

BACKGROUND INFORMATION
CONCERNING
AWARD RECOMMENDATIONS FOR

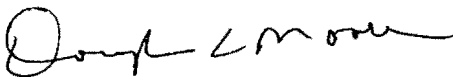


U.S. ARMY SPECIALIST FOURTH CLASS
CHARLES EARLE CRAFTS

LTC Stephen Harmon
Assistant Chief, Army Awards Board
U.S. Army Human Resources Command

Contained herein is background information in support of the recommendations for a Silver Star, Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device, and Bronze Star Medal for service for SP4 Charles Earle Crafts.

- **Tab 1.** Introduction and listing of the "Friends of SP4 Charles E. Crafts."
- **Tab 2.** Summary of SP4 Crafts' biography and timelines of his captivity.
- **Tab 3.** LTC Behnke's letter to Senator Olympia J. Snowe requesting her support of this effort to which she graciously agreed.
- **Tab 4.** SP4 Crafts' DD 214 and associated personnel records.
- **Tab 5.** Report of a Board of Officers recommending change of SSG Bennett's and SP4 Crafts' status from "missing" to "detained by a hostile force" based on information learned from Vietnamese survivors of the Battle of Binh Gia.
- **Tab 6.** Section of the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) log kept during the opening two days of the Battle of Binh Gia. It clearly reflects the poor intelligence capability of those early days; e.g., on page 8, the enemy force was estimated to be a battalion of Viet Cong. Later, it was discovered that more than 5000 battle hardened veterans of the 9th Viet Cong Division were on the battlefield at Binh Gia with their third regiment in nearby reserve.
- **Tab 7.** Letter from CSM Michael N. Martin (US Army Ret) who served as an Advisor to two separate Vietnamese Ranger Battalions. CSM Martin clearly describes the environment in which SP4 Crafts operated.
- **Tab 8.** In memory of those with whom SP4 Crafts served, but never returned.



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INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE: A small group known as the “Friends of SP4 Charles Earle Crafts” is very proud to present for approval by the United States Army Awards Board the following recommendations for SP4 Crafts’ heroism and service on the battlefield and while being held captive from 29 December 1964 until 23 February 1967. We believe very strongly that he deserves the following awards:

- Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action
- Bronze Star Medal with “V” device for heroism
- Bronze Star Medal for extraordinary service to his country

Our recommendations are the culmination of more than six years of extensive research and diligent effort led by LTC James E. Behnke (US Army Ret) and an ad hoc group of Vietnam veterans. We are determined to present the Awards Board with sufficient eyewitness and archival information to allow them to recognize SP4 Crafts for his gallantry in action during the Battle of Binh Gia on 29 December 1964 and for his steadfast faith in God, Country, and fellow POWs during more than two years he was held captive under brutal jungle conditions where malnutrition, disease, and maltreatment were omnipresent.

The members of the “Friends of SP4 Charles E. Crafts” are as follows:

- LTC James E. Behnke (US Army Ret). LTC Behnke was a captain in 1964 and served as Senior Advisor to the Vietnamese 33rd Ranger Battalion, one of the toughest organizations in the South Vietnamese Army and one that was constantly in the midst of heavy combat. The other two members of his advisory team were SSG Harold G. Bennett, Light Weapons NCO, and SP4 (then PVT E-2) Charles Earle Crafts, Radio Operator. LTC Behnke is the author of a widely known book written about his Vietnamese counterpart entitled DAI-UY, meaning “captain” in Vietnamese.
- Mr. Duane E. Frederic is a Vietnam veteran who has carefully researched the captivity experiences of several American POWs that were held in the jungle camps of South Vietnam, especially those held in the 1963-65 timeframe. He was responsible for most of the documentation that led to the award of a Medal of Honor to Army Captain Humbert (Rocky) Versace that was awarded by President George W. Bush on 8 July 2002.
- CSM Michael N. Martin (US Army Ret). CSM Martin served multiple tours in Vietnam and was an Advisor to Vietnamese Ranger units. He was inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame at Fort Benning in 1995 for his many achievements as a Ranger during a distinguished thirty year military career. CSM Martin wrote an article about the Battle of Binh

Gia that appeared in the September-October issue of "Behind the Lines" magazine. He has also written three books about Vietnamese Ranger and Airborne units. He also sponsored an effort that led to SSG Harold G. Bennett's induction into the Ranger Hall of Fame in 2004.

- Colonel Douglas E. Moore (US Army Ret). Colonel Moore was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism as a medical evacuation helicopter pilot and served multiple tours in Vietnam. He participated in the Battle of Binh Gia and monitored the last radio transmissions of SSG Bennett and SP4 Crafts before they were overrun and captured. Colonel Moore wrote an article entitled "Bad Day at Binh Gia" that was published in ARMY magazine in August 1999.
- Colonel Donald L. Price (USMC Ret). Colonel Price is a decorated combat veteran of multiple tours in Vietnam. After more than five years of research into the Battle of Binh Gia, he wrote a book about another Marine officer, Captain Donald G. Cook, who was wounded and then captured at Binh Gia. His book entitled "The First Marine Captured in Vietnam" was published in 2007 and is widely acclaimed.
- MG Edison E. Scholes (US Army Ret). General Scholes served multiple tours in Vietnam including Senior Advisor to the Vietnamese I Corps Ranger Command during his second tour. He retired in 1996 after a distinguished thirty-five year military career that included four combat tours in three major conflicts and served as Deputy Commanding General of the XVIII Airborne Corps.
- MG Eugene L. Stillions, Jr (US Army Ret). General Stillions served multiple tours in Vietnam and was Quartermaster General of the Army. After retiring from active duty, he was senior executive for a nationwide business engaged in developing jobs for persons with severe disabilities. He also served as President of the U.S. Army Quartermaster Foundation and currently serves as Chairman of the Board of Directors for America's Pride, Inc., a service-disabled, veteran owned business that employs disabled veterans.

The circumstances leading to our request are simple. SP4 Crafts was initially assigned to Vietnam when the American involvement was limited to an advisory role only and there were no US combat troops in-country. In fact, there were only about 20,000 Americans serving in Vietnam at that time and there was little of the usual infrastructure we commonly associate with a military operation. That, coupled with the fact that SP4 Crafts was captured and not released until two years later, disrupted his normal chain of command and no one took the time to research his actions and service when he was recovered from captivity. As a result, no award recommendations were prepared for him before he was discharged, so we are trying to rectify that oversight through this effort.

We are proceeding with this project under the authority of Section 1130, Title 10, United States Code that allows for referral of award recommendations by a Member of Congress. In this case, Senator Olympia J. Snowe of SP4 Crafts' home state of Maine agreed to assist.

All we ask of the Army Awards Board is that they carefully evaluate the information we present and we are certain the Board will recognize the heroism and service exhibited by a young American soldier who did his best to serve his country under extraordinarily difficult circumstances.

Thank you for your consideration,

The Friends of SP4 Charles Earle Crafts

SUMMARY OF SP4 CRAFTS' BIOGRAPHY

Charles Earle Crafts was born on 11 August 1942 in Livermore Falls, Maine. His parents were Leroy Bradford Crafts and Virginia (Voter) Crafts. He was their only son, and his birth order was second of three children: one older sister and one younger sister.

Crafts' graduated from Jay High School in Jay, Maine in June 1960. He worked for the International Paper Company in Chisholm, Maine from August, 1960 until he was drafted into the U. S. Army on 3 June 1964. His marital status was divorced, not remarried while in military service. He was 6 foot tall and weighed 168 pounds.

He completed Basic Training at Ft. Dix, and received Advanced Individual Training as a Radio Operator, MOS 051.1 at Ft. Dix.

He arrived in Vietnam after Thanksgiving, 1964 and attended a Military Assistance Training Advisor orientation course in Saigon conducted by HQ, MACV. Crafts was assigned to Advisory Team #95 at Bien Hoa with duty as the Radio Telephone Operator for the ARVN Ranger 33rd Battalion. He did not have any Infantry or Ranger training beyond Basic Training.

Crafts was captured by the Viet Cong on his first combat assault at Binh Gia on 29 December 1964. He returned to U. S. military control on 23 February 1967 after enduring two years, one month, and 24 days of brutal jungle captivity.

Following repatriation to CONUS, Crafts was hospitalized for treatment of malnutrition and malaria. He was released from active duty on 12 May 1967 and received an Honorable Discharge.

He returned to work at International Paper Company and worked there until the employees went on strike. After the strike ended Crafts accepted a buyout offered to the International Paper employees.

