

Douglas Young

From: James Thom [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, December 11, 2004 7:11 AM
To: webmaster@tallcomanche.org
Subject: 6es

Hi! See what joggin the brain will do? I completely forgot Capt. Burt, but he was only with us for 2 days I think! Feb. 8th I still have nightmares about. I was wounded myself that day. 3 of us were working on Capt. Burt trying to get an I.V. started. The gunships were coming in closer and closer. That's where I received the wound to my right arm! Shrapnel, but it took out a nerve going thru! A kid bandaged me and then Burt went down. He was bleeding badly! All we had left was some thick goopy stuff called Sirum al bunum. Rudy was correct. Standing under that medivac chopper scared the hell out of us. That lift ain't fast and it was a sittin' duck while it hovered. That chopper crew had nerves of steel! If I recall correctly Rudy Cariaga 2nd Lt. 2nd platoon leader took command then. [Somebody had to!] We dug in for the night. A long scary one. We kept getting probed. Trips kept going off. Rudy kept telling the kids to keep the ark out! Don't blow the claymores cause the gooks probably already turned them at us. Through the grace of God and the courage of those kids on the line we made it through the night. Bn. knew we were in a tight spot. That morn a slick came in. An off jumped Bob Brace. No fanfare he just assumed command right then and there! He commended Rudy for a job well done. Then if memory serves he just moved around telling all the kids they did good and to relax. He saw me with the bandaged arm and told me to go back to Ike and get it taken care of. I didn't want to go! Didn't want to leave the kids without a medic. Then he made it an order and I had to go back. At that time I was far from the best medic but I did my level best. Another slick came in and a medic named Stacy. Something got out I got on and went back to Ike, that place sucked! The doctor cleaned and bandaged me and I just hung around. It was hot dirty and the dust flew all over the place every time a slick landed. There were actually 4 fire bases. Ike, Caroline, Jamie, and Barbra. Ike was always on fire support so it was loud as well as dirty. They logged the company the next day and I went back with the bird. That's when I took over 2nd Platoon medic. An Stacy took over as 6 band aid. We were still short a medic but we moved out. Brace was good! you could tell right away he knew his stuff. Somewhere I got some pictures. I know there was one of Rudy and also Bob accepting his Railroad tracks at the promotion when Anderson took over. An yeah we knew about Anderson's Platoon. . . By then I was 6 band aid and we were always in each others hair. But Anderson was good. Not as good as Brace. I have to see what I did with those pics. We moved a couple times and you know what happens after you've lived in a place for close to 40 yr, but if I find them I'll send them over the printer. We also knew that brace had been with Delta Co. Coursey his RTO never let him forget it either! [Smile!] I can name some of the kids. Others I just remember faces. I don't know if this will help but I'm sending the names I remember. Steve Wright, Coursey, Vernon something, Eddie something, Ted Davis, Kid we called Snake, Dominic something [Called him Wop!] another Steve. The medics I remember are Danny Price, Ken Stauss, Stacy something, Gene Kanuse. If anything more comes to me I'll write. I'm not good with this thing so you gotta bear with me! I know somewhere there is a roster for the co. I was line # 202 I think. Some day I tell you about the V.A. writing to me to see if I was dead! [SMILE!] JIM Thom Sp 5 Charlie Co. 2nd of the 5th

Info removed by VNCA

12/26/2004

Douglas Young

From: James Thom [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, December 11, 2004 10:14 AM
To: webmaster@tailcomanche.org
Subject: Cos

Hi again! Its funny how stuff comes back to you. I had totaly forgotten about Capt Burt, an I was one of the guys who put him on the medivac bird. I think I remember seein that kid Don Ray We were doin Triage then. Capt burt had a chance if we could get him out quickly Don Ray was a gonner as soon as he got hit! It was a head wound as I recall. We medivaced a whole bunch of kids that day from the first Platoon! Triage is the worst job a medic can perform! You play God,an God can have that job I am just glad that Brace an anderson an Rudy Made it home. A while after that I also medivaced Rudy Cariaga. I had it backward about Brace an Anderson Brace was commander durin Cambodia when we took out the rubber plantation. After that we worked Tay nihn My presence was requested at home In June/70. My father suffered a massive Heart attack. So I made it back too. Anderson got me out of there by blowin a clearin for a bird to get me! Last thing I remember was Top screamin at me "Dont come back doc dont!" Top was Willy Richardson. He would be real old now if hes still alive! Hell I keep forgetin were all old now! Another name came to me. Doug Timmerman an a Bobby Kloss I think. He was ted davis best friend. I read two books about the war. They were 'We were soldiers once' by Hai Moore an another by a guy I cant remember. It was called 'The soldiers story Viet Nam in there own words' I'll find the authors name for you They both came from Barnes an Knoble They were both honest. No BS. Oh well. Boots an saddles bro! Jim Thom

Douglas Young

From: James Thom [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, December 11, 2004 3:58 PM
To: webmaster@tallcomanche.org
Subject: Names

