

MORE ON THE STAN LENTO STORY

From Mike Bakkie 9-26-10

The article on Stan Lento is slightly incomplete. Yes it was an accident and I know who's pack caused the blast. But what is important is that Stan did something that day no one knows about. I am the only person on the team that walked away without a single scratch.

We were preparing to go to MACV and demonstrate who we were, what we did, and how we did it. Everyone was sitting around Stan's bed, I was standing, as he went over what we would be doing. One of us still had his pack on and instead of laying it down, dropped it and 3 people died plus 2 were wounded.

This is the part that has never been told, except to Stan's wife, several years ago by me. Stan, like lightening jumped up and yelling; "get down!" pushed me down and laid on me. If he had not done that there would have been 4 dead and 2 wounded.

He really should be awarded a 3rd Silver Star for what he did but I don't know how it can ever be made to happen. When they started the Ranger brick project at the Ranger memorial I made sure that the 3 of them had bricks with their names on it. As for the pack with the daisy-chained claymores that caused the tragedy, that will go to my grave. Last item, the Jewish Song to the Dead. The section of the poem quoted should have read: "They are bound up in our memories, in the rising and the setting of the sun they are remembered, in our going out and coming in they are remembered, as long as we keep them in our hearts they live forever."

There are many, many such poems written by many Jewish poets over a vast span of time.

Michael Bakkie