on the web site. There is only one photo of my back in one of Papperts pictures on the web site while on the trip from English to Betty but it is poor and you wouldn't recognize me from it.

At the 08 reunion Forrest Decker (whom I remember well) told me that he is pretty sure he has some pictures of me from that time, but I have never seen them. I'll have to get hold of him and ask if he can locate any.

On the web site there is a picture of Penkunis and Lt Utter playing fast draw with their .45's at English - I very clearly remember them doing that.

From: Earl McCann <

Sun, Aug 23, 2009 1:49 pm

We were brought to English when we got hit. We were in the Tiger Mts. That was the closest LZ. I met Randy (Kimes) Evans. His last mission was the day that Carr's team got run out of the same area twice. Then mine got run out twice, from the same AO. And then they sent Randy's team into the same place. I tried to get them to wait. Evans got hit on GO birthday in May. If you had been there you would have remembered that for sure. Only a couple birds were able to get airborne, rest were destroyed. Artillery shells landing all over the base, as well as where we were located. When one of the gas tankers would explode the concussion that far away would knock you to the ground at times.

On Sun, Aug 23, 2009 at 4:57 PM, <

wrote:

Yep I missed that one - Pappert and I were sitting in an NCO club on Okinawa knocking them back.

From McCann

Be glad you did. If they had been ready for an attack that night, they could have over run Evans.