He worked briefly for the Disabled American Veterans as a National Service Officer to help Vietnam veterans process their claims for disabilities and represented them in getting al benefits that were due them. He left that job in 1989.

In 1991 Crafts retired due to disabilities incurred during his captivity as a POW. He is currently rated 100% disabled by the Veterans Administration and Social Security. He and his wife Juanita reside in Livermore, Maine.


TIMELINE OF SP4 CRAFTS' CAPTIVITY FROM 29 DECEMBER 1964 -23 FEBRUARY 1967

- 1. SSG Harold G. Bennett and SP4 Crafts were captured on 29 December 1964 and herded away from the battlefield with a few survivors from the 33rd Vietnamese Ranger Battalion. Darkness began falling as they entered heavy jungle and began moving down a narrow trail, so SSG Bennett and SP4 Crafts began planning their first escape attempt. Both knew the best time to escape would be before their captors had them in firm control. During this time, the guards were walking in front and back of the small group of prisoners, so SSG Bennett told SP4 Crafts that when the conditions were right, they ought to break and run for it. SP4 Crafts agreed and told him it would be his decision when to run. The guards apparently sensed something was being planned because they closed around the two Americans and denied them an opportunity to escape.**
- 2. On 30 December 1964, SSG Bennett and SP4 Crafts arrived at a camp they called "Camp ARVN" because it already held 50-75 ARVN (Army of the Republic of Vietnam) enlisted men and 8-10 ARVN officers. On 1 January 1965, both Americans were moved to another camp about two miles away.**
- 3. On 2 January 1965, Captain Donald G. Cook, USMC, joined them. Although he had been wounded in the leg and suffering excruciating pain, Captain Cook quickly assumed the leadership role of Senior American Prisoner and SSG Bennett and SP4 Crafts pledged their loyalty to him. From the beginning, Captain Cook took every opportunity to undermine and bedevil their captors and established code names for everything and everybody in the camp. To further confuse the enemy, Captain Cook took on the code name "Jose" while SSG Bennett was "Floyd" and SP4 Crafts was "Hobby."**
- 4. During the afternoon of 2 January 1965, SSG Bennett and SP4 Crafts began planning a second escape attempt. Using a set of jeep keys that were not detected when SSG Bennett was searched, they weakened the cheap locks on their leg shackles and used a nail clipper (also overlooked by the guards) to cut vines binding the overhead poles in their cage. They knew Captain Cook's wounds would prohibit him from joining their escape attempt, but they proceeded anyway. Ordinarily, the guards sat around a campfire at night and chatted, but on this particular night they were unusually observant and any noise would be detected. The next morning, the cheap locks were replaced with U.S. Army locks that proved impossible to pick.**
- 5. On or about 26 January 1965, Captain Cook, SSG Bennett, and SP4 Crafts began moving to another camp. They walked two days before reaching a village where they stayed for four days. Captain Cook was having difficulty keeping up, so he was left at the village when they began moving again.**

6. On 6 February 1965, SSG Bennett and SP4 Crafts arrived at a camp they dubbed "Camp SOB." Later that month, SSG Bennett went on a hunger strike to protest the poor quality of the food they were receiving.
7. Sometime around the middle of March 1965, Captain Cook joined them at Camp SOB. The three Americans immediately began planning another escape attempt. They planned to take advantage of the morning "latrine call" when all three were usually allowed to go together. They selected 20 March as the escape date, but only Captain Cook and SSG Bennett were allowed to leave their cage. For some unknown reason, SP4 Crafts was held back that morning. Captain Cook and SSG Bennett made a break for it, but were quickly captured and severely punished.
8. In April of 1965, an American civilian, Donald Dawson, and a Vietnamese interpreter, Colette Emberger, were brought to Camp SOB as detainees. Dawson was allegedly searching for a brother who had been lost when his plane went down. They were released on or about 24 August 1965.
9. During this entire period, SSG Bennett's health had begun to decline as a result of jungle diseases and his inability to adapt to the poor food being served. Captain Cook and SP4 Crafts did their best to assist him and encouraged him to eat.
10. On or about 15 May 1965, all three Americans began moving to a new camp called "Camp Carefree." During this long forced march, SSG Bennett became too weak to walk and was beaten and kicked by his guards. The last time he was seen alive was on 28 May. Later, the guards told Captain Cook and SP4 Crafts that SSG Bennett had been killed, but no shots were heard by either American.
11. On or about 1 June 1965, Captain Cook and SP4 Crafts arrived at Camp Carefree. Already present were four other American soldiers captured when the Special Forces camp at Hiep Hoa had been overrun on 24 November 1963. They were: SFC Isaac Camacho, SFC Kenneth Roraback, SGT Claude McClure, and SP5 George E. Smith.
12. On or about 4 July 1965, U.S. Army Captain John Schumann joined the other six Americans at Camp Carefree.
13. Security was somewhat laxer at Camp Carefree, so SFC Camacho took advantage of a violent thunderstorm and made a successful escape during the night of 9 July 1965. On 16 July, the remaining POWs were moved to a temporary location called "The Bivouac Area." SP4 Crafts was suffering from recurring malaria and it took him 10 days to reach that camp.

- 14. After remaining in The Bivouac Area for approximately two weeks, the Americans were moved to a camp dubbed "Camp Tay Ninh", arriving there on or about 7 August 1965. In late September, the guards took SFC Rorabach to the camp commander and he was never seen again. He allegedly was murdered by his captors as had been SSG Bennett.**
- 15. On or about 21 November 1965, a release ceremony was held for SFC McClure and SP5 Smith and they were returned to American control. The North Vietnamese Government used this event in their attempt to influence American opinion against the war.**
- 16. On or about 24 January 1966, a U.S. State Department Official, Douglas Ramsey, joined the other three Americans at Camp Tay Ninh.**
- 17. After suffering from malaria, pneumonia, kidney failure, and the effects of malnutrition, Captain Schumann became critically ill. SP4 Crafts attempted to nurse him back to health, but Captain Schumann died in his arms on 7 July 1966.**
- 18. On or about 21 October 1966, SGT Sammie Womack arrived at Camp Tay Ninh just in time to begin a grueling, fourteen day, forced march to another camp dubbed "Camp Binh Hoa" where the conditions were even more horrible than the earlier camps.**
- 19. After being alerted a few days earlier that they might possibly be released in one of those humanitarian efforts to sway American public opinion, SGT Womack and SP4 Crafts left Camp Binh Hoa on 16 February 1967 and walked a circuitous route for a week before reaching a road north of Lai Khe. At that point, their Viet Cong guards stopped a Vietnamese bus and placed the POWs aboard. When the bus reached a military checkpoint in the vicinity of Lai Khe, both men were taken under U.S. control again.**

JAMES E. BEINKE
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army (Ret)



August 5, 2006

Honorable Olympia J. Snowe
United States Senate
ATTN: Sam Horton
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, District of Columbia 20510

Dear Senator Snowe;

Over the past two years, I have been working with a small group of fellow Vietnam veterans to obtain recognition for two outstanding soldiers that served our country during the early stages of the Vietnam War. Neither was properly recognized due to on-going combat operations and because the command and administrative infrastructure usually found in military organizations did not exist in Vietnam at that time. As a result, many heroic and meritorious deeds were not properly documented and soldiers did not receive the recognition they were due.

For example, in 1964, there were fewer than 20,000 Americans deployed to Vietnam and many of us were assigned to extremely small teams as advisors to the Vietnamese. The team that I served with consisted of me, a non-commissioned officer, and a private. We three were the only Americans working with one of South Vietnam's toughest and most active combat units, the 33rd Vietnamese Ranger Battalion, that was called upon for every major action that took place in our sector.

Unfortunately, the other two members of my team were captured during a major battle that occurred on December 29, 1964. We responded after a Viet Cong force of unknown size attacked and overrun the small village of Binh Gia. Along with two of our companies, the battalion commander and I went by helicopter into one landing zone while the other two members of my team accompanied the remainder of our force into a different landing zone. Shortly after landing, our 350 man battalion was attacked by an enemy force that was later estimated to be more than 5,000 well armed and battle hardened soldiers. We suffered tremendous casualties and much of our battalion was overrun. During the battle, I found myself cut off from the battalion commander and could not reach the area where the other Americans on my team were located.

SSG Harold George Bennett of Perryville, Arkansas was the non-commissioned officer on our team and he was later brutally murdered by his Viet Cong captors, the first American Prisoner of War (POW) to be shot while being held captive in Vietnam. Our radio operator and the third American on our team was Private E-2 (promoted retroactively to Specialist Fourth Class) Charles Earle Crafts of Livermore, Maine, who

survived more than two years of brutal captivity before being released on 23 February 1967. At the time of his release, he was in extremely poor health, suffering from numerous bouts of malaria, malnutrition, and other jungle maladies.


