

Nov 7, 2004

Gerald McDaniel

Virtual War

Dear Mr Holcombe

I was given your address by a man named Jim "Tree" machin. He thought you were the person to help me with my Quest, so if you can indulge me for a few moments I'll tell you my story.

I was a Sergeant - Squad leader on a 81mm mortar for E co. 3/5 1<sup>st</sup> Cav Div from October 1969 to September 1970. During Christmas 1969, 3/5 was based on FSB IKE. While on "Christmas Truce", I discovered an old friend from home had been assigned to D co. as a combat medic. We grew up in a rural farming community and had been friends since the fifth grade. He, his wife and I graduated high school together in a class of 55 students. His name - Charles Thomas Moore. In Vietnam he was known simply as "Doc" Moore. I knew him as Tom.

On January 5, 1970, E co. Recon Platoon ran into trouble and it took most of the Battalion to get Recon plt. out of contact. The fighting lasted through the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>.

This battle according to the after action report was named operation "Flying Finn."

My friend was killed on January 5<sup>th</sup> and was recommended for the medal of Honor.

Two or three years after his death, "Doc" Moore was posthumously presented the Distinguished Service Cross instead of the M.O.H.

Some 30 years later at Ft. Hood, Texas, the Army dedicated their newest and largest medical center in his name.

When Tom was killed I went to D Company and talked with several members to get the story on my friend. I was told how he died and that he had been put in for the M.O.H. But I didn't record those people's names. So I've been on a long search to locate some one who was out there and knew about my friend's death.

A while ago I received Company Rosters from the National Personal Records Center, St Louis, Mo.

Dated May 31, 1970 these officers were listed as being in D Co 3<sup>rd</sup>

Cpt. Gordon R. Exley III

Lt. Larry D Inman

Lt. William A Joyce

Lt. Alfdnza Ware

Lt. James M. Holcombe

Lt. Robert J. Martin

(3)

Are you that James M. Holcombe? If so  
Do you remember this battle and its events?

In "Doc" Moore's citation, it states that  
he helped to save several lives including his platoon  
leader. Do you know who that officer is?

If you can help me in any way to obtain  
more information on this battle, the events that  
took place and the men who fought in it, please  
write or call. I would really like to talk with  
you.

I am Truly Yours

Gerald McDaniel  
Gerald McDaniel

After 6:00 p.m.

# Wanted



PFC Charles T. Moore, medic for the  
1<sup>st</sup>. Platoon, D Company 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. 5<sup>th</sup> Cav  
1<sup>st</sup> Cav Div. KIA 5 Jan. 1970, West of  
Fire Base IKE, Tay Ninh Province.

Recommended for Medal of Honor-Received DSC

I would like to locate anyone who was with this man, especially  
the Company Commander and 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon Leader.

Contact; Gerald McDaniel

Phone [REDACTED]

E Co 2/5 69-70

Nov 20, 2004

Gerald McDaniel



Dear Mr. Holcombe

As you can see I'm sending you a copy of the After Action Report and some photos

My Daughter is still working on downloading & printing the photos of the Chopper.

She seems to have several problems or I misunderstood what you were going to send.

I thought there would be several pages of text and the photos of the Tiger. She has only the two photos of the Chopper and a small message from you.

We are going to attempt to email the photos to another computer that is more up to date and see if it will print out the pictures.

The material I'm sending is yours to keep and you can put it online if you like.

Should you run into anyone who has any more information on this battle I would love to hear from them.

Thanks so much for your time

Gerald McDaniel

26 November 2004

Gerald,

Enclosed are some of the photos I have; only two taken that day were of the medivac that was shot down. Any information I have is written on the tab.

My memories are fuzzy, but differ slightly from the After Action Report.

The after action report mentions 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon C Company, but I was Comanche 1-6; not second platoon.

