

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION
CONCERNING
AWARD RECOMMENDATIONS FOR**

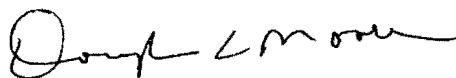


**U.S. ARMY SPECIALIST FOURTH CLASS
CHARLES EARLE CRAFTS**

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.



Douglas E. Moore
Colonel, US Army Retired
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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. BEHNKE
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army (Ret)

[REDACTED]

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

AGU-2-PD-A Crafts, Charles R.
19-51 470 671
20/6/69, 22/6/69

6 MAY 1962

Mr. Charles R. 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-E, 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. Braggs
C. F. Braggs
Brigadier General, USA
Adjutant General

Inclosure

DD FORM 10-13-81 USED FOR
CERTIFICATION OF RELEASE

ANY ADDITIONAL DATA IN SHADDED AREAS
RENDERED VOID

1. NAME (Last, first, middle)	2. DEPARTMENT, COMPONENT AND BRANCH	3. SOCIAL SECURITY NO. (Also, Service Number if applicable)
CRAFTS CHARLES EARL	ARMY ACTS DIV	Removed VNCA
4. ADDRESS & ADDRESS (Include ZIP CODE)		
5. ORIGINAL DD FORM 214 IS CORRECTED AS INDICATED BELOW		
ITEM NO.	CORRECTED TO READ	
5a	SEPARATION DATE ON DD FORM 214 BEING CORRECTED	
5a	SP4 (P)	
5b	E-4	
6	28 MAY 65/NOTHING FOLLOWS	
6. DATE	7. TYPED NAME, GRADE, TITLE AND SIGNATURE OF OFFICIAL AUTHORIZED TO SIGN	
20 APRIL 82	THOMAS M. PINTER, CS-11, C, SP ACTS DIV, USARCPAC	
DD FORM 1 JULY 79 215 S/N 0102-LF-000-2150	PREVIOUS EDITIONS OF THIS FORM ARE OSSOLETE	CORRECTION TO DD FORM 214, CERTIFICATE OF RELEASE OR DISCHARGE FROM ACTIVE DUTY MEMBER - 1

CRAFTS, CHARLES WALTER		S 51 479 671			
ARMY A-8-310		TC E-3 (2) R3		24 Aug 65	
X Livermore Falls, Maine				11 Aug 62	
17 4 42 113 18 46, Farmington, Maine				3 Jun 64	
Transferred to SAR		Port Stevens, Massachusetts			
ETS SEC VI CM 2 AR 635-200 CEN 201				12 May 67	
US Mil Asst Comd (SD-5891) Vietnam		ENDORSED		NOTE	
USAR Control Group (Reinf) USAAC St. Louis, Missouri				PK-1	
2 Jun 70 NA					
NA PVT E-1		Portland, Maine			
[REDACTED]					
05C20 0-61				2 11 10	
Radio Operator Radio Operator				0 0 0	
[REDACTED]				2 11 10	
[REDACTED] VIETNAM				2 3 4	
NDSM, VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL					
NA					
NA 60		X		NA	
[REDACTED]		X		[REDACTED]	
REMARKS					
Civilian Education Completed: 12 Years - Academic Cress					
Blood Group "O"					
Separated from the Service on Temporary Records and Soldiers Affidavit. Retained in the Service 11 Months and 10 Days - Conveniences of Government.					
[REDACTED]					
MARK R. RANZER 2LT, ACC, Asst AG					

SERVICE RECORD

NAME AND SERVICE NUMBER

CRAFTS, CHARLES E
US51479671

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.

RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE (If voluntarily given)

PROTESTANT

COVERING PERIOD (Inclusive)

FROM

SECTION 1 - APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, OR REDUCTIONS

* see memo by Taty from ABC4 dated 17 Jan 82

SECTION 2 - CHRONOLOGICAL RECORD OF MILITARY SERVICE

DA FORM 1 JUN 61 24

EDITION OF 1 NOV 54 WILL BE USED.



