

JOHN SHRYOCK

PROUD PARENT OF A FRANCISCAN

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Vietnam Disabled Veteran

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Dear MR. Anderson!

07-24-03

Hope you are well and Please E-mail me and write me or Bob about the RECNIA, did you meet my Captain, did you meet a MR. Steven ABBEY and a SGT. HAVER. I'm Case. you are wondering about my Stamp my 24 year old Son is a Catholic FRANCISCAN BROTHER in HARLEM, New York City. my 26 year old Daughter is going to College to become a Nurse & she works in a HOSPITAL too.

OK I will tell you my story on the battle of the March 12th as I saw it.

on March 10th we left an area where we had found a NVA HOSPITAL, it was underground and built very good. My Company found it one there. The next day we moved out at 6:00 AM, and around 10:00 AM, we took a 10 minute break, but, unbeknown to me the man in front of me saw the rest of the company move out and never said to me, we're moving out, so after 20 minutes I got up from sitting on the ground and went up to the man in front of me but he wasn't there so there was 6 of us left behind, left 6 men in the company at

the tail end, so we 6 started to follow the trail we
thought the company was travelling on, well we walked
and we walked and we never caught up with anyone
we also ~~thought~~ knew the area was thick with NVA Tracks.
So way way off in the distance we could hear HELICOPTERS
No 9 said lets head toward that. We had no compass,
No MAP, no radio, only our weapons. This happened on
March 11th (10 years later to the day, my Daughter was born.)
we 6 walked into a South VN camp where the helicopter was
coming from at 8:00 PM, we stayed there that night and
left morning at 11:00 AM, I flew out to where my company
went to the day before. It turned out at midnight my
company made a combat assault into the battle area.
Now I do not know if this is the same March 12th
Battle you know or not, anyway I was there 2 of
the 3 days of Battle, we had NVA tied up in trees
shooting at us & we could hear NVA TRAPS Blow
TRUMPETS in distance to regroup these men, Now, I do
play the Trumpet and my Captain asked me if I could
Blow a TRUMPET and I know what he wanted, he
wanted us to get into another Big Battle after we already
had a 3 day battle so I asked him if this a order
or a request, he told me its a request no order,
No 9 said No I won't we had lost a lot of men in
3 days & I didn't want to go thru another Big one
so I said No. He didn't like it but he didn't put up
to much of a BITCH about my No. Then the next morning
the Captain said OK move out, I yelled out, No, we
aren't going No where, he came back to me and he stood
nose to nose with me and he said what are you doing
and I said we had 3 men Captured and taken away and

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the Captain wanted to just leave them behind, well, I am not going to leave anyone behind, the Captain said to me that another company would come in and look for them I told him, you are lying to me you know it one is missing in here, I said these 3 are our own men lets go look for them, the Captain said to me, You SHAPESH are in Big trouble now, then he said OK lets go look for these 3 men, well, 6 hours later we found the 3, they were Dead but at last we found their Bodies, I thought to myself, what can he do to me I am already in Viet Nam. (HA) also by now my MALARIA was starting to get its hold on me, I was starting to feel really Sick, one of the men I met in HOSPITAL in San Antonio was Steven ARREY he was given the Silver Star for the Battle on March 12TH and a SGT, HOOVER was company medic on March 12TH I f my 3 day battle is the same as March 12TH Battle I don't know, well, we walked to another camp until March 17TH, we stayed there until March 18TH then we made a camp combat assault into another area where only one helicopter could land at one time, By this time I was really Sick with MALARIA and my company medic told our Captain to send me back to PLEIKU But my Captain wouldn't do it my Temp. was

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103° and above and the Capt. couldn't take me out,
This is how my Capt. was getting even with me.

The following will be a brief summary of events,
on March 21 at the Capt. put me ~~to rest~~ behind the
Point man and I was shaking so bad with Nausea
that I could hardly carry a Rifle much less understand
a Battle. The Point man told me he saw NVA ahead
of us so I told other men and then the Shooting
started. The Capt. told me to go to left Flank
and I had a M-79 and ~~and~~ you don't put my
weapon on Flank but I did what he said and I was
shooting and my Lieutenant always called me back
so I started crawling over to him to help him and
that's when I got shot. Can you imagine being shot
and having no idea how it felt. So I was thrown thru
air when I was shot and I landed on my stomach the man
that shot me kept shooting at me Bullets were hitting
ground around my FACE, Head and I decided to PLAY
Dead so he would stop shooting at me, after a few
minutes he stopped shooting at me. I was barely in & out
a couple of TIMES. I was shot around 4:00 PM, It felt my
left arm was missing I had no feeling of my arm being
there at all but yet I could see my arm, around 7:00 PM,
I woke up & I stood up and carried my arm in my other
arm like a BABY I thought it was hanging on my
left piece of SKIN, No feeling at all. I walked down the
hill a little bit and saw 6 of my Platoon in a Circle
so I joined them and they told me to just lay there.

