

**Douglas Young**

**From:** Romeo Trevino [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 21, 2006 9:46 PM  
**To:** Webmaster  
**Subject:** RE: 33NVA Battle, 14-15 June 1971

Because, we didn't think it was that bad! We retrieved our claymores and I led an eager bunch of troopers. I suppose, looking back, I could have ordered the detonation of our perimeter defense, but, faced with the same situation today, I'd react exactly the same way. A fire under control is not too bad. A fire out of control is a tragedy waiting to happen. Here, in Bell County Texas, I've fought many a fire on my own ranch as well as my neighbors places. In '77, I nearly lost my whole place, to a fire started by a train with a hot wheel, two miles away. If my neighbors had fought the fire by the tracks, it would not have traveled the two miles. But, they thought it would just burn itself out. It took two volunteer companies from two towns and a bunch of good neighbors to stop the fires as they neared my house. The pole barn didn't fare so well. Neither did my fences. I believe to this day, that the fire on Sandra would have traveled higher. I don't think it would have hit our ammo dump, or fuel areas, but, you never know. Fires have a history of jumping over ridges and gaining strength. At Fort Benning we set off a fire on the 50 cal. range when Arty flares landed and set the range of fire. It stopped our nightfire exercises, but, the range instructors just brushed it off as the start of new grass on the range later in the year.

Every question you ask, gets me more practice on this laptop. But, it still takes me forever. Romeo

*Webmaster <webmaster@tallcomanche.org> wrote:*

I'm full of questions- -

On February 3rd. you and the platoon went out to fight the fire set off by the trip flare at FSB Sandra.

Why did you fight the fire? Why not just let it burn?

Doug

**From:** Romeo Trevino [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 20, 2006 8:16 PM  
**To:** Webmaster  
**Subject:** RE: 33NVA Battle, 14-15 June 1971

I found my log of flights that I transcribed from my Plt Ldrs book.. All Plt leaders are required to have one. Most is from memory

*Webmaster <webmaster@tallcomanche.org> wrote:*

Romeo - what documents are you using to get this info?

Doug

**From:** Romeo Trevino [REDACTED]

8/22/2006

Info removed by VNCA

**Douglas Young**

**From:** Romeo Trevino [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 21, 2006 9:58 PM  
**To:** Webmaster  
**Subject:** RE: 33NVA Battle, 14-15 June 1971

All basic Officer training schools teach it. They sell different types. Some are just notepads. Others, like mine, were a tiny black binder type, with ruled sheets. As you finish one set, you put in another set of pages. Some platoon sergeants also carry them. You keep any number of info in them. In combat, you have to be careful not to write anything that can be used by the enemy. I kept past events, flights, contact info, and any G-2 from Chieu Hoi or Hoi Chans. I interrogated chieu hoi, hoi chans, captured VC Women and several dead VC. That one is a smelly job. I couldn't eat beef stew LRRPs after the first one, that I had to do. First, you have to dig him out of a bunker, or shallow grave and then you...well, that's enough of that!

My son-in-law, the S-3 for 4/4th Avn Regt in Iraq, uses one. Course, now, they have all kinds of computers, screens, mapping technology and what not.  
 Romeo

*Webmaster <webmaster@tallcomanche.org> wrote:*

A PLatoon Leader's book! Fascinating! I'd never heard of such a thing. Was it just a 1st Cav thing, a 2/5 Cav thing, something your CO required - - where did the requirement come from?

What are the chances of getting a copy of that for my records? I will (of course) pay for any costs of duplicating it.

Doug

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Doug

**From:** Romeo Trevino [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 20, 2006 4:36 PM  
**To:** Webmaster  
**Subject:** RE: 33NVA Battle, 14-15 June 1971

8/22/2006

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**Douglas Young**

**From:** Romeo Trevino [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 21, 2006 7:43 PM  
**To:** Webmaster  
**Subject:** RE: 33NVA Battle, 14-15 June 1971

I reported to Bn Hqs at Fsb Sandra 1 Feb, went back to Mace on 2 Feb for equipment, and sign in, and reported back to take over 2nd Platoon, for perimeter duty on FSB Sandra on 3 Feb. That afternoon we had the fire, and I got in trouble with the Bn CO for not wearing my shirt that evening; it was, full of pellet holes and burned from fighting the fire. On 26 Feb, I took the log bird back to Sandra where I loaded a CH47 for Mace to sign out of 'C Company, and signed in to HHC for duties as the S-2. I also, had CPT bars put on my fatigues. There was 1LT already serving as S-2, when I got there so, they let him stay on for awhile, cause he was short. He DEROSed shortly after I took over S-2. He was wounded very slightly when BG Burton's Huey received 32 bullet holes. I tried to put him in for a purple heart, but, he refused it. Incidentally, BG Burton would not let them paint over the bullet hole patches. They were a light green which contrasted with the OD paint. I don't remember the date. I'll have to find my old S-2 box for that. Romeo

*Webmaster <webmaster@tallcomanche.org> wrote:*

Wrong - I do have another question.