As mentioned earlier, a small group of veterans has banded together to gain proper recognition for those two members of my advisory team. Some of our group were themselves involved in what has now become widely known in military history as the "Battle of Binh Gia" and each of us believes very strongly in our mission.

Recently, we were able to obtain a number of medals and awards that should have been presented to Sergeant Bennett's family when they were first notified of his death over 40 years ago. Senator Blanche Lincoln has now corrected that oversight with a beautiful and heartwarming ceremony in Sergeant Bennett's hometown earlier this year. Our committee has also submitted a Medal of Honor recommendation for Sergeant Bennett through Senator Lincoln's office. Now, it is time to finish our work by seeking proper recognition for Charles Earle Crafts of your beautiful State of Maine.

Our committee has concluded that he should receive three awards, the first being a Silver Star for heroism during the Battle of Binh Gia and during the early days of his captivity. Secondly, we believe he should also receive a Bronze Star for heroism for his willingness to smuggle out several documents written by the senior POW in the camp where he was held. These documents were hidden in a slit in Crafts' eyeglasses case and turned over to U.S. intelligence agents, upon his return to U.S. military control. If the Viet Cong guards had discovered these important notes before Crafts returned to U.S. military control, he would have risked execution or continued captivity and slow starvation rations as punishment. Finally, we believe he should receive the Bronze Star for meritorious service as a captive, especially for taking care of Captain John Schumann who died in his arms from pneumonia and kidney failure due to malnutrition.

We have discussed this matter with Mr. Sam Horton of your office and he expressed his willingness to assist our effort and we know we can count on you. Each of us would like to thank you and Mr. Horton for being so kind to forward this entire package, including this cover letter, through your channels to the Secretary of the Army for action.

Thank you and God bless you for your support of our military men and women.


James E. Behnke
LTC, USA (Ret)
Senior Advisor
33rd Ranger Battalion
RVN, 1964

1 Enclosure - Recommendation Packet



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

AGH2-PC34-A Crafts, Charles F.
US 51 470 671
26/5/73.22/10

6 MAY 1967

Mr. Charles F. Crafts
Box 344
Wilton, ME 04294

Dear Mr. Crafts:

The Army Board for Correction of Military Records has asked me to inform you that the records have been corrected in accordance with their findings. DD Form 215 showing correction(s) to DD Form 214 is inclosed. You should attach it to your DD Form 214 dated 12 May 1967.

The Chief, Field Services Office, ATTN: FINCY-F, U.S. Army Finance and Accounting Center, Indianapolis, Indiana 46249 has been informed of the correction of the records.

Your counsel has been furnished a report of the action taken in your case.

Sincerely,

C. F. Briggs
C. F. BRIGGS
Brigadier General, USA
Adjutant General

Inclosure

FORM 215 IS USED FOR
CERTIFICATE OF RELEASE OR DISCHARGE

ANY ALTERATIONS IN SHADED AREAS
RENDER FORM VOID

1. NAME (Last, first, middle) CRABTS CHARLES EARLE		2. DEPARTMENT COMPONENT AND BRANCH SP4 ACTS DIV	3. SOCIAL SECURITY NO (Also, Service Number if applicable) [Removed VNCA]
4. HOME ADDRESS (Include ZIP Code) [REDACTED]			
5. ORIGINAL DD FORM 214 IS CORRECTED AS INDICATED BELOW			
ITEM NO	CORRECTED TO READ		
5a	SEPARATION DATE ON DD FORM 214 BEING CORRECTED 12 MAY 67		
5b	SP4 (P)		
6	E-4		
	28 MAY 65/NOTHING FOLLOWS		
6. DATE 20 APRIL 82		7. TYPED NAME, GRADE, TITLE AND SIGNATURE OF OFFICIAL AUTHORIZED TO SIGN THOMAS M. PENTER, GS-11, C, SP ACTS DIV, USARCPAC	

DD FORM 215
1 JUL 79
S/N 6102-LF 000-2150

PREVIOUS EDITIONS
OF THIS FORM ARE
OBSOLETE

CORRECTION TO DD FORM 214, CERTIFICATE OF RELEASE OR
DISCHARGE FROM ACTIVE DUTY

MEMBER - 1

GRAFTS, CHARLES MARLE		S 51 479 671			
ARMY A-S-SIG		MTC E-3 (P) E3		24	Aug 65
X Livernmore Falls, Maine				11	Aug 42
17 4 42 113 LB 4, Farmington, Maine				3	Jun 64
Transferred to USAR		Fort Devens, Massachusetts			
BTS SEC VI CH 2 AR 635-200 SEN 201				12	May 67
US Mil Asst Comd (SD-5891) Vietnam		REHABILITATE		NONE	
USAR Control Group (Reinf) USAAC St. Louis, Missouri				RE-1	
2 Jun 70		NA		NA	
NA		PVT E-1		Portland, Maine	
[REDACTED]				2	11 10
				0	0 0
OSC20 0-61				2	11 10
Radio Operator Radio Operator		VIETNAM		2	11 10
NDSM, VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL				2	3 4
NA					
NA		60		X	NA
C NA		X		NA	
REMARKS		Civilian Education Completed: 12 Years - Academic Grade Blood Group "B" Separated from the Service on Temporary Records and Soldiers Affidavit. Retained in the Service 11 Months and 10 Days - Convenience of Government.			
AUTHENTICATION		[REDACTED] MARK R. RANZER 2LT, AGC, Asst AG			

DD FORM 214

ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES
REPORT OF TRANSFER OR DISCHARGE

4

SERVICE RECORD									
NAME AND SERVICE NUMBER				THE LETTERING ON RUBBER STAMPS USED FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING ENTRIES IN THE BODY OF THE SERVICE RECORD WILL NOT BE LARGER THAN PICA TYPEWRITER TYPE. THE SERVICE RECORD WILL NOT BE FOLDED OR CREASED. FOR INSTRUCTIONS SEE AR 640-201.					
CRAFTS, CHARLES E US51479671				RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE (If voluntarily given)					
				PROTESTANT					
				COVERING PERIOD (Inclusive)					
				FROM		TO			
				3 JUN '64		2 JUN 65			
SECTION 1 - APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, OR REDUCTIONS									
GRADE		DATE		AUTHORITY				DATE OF RANK	
PVT E-1 (P)		3 JUN '64		AR-601-270				3 JUN '64	
PVT E-1 (P)		30 OCT 64		Para 11a 9662 - 100				30 OCT 64	
PFC E-3		3 Feb 65						3 Feb 65	
SP4 E-4		28 May 65						28 May 65	
SECTION 2 - CHRONOLOGICAL RECORD OF MILITARY SERVICE									
DATE		M/R DESIGNATION OF UNIT AND STATION			DUTY MOS	CONDUCT	EFFICIENCY	INITIALS OF PERSONNEL OFFICER	
FROM	TO								
3 JUN '64	8 Jun 64	1ST REC CO BC EORT DIX (1264th) NJ							
9 Jun 64	20 Aug 64	O Co 2d Tng Regt (13873) FLD & NJ			006 00	Exc	Exc	SHE	
21 AUG 64	9 Nov 64	CO 5TH ING REGT FL DIX NJ			05110	Exc	(2A)	11/13	
10 NOV 64	27 Nov 64	ENROUTE TO VIET-NAM.				-	-		
28 Nov 64	28 Dec 64	US Mil Asst Comd (SD5891) Vn APO 143			05110	Exc	Exc		
29 Dec 64		MIA							

DA FORM 24 JUN 61 24 ✓

EDITION OF 1 NOV 84 WILL BE USED.



HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20315

IN REPLY REFER TO

AGPB-P

24 August 1965

SUBJECT: Enlisted Promotion

TO: Enlisted man concerned:
United States Military Assistance Command, Viet Nam
APO San Francisco 96243

1. TC 310. Under the provisions of paragraph 7-12.1, AR 600-200, the following individuals are promoted to temporary grade indicated to rank from date of this order:

JOHNSON, EDWARD R.	TO BE MASTER SERGEANT (E-8) RA 33 510 856 MSG E-7	MOS 11G50
PARKS, JOE	TO BE SERGEANT FIRST CLASS (E-7) RA 38 754 530 SSG E-6	04B30
✓ BENNETT, HAROLD C.	TO BE STAFF SERGEANT (E-6) RA 18 542 931 SGT E-5	11B40
TADIOS, LEONARD M.	RA 10 106 541 SGT E-5	11B40
CRAFTS, CHARLES E.	TO BE PRIVATE FIRST CLASS (E-3) US 51 479 671 PVT E-2	05B20

2. TC 310. Under the provisions of paragraph 7-12.1, AR 600-200, the following individual is promoted to temporary grade indicated to rank from 10 February 1965.