IN REPLY REFER TO

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

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. TADIOS, LEONARD M.	TO BE STAFF SERGEANT (E-6) RA 18 542 931 SGT E-5	11B40
	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

Adjutant General

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

25 Aug 65 Rbh
Date Initials



PERMANENT

STAT

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> MR. <input type="checkbox"/> MRS. <input type="checkbox"/> MRS. Charles Earle Crafts						2. STATUS <input type="checkbox"/> CIVILIAN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY OR ACTIVE DUTY	
3. ALIAS(ES), NICKNAME(S), OR CHANGE(S) IN NAME (Other than by marriage) HOME						4. PERMANENT MAILING ADDRESS Box 829 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 RECEIVED 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 DISORDERS? <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"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	8. NATURALIZED, CERTIFICATE NO. MA		9. DERIVED, PARENT'S CERTIFICATE NO(S). MA		DATE, PLACE, AND COUNTRY MA		
ALIEN <input type="checkbox"/> NO	REGISTRATION NO MA	NATIVE COUNTRY MA	DATE AND PORT OF ENTRY MA		DO YOU INTEND TO BECOME A U. S. CITIZEN? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO		
10. MILITARY SERVICE ARE YOU PRESENTLY ON ACTIVE DUTY IN THE U. S. ARMED FORCES DRAWING FULL PAY? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" 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 0, 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 MA SERVICE AND COMPONENT MA ORGANIZATION AND STATION OR UNIT AND LOCATION MA							
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 HOME SERVICE MA COMPONENT MA FROM (Date) MA TO (Date) MA TYPE DISCHARGES OR SEPARATIONS—GRADE AND SERVICE NO. MA							
11. EDUCATION (Account for all civilian schools and military academies. Do not include service schools) MONTH AND YEAR PERIOD SEP 56 - JUN 60 NAME AND LOCATION OF SCHOOL Jay High School, Jay, Maine GRADUATE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO MA							
12. FAMILY (List in order given, parents, spouse, guardians, stepparents, foster parents, parents-in-law, former spouse(s) (if divorced give date and place), children, brothers and sisters, even though deceased. Include any others you resided with or with whom you have relationship extant or exists. If the person is not a U. S. citizen by birth, give date and port of entry, alien registration number, naturalization certificate number and place of issuance.)							
RELATION AND NAME FATHER Loey Bradford Crafts	DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH 2 Jun 18 Jay, Maine		PRESENT ADDRESS, IF LIVING MA			U. S. CITIZEN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO MA	
MOTHER (Maiden name) Virginia Voter	12 May 14, Dorchester Mass		MA			MA	
WIFE (Maiden name) Brenda Wheeler	24 Feb 42 Farmington Me		MA			MA	
OTHER (Specify) Daughter Patricia Crafts	more 29 Mar 41 Liverfall ME		MA			MA	
SISTER Ann Crafts	24 Jan 48 Portland, Me		MA			MA	

303

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		

2 FOREIGN TRAVEL (Other than as a direct result of United States military duties)

DATES		COUNTRY VISITED	PURPOSE OF TRAVEL
FROM--	TO--		
		None	

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

DO ANY OF THE ABOVE EMPLOYMENTS REQUIRE A SECURITY CLEARANCE? YES NO DO YOU HAVE
ANY 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

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

NAME (Line 3 credits and 3 character)	YEARS KNOWN	STREET AND NUMBER (Business address preferred)	CITY	STATE OR TERRITORY
John Jewelry Store	5	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Otis Div. Fed. Credit Union	4	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
First National Bank	3	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Mrs. Frank Grant	10	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Mr. Bonnie Lorenzki	10	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Mrs Margaret Holt	12	304	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Mr. Howard Bidlow	15	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]



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

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

AGHQ-PRO-LA Crafts, Charles F.
112 81 670 671
267572, 22712

6 MAY 1962

Mr. Charles F. Crafts
Box 244
Milton, 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-R, 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. Blodgett
C. F. Blodgett
Brigadier General, USA
Adjutant General

Inclosure

1. NAME (Last, first, middle)

CRAVEN, THOMAS M.