Your story about destroying the VC camp on March 30 says you were the Bn S2 by that time

But - you'd just joined the company in February. Did you serve as Platoon Leader for one month?

Doug

**From:** Romeo Trevino [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 20, 2006 8:16 PM  
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**Sent:** Sunday, August 20, 2006 4:36 PM  
**To:** Webmaster  
**Subject:** RE: 33NVA Battle, 14-15 June 1971

Here's that Chrono, took me an hour! On notepad.

8/22/2006

Info removed by VNCA

**Douglas Young**

**From:** Romeo Trevino [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 21, 2006 9:27 PM  
**To:** Webmaster  
**Subject:** RE: 33NVA Battle, 14-15 June 1971

The CO was a redheaded, freckle faced fellow. I called him Red. But, I don't remember his name. And, I was DMG and flight obligated, from Texas A & I. I was a 1LT, on arrival at USARV in Saigon, I believe on the 24th of Jan. Due to my nearing the next grade level, they had a tough time finding someone who could use me. Too much rank to be a platoon leader, and not enough rank to be a company commander or Bn Staff officer. So, I had to prove myself. Knowing what I know now, I should have gone to flight school first, and then Vietnam, but, I was itching to get combat time before the War ended. Rumors were that we would leave Vietnam within the year due to protestors getting to the Politicos.

Romeo

*Webmaster <webmaster@tallcomanche.org> wrote:*

Still more questions - -

Who was the CO when you joined the company. Vic Allifi took over on April 2, so there was someone else there when you joined the company.

By the way - what was the source of your commission? Were you a 1st or 2nd LT when you came in country?

Doug

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**Sent:** Sunday, August 20, 2006 8:16 PM  
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8/22/2006

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**Douglas Young**

**From:** Romeo Trevino [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 24, 2006 8:04 PM  
**To:** webmaster@tallcomanche.org  
**Subject:** RE: VC Basecamp Raid '71

Howdy Doug,  
 This took me three days!

I need to correct my account of the 'C' 2/5th battle v. 33rdNVA. First off, according to Kevin Perrier, B2/5th, it was the 2nd BN, 33rd NVA Regiment. Secondly, the unit that took part was 'A' Company, 1st BN, 12th Cavalry Regt. Thirdly, 'B' Company, 2/5th, for which Kev was the RTO for CPT Gordon Spies, was OPCON to A-1/12th. They joined the fight the day after the main battle and encountered a heavily fortified bunker complex. According to Kevin, the 2nd33rdNVA was stopped from attacking Xuan Loc. I do remember this as one of our accomplishments in that battle. And, finally, Kev reported talking to an M-60 gunner, Tom Lacey, who was in that battle; he, incidently, died on St. Patricks Day 2002. Tom Lacey was killed by a drunk driver while he was going to get a meal that morning. He reported to Kev that the person that I reported Vic had asked for 20 mikes to go look for a fellow named Jeff Musgrave! Musgrave, apparently, became disoriented and was lost for a day or two, until he made his way back to 'C' company. I also, remember an account of this type. Also, its possible that I mistakenly called LT Carlson as the 1st PLT LDR for 'Charlie' when there was a Lt. Carlson from 2nd Plt..'B' Company. So, I'm trying to correct any misrecollections.

I welcome any corrections and/or additions to my account by actual parties to the battle.  
 I remain respectfully,  
 Romeo

**Webmaster** <webmaster@tallcomanche.org> wrote:

Hello, Mr. Trevino - -

First of all, my deepest apologies for the extremely late reply. I am just now finishing up wading through all the spam that resulted from living overseas for 1 1/2 years. Someone was supposed to direct good emails like this me. but . . .

I am truly sorry as I love to get emails like this so I can act on them.

I have posted your information to the site. Please take a look at [http://www.tallcomanche.org/March\\_1971.htm](http://www.tallcomanche.org/March_1971.htm) and let me know what you think.