McLEAN, JAMES M.	TO BE SERGEANT (E-5) RA 19 722 072 Sp4	91B40
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BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY



B. C. Mason

Adjutant General

File-USA Pers Svcs Spt Cen
Ft Benjamin Harrison, Ind

25 Aug 65 *Perh*
Date Initials

PERMANENT

STATE OF MAINE

INSTRUCTIONS: Read the certification at the end of this questionnaire before entering the required data. Print or type all answers. All questions and statements must be completed. If the answer is "None," so state. Do not misstate or omit material fact since the statements made herein are subject to verification. If more space is needed, use the Remarks section, item 20, and attach additional sheets if necessary. The information entered hereon is for official use only and will be maintained in confidence.

1. (Print) FIRST NAME—MIDDLE NAME—MAIDEN NAME (If any)—LAST NAME <input type="checkbox"/> MR. <input type="checkbox"/> MRS. <input type="checkbox"/> MISS Charles Earle Crafts		2. STATUS <input type="checkbox"/> CIVILIAN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY OR ACTIVE DUTY	
3. ALIAS(ES), NICKNAME(S), OR CHANGES IN NAME (Other than by marriage) NONE		4. PERMANENT MAILING ADDRESS Box 823 North Jay, Maine	
5. DATE OF BIRTH (Day, month, year) 11 Aug 42		PLACE OF BIRTH (City, County, State, and Country) Livermore Falls, Androscoggin, Me, USA	
PLACE CERTIFICATE RECORDED Livermore Falls, Me.			
RACE Can	HEIGHT 72"	WEIGHT 168	COLOR OF EYES Blue
COLOR OF HAIR Blonde	SCARS, PHYSICAL DEFECTS, DISTINGUISHING MARKS, BIRTHMARK ON Tattoo-left forearm, (CC) Stomach		
6. DO YOU HAVE A HISTORY OF MENTAL OR NERVOUS DISORDER? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO ARE YOU NOW OR HAVE YOU EVER BEEN ADDICTED TO THE USE OF HABIT FORMING DRUGS SUCH AS NARCOTICS OR BARBITURATES? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO ARE YOU NOW OR HAVE YOU EVER BEEN A CHRONIC USER TO EXCESS OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO IF THE ANSWER TO ANY OF THE ABOVE IS "YES," EXPLAIN IN ITEM 20			
7. U. S. CITIZEN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NATIVE <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		IF NATURALIZED, CERTIFICATE NO. NA	
IF DERIVED, PARENT'S CERTIFICATE NO(S). NA		DATE, PLACE, AND COURT NA	
ALIEN <input type="checkbox"/> NA	REGISTRATION NO. NA	NATIVE COUNTRY NA	DATE AND PORT OF ENTRY NA
DO YOU INTEND TO BECOME A U. S. CITIZEN? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO			
8. MILITARY SERVICE			
ARE YOU PRESENTLY OR ACTIVE DUTY IN THE U. S. ARMED FORCES DRAWING FULL PAY? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO IF "YES," COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING:			
GRADE AND SERVICE NO. Pvt E1 US 51479671		SERVICE AND COMPONENT Army-AUS	ORGANIZATION AND STATION Co O, 2d Tng Regt, Ft Dix, NJ
DATE CURRENT ACTIVE SERVICE STARTED 3 Jun 64			
ARE YOU PRESENTLY A MEMBER OF A U. S. RESERVE OR NATIONAL GUARD ORGANIZATION? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO IF "YES," COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING:			
GRADE AND SERVICE NO. NA		SERVICE AND COMPONENT NA	ORGANIZATION AND STATION OR UNIT AND LOCATION NA
HAVE YOU PREVIOUSLY SERVED TOURS OF EXTENDED ACTIVE DUTY, DRAWING FULL PAY, FROM WHICH YOU WERE DISCHARGED OR SEPARATED TO CIVILIAN STATUS? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO IF "YES," COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING			
COUNTRY NONE	SERVICE	COMPONENT	FROM (Date)
TO (Date)	TYPE DISCHARGES OR SEPARATIONS—GRADE AND SERVICE NO.		
9. EDUCATION (Account for all civilian schools and military academies. Do not include service schools)			
MONTH AND YEAR		NAME AND LOCATION OF SCHOOL	GRADUATE
FROM—	TO—		YES NO
SEP 56	JUN 60	Jay High School, Jay, Maine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
10. FAMILY (List in order given, parents, spouse, guardians, stepparents, foster parents, parents-in-law, former spouses) (if divorced give date and place), children, brothers and sisters, even though deceased. Include any others you resided with or with whom a close relationship existed or exists. If the person is not a U. S. citizen by birth, give date and place of entry, alien registration number, naturalization certificate number and place of issuance.)			
RELATION AND NAME	DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH	PRESENT ADDRESS, IF LIVING	U. S. CITIZEN
FATHER			YES NO
Leory Bradford Crafts	2 Jun 18 Jay, Maine	[REDACTED]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
MOTHER (Maiden name)			
Virginia Voter	12 May 14, Dorchester Mass	[REDACTED]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
SPOUSE (Maiden name) Ex-wife (see item #20)			
Brenda Wheeler	24 Feb 42 Farmington Me	[REDACTED]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
OTHER (Specify) Sister			
Patricia Crafts	29 Mar 41 Liverfalls ME	[REDACTED]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Sister			
Ann Crafts	24 Jan 48 Portland, Me	[REDACTED]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
303			

Exception to Standard Form 86

11. **OTHER RELATIVES AND ALIEN FRIENDS LIVING IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES** (List grandparents, first cousins, aunts, uncles, brothers- and sisters-in-law, and other persons with whom a close relationship existed or exists)

RELATIONSHIP AND NAME	AGE	OCCUPATION	ADDRESS	CITIZENSHIP
		NONE		

12. **FOREIGN TRAVEL** (Other than as a direct result of United States military duties)

DATES		COUNTRY VISITED	PURPOSE OF TRAVEL
FROM—	TO—		
		NONE	

13. **EMPLOYMENT** (Show every employment you have had and all periods of unemployment)

MONTH AND YEAR		NAME AND ADDRESS OF EMPLOYER	NAME OF IMMEDIATE SUPERVISOR	REASON FOR LEAVING
FROM—	TO—			
Jun 60	Jul 60	Morrwick Shoe Co. North Jay, Me	Howard Swift	Lack of work
Jul 60	Aug 60	Unemployed		
Aug 60	Jun 64	International Paper Co. Chisholm Me	Orren Hurd	Draft
Jun 64	Present	US Army		

14. ANY OF THE ABOVE EMPLOYMENTS REQUIRE A SECURITY CLEARANCE? ☐ YES ☒ NO DO YOU HAVE
 15. FOREIGN PROPERTY OR BUSINESS CONNECTIONS, OR HAVE YOU EVER BEEN EMPLOYED BY A FOREIGN
 GOVERNMENT, FIRM, OR AGENCY? ☐ YES ☒ NO HAVE YOU EVER BEEN REFUSED BOND? ☐ YES
☒ NO IF THE ANSWER TO ANY OF THE ABOVE IS "YES," EXPLAIN IN ITEM 20.

SOCIAL SECURITY NO.

004-42-1895

16. **CREDIT AND CHARACTER REFERENCES** (Do not include relatives, former employers, or persons living outside the United States or its Territories.)

NAME (List 3 credit and 3 character)	YEARS KNOWN	STREET AND NUMBER (Business address preferred)	CITY	STATE OR TERRITORY
Ross Jewelry Store	5			
Otis Div. Fed. Credit Union				
First National Bank	3			
Mrs. Frank Grant	10			
Mr. Bomilo Lorenzi	10			
Miss Margaret Holt	12	304		
Mr. Howard Ridgeway	15			



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

AGUR-PRC-1A Crafts, Charles F.
US 51 470 671
26/5/72.22/10

6 MAY 1982

Mr. Charles F. Crafts
Box 244
Wilton, ME 04294

Dear Mr. Crafts:

The Army Board for Correction of Military Records has asked me to inform you that the records have been corrected in accordance with their findings. DD Form 215 showing correction(s) to DD Form 214 is inclosed. You should attach it to your DD Form 214 dated 12 May 1967.