About midday we were radioed that another company was in contact and had taken casualties. We were the closest friendlies and were told to hump it to help them. We had not gone far before we were out of radio range of my company commander. We were walking through the usual triple canopy stuff when we broke out into a more open area (not the large clearing later); a cobra spotted us and must not have been told of our presence and started to run on us. Everybody popped smoke and scattered. I was frantically trying to remember the choppers' guard frequencies and must have finally hit one because he pulled up after only firing a few rounds from his cannon. No one was hit and we continued on.

We linked up with the other platoon about 1750 (based on the action report). 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon was still merging in with 2-D when the medivac showed up. It didn't land as was indicated in the report. It hovered and dropped a line. I kind of remember one of the wounded was already hoisted up and they had dropped the line again when the chopper was hit. It came straight down; mowing down the vegetation like a weed-wacker as it fell. I had my back to it at the time.

The chopper hit, landing on top of one of the wounded and squishing him dead. I was probably 10-15 feet from where the chopper landed. My RTO was further away, but was hit by the blade and knocked about 15-20 feet.

It was dark shortly after that. During the early evening another unit linked up with us and another site was setup for another medivac. It was raining lightly. It took a couple of hours but the medivac was finally completed.

My memory was pretty fuzzy about that evening after the medivac crash. Everybody was pretty much scared shitless.

The bunker complex was immediately next to a very large clearing, that we could not, of course, cross. The next morning we withdrew around the clearing to the other side where we were able to observe airstrikes from phantoms. I mostly remember the napalm; I had never seen it that close-up; we were maybe 2-300 yards away across the clearing.

Later we swept through the bunker complex and it was full of 'crispy critters'. They looked like stick-men, or skeletons made of bacon.

I don't remember much else.

Jim Holcombe  
Comanche 1-6





Fort Hood, Texas







CHARLES THOMAS MOORE HEALTH CLINIC  
In Memory of  
Private First Class Charles Thomas Moore

Private First Class, United States Army  
Born: 15 July 1948, Ottumwa, Iowa  
Died: 3 January 1970, Republic of Vietnam



Private First Class Charles Thomas Moore distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism in action on 3 January 1970. The First Platoon of Company D, 2d Battalion, 5th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division, made contact with a determined enemy force located in a well-fortified bunker complex. A friendly trooper to the front was severely wounded. Private Moore, medical aidman for the First Platoon, moved through the intense hail of enemy fire to treat and evacuate the wounded soldier. Subsequently, with complete disregard for his own welfare, Private Moore moved to the aid of his platoon leader and evacuated the officer to safety. Then, noticing that his first patient had stopped breathing, Private Moore untiringly and singularly performed mouth-to-mouth resuscitation until life and unassisted breathing were restored. As he was constructing a bamboo stretcher, Private Moore was shot in the hip and rendered unconscious. When he regained consciousness, he began shouting valuable instructions concerning the necessary and vital treatment for the wounded. Even when he knew that death was imminent, Private Moore unselfishly ignored his pain and continued to give valuable medical instructions. Private Moore succumbed to his wounds before he could be medically evacuated, but not before he had saved the lives of many of his comrades through his conspicuous gallantry and extraordinary heroism.

DEDICATED: 12 MARCH 2002

*the wording on the plaque comes from his DSC citation*



Fort Hood, Texas



Tom Moore's mom + Dad on the right  
Tom's widow, son, Daughter-in-law + 3 grand children on the left





Taken at Fire Support Base Barbara Late 1969  
the smoke in the background is a B52 Air Strike



1st Lt. Gerald McDaniel 1st Air Cavalry Division 3/20/68

Gerald McDaniel

Taken at Mini Fire Support Base Dragoon  
Near Xuan Loc

We went there to protect an airfield during Tet  
Worked with an element of the 11<sup>th</sup> ACR





LZ Ready - Cambodia 1970

Left to Right  
Sgt. Larry Hughton SP/4 Raymond Van Gompel SP/4 Roy Berg Sgt. Gerald McDaniel SP/4 Dennis Beaver