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They told me the Bullet when threw my arm. & Blew out my ARM PIT, I ended up with 90% of my Shoulder Bone Shot away, So as 7 men Fought & Fought for hours in a circle only 7 men left alive out of 38 in my Platoon, I was in Shocking & Hot with fever I was passing in & out I woke up at 8:00 PM. & I was alone everyone of the 6 men left me on the side of the Hill, So I Put my 45 cal. Pistol on my chest incase the NVA would reach me I would take some with me, I could hear the NVA Troops talking and walking past me and never saw me, "Thank God" I heard women talking too I heard the 2 Helicopters get SHOT DOWN and the one crew member crying out all night and the chain saws work all night too, I layed there until 1:30 AM when another anti-FIT came to rescue me, I was told in TEXAS HOSPITAL that at the landing zone they were ready to call a HALT to get anyone above but one of the 6 that left me said that I was still up there so if it wasn't for him I could have really been left behind! It took the rescue

Party 2 TRIES To Pick me up cause the NVA Troops

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was running around in the area, they were tried to shoot at me after I was being carried down the Hill. Then I went to PLEIKU HOSPITAL, Flew to Hawaii HOSPITAL + TO Ft. Sam Houston in San Antonio, TEXAS, Would you believe FROM MARCH 22 TO MARCH 27TH the doctors did NOT do one thing to treat my MALARIA or my wound, WHY, I don't know, IN 18 months of HOSPITAL STAYS I had malaria 3 TIMES EACH TIME WAS WORSE THEN TIME BEFORE + LAST TIME I HAD OVER 105 TEMP, ONE TIME THEY TOOK MY TEMP, EVERY 20 MINUTES FOR 24 HOURS, THE MAN STEVEN ABBEY GOT SHOT 6 TIMES ONE BULLET ACROSS THE FACE, IT RODE ACROSS HIS FACE + UP + DOWN HIS NOSE + ACROSS OTHER SIDE OF HIS FACE, TO SHOW HOW THE ARMY TREATED HIM HE HAD 2 BULLETS IN LEG ONLY INCHES APART + THE DOCTORS OPERATED ON ONE BULLET + NOT THE OTHER BULLET ONLY INCHES AWAY + THE DOCTOR TOLD HIM THEY WILL GET IT NEXT TIME, WELL HE FLIPPED OUT + SIGNED HIMSELF OUT + WENT INTO VA HOSPITAL, HAVEN'T SEEN HIM SINCE, I HAD 4 OPERATIONS ON MY ARM + I WAS 80% DISABLED FOR 33 YEARS THEN I HAD TROUBLE WITH MY BOSS AT WORK, HE HATED ME CAUSE I WAS A DISABLED VETERAN SO I WENT TO VA ASKED THEM TO INCREASE MY DISABILITY CAUSE MY INJURY IS GETTING WORSE NOW + I HAVE ANGER + ORANGE, DIABETES, PTSD, WELL 10 MONTHS LATER AFTER 2 ARMY PHYSICALS I WAS AWARDED 100%, I RETIRED FROM MY JOB + HERE I AM, MY PLATOON LT, SAID HE WOULD PUT ME IN FOR BRONZ STAR BUT I NEVER HEARD ANYTHING SINCE, NOW IN MARCH THE VA TOLD ME THEY OVERPAID ME \$4000. + I SHOULD REPAY THEM, WELL, ITS THERE FAULT NOT MINE + SINCE I WENT THREW ALL THIS I'VE WRITTEN HERE

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NO I WILL NOT REPAY THEM, IF CLINTON + BUSH CAN GIVE
OTHER NATIONS BILLIONS OF DOLLARS + FORGIVE THEM
BILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN DEBT, NO, THEY CAN FORGIVE ME
MY \$4000. OVER PAYMENT, OUR ARMY GAVE JESSICA A BRONZ
STAR + SHE DOESNT EVEN REMEMBER HER BATTLE, WHY CANT
I HAVE MY BRONZ STAR. (HAHAHA) I GO TO 2 HEAD DOCTORS
AT VA + A WOMAN PRIMARY CARE DOCTOR, SHE IS BEAUTIFUL
+ SEXY + SHE IS THE ONLY REASON I CONTINUE TO GO TO VA.
MY WIFE + I ARE BOTH 57 + MY WIFE IS IN NURSING HOME
SHE HAS MENTAL ILLNESS, HER BRAIN IS SUPPOSE TO BE
DIEING, SHE BEGS ME EVERYDAY TO TAKE HER HOME BUT I
CAN NOT HANDLE HER AT HOME, I TOOK CARE OF HER 4 YEARS
AT HOME. I HAD TO PAY THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS IN DRUG,
BILLS + DOCTORS BILL INSURANCE DIDNT COVER, I AM 57
+ I DONT HAVE A PENNY SAVED, I FEEL LIKE I HAVE NO
FUTURE, MY WIFE IS MISSING OUT ON REST OF HER LIFE,
WE HAVE A 3 YEAR OLD GRANDSON + SHE IS MISSING OUT ON
ALL OF THIS, I CAN HARDLY TAKE IT ANY MORE MY NERVES
ARE ABOUT TO CAVE IN. (HAHA) WELL I'M SORRY TO WRITE
SO MUCH BUT THIS IS ONLY 1/4 OF WHAT I COULD HAVE
SAID. LET ME KNOW WHAT YOU THINK.
Sincerely John K. Shryock