The Chief, Field Services Office, ATTN: FINCY-3, U.S. Army Finance and Accounting Center, Indianapolis, Indiana 46249 has been informed of the correction of the records.

Your counsel has been furnished a report of the action taken in your case.

Sincerely,

C. F. BRIGGS
Brigadier General, USA
Adjutant General

Inclosure

THIS FORM HAS BEEN USED FOR
DD FORM 214, 1 JUL 79 - 100-2150

ANY ALTERATIONS IN SHADDED AREAS
RENDER FORM VOID

1 NAME (Last, first, middle) CRANT'S CRAPLIS EAPLE		2 DEPARTMENT, BRANCH, AND GRADE ARMY MED SIG	3 SOCIAL SECURITY NO. (Also, Service Number if applicable) Removed VNCA
4 HOME ADDRESS (Include ZIP Code) [REDACTED]			
5 ORIGINAL DD FORM 214 IS CORRECTED AS INDICATED BELOW			
ITEM NO.	CORRECTED TO READ		
5a	SEPARATION DATE ON DD FORM 214 BEING CORRECTED 12 MAY 67		
5b	SP4 (P)		
6	E-4		
	28 MAY 65/NOTHING FOLLOWS		
6 DATE 20 APRIL 82		7 TYPED NAME, GRADE, TITLE AND SIGNATURE OF OFFICIAL AUTHORIZED TO SIGN THOMAS M. PINTER, GS-11, C, SP ACTS DIV, USARCPAC	

DD FORM 215
1 JUL 79
S/N: 01024P-000-2150

PREVIOUS EDITIONS
OF THIS FORM ARE
OBSOLETE

CORRECTION TO DD FORM 214, CERTIFICATE OF RELEASE OR
DISCHARGE FROM ACTIVE DUTY

MEMBER - 1

CRAFTS, CHARLES EARLE		S 51 479 671		[REDACTED]	
ARMY A S-310		TC E-3 (P) K3		24 Aug 65	
X Livermore Falls, Maine				11 Aug 42	
17 4 42 113 LE 44, Farmington, Maine				3 Jun 64	
Transferred to SAR		Port Jervis, Massachusetts			
BTS SEC VI CH 2 AR 635-200 SPN 201				12 May 67	
US Mil Asst Cond (SD-5891) Vietnam		EDUCABLE		NOTE	
USAR Control Group (Reinf) USAAC St. Louis, Missouri				RE-1	
2 Jun 70		NA		NA	
NA		PVT E-1		Portland, Maine	
[REDACTED]				2 11 10	
				0 0 0	
				2 11 10	
OSC20 0-61				2 11 10	
Radio Operator Radio Operator		VIETNAM		2 3 4	
NDSM, VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL					
NA					
NA		60		X NA NA	
NA		Y			
<p>Civilian Education Completed: 12 Years - Academic Cree Blood Group "B" Separated from the Service on Temporary Records and Soldiers Affidavit. Retained in the Service 11 Months and 10 Days - Convenience of Government.</p>					
<p>AUTHENTICATION [REDACTED] MARK R. RAIZER 2LT, AGC, Asst AG</p>					

DD FORM 214

ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES
REPORT OF TRANSFER OR DISCHARGE

4

MACAG-BPA

1st Ind

SUBJECT: Report of Proceedings by Board of Officers

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES MILITARY ASSISTANCE COMMAND, VIETNAM, APO
San Francisco, 96243, 19 January 1965

TO: The Adjutant General, ATTN: AGPB-C, Department of the Army,
Washington, D. C., 20315

Proceedings of Board of Officers pertaining to Sergeant E-5
Harold G. Bennett, RA 18 542 931, and Private E-2 Charles E. Crafts,
US 51 479 671, has been reviewed UP para 9, AR 600-67 and this head-
quarters concurs with recommendation of the board that status be
changed from "missing" to "detained by a hostile force".

FOR THE COMMANDER:

6 Incl
nc 7

C. B. Harvey
C. B. HARVEY
CWO W-2, USA
Asst Adj Gen

HEADQUARTERS III CORPS ADVISORY GROUP
Advisory Team 95 (MAOV)
APO San Francisco, California 96227

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS BY BOARD OF OFFICERS

Appointed pursuant to Letter Orders 01-40, Headquarters, United States Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, dated 4 January 1965, subject: "Appointment of Board of Officers", a copy of which is attached as Exhibit "A", as amended by Letter Orders 01-457, Headquarters, United States Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, dated 15 January 1965, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit "B".

Convened at Bien Hoa, Vietnam on 15 January 1965.

The board met pursuant to the foregoing order at Headquarters, III Corps Advisory Group, Bien Hoa, Vietnam, at 1530 hours, 15 January 1965.

Persons present:

George M. Osborne	Major	01926076	President
William S. Flske	Capt	078302	Member
Leonard W. Wilson	Capt	02097231	Recorder

Persons absent:

None

The orders appointing the board and the substance of the regulations under which convened were read aloud by the president of the board.

Summary of statement taken from Sergeant First Class Dam Van Phung, Serial Number 332419, a member of 2d Company, 33d Ranger Battalion, was read aloud by the president of the board and is attached as Exhibit "C".

Summary of statement taken from Private Tran Van Hue, Serial Number 181555, a member of 2d Company, 33d Ranger Battalion, was read aloud by the president of the board and is attached as Exhibit "D".

Summary of statement taken from Captain James E. Behnke, 089029, US Army, Battalion Advisor to the 33d Ranger Battalion, was read aloud by the president of the board and is attached as Exhibit "E".

The following witness was called and a summary of his testimony is attached as Exhibit "F".

Captain James E. Behnke, 089029, US Army

FINDINGS: The board having carefully considered the evidence of record finds - that both Sergeant E5 Harold G. Bennett, RA18542931, Light Weapons Infantry Advisor to the 33d Ranger Battalion, III Corps (ARVN), and Private E2 Charles E. Crafts, US51479671, Radio Operator for the 33d Ranger Battalion, III Corps (ARVN), while accompanying the 2d Company, 33d Ranger Battalion, and while engaged in an armed conflict against the insurgent enemy of the Republic of South Vietnam, at YS 494776, Map South Vietnam, Serial L605, Sheet 231W, 1:100,000, were captured and taken into captivity and restrained by a hostile force at approximately 1730 hours on 29 December 1964.

RECOMMENDATION: That in view of the findings, the board recommends that the status of both Sergeant Bennett and Private Crafts be changed from missing in action to held in captivity against their will by a hostile enemy.

The board adjourned at 1600 hours on 15 January 1965.

William S. Fiske

WILLIAM S. FISKE
Captain, OrdO
Member

George M. Osborne

GEORGE M. OSBORNE
Major, Infantry
President

Leonard W. Wilson

LEONARD W. WILSON
Captain, AGO
Recorder

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES MILITARY ASSISTANCE COMMAND, VIETNAM
APO San Francisco 96243

MACAG
LETTER ORDERS 01-40

4 January 1965

SUBJECT: Appointment of Board of Officers

TO: Individuals Concerned

TC 351. Fol Bd is apt and will consist of mbr as fol.

Name of Bd: Board of Officers to investigate status of missing persons

Mbr: OSBORNE, GEORGE M 01926076 MAJ INF 82162 HQ US Mil Asst Comd (SD-5891) Vietnam, APO US Forces, 96243, w/dy sta Ad Tm #98, APO US Forces 96314 (Member)

HUNNICUTT, ROY D 082676 CAPT INF 82162 HQ US Mil Asst Comd (SD-5891) Vietnam, APO US Forces, 96243, w/dy sta Ad Tm #80, APO US Forces 96314 (Member)

WILSON, LEONARD W 02097231 CAPT AGC 2120 HQ US Mil Asst Comd (SD-5891) Vietnam, APO US Forces, 96243, w/dy sta Ad Tm #95, APO US Forces, 96314 (Recorder)

Eff date: 4 Jan 65

Pd: NLT 17 Jan 65

Purpose: To determine all facts concerning the status of BENNETT, HAROLD B RA18542931 SGT E5 and CRAFTS, CHARLES E US51479671 PVT E2 missing at 1700 hours, 29 December 1964.

