

Janjhall

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2005 2:20 PM
Subject: Re: 121st Soc Trang Tigers and all that

Hi Jim,

Thanks for your letter and the information re. Sgt. Gray. I can imagine your pain with his passing. The loss of comrades stays with us for the time we have left. It is well to recount their passing and remember them. It is the mission of those of us who survive to tell the story of those who do not. I imagine the fact that Sgt. Gray was assigned to the 134th Med was the problem with listing him as a KIA for the 121st. I will pass this along to the association president for his counsel with the recommendation that he be included in our list of honored fallen.

I will also forward your contact data on to the database chief for inclusion on our rolls. I sincerely hope you will make the reunion at Ft. Rucker next year. The years are rushing by and each reunion seems more dear than the last. I truly appreciate your comments regarding the helicopter crews and thank you for all those who served those aircraft in those days. Joe Galloway called us "God's own lunatics". I'm sure he was correct with that. I was, and still am, proud to call myself a Soc Trang Tiger and the opportunity to serve with some of America's finest was truly an honor.

I hope this finds you and yours well and prosperous and hope to see you at Mother Rucker next spring.

Best regards,
Dave Cunningham

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wed, 25 May 2005 13:58:27 -0700
Subject: Re: 121st Soc Trang Tigers and all that

Hi Dave,

I am pleased to hear from you, and to get updates on the Soc Trang Tigers. Several months ago I started to write my memories of VN, and had just been struggling with the terrible accident that took Sgt Gray's life. He was the NCOIC of the 134th Medical Detachment, and a wonderful man with a family. I wonder if the confusion about this comes from the fact he was assigned to the 134th?

On February 11, 1963 we had just finished sick call when we were informed of a med evac to an outpost over run early that morning. I asked Sgt Gray to go with we. When we reached the area, we loaded 5 litters and three ambulatory patients on our chopper. The other chopper loaded 7 or 8 dead.

We arrived back at Soc Trang without incident. We were preparing to unload, and the gunner in the back swung the machine gun into the aircraft so we could unload. Eleven rounds were discharged accidentally into the hold, and Sgt Gray was wounded severely in the right arm, groin, and left leg. Two of the ambulatory Vietnamese were fatally wounded.

We rushed Sgt Gray to the Dispensary for IV Dextran, stopped the bleeding, and stabilized him as best we could. A medic and I loaded him in to a waiting Otter, and we took off for Saigon where he was pronounced DOA. He probably died within minutes, but we just could not believe it or give up.

We returned to Tan San Nhut for plane side services Feburary 13, 1963. Surely one of the saddest days of my life.

I am sure this is more than you wanted or needed to know, but the fact I was reviewing my journal for that exact

5/25/05

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event before your contact seems more than coincidental?

I am truly hopeful to be at Ft. Rucker when the Tigers roar again. My admiration for the chopper pilots I had the privilege to know is surpassed only by my affection for them.

Address:

[REDACTED]

Home phone:

[REDACTED]

I appreciate your taking the time and interest in the lost details of our stories, and I will look forward to meeting you.

Jim

— Original Message —

From: [REDACTED]

To: [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2005 4:54 AM

Subject: 121st Soc Trang Tigers and all that

Dear Jim(Doc),

Just a quick note to say hello and request some help on something.

A message was relayed to me through some Tigers regarding a 121st man KIA while at Soc Trang. The name relayed is a Sergeant Gray(?). Can you give me any info regarding this as we try very hard to keep the KIA and DAT lists as accurate and up to date as possible? Whatever you can provide will be appreciated.

By now you are probably aware of the Tiger gathering at Cape May, NJ this past weekend. It was well attended by more than 60 folks and all had a great time. The 121st will be attending the reunion at Ft. Rucker next year for the 13th CAB. I fully expect the Tigers to have a huge group at that one. Around 50+ significant others were attendance there in 2004 and this will be a much larger group. I sincerely hope you will consider joining us. I'll keep you informed as plans become solidified. Right now the the expected timeframe is May/June. I have your email but would also appreciate your snailmail address and landline number if possible. I can be reached at:

[REDACTED]. That is checked daily. Can also be reached at [REDACTED]

(home/evenings) or [REDACTED]

Please stay in touch and get back to me when you can with any info on the KIA.

Best regards to you and yours.

Dave Cunningham

Janjhall

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2005 2:40 PM
Subject: Re: 121st Soc Trang Tigers and all that

Jim,

I located the particulars on Sgt Gray.

SFC(E7) Bernard Leroy Gray, regular, 16 years service, born 6/7/28, died 2/11/63, age 34, married, Colton, CA, Viet Nam Wall panel 01E-line18. This sounds impersonal and I regret that. He was obviously much more than just data on a computer screen. I am glad you remember his loss and are sharing that with us.

Dave

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Address:

James G. Hall

5/25/05

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Home phone: [REDACTED]

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Jim

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Dave Cunningham