Man this has opened a floodgate! Couple more names for you. One was a guy named Barney from the Carolinas. Another was a kid named Howard, He was the Battalion RTO. The third was on the list of commanders. Capt Thomas Reich. I don't like to say bad things when people are not there to defend themselves. But this guy was the worst I ever saw. He walked us down a road once! down a trail another time. Now you know that's something you just didn't do. Another time he walked us down a road till it was dark! no place to set up no where to go. The entire company spent the night in a drainage ditch next to the road. I don't know if he was relieved of command or his tour was up or what. That's when Capt Burt took over. Poor Burt took the damage that should have gone to Reich. I noticed there was nothing after his name. Just the dates he served! As much as I loved Bob Brace I will be forever grateful to Rudy Cariaga. He was the one who held it all together that night. We lost our 6 our 1-6 and half a platoon. Rudy kept panic from spreading. I always thought he should have gotten something from the Army for that. He was generous to everyone. It was him put me in for the BSMAN made sure I got my CMB. Another name just popped in! Dave Rezendez From the southwest some where. Jesus Christ! this is getting like a waterfall. I'm gonna look for those pics. The last time I saw them they were pretty fragile. Another! 3rd platoon first sgt. PEPE don't know if it was his first name or last or just a nickname? He was a good one though. Best scout with the company. There was another Lt. name was Petrusca- or Petruska. Like that I think he was a platoon leader before I got there. Coursey always called him Mad Dog Petruska. He was in charge of Echo Recon when I got there, and that was a sick bunch! I'll be back with more. If I had that old roster I could probably do better. JIM Thom.

Douglas Young

From: James Thom [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, December 14, 2004 1:37 PM
To: webmaster@tallcomanche.org
Subject: thanks

Doug! I just want to convey my thanks! I think this has lightened my soul or whats left of it! If I can find them pics I'll send them! This has been like therapy for me. It opened a door that has been closed for a long time. I didnt even realise it was closed It aint closed anymore. I truly hope I could make one of those reunions. I would love to hug Rudy! [dont you tell him that!] Id even give Brace his knife back! Wouldnt mind meetin Capt Burt either. I never realy had a chance to get to know him! Sometimes I wonder how much of my old crew is still alive? I aint good enough with this PC to find out! I'm gonna keep tryin though! Maybe sooner or later??? Any thanks! Maybe thats what this is all about. Remberance! I know its been good for me! JIM .

Douglas Young

From: James Thom [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, December 15, 2004 7:54 AM
To: www.webmaster@talcomanche.org
Subject: Nam March/April 1970
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Due By: Friday, December 17, 2004 5:00 PM
Flag Status: Flagged

Upper was Steve Wright again Lower was that kid Vern I think. The dancers were practaly kidnapped by bob brace. They were going home to Australia an he persuaded them to do one more show for us. I remember brakin down with all the other guys as they played 'My Girl' Man did we get Drunk that nite! JIM .

Douglas Young

From: James Thom [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, December 16, 2004 8:06 AM
To: webmaster@tallcomanche.org
Subject: names
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Due By: Friday, December 17, 2004 5:00 PM
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi doug! Heres another two for ya! A sgt Dunne or Dunn. A fat rolypoly kinda guy who liked to brag a lot. He must have carried gallons of water with him whenever we went out. I never saw anyone sweat like that! Nother, Just a knickname MONK. Thats all No name Sorry. He had dirty sandy colored hair about 5'9" 150-180 Lbs. I sent some crummy pics yesterday. There are more, I just have to find them!. An today this ole doc is sick! Must have picked up a bug! Had a bad Night!. Dunne or Dunn had to be there after I left. He only came late an he was a lifer that was not liked after the guys found out what he was realy like. I aint gonna mention any names but a certain Machine gunner almost shot him one day. Hes probably gone by now anyway. He was way older than me an im 58 now! [Where did our youth go?] JIM .

12/26/2004

Info removed by VNCA

Douglas Young

From: James Thom [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, December 10, 2004 2:47 PM
To: webmaster@tailcomanche.org
Subject: Capt Anderson C/2/5 1970

Capt. Anderson assumed command I think at Quan- Loi in 1970 Just before we went into Cambodia. Lite to fite! Out of Arty Range! We had 4/ 50s an our 60s an the little mortar platoon! Capt . Anderso managed to hold it together! I as a medic had many problems with him but in the end I think we respected each other! I would like to know what happened to him an Capt. Brace! I cant remember capt. Andersons first name! Only his name for me! [A\$Shole!] We shared many memories! If you guys have any thing on these two guys I would like to have it! I found where Brace took over for the previous Capt. Burt but after that i can find nothing. I truly hope each of these guys made general cause they each diserved it Big Time! They each were PROS! Thats what West Point is supposed to produce an with theese two guys. You could ask no more! They honored the men an the dead they wouldnt leave. Capt Anderson in particular would not move the Company till we retrieved a body. It took several days but he got the job done! At least the kid came home! No one wondered where the kid was! We argued awfully over that but he was right! When I finnally brought the body in I was proud of him! real Proud Too many of them didnt care . As long as they got promoted . I have another story to tell but I'm gonna wait because its sort of funny! I would like to get in touch with both of them an see if they remember me! Thanks Jim Thom S/P 5 C/2/5 [MEDIC!] 1970