2. ADDRESS (Imprint Block Type Only)

2. DEPARTMENT, DIVISION AND BRANCH

ARMY MIS CIC

3. SOCIAL SECURITY NO. (Also,
Service Number if applicable)

Removed VNCA

4. ORIGINAL DD FORM 214 IS CORRECTED AS INDICATED BELOW

ITEM NO.

CORRECTED TO READ

5a SEPARATION DATE ON DD FORM 214 BEING CORRECTED
SP4 (P)

12 MAY 67

5b E-4

6 28 MAY 65/NOTHING FOLLOWS

5. 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

10. FORM 215
1 JUL 79
S/N 0102-LP-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 DALE		S 51 479 671				
ARMY	A S-230	TC E-3 (P)	R3	24	Aug	65
X	Livernore Falls, Maine			11	Aug	42
17	4 42 113 LB 44, Farmington, Maine			3	Jun	64
Transferred to SAR		Fort Devens, Massachusetts				
BTS SEC VI CH 2 AR 635-200 SBN 201				12	May	67
US MIL Asst Coor (SD-5891) Vietnam		DODARABIE				NOTE
USAR Control Group (Reinf) USAAC St. Louis, Missouri						EX-1
2	Jun 70	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
NA	WT E-1	Portland, Maine				
OSG20	0-61			2	11	10
Radio Operator	Radio Operator			0	0	0
NDSM, VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL				2	11	10
				2	11	10
				2	3	4
NA	60	X	NA	NA	NA	NA
C.	NA	X				
Civilian Education Completed: 12 Years - Academic Crea Blood Group "O"						
Separated from the Service on Temporary Records and Soldiers Affidavit. Retained in the Service 11 Months and 10 Days - Convenience of Government.						
MARK R. RANZER ZL1, ACC, Asst AC						

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

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. Fiske	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, AGC
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

MACAG
LETTER ORDERS 01-457

15 January 1965

SUBJECT: Amendment of Letter Orders

TO: Individuals Concerned

TC 370. Fol order AMENDED.

SMO: 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			LOCATION	PERIOD COVERED			
				FROM		TO	
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 U.S. TSN. NOTIFIED POLITICAL SECT OF THE 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 WERE ^{BEING} EMPLOYED. THE VC BN IS BELIEVED IN AREA. TIME OPN STARTED UNK.		← BINH GIA	
				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			
TYPED NAME AND GRADE OF OFFICER OR OFFICIAL ON DUTY				SIGNATURE			

DA FORM 1 NOV 62 1594

PREVIOUS EDITION OF THIS FORM IS OBSOLETE.

* U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1962 O-164154

DAILY STAFF JOURNAL OR DUTY OFFICER'S LOG (AR 220-346 & FM 101-5)						PAGE NO. 9	NO. OF PAGES	
ORGANIZATION OR INSTALLATION		LOCATION		PERIOD COVERED				
				FROM HOUR	DATE	TO HOUR	DATE	
MACV J-312		COC		0001	29 Dec 64	2400	29 Dec 64	
ITEM NO.	TIME IN	TIME OUT	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC.				ACTION TAKEN	INL
25	(CONT'D)		UH1B DOWN AT VIC YS 498763 WAS COMPLETELY DESTROYED. THE OTHER TWO UH1B'S WILL BE HELIFTED FROM DOWNED SITES. IT WAS REPORTED THAT 4 U.S. PERSONNEL WERE WOUNDED IN THE DOWNED UH1B AT VIC YS 498763 AND WERE EVACUATED TO SAIGON. THE CREW MEMBERS OF THE REMAINING DOWNED UH1B'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 PHOUCK 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				

DA FORM 1 NOV 62 1594

PREVIOUS EDITION OF THIS FORM IS OBSOLETE.

