

MEMORIES

From Bruce Cain

I get many flashbacks when the guys write what they remember, thanks..... Your last newsletter you made a comment about needing items for the history display... I in fact have 2 boonie hats, one was the one I wore (and I have pics with it on the head) , with the ponytail we all put on them, made of chute cord.

I placed it in my hold baggage, got it home and it's still in the shoe box, along with other memories....But the second hat is the most special. As I was leaving the AO, (going home) I got some new greens and a new hat to travel in. As I was getting on the helicopter, Dish walked up to the pad with me, we were shaking hands when the wind from the blades lifted my new hat off and down the air pad.. Dish didn't miss a beat, took his tiger hat off, put it on my head and said "for you Mr. Bruce", we both laughed, me not thinking much of it for the moment. For years it sat in a box as I went thru a bad part of my life,

.....This week I got a e-mail from **Parky**, my first contact with a LRRP for 20 years, I pulled my boxes from the attic, went thru the stuff.. I had placed the tiger hat in a box along with some NVA items I kept from a kill on Signal Hill, the smell from the blood on the belt that the sniper had worn, almost made me drop to my knees. My wife looked at the blood stained items and ask me to get rid of everything. I told her the tiger hat wasn't going anywhere.

Both hats are right here in a shoe box, next to my desk, along with pics of Bob **Whitten**, and Robert **Noto**. After Nam I never really tried to follow up on the unit, I did try to get in touch with **Ankony** one time while riding thru Detroit. But I found out he was a cop and that really wasn't the kind of folks I'd been hanging with at the time.

Dish , Pong, and Kit have always made me wonder if I (we) could have done more for them. Those guys kept us alive on many a mission, I for one owe them and will never be able to repay them for their leadership in their country...

If you have any use for the boonie hats, give me a yell. I'm sure when I'm gone they will end up in a garage sale or even worse, the trash.

Each of us deal with our Nam experience in a different way. For me getting married to my high school sweetheart was a God sent.. She's always there, and never brings up my old Nam letters, I'm very lucky, I wish all LRRPs the same....

Best Wishes for the Holidays

Bruce Cain