Auth: AR 15-6

Sp instr: A recommendation will be made by the board as to whether the status of missing should be continued or changed to dead, AWOL or other appropriate status. Record of board proceedings and recommendations will be completed in triplicate and forwarded to this headquarters
ATTN: MACAG-BPA.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



W. H. GOURLEY
Captain, AGC
Asst AG

DISTRIBUTION:

- 10 - AG Orders Section
- 20 - Ea indiv concerned
- 30 - Pers Br, Ofc of the AG

EXHIBIT "A" to Board to Investigate Status of Missing Persons

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES MILITARY ASSISTANCE COMMAND, VIETNAM
APO San Francisco 96243

15 January 1965

MACAG
LETTER ORDERS 01-457

SUBJECT: Amendment of Letter Orders

TO: Individuals Concerned

TC 370. Fol order AMENDED.

SMD: TC 351 LO 01-40 this HQ dtd 4 January 1965

Pert to: Appointment of Board of Officers

As reads: HUNNICUTT, ROY D 082676 CAPT INF 82162 HQ US Mil Asst Comd
(SD-5891) Vietnam, APO US Forces, 96243, w/dy sta Ad Tm #80, APO US
Forces 96314 (Member)

IATR: FISKE, WILLIAM S 078302 CAPT ORDG 84410 HQ US Mil Asst Comd (SD-5891)
Vietnam, APO US Forces 96243, w/dy sta Ad Tm #80, APO US Forces 96314
(Member)

FOR THE COMMANDER:



W. H. GOURLEY
Captain, AGC
Asst AG

DISTRIBUTION:

- 4 - AG Orders Section
- 20 - Indiv concerned (Capt Fiske)
- 5 - Indiv concerned (Capt Hunnicutt)
- 8 - Pers Br, Ofc of the AG

EXHIBIT "B" to Board to Investigate Status of Missing Persons

DAILY STAFF JOURNAL OR DUTY OFFICER'S LOG (AR 220-346 & FM 101-5)						PAGE NO. 8		NO. OF PAGES	
ORGANIZATION OR INSTALLATION MACV J-312			LOCATION COC			PERIOD COVERED			
						FROM		TO	
						HOUR 0001	DATE 29Dec64	HOUR 2400	DATE 29Dec64
ITEM NO.	TIME IN OUT		INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC.				ACTION TAKEN	INL	
22	(CONT'D)		WALKED FOR APPROX AN HOUR WITH SECURITY ON BOTH FLANKS IN THE PADDIES UNTIL THEY THOUGHT THEY HAD CLEARED THE AREA. THEY STARTED TO REMOUNT ON THE TRUCKS WHEN THE VC HIT THEM VIC WR 955320. LOSSES WERE 5 KIA, 27 WIA, AND 4 MI'S. NO REPORT ON ANY VC LOSSES.						
23	1533		ABN BDE - NO PLANNED TROOP MOVEMENTS FROM ABN BDE EXCEPT THE USUAL PATROLS BY 1 CO FROM 6TH BN.						
24	1538		2AIRDIV- FIRE IN CIVILIAN HOUSING AREA NEAR TSN. NOTIFIED POLITICAL SECT OF ^{U.S.} EMB EMBASSY.						
25	1700		III CORPS: ON 28 DEC VC MOVED INTO BINH GIA VILLAGE, PHUOC TUY PROV. TWO COMPANIES, 1 FROM 30TH RANGER BN AND 1 FROM 38th RANGER BN, ATTEMPTED TO MOVE INTO THE VILLAGE BUT WERE UNABLE TO DO IT. AN OPERATION STARTED 29 DEC WITH 33D RANGER BN AND THE OTHER TWO RANGER COS ^{being} WERE EMPLOYED. EST VC BN IS BELIEVED IN AREA. TIME OPN STARTED UNK. RESULTS: FRIENDLY 10 WIA INCL 1 U.S. 3 HELICOPTERS DOWN: VIC YS 461774, YS 450740, YS 498763 AT 291430H, 291600H, 291700H RESPECTIVELY BECAUSE OF HOSTILE GROUND FIRE. THE				← BINH GIA		
TYPED NAME AND GRADE OF OFFICER OR OFFICIAL ON DUTY						SIGNATURE			

DAILY STAFF JOURNAL OR DUTY OFFICER'S LOG (AR 220-346 & FM 101-5)						PAGE NO. 9	NO. OF PAGES	
ORGANIZATION OR INSTALLATION MACV J-312			LOCATION COC		PERIOD COVERED			
					FROM		TO	
					HOUR	DATE	HOUR	DATE
					0001	29 Dec 64	2400	29 Dec 64
ITEM NO.	TIME		INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC.				ACTION TAKEN	INL
	IN	OUT						
25	(CONT'D)		UHLB DOWN AT VIC YS 498763 WAS COMPLETELY DESTROYED. THE OTHER TWO UHLB'S WILL BE HELI- LIFTED FROM DOWNED SITES. IT WAS REPORTED THAT 4 U.S. PERSONNEL WERE WOUNDED IN THE DOWNED UHLB AT VIC YS 498763 AND WERE EVAC- UATED TO SAIGON. THE CREW MEMBERS OF THE REMAINING DOWNED UHLB'S HAVE BEEN PICKED UP AND NO INJURIES REPORTED.				← BINH GIA (CONT'D)	
26	1810		CMD DO: NO PREPLANNED ARTY SCHEDULED IN CMD & III CORPS AREA TONIGHT.					
27	2000		ARC NHA TRANG (MR BOWIE) MR BOWIE SAID THAT SGT HECHOUSSE HAD A VALID EMERGENCY AND REQUESTED A CONTROL NR FOR A CALL. GIVEN.					
28	2045		III CORPS: FURTHER RESULTS IN THE PHOU C TUY OPN: FRD: 14 WIA, 4 KIA, REFERENCE THE TWO DOWNED HELICOPTERS: ONE WAS HELIFITED AND ONE WAS FLOWN OUT. NO VC RESULTS, BUT ESTIMATE A HIGH COUNT. AT THIS TIME EVERY THING IS QUIET. A TOTAL OF 30 SORTIES HAVE BEEN FLOWN SINCE 291400H.				← BINH GIA	
TYPED NAME AND GRADE OF OFFICER OR OFFICIAL ON DUTY						SIGNATURE		

DAILY STAFF JOURNAL OR DUTY OFFICER'S LOG (AR 220-346 & FM 101-5)					PAGE NO. 10	NO. OF PAGES
ORGANIZATION OR INSTALLATION		LOCATION		PERIOD COVERED		
MACV J-312		COC		FROM		TO
				HOUR	DATE	HOUR DATE
				0001	29 Dec 64	2400 29 Dec 64
ITEM NO.	TIME IN OUT		INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC.	ACTION TAKEN		INL
29	2300		II CORPS (MAJ CARSON): II CORPS IS CONDUCTING A PRACTICE ALERT COMMENCING AT 292300H TO LAST APPROX 30 MINUTES TO AN HOUR. REASON IS POSSIBLY TO MAKE A COMMUNICATION CHECK. U.S. PERSONNEL ARE PARTICIPATING ALONG WITH THEIR COUNTERPARTS.			
30	2305		CMD (MAJ RICARD): 10 ROUNDS OF ARTY WERE FIRED FROM VIC XS 715789 BY THE 2ND PLT, BTY C, 30TH ARTY AT SUSPECTED VC TARGET AT VIC XS 790755, XS 780765, XS 785763, XS 778765 AND XS 777763. 2 RDS WERE FIRED AT EACH TARGET. RESULTS UNK.			
31	2230		(DELAYED ENTRY): III CORPS (CAPT FURMAN): BACKGROUND: VC APPARANTELY MOVED ON BINH GIA DURING NIGHT 27 DEC OR EARLY MORNING 28 DEC. AT 280910 THE VC WERE IN CONTROL OF THE VILLAGE. A REACTION FORCE WAS CALLED FOR AT 281010 AND AT 281142 A CO, 30TH RANGERS HAD BEEN HELILIFTED IN TO JOIN A CO OF THE 38TH RANGERS WHICH HAD BEEN LOCATED AT A SUB-SECTOR TOWN ABOUT 3 KM WEST OF BINH GIA. RESULTS: FRIENDLY 4 KIA, 9 WIA, VC: 32 KIA (BODYCOUNT). ON 29 DEC THE 33RD RANGERS PLUS ANOTHER CO 30TH RANGERS	← BINH GIA		