* U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1962 O-664154

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				
			FROM HOUR 0001	DATE 29 Dec 64	TO HOUR 2400	DATE 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, BTRY 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): ← BINH GIA 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				
TYPED NAME AND GRADE OF OFFICER OR OFFICIAL ON DUTY				SIGNATURE			

DA FORM 1 NOV 62 1594

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* U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1962 O-884154

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		
MACV J-312			COC	HOUR 0001	DATE 29Dec64	HOUR 24000	DATE 29Dec64	
ITEM NO.	TIME		INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC.			ACTION TAKEN		INL
	IN	OUT						
			WERE SENT. AT 291030 THEY REPORTED NOT IN			← B1TH 6IA (contd)		
			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:			CINCPAC TUX IN INTERNAL SPOT A& 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-1B 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			

DA FORM 1 NOV 62 1594

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DAILY STAFF JOURNAL OR DUTY OFFICER'S LOG (AR 220-346 & FM 101-5)						PAGE NO. 1	NO. OF PAGES	
ORGANIZATION OR INSTALLATION		LOCATION		PERIOD COVERED				
				FROM HOUR	DATE	TO HOUR	DATE	
MACV J-312		COC		0001	30Dec64	2400	30Dec64	
ITEM NO.	TIME IN	TIME OUT	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC.				ACTION TAKEN	INL
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. III CORPS: DONG SA OP IN BINH DUONG PROVINCE VIC XT 795432 ⁵⁰ IS UNDER ATTACK BY VC WITH MORTARS AND SMALL ARMS FIRE. THERE ARE 2 VMSF 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: KIA WIA 2 SA , 2 SA , 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.					
2	0200							
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		LOCATION		PERIOD COVERED				
				FROM HOUR	DATE	TO HOUR	DATE	
MACV J-312		COC		0001	30Dec64	2400	30Dec64	
ITEM NO.	TIME IN OUT		INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC.			ACTION TAKEN		INL
			ATTACK BROKEN OFF AT 292350. 2. VC MADE			← Binh Gia		
			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.					
			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.					
			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 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.					
			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					
TYPED NAME AND GRADE OF OFFICER OR OFFICIAL ON DUTY						SIGNATURE		

DA FORM 1 NOV 62 1594

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* U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1962 O-664154

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				
				FROM 0001	TO 2400	DATE 30Dec64	DATE 30Dec64	
ITEM NO.	TIME		INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC.				ACTION TAKEN	INL
	IN	OUT						
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 FHD: 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 KIEN GIANG PROVINCE VIC VS 497338 WAS ATTACKED BY ESTIMATED 300 VC. THE Post Part WAS DEFENDED BY 37 PF. NOT CONFIRMED IF Post IT WAS OVERRUNNED. THE Part 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 UHLB'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	

DA FORM 1 NOV 62 1594

PREVIOUS EDITION OF THIS FORM IS OBSOLETE.