Having said that, I am afraid you are now in trouble. You see, when I get in touch with new information, I usually drive people crazy trying to find more. Do you have any photos stuck in the attic, copies of your old orders - anything at all? I would love to have copies of them and will help you make scanned copies.

As you can see, we don't have a lot of information for 1971 and late 1970. I'd love to know the time period you served with C 2/5 Cav, and whatever else you can tell me.

You certainly live close to the division now. I live in McAllen, and my wife and I drove up to Ft. Hood about two months after the battalion was deployed to Iraq. We had a chance to talk to some of the wounded from the Palm Sunday 2004 fight.

8/26/2006

Info removed by VNCA

**Douglas Young**

**From:** Romeo Trevino [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 01, 2006 11:56 AM  
**To:** webmaster@tallcomanche.org  
**Subject:** RE: Picture RVN '71

LTC Wishart called on me to take over Delta on two occasions. On 2May, their CO went on Leave and I took charge of the company and took them from FSB security to the field on a combat assault on 4May. On 7May, I was relieved when their CO came back from R & R. The second time was on the 14th of June when their CO was wounded and medivac'ed, along with 3/4s of one platoon. I keep thinking his name was Dan, but, I don't recall. I know I called him "Tiger." He was an exemplary officer and a gentleman. His men trusted and admired him greatly. I was accorded the same courtesy on both occasions that I commanded Delta. Especially, after I led the men in extracting their dead soldiers from the battlefield on 15Jun. On the 19th of June I met their CO in Vung Tau, we exchanged greetings and I turned his company back to him for their standown. In one of the 2/5th write-ups, there is mention by a Sonny Ray of Delta company by the article of Dolf Carlson. That could be him.  
Romeo

*Webmaster* <webmaster@tallcomanche.org> wrote:

Excellent - because I've been wondering too.

One more question - how were you involved in that fight, besides being the S2? Did you go in with D Company? Were you the temporary CO of D Company? How did that work?

Thanx -

Doug

**From:** Romeo Trevino [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 31, 2006 9:21 PM  
**To:** webmaster@tallcomanche.org  
**Subject:** RE: Picture RVN '71

Okay, I'll try one more time. In the battle against the 33NVA, on 14JUN71, the 1st Platoon leader was 1LT Albert Vaxmonsky. I got this from the Saber article that Kevin posted for y'all on your site. And also, the CO whom I called Red, was Ray Connelly. Again, thanks to that article by Kevin.

Earlier, I confused Lt Vaxmonsky for Carlson. Carlson was the 2nd platoon leader for Bravo Company, and, I believe later a Company commander. But, I'm trying to clear that up with Gordon Spies, whom I've contacted in Ocala, Florida. Well, back to my mail. Romeo

*Webmaster* <webmaster@tallcomanche.org> wrote:

Hi Romeo - -

Kew! Thanx. You were the S2 by the time as you were a Captain, right?

9/1/2006

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Any idea when this was taken?

Doug

**From:** Romeo Trevino [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 28, 2006 4:04 PM  
**To:** C Company 2/5th BN  
**Subject:** Picture RVN '71

Howdy Doug,  
If you get this, its cause I did something right.  
I was smoking a pipe and "Alabama" snapped this picture. I received it in the mail today.  
Romeo

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Do you Yahoo!?  
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9/1/2006

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**Douglas Young**

**From:** Romeo Trevino [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 19, 2006 3:29 PM  
**To:** Webmaster  
**Subject:** RE: 33NVA Battle, 14-15 June 1971

Howdy Doug,

Well, I've been going through a lot of boxes lately, and I can pretty much give y'all a chronology of 'C Company for the month of Feb 71. On the third, I took over 2nd Platoon. I had just settled in when a Chinook, approaching the FSB low to avoid enemy fire, came on the LZ and flared late setting off trip flares. I immediately started to lead some men to fight the fire, when I was reminded by the Plt Sgt that the claymores were still out there. So, I ordered them taken up first. Then we proceeded to the fire. As I was fighting the fire, I noticed that ashes had jumped over me and started a fire; then I spotted some MA wires on fire. I followed them through the leaves and clutter till they disappeared. Then I saw it. A claymore had been left. I thought that I had better get the fuse out before it went off, when, it blew!! It sent me up in the air and set me right down. I checked myself and I was okay. My left knee was numb, but, I kept on fighting the fire. The men were right behind me and we kept on going until we put it out! Then the officers were called up for evening briefing. LTC Wishart started off then suddenly stopped. He chewed me out royally for not wearing my jacket after 6 pm. I started to go retrieve it, when he stopped me and sent his staff NCO to go get it. When the SFC came back, he took the shirt to the BN CO, and started laughing loudly! "The only thing left of the LT's shirt is the Cav patch and the tab!!" Then, the whole CP started laughing, including the BN CO. The blast had tore the shirt to tatters and the fire had singed the rest! All I got was a sore knee. Two hours later, that same NCO brought me a new shirt with all the patches and my name on it. I asked how he got it! "The Old Man told me to call Rear and have them make one and send it back by chopper!"