TYPED NAME AND GRADE OF OFFICER OR OFFICIAL ON DUTY	SIGNATURE

DAILY STAFF JOURNAL OR DUTY OFFICER'S LOG (AR 220-346 & FM 101-5)						PAGE NO. 11	NO. OF PAGES		
ORGANIZATION OR INSTALLATION			LOCATION		PERIOD COVERED				
					FROM		TO		
					HOUR	DATE	HOUR	DATE	
MACV J-312			COC		0001	29 Dec 64	24000	29 Dec 64	
ITEM NO.	TIME		INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC.				ACTION TAKEN	INL	
	IN	OUT							
			WERE SENT. AT 291030 THEY REPORTED NOT IN				<div style="font-size: 2em; margin-bottom: 5px;">⇐</div> BIRTH FIA (CONT'D)		
			CONTACT BUT CONTACT IMMINENT. AT 291255 THE						
			33RD RANGERS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO COMMIT						
			THEIR RESERVES. AS OF 292230 THE VC STILL HELD						
			PART OF THE TOWN WHICH IS ABOUT 3/4 KM LONG.						
			THE 2ND CO, 33RD RANGERS HAS BEEN OUT OF						
			CONTACT WITH BN FOR SEVERAL HOURS. TWO US						
			EM ARE REPORTED MIA, PRESUMABLY WITH THAT CO:					C INCPAL TWX INTERNAL SPOT A-G CASUALTY	
			BENNETT, HAROLD G., SGT E5, RA18542931 AND						
			CRAFTS, CHARLES, PVT E2, US51479671.						
			FRIENDLY CASUALTIES: 4 KIA, 25 WIA; VC UNK.						
			THREE 50 CAL MG WERE LOCATED AND ATTACKED BY						
			A1 ACFT; ONE MG CONTINUED TO FIRE. TWO						
			MORTAR PSN WERE SPOTTED AND ATK BY ARMED						
			UH-1B. 1 UH-1B WAS DESTROYED, TWO MORE DOWNED						
			BUT RECOVERED. 6 US WIA'S. ESTIMATED REINFORCED						
			VC BATTALION IN AREA. MORE THAN 30 A1 SORTIES						
			HAVE BEEN FLOWN, AND UNKNOWN NUMBER ARMED						
			UH-1E SORTIES. THERE ARE A1'S, A FLARESHIP,						
			AND ARMED UH-1B'S IN THE AREA.						
32	2245		CMD (MAJ MCCAFFEE): A TANK PLATOON WILL MOVE						
			OUT THE BIEN HOA HWY TOMORROW MORNING (30 DEC)						
			TO REINFORCE A PLATOON ALREADY AT BARIA.						
TYPED NAME AND GRADE OF OFFICER OR OFFICIAL ON DUTY						SIGNATURE			

DAILY STAFF JOURNAL OR DUTY OFFICER'S LOG <small>(AR 220-346 & FM 101-5)</small>						PAGE NO. 1		NO. OF PAGES	
ORGANIZATION OR INSTALLATION MACV J-312			LOCATION COC			PERIOD COVERED			
						FROM		TO	
						HOUR	DATE	HOUR	DATE
						0001	30Dec64	2400	30Dec64
ITEM NO.	TIME		INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC.				ACTION TAKEN		INL
	IN	OUT							
1	0147		USSF GP SAIGON (SGT CAMPBELL): AT 300132 NHA TRANG NOTIFIED USSF GP IN SAIGON THAT THE USSF DET IN BINH DUONG PROVINCE VIC XT 740330 WAS UNDER ATTACK. THE CODE WORD IS "CABBY", WHICH MEANS THE DET AT BEN CAT. THE DET'S STRIKE FORCE IS IN THE FIELD. NOTIFIED JOC AT 0155.						
2	0200		III CORPS: DONG SO OP IN BINH DUONG PROVINCE VIC XT 795432 IS UNDER ATTACK BY VC WITH MORTARS AND SMALL ARMS FIRE. THERE ARE 2 VN SF CO'S IN THE VIC. BEN CAT VIC XT 740330 IS ALSO UNDER ATTACK WITH MORTAR AND SMALL ARMS FIRE. INCOMING FIRE HITTING IN 105 ARTY PLT PSN. RESULTS: 2 KIA , 2 WIA , 2 TRUCKS BURNING. TWO FLARESHIPS UP, ONE OVER EACH AREA UNDER ATTACK. FIGHTERS SENT IN SUPPORT AND A L-19 WITH OBSERVER ALSO OVER TARGET.						
3	0205		AOC (SGT FISHER): 1. THERE WAS A CLASH BETWEEN VC AND FRIENDLY FORCES IN VINH BINH PROVINCE VIC XS 313123. FLARESHIP ON TARGET AT 1935 AND OFF AT 2240. DROPPED 14 FLARES. 2 A1H'S SCRAMBLED BUT DUE TO ENGINE TROUBLE RETURNED. 2 MORE SENT BUT ASOC CANCELLED.						
TYPED NAME AND GRADE OF OFFICER OR OFFICIAL ON DUTY						SIGNATURE			

DAILY STAFF JOURNAL OR DUTY OFFICER'S LOG (AR 220-346 & FM 101-5)						PAGE NO. 2		NO. OF PAGES	
ORGANIZATION OR INSTALLATION MACV J-312			LOCATION COC			PERIOD COVERED			
						FROM		TO	
						HOUR 0001	DATE 30Dec64	HOUR 2400	DATE 30Dec64
ITEM NO.	TIME IN OUT		INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC.				ACTION TAKEN		INL
			<p>ATTACK BROKEN OFF AT 292350. 2. VC MADE CONTACT IN OPERATION AREA IN PHUOC TUY PROVINCE VIC YS 490770 WITH FRIENDLY FORCES. FLARESHIP ON TARGET AT 2045 AND OFF AT 2250. DROPPED 82 FLARES. 2ALH'S ON TARGET AT 1920-2000 AND 2 MORE ON FROM 1920-2120 ALL EXPENDED.</p> <p>3. AN OP IN VINH LONG PROVINCE WAS ATTACKED BY VC. FLARESHIP ON TARGET. 2ALH'S ON TARGET AT 0005 AND OFF AT 0035. EXPENDED.</p> <p>4. AN OP WAS ATTACKED BY VC IN AN GIANG PROVINCE VIC WS 497388. REQUEST FLARESHIP AT 292140 DEC. OP OVERRUN. 5. AN OP WAS ATTACKED BY VC IN VINH LONG PROVINCE VIC WS 884308. REQUEST ED TO AOC MADE THEN CANCELLED. 6. AN OP WAS ATTACKED BY VC IN BA XUYEN PROVINCE VIC XR 289556. FLARESHIP ON AT 2252 AND OFF AT 0030. DROPPED 106 FLARES. ATTACK BROKEN OFF AT 300050 DEC.</p> <p>7. AN OP IN VINH LONG PROVINCE VIC WS 980195 WAS ATTACKED BY VC. FLARESHIP ON TARGET AT 2235 AND OFF AT 0035; DROPPED 38 FLARES. 2 ALH'S DISPATCHED, DID NOT EXPEND. 8. AN OP IN GO CONG PROVINCE VIC XS 875544 WAS ATTACKED</p>				<p>← BINH GIA</p>		

TYPED NAME AND GRADE OF OFFICER OR OFFICIAL ON DUTY	SIGNATURE
---	-----------

DAILY STAFF JOURNAL OR DUTY OFFICER'S LOG (AR 220-346 & FM 101-5)						PAGE NO. 5	NO. OF PAGES	
ORGANIZATION OR INSTALLATION			LOCATION		PERIOD COVERED			
MACV J-312			COC		FROM		TO	
					HOUR 0001	DATE 30Dec64	HOUR 2400	DATE 30Dec64
ITEM NO.	TIME IN OUT		INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC.			ACTION TAKEN		INL
11	0525	(DELAYED)	CMD (MAJ RICARD): AT 292200H DEC A TEAM OF PF MAINTAINING SECURITY FOR A MOURNING HOUSE IN CAY BANG HAMLET IN GIA DINH DISTRICT VIC XS 895 906 WAS FIRED ON BY 3 VC AGENTS. 1 PF WIA. PF RETURNED FIRE AND 1 VC HIT AND CARRIED OFF.					
12	0620		III CORPS (CAPT FURMAN): LATEST CASUALTY FIGURES FOR PHUOC TUY OPERATION IS FRD: 8 KIA, 34 WIA (6US). VC: 32 KIA (BODY COUNT).					
13	0705		IV CORPS (CAPT CASSIDY): REF ITEM 3 NOTE 4. THE OP. BAY OT IN GIANG ^{KIEN} GIANG PROVINCE VIC W ^{KUS} 497338 WAS ATTACKED BY ESTIMATED 300 VC. THE PART ^{POST} WAS DEFENDED BY 37 PF. NOT CONFIRMED IF IT WAS OVERRUN. THE PART ^{POST} WAS HIT AT 300028. TEAM WILL GO OUT AT DAY LIGHT TO CHECK.					
14	0825		A CHECK WITH III CORPS TOC, CAPT FURMAN, ON THE BINH GIA OPERATION INDICATES AT PRESENT THAT ARMED UH1B'S (NUMBER UNKNOWN) ARE MAKING STRIKES AGAINST THE VC POSITIONS IN THE VILLAGE. A MTG IS TAKING PLACE NOW TO DETERMINE A PLAN OF ATTACK. THE VC ARE STILL PRESENT.			← BINH GIA		
15	0900		USSF (CAPT THOMPSON): AT 300820H DEC 64 AN ESTIMATED VC BN HIT TOWN OF XA LOC NINH, TAY					
TYPED NAME AND GRADE OF OFFICER OR OFFICIAL ON DUTY						SIGNATURE		

