

Douglas Young

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 10, 2006 12:12 PM
To: webmaster@tallcomanche.org
Subject: VIETNAM 1.JPG...
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Due By: Monday, August 14, 2006 5:00 PM
Flag Status: Red
Attachments: Vietnam 1.jpg; Vietnam 10.jpg; Vietnam 11.jpg; Vietnam 12.jpg; Vietnam 13.jpg; Vietnam 14.jpg; Vietnam 2.jpg; Vietnam 3.jpg; Vietnam 4.jpg; Vietnam 5.jpg; Vietnam 6.jpg; Vietnam 7.jpg; Vietnam 8.jpg; Vietnam 9.jpg

Doug,

Attached are a few of the photos I have from Ike, Tay Ninh and a few other places. I didn't want to send too many, because I have 299 plus photos. I also have 300 - 400 slides that I have not gone through. If any are noteworthy, I will make pictures and send later. Most of the ones I am sending are of the medics I worked with. One picture is of Cpt. Ward. He was a Company Commander, but I don't remember which company. The only orders, etc. I have are my own, along with commendations and medals. I am sure you don't want individual orders.

Thank you for having this web site and all the work that goes into operating it. It has meant a lot to me, and I just found it.

Hope to hear from you again soon.

Doc Gifford

Douglas Young

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 16, 2006 3:56 PM
To: webmaster@tallcomanche.org
Subject: My story LZ (FSB) Ike
Attachments: Nov 4th 1969 LZ (FSB) Ike (5.97 KB)

Doug,

It was good to hear from you again. You have some awesome pics on that web site. I am envious of the year and a half you were able to spend there again. Are the people open and friendly? I always wonder about that since they are under communist rule now, and we were the enemy to a lot of them way back when. Do you speak the language or are there very many that speak English? I would love to meet you someday and set down and talk about your experiences in today's Vietnam. Maybe over a cold cerveza someday?

The dry cleaning business used to be great, but between the gov't trying to regulate and impose fees on us and my son deciding this business is not for him, I have sold a store, and closed another. Today is the last day I operate a third store. I sold it, also. Now I am back to the original store I started with 25 years ago. A lot less stress, and probably more profitable once we adjust down to one store, again.

I sent some photos the other day. Did you receive them and was it in a format you could open? As I said previously, I have 6 albums and 200+ slides. A lot of them are of the country side, small villages we held med caps in and some more of GI's. I certainly don't want to try to send all of that, but if we meet someday, and you would like to see them, I would be happy to share them with you.

Below is a slightly edited version of the original story I sent to you about my recollections of Nov. 4, 1969. Feel free to use it anywhere you deem fit on your site. If you think it needs further editing, I trust your judgment. You may use the pics I sent, also, if there is a spot for them.

Take care,

Doc

My name is Vance (Doc) Gifford. I was a 91C20 (Clinical Specialist Medic) assigned to HHC 2/5 Cav. I had been in country about 2 weeks when I was sent to Ike from our base camp in Tay Ninh. I had just finished a year of medical training at Valley Forge General Hospital in Pa., after the 10 week basic medic AIT at Ft Sam Houston, and thought I was ready for anything. On Nov. 2nd I was sent out to Ike as the replacement for Doc Ramsey (don't remember his first name), so by the night of the 3rd I was still very wet behind the ears (FNG) and found out very fast that I was not ready for anything. I had just laid down on a litter to grab a little sleep in the aid station when all hell broke loose. I remember John Bauer (another medic) suggesting I stay in the aid station and wait for the wounded to be brought in. No one was being brought in so I went out and had no idea of what I was seeing. There was so much chaos, people running everywhere, shouting that I can still hear sometimes at night, artillery firing, M-16's, sappers, the night being lit up by God only knows what. I found a man down next to TOC and although I could see no visible wounds, he was not responding, so I picked him up and took him to the aid station. By then there were several wounded I started trying to help. So many wounds. Trying to treat them the best we could to stop the bleeding and help the pain until we could get choppers in. There was one man burned with willie pete. I sometimes wonder if he made it. I don't know the names of the guys I was working on that night. I just was seeing the wounds and trying my best to help them. If I had been on Ike longer and actually known some of the men, I would have remembered more. Most of the night was a blur. We eventually medvacc'd all of the wounded out including one of our medics, Lonny Branch. Around day break, me and another medic (maybe John Bauer) went outside and there were a few NVA laid out between the aid station and mess hall. They were still alive, but I don't know how. The wounds were so bad, they should have been dead. One's skull was so crushed that when I tried to move his head to check wounds, (we treated the enemy, too) the bones were so shattered his skull seemed like mush. He died soon after, but what I remember most about them was they seemed to feel no pain. They must have been on some pretty strong drugs. After all wounded were evacuated we stood beside the

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mess hall waiting for some coffee and maybe a bite to eat (it had been a long night), we decided to sit down while waiting and have a smoke. We had not been sitting more than a few seconds when a round hit and shrapnel was in the sand bags next to where our heads had been. Luckily, a very small piece hit my leg, but no one else had a scratch. Day light came and all was well or so they say,

These are my recollections, and some could be wrong. It has been almost 37 years. If I am wrong and someone remembers differently, please contact me. I would really like to hear from anyone that might remember me and that night. Thanks.

Former SSG Vance (Doc) Gifford
[REDACTED]