I'll try to get that short chronology when I figure out that laptop! Right now I'm at the library and my times out.

Romeo

**Webmaster** <[webmaster@tallcomanche.org](mailto:webmaster@tallcomanche.org)> wrote:

Hey Romeo - -

When this happened, were you with C Company, D Company - or what?

Just curious - what was your call sign when you were with C 2/5? I know you were a Platoon Leader. See what I pain I am after you made the mistake of writing me? (grin) I just \*love\* tracking down new information.

Doug

**From:** Romeo Trevino [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 15, 2006 8:14 PM  
**To:** Webmaster  
**Subject:** RE: 33NVA Battle, 14-15 June 1971

8/19/2006

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Aliffée.

On the 14th of June, D Company ran into a fortified bunker complex. They lost 3/4s of a platoon to direct RPG, machine gun, and mortar fire. They had 6 KIA, and the rest WIA. LTC Leonard P. Wishart called for 'C Company to assist 'D Company. CPT VIC Aliffée ordered a forced march to the contact site. It took them approximately, two hours to move about 10 Kilometers through dense jungle with the 1st Platoon Leader, 1LT Carlson taking point. The 12th Cavalry also sent a company from the North. I was also air assaulted, by UH1H, to take charge of 'D Company. My orders were to bring back the four bodies that had been left at the point of contact. VIC Aliffée and I met with LTC Wishart and received the battle plan. We were to cross a river the next morning, establish contact and clear the bunker area. Delta minus would set up a defensive line along the enemy side of the river and prevent any enemy from escaping, while Charlie Company would assault the bunker complex and clear all remaining enemy. 12 Cav would deploy to the North and prevent the enemy from escaping through those routes.

On June the 15th, we crossed the LD and commenced the attack. The battle raged for hours. The enemy was entrenched in some of the biggest bunkers we'd ever seen. The going proved slow and Vic's outfit took heavy casualties. Delta Company, in the meantime had been bracketed with mortar fire and were forced to redeploy on the friendly side of the river. I met with Vic and LT Carlson, and brought a team to retrieve the four dead bodies from the day before. After that extraction, Cpt Aliffée received the go-ahead to also, search for one of his MIA. That search was not successful and Charlie and 'D Minus redeployed to the friendly side of the river just in time as F-4s rolled in and napalmed the battlefield. The smell of napalm was everywhere. That evening and all night we blasted the bunkers with Artillery from every firebase within range. We had 175s, 8 inchers, 105's and 155's. They all took turns. If the Battleship New Jersey, had still been there we would have asked for it too.

On the 16th, 'C company and 'D company cleared their areas. We found some enemy dead and it was determined at higher up that they were part of the 33NVA Battalion.

There is a picture of Vic and I in an article telling about the battle in the Stars and Stripes. I'll see if I can find it.  
Romeo

p.s. If you need me to contact anyone at Ft. Hood, personally, I go there frequently! My son-in-law is in OIF right now, and my daughter is an optometrist on post.

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I believe that may be correct. And I'll try to get a scan of that story. My mother had saved it for me all these years. But, now, I do not know which box its in.

Romeo

**Webmaster** <webmaster@tallcomanche.org> wrote:

Romeo - - was the "LT Carlson" you mention the same Dolf Carlson who later made Captain and took command of C Company afetr Vic left?

I'd \*love\* to have that Stars and Stripes story - it would go nicely with the Saber story already on the web site.

Doug

**From:** Romeo Trevino [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 15, 2006 12:28 PM  
**To:** C Company 2/5th BN  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** 33NVA Battle, 14-15 June 1971

C Company, 2nd Bn, 5th Cavalry Black Knights, joined the battle against the 33NVA Bn, near Xuan Loc, III Corps. The CO was Vic Aliffée.

