

## THANKSGIVING PROMISES

From Ed Moline

It was my honor to have served with you all during those very trying times. I was very fortunate to have not lost any team members through all of my missions. We did however lose a whole team and several members from other teams during my time there.

One particular mission comes to mind. I wish I could remember the names of my team members, but I'm sure they will remember this as vividly as I do.

It was Thanksgiving and our Commander, George **Paccerelli** had promised no teams would go out and miss Thanksgiving dinner, which was kind of special. Before dinner I was told I was assigned to a team that was directed by Army Intel, (an oxymoron) to watch a village suspected to be loaded with gooks and weapons.

I remember our TL was a Texan whose dad had sent him a sawed off shotgun.

We were inserted and moved to an area near the village. Our team leader looked at us and said, "we really shouldn't miss out on that Turkey dinner and I know how we can get it." With that he signaled me to start moving into the village. He moved ahead and lead the way. As we came into the clear of the village, shots rang out. It felt like the whole world exploded. We had to flee out of the area and into an open field. As we did so, there was an explosion and I woke up on the ground seeing my complete team down. My best guess is we tripped some booby trap. One member had a sucking chest wound and our TL has a nasty cut on his hand from shrapnel. Our medic and I took care of the chest wound while the TL called for an extraction and air support.

Air support pretty much blew away that village as our chopper landed some distance from us. I was left trying to carry my full pack as well as the pack and rifle from my team mate. Still some distance from the chopper, I yelled, "I just can't carry this load any farther." At that point our TL looked at me and said if you drop it, I'll shoot you. With that extra incentive I did manage to haul it all to the chopper.

When we landed at some base, medics came out to help with our wounded. We were complimented by one doctor for the job we had done with the sucking chest wound.

Shortly after, minus our two wounded, we were loaded back onto the chopper and returned to Phoc Vihn in time for Turkey Dinner. Sadly, our TL and the chest wound did not get to join us.

I would love to know if anyone on that team remembers this mission and any of the names of the team.

Wishing you all the very best,  
Sargeant Ed Moline