DAILY STAFF JOURNAL OR DUTY OFFICER'S LOG (AR 220-346 & FM 101-5)						PAGE NO. 8		NO. OF PAGES	
ORGANIZATION OR INSTALLATION			LOCATION			PERIOD COVERED			
						FROM		TO	
						HOUR 0001	DATE 30Dec64	HOUR 2400	DATE 30Dec64
ITEM NO.	TIME		INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC.				ACTION TAKEN		INL
	IN	OUT							
22	1250		III CORPS (MAJ BERKEY) - MORE INFORMATION ON PHOUC TUY OPN. THE 4TH MARINES COMPLETED MOVEMENT THROUGH BINH GIA AND LINKED UP WITH THE 33RD RANGER BN. PEOPLE ARE COMING OUT OF THEIR HOUSES NOW. THE 4TH MARINES MADE NO CONTACT WITH ANY VC AND IT APPEARS THAT THE VC HAVE LEFT THE AREA.				← BINH GIA		
23	1300		SPT CMD (SGT HORN BROOK) - THE TWO USSF PERSONNEL REPORTED AS KIA AT DOONG SA ^{DOONG SA} BIH SA IN DOONG SA DOONG SA PROVINCE ARE, MSG E8 SEIGRIST, WILLIAM L., RA 13234222, A/314, 5TH SFG (ABN), 1ST SF, APO 40 AND SSG E6 PANULA, REINO A, RA55687849 A/314, 5TH SFG (ABN), 1ST SF, APO 40. THE EXACT CAUSE OF DEATH IS UNKNOWN AT PRESENT.				CINC PAC TUX AG CASUALTY INTERNAL SPOT		
24	1300		III CORPS TOC (CAPT MCCOSKEY) - VC LOSSES FOR AN DAN 44 OPNS AS OF 301100H. 27 VC KIA, 3 WIA, 1 BREN GUN, 1 M1 RIFLE, 1 THOMPSON SMG 1 CARBINE, 1 RUSSIAN RIFLE AND 2 MAGAZINES FROM AN UNIDENTIFIED MG. THE OPERATION CONTINUES.						
25	1350		III CORPS TOC (CAPT MCCOSKEY) THE 331ST & 332ND CIDG COS WERE OVERRUN AT BONG SO. BOTH CO CMDRS WERE KIA AND 2 U.S. KIA. SF COS						
TYPED NAME AND GRADE OF OFFICER OR OFFICIAL ON DUTY						SIGNATURE			



September 14, 2006

Michael N. Martin
Command Sergeant Major(Ret)
Director, ARVN Rangers



TO: Military Awards Branch

This letter is written in support of recommendations to award the Silver Star, Bronze Star Medal with V and the Bronze Star for meritorious service to Private Charles Earle Crafts, for his heroic and meritorious actions in the Republic of Vietnam as an Advisor to the Vietnamese Rangers and as a POW (Prisoner of War). Members of the U.S. Army Vietnamese Ranger Advisors are in agreement with these recommendations.

General Harold K. Johnson (Chief of Staff, U.S. Army, 1966) stated: The Advisor and his small team are entirely dependent upon others with whom they frequently don't even share a familiar language. The Battlefield is a lonely place; they are the loneliest people in the world-these advisors.... This statement could have summarize the period of combat service of Private Crafts as an Advisor with the Vietnamese Rangers, on his first major combat operation, and as a Prisoner of War for more than two years....

To serve as an advisor to an ARVN Ranger Battalion was a difficult assignment even for those NCOs and Officers who had attended the US Army Ranger School and had a background in the Infantry; the Vietnamese Rangers were an elite fighting force that fought the enemy continuously in all four corps in South Vietnam, for the duration of the war: they were the last units to lay down their arms in 1975.

All the Ranger units were highly decorated with many of the battalions and the Ranger Groups receiving the U.S. Presidential Unit Citation-some, two and three awards-and the Valorous Unit Citation for gallantry. The Vietnamese Rangers were fierce fighters, distinguishing themselves in battle after battle....

For an enlisted soldier like Private Crafts to be assigned to a Ranger Advisory team, with only two other Americans, had to be extremely stressful and a period of uncertainty for him.

CHINA - BURMA - INDIA VIETNAM IRAN GRENADA PANAMA IRAQ SOMALIA

On my first tour in Vietnam in 1965-66, I served with two ARVN Ranger Battalions and on my next tour in 1968-69, with the PHOENIX Program assigned to a Provincial Reconnaissance Unit (PRU); during which time I was only aware of two enlisted men (E-3 or E-4) assigned to Ranger Battalions: one was an E-4 (Specialist) who was killed with the 37th ARVN Ranger Battalion, and one was a Private First Class severely wounded on an operation with the 11th ARVN Ranger Battalion. This is most noteworthy and deserving of consideration whereas, in an American combat unit a private soldier would have his fellow privates and specialists for camaraderie and moral support.

The battle of Binh Gia, and the subsequently execution of Sergeant Harold G. Bennett, who was the other Ranger Advisor captured with Private Crafts, would become an epoch of historical significance of the Vietnam War: Binh Gia was the first time that a Communist force of regimental size would make a "stand" and defeat elite units of the ARVN Rangers and Marines; SSG Bennett would become the first American executed by the Viet Cong.

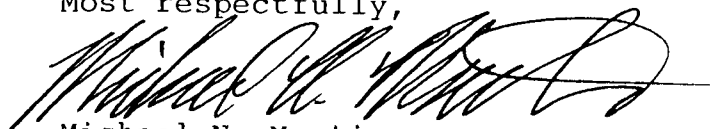
Charles E. Crafts demonstrated valor on the battlefield and in his adherence to the Code of Conduct during 25 months of captivity set an example as courageous and exemplary as any heroic actions recorded in Vietnam.

It is unexplainable why the leadership of these two individuals (Bennett and Crafts) and the U.S. Army failed to recommend appropriate awards to both men...Captain Donald Cook, USMC who was in captivity with them received the Medal of Honor.... Special Forces personnel who shared imprisonment with Crafts and Bennett received awards for their gallantry and conduct; Captain Thomas Throckmorton (son of General Throckmorton, Deputy Commander, US Forces, Vietnam) and his Noncommissioned officer received valor awards for an action at Binh Gia, one month after the battle on 29 December 1964. Also, other service members-advisors and air support-received appropriate awards for their actions during the battle of Binh Gia.

Years have passed and memories have faded, but it is never too late to recognize the personal sacrifice and valor of a Soldier: Private Crafts is most deserving of the recommended awards and honor from his country and the U.S. Military for his actions and service beyond the "Call of Duty".

"We are to remember our prisoners as if we are chained to them...
--A Biblical Quote

Most respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michael N. Martin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Michael N. Martin
Command Sergeant Major
U.S. Army Retired

IN HONOR AND LOVING MEMORY OF



SSG HAROLD GEORGE BENNETT
Captured at Binh Gia on 29 December 1964
Executed on or about 24 September 1965



CAPT DONALD G. COOK, USMC
Captured at Binh Gia on 31 December 1964
Possibly died in captivity on 7 December 1967



SFC KENNETH M. RORABACK
Captured on 24 November 1963
Executed on or about 26 September 1965



CPT JOHN R. SCHUMANN
Captured on 16 June 1965
Died in Captivity on 7 July 1966

THESE BRAVE AMERICAN SOLDIERS CONSECRATED THEIR LIVES IN THE SERVICE OF OUR COUNTRY. THEIR REMAINS LIE BURIED IN UNMARKED JUNGLE GRAVES KNOWN ONLY TO GOD IN COMMUNIST VIETNAM.