

FRIENDLY FIRE

Collected by David Shows

To all the non computer LRRP / RANGERS

You guys may not be aware of the "Guest Book" on our web site. It serves as a collection point for a lot of us where we, being as all LRRPS & RANGERS are, men of superior intellect and literacy meet and discuss what ever interests us.

We have had some deep philosophical and practical discussions on such topics as:

Gardening and how to keep varmints out of same. The true political / social meaning behind classic western movies (what happened to Shane?) The relative characteristics of certain adult beverages From time to time something "political" or serious manages to get snuck in

Guys laugh at, and with each other while testing memories and sometimes guys even hostile and insulting to each other. Just like sitting around shooting the bull on an LZ a whole bunch of years ago. Recently we had just come out of an exchange on the shortest missions guys could remember, when Doug Parkinson started us thinking about incidents of "friendly fire" that I thought might peak your interest and get you to join in on the site, or perhaps write up a memory of your own and send it to Bill Carpenter for this Newsletter, the web site, or just to be shared and added to our collective memory of that time.

Following are some of the postings that followed. Remember these have been extracted from the web site where other discussions were going on at the same time. (My apologies to original authors, I used spell check on these after copying)

Doug Parkinson -All; Friendly fire incidents.

1. To the unidentified LRRP troop (18 or 19 yrs) that put a .45 cal slug between my feet at Uplift while fiddling with same weapon.
2. Or perhaps the team that left their booby traps around their perimeter on a hasty extraction and they should be happy our 'yard' (who was with them) skillfully led us through them at nite on a return mission.
3. Then there was the 155 barrage that sent us skittering off some boulders amidst flying dirt, rocks and limbs.
4. The TL that had a loaded M-79 go off at Uplift while he entered a Jeep

These were out of LZ Uplift...further installments will deal with .50 cal's from APC's, helicopter door gunners (who had the signal panel shot out of their hands by the 1/9th door gunner (H-13), Quad .50's etc Friendly Target

Bob Carr- DOUG I DO REMEMBER MOST OF ALL OF THAT. AND WE STILL CAME HOME. THANK GOD FOR SERIN (SP) FOR HILL 702 FIRST MISSION

Doug Parkinson -TL2B; as I recall the TL came out at the end of our mission with water resupply and a sheepish look about leaving the booby traps. Silent Avenger

Earl McCann - Almost got the top of my head shot off with an m79 loaded with buckshot. Same person fired it once again we were set up. round landed about 5 ft from 3 team members. Luckily it never traveled far enough to arm its self. Needless to say he never carried it any more. Friendly fire.

Unsigned - And a company having their mad minute at your position. Friendly fire sucks.

Dave Shows - On another mission out of camp Evans. A new e-6 was with me as ATL, his first mission before he went on to take his own team. Trying to place him, could it have been Chuck Windham? There was another new man with us whose name I can't remember but he carried a huge Colt nickel plated .357. My teams at that time were mostly made up of new guys for one or two missions before they went on to other teams. Anyway in the middle of the night the air force for no apparent reason dropped what we were later told was a 750 lb bomb on the same hill we were on. I woke up about a foot off the ground, chunks of trees and dirt falling all around us for what seemed like several minuets.

I remember shouting into the radio "we just took a round - a big round", forgot all about whispering into the handset! We heard the phone ringing for several days. ahhh those were the days!

Doug Parkinson - Signal Hill; Anybody hit by the grenade fragments from the frag the Air Force guy threw at night on the perimeter. He managed to get confused in the dark and didn't know which way the enemy was. I know he winged one person.

Bob Carr - DOUG WAS TL AND SHORT TEAM MEMBERS SO I WENT OUT AS ATL IT WAS A WALK OUT OFF LZ PEDRO WEST OF BETTY. I KNOW IT WAS LAST LIGHT. I THINK THE UNIT ON PEDRO CHANGED GUARDS. WE DIDNT EVEN GET TO THE TREE LINE BEFORE THEY OPENED UP WITH A QUAD 50 THAT WAS NOT FUN I DID USE SOME GOOD FRENCH ON THEN.

Doug Parkinson - TL2B; I seem to remember us getting assurances from the quad .50 operator about our intended position after we walked out of the wire that evening. No problem. Something about multiple .50 cal's striking around you that will levitate you from a deep (well as deep as you can get on patrol) slumber into a horizontal position 1 foot above ground. No apology either.

Earl McCann - Then you had the happy door gunners hovering over you with the 60 ready. Had to shoot them the bird and hoped it worked.

Bob Carr - EARL. WHAT ABOUT W.P. IN THE TIGERS . WAS THAT THE NIGHT WE ALL GOT SHOT OUT 3 OR 4 TIMES. I KNOW THAT ROUND HIT REAL CLOSE TO YOU. BOB

Dave Shows - Earl & Bob I think we need a whole new category for cases where you called and directed the friendly fire yourself -Ha

Earl McCann - Bob that 105 WP round landed about 8 ft behind us. Glad it was not the 8 inchers that we were using at the same time. We all had to pay Gentry \$5.00 each for that Purple Heart. He was calling the artillery in.

Bob Carr - D.S. I KNOW I WAS OFF THE MAP 1 OR 2 TIMES BUT FOR THE ARTY I WAS SPOT ON . LOTS OF DEAD DINKS WITH MY ARTY. EARLS W.P. WAS ON ITS SIDE FOR SOME. CAME IN BAD. IF IT COULD GO WRONG IN THE TIGERS IT DID. BOB

Earl McCann - Bob that was the first mission we called in artillery. Was on the gun target line, and they never told us. So we had a short round. Loved WP. Remember that mission you and Bill went out with me. First round WP on gun target line. Had to call artillery in within 25 yards of our position one night. Just happened to be an old machine gun position there that the team could get in. Shrapnel was flying every where. That night no one slept. Then the next day we were on alert at uplift. That when we shared that dex to stay awake the next night. Found a cave one day, was trying to put a shell in it. Would add it would be too high. Drop it would be too low. Asked artillery what was the problem. They told me instead of going up, add instead, finally got the round in the cave.