On the 14th of June, D Company ran into a fortified bunker complex. They lost 3/4s of a platoon to direct RPG, machine gun, and mortar fire. They had 6 KIA, and the rest WIA. LTC Leonard P. Wishart called for 'C Company to assist 'D Company. CPT VIC Aliffée ordered a forced march to the contact site. It took them approximately, two hours to move about 10 Kilometers through dense jungle with the 1st Platoon Leader, - 1LT Carlson taking point. The 12th Cavalry also sent a company from the North. I was also air assaulted, by UH1H, to take charge of 'D Company. My orders were to bring back the four bodies that had been left at the point of contact. VIC Aliffée and I met with LTC Wishart and received the battle plan. We were to cross a river the next morning, establish contact and clear the bunker area. Delta minus would set up a defensive line along the enemy side of the river and prevent any enemy from escaping, while Charlie Company would assault the bunker complex and clear all remaining enemy. 12 Cav would deploy to the North and prevent the enemy from escaping through those routes.

*According to  
S3 journal,  
was a  
CP*

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8/19/2006

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Untitled

Here's that Chrono, took me an hour! On notepad.  
Romeo

Tall Comanche 1 Feb 71 - 27 Feb 71 CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

1 Feb FX UH1H Field LZ to Secure LZ Sandra Perimeter Security FSB

3 Feb Chinook FSB Sandra Fire Northslope-caused by low level approach

8 Feb CA UH1H Secure to Field LZ AO Free Fire Zone Search and Destroy Ops

20 Feb FX UH1H Field LZ to Secure Tan Linh Airfield Board Caribou for Bien Hoa  
C7A Secure to Secure Bien Hoa Airfield 3 Day Standown

23 Feb FLT C7A Secure to Secure Tan Linh Airfield Board Chinook to FSB Sandra

FLT CH47 Secure to Secure LZ Sandra Re-arm & Re-fit

CA UH1H Secure to Field LZ AO Free Fire Zone Search and Destroy VC Campsite

**Doug Young**

**From:** Romeo Trevino [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 30, 2007 9:52 AM  
**To:** webmaster@tallcomanche.org  
**Subject:** RE: 2/5th Black Knights List

Howdy Doug,

I'm using an old email to send you this account of a VC Camp raid in February ' 71. I was perusing your website and spotted the note that said there were no actions in February. Here is one, and, its open to review and editing by any participants in the raid or highers.

Romeo

### Raid on a VC campsite

Feb 23, 1971

Our company, Tall Comanche, made a combat assault into a large grassy area between a series of mountains and a stream in the middle of a valley. I served as Platoon Leader of 2nd Platoon, C Company, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Division, operating South of Tan Linh in III Corps. Charlie Company's mission was a clearing operation of the valley floor and the stream. First Platoon had the left flank of the stream and 2nd Platoon had the stream and the right side. After clearing through the valley in the direction of our combat insertion, my platoon crossed the stream as it turned towards the South. We cleared our sector until we were told to prepare our night defensive positions. During preparations for our night FOB, one of my sentries spotted two VC drawing water and retrieving traps from the stream. They fled up the steep bank, and the sentry reported the sighting. I immediately organized a squad for the pursuit and ordered the rest of the platoon to guard the FOB and rucks. We saddled up and joined with the sentry. As we moved to the site, I reported to the Commanding Officer, Captain Ray Connally, and he advised us to hold on the pursuit until 1st Platoon retrieved their defensive claymores. 1st Platoon Leader, Albert Vaxmonski, reported that his perimeter had been cleared and Captain Connally gave us permission to continue the pursuit, close with the enemy, and engage. We crossed the stream and deployed on both sides of a hard-packed trail until we arrived at a campsite. We cleared through the site and beyond, then we set up a perimeter defense around it, and notified the CO. We retrieved woven baskets, small animal net traps, a rice sifter, fish traps and two VC hammocks. When we reported our findings, the CO told us to bring back the items to our night FOB. The next day, the BN S-3 asked us to send the items back for a cultural studies. We were allowed to keep the hammocks as they were preferred by some of our troops for their compactness and ease of setup. There were no casualties due to the fact that the VC chose to abandon their camp rather than engage in combat.

**Webmaster** <webmaster@tallcomanche.org> wrote:

Hey, Romeo - -

Sounds like a plan - and of course, I could run it as a bulletin board off of the Comanche site

Would you run it?

Doug Young

Don't pick lemons.

3/31/2007

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