

Mike Law
Director, Editor

25 Aug 95

Dear Mike

John Givhan sent me a copy of your letter of 26 Jun 95. I am trying to help John with his book concerning the 12 Apr 64 fight in Kien Long.

John and I were together in the 120th Avn Co from Sept 63 to Feb 64. Then I was transferred to the UTT. John was a truly outstanding officer and had a remarkable military presence. His concept of duty and honor were based on a family tradition that has been significant in Alabama since the 1820s. He did not take his service

in the Army lightly. Thank you for responding to him with so much information.

I think it would strengthen John's account of the 12 Apr action if it were compared to another battle he was in at Kien Hoa on 17 and 18 Jan 64. This mission was well planned and executed. However we have not been able to find an after action report for this action or any other helicopter operations prior to 1965. A report was filed by each unit after every mission. The Report was forwarded to Support Command and

then to MACV. An organization called ACTIV also made reports to Combat Developments Command in CONUS. Somehow, the information has become obscured since the US aviation unit build up in country. If you have any ideas or leads we can follow for these narrative reports, we would appreciate the information.

Referring to the questions in your letter to John:

- Unfortunately I was not on the 12 Apr mission so I don't know the tail number of the ship John was

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flying. However I do recall some of the unit's tail numbers. Most of the aircraft were 1956 models -

56-2109, 2039, 2155, 2359, 2819,

2050, 4181, 2100, 2091, 2064,

2051, 2087 and 134

- Pfc Matsuura was a crew chief in the 120th and a hell of a good soldier. (The 442d Int Regt would have been proud of him.) He died on the mission at Kien Long.

Bernie Quedens has written a world class article on the command

situation in helicopter units in Viet Nam prior to the introduction of US ground troops. He was the Operations Officer of the 120th, but he had been transferred prior to the 12 Apr mission. Bernie returned to the states and was one of the initial guiding lights of the 11th Air Assault Bde at Benning. Suggest you contact him to print his piece. It is a classic work and will give your members a foundation to understand some

of the mysteries of early Aviation
missions in the war.

Col Bernard Quedens

Forgive the wordiness of an old
soldier but there maybe some points
of interest buried here.

Sincerely

Pat Delavan

PS • Please send me
a VHPA 1995 Calendar
and a copy of Volume I
of the Historical Reference.
Check enclosed —

CC. John G. Khan
Bernie Quedens

• Please send response to - Patrick N Delavan