* U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1962 O-664154

DAILY STAFF JOURNAL OR DUTY OFFICER'S LOG (AR 220-346 & FM 101-5)						PAGE NO.	NO. OF PAGES
ORGANIZATION OR INSTALLATION		LOCATION		PERIOD COVERED			
				FROM HOUR	TO DATE	HOUR	DATE
MACV J-312		COC		0001	30Dec64	2400	30Dec64
ITEM NO.	TIME		INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC.			ACTION TAKEN	INL
	IN	OUT					
15	0900 (CONT'D)	NINH PROVINCE VIC XT 398630. TWO STRIKE FORCE COMPANIES IN THE AREA ARE PRESENTLY HOLDING THE BN DOWN BUT CANNOT TAKE THEM. AIR STRIKES HAVE BEEN REQUESTED.			III CORPS NOTIFIED. THEY STATED THIS INFO WAS ERRONEOUS.		
16	0955	G/S: C/S CALLED SAID HE HAD RECEIVED WORD FROM COL BARTON THAT KIEN GIANG PROVINCE WITH THE EXCEPT OF HIEU LE AND KIEN AN DISTRICTS HAD BEEN TRANSFERRED TO 9TH DIV AREA. PASSED INFO TO MAJ MATTHEWS.					
17	1000	III CORPS TOC (CAPT MCCOSKEY): RESULTS OF AN DAN 44: Friendly - 1 KIA, 6 WIA; VC - 24 KIA (BCDY COUNT), 1 CAPTURED WIA, 4 IND WPNS.					
18	1015	JOC (CAPT WEEDEN): REPORTS RECEIVED AT JOC INDICATE THAT 33RD RANGER BN HAS SUFFERED HEAVY LOSSES AND IS DOWN TO APPROX 100 EFFECTIVES. THE BN WAS UNDER STRENGTH PRIOR TO THIS OPERATION, APPROX 200 OR 250 STRENGTH FOR ENTIRE BN. BATTLE IN PHUC TUY IS STILL CONTINUING WITH HEAVY CONTACT. ONE COMPANY OF THE 4TH MARINE BN HAS BEEN COMMITTED. REF TAY NINH LOC NINH OP ATTACK NO INDICATION THAT POST WAS ATTACK BY BN SIZE FORCE.			← 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.	NO. OF PAGES	
ORGANIZATION OR INSTALLATION		LOCATION	PERIOD COVERED					
			FROM HOUR 0001		TO DATE 30 Dec64			
MACV J-312		COG	0001		2400		30 Dec64	
ITEM NO.	TIME IN OUT		INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC.			ACTION TAKEN		INL
19	1030		ABN BDE (CAPT WEBB): 7TH ABN BN MAY GO BY HCPTR ← Binh Gia (contd)					
			TO PHUOC TUY VIC YS 490 780 ON II CORPS REQUEST					
			1ST ABN BN MAY GO BY ABN ASLT IF ACFT ARE A					
			AVAILABLE. JOC AND HIGH COMMAND ARE AWARE OF					
			THIS.					
20	1100		IV CORPS (MAJ CARSWELL): BOUNDARIES BETWEEN			JOC NOTIFIED		
			9TH DIV AND 21ST DIV CHANGED ON 27 DEC ON ORDER					
			OF IV CORPS CG. THIS WAS A MILITARY CHANGE					
			ONLY. NO POLITICAL CHANGE AS YET. NEW BOUNDARY:					
			WR 060536 - VR 955601 - VR 950 615 - VR 900 600 -					
			VR 866 623 - VR 838 630.					
21	1130		III CORPS TOC (CAPT MC COSKEY): THERE WERE 5			JOC NOTIFIED		
			USSF PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN THE DONG SO ATTACK					
			IN BINH DUONG PROVINCE VIC XT 795 432. REPORTED					
			THAT THERE WERE 2 KIA (USSF) AND POSSIBLE 1					
			WIA (USSF). THE WIA AND THE 2 BODIES WERE					
			EVACUATED TO BEN CAT AND THE WIA FURTHER MED					
			ECAC'D TO SAIGON. THE OTHER 2 USSF ARE SUP-					
			POSED TO BE AT BEN CAT.					
TYPED NAME AND GRADE OF OFFICER OR OFFICIAL ON DUTY						SIGNATURE		

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ORGANIZATION OR INSTALLATION		LOCATION		PERIOD COVERED				
				FROM HOUR 0001	TO 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 PHOUCK 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 HORNBROOK) - THE TWO USSF PERSONNEL REPORTED AS KIA AT ████████ DONG SA ^{DONG SA} BINH ████████ PROVINCE ARE, MSG E8 SEIGRIST, WILLIAM L., RA 13234222, A/314, 5TH SFG (ABN), 1ST SF, APO 40 AND SSG E6 PANULA, REINO A, RA 55687849 A/314, 5TH SFG (ABN), 1ST SF, APO 40. THE EXACT CAUSE OF DEATH IS UNKNOWN AT PRESENT.			CINCPAC TUX AC 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 BREW 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					
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September 14, 2006

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

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,


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.