

In Country

by Ivan G. Worrell

Executive Secretary

Attention all Commacheros and Kingsmen!!!

4/101 = 101st AVN BN
5/101 = 158th AVN BN
6/101 = 1630
7/101 = 159th AVN BN

The 4th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment, "The Wings of the Eagle," is hosting a reunion of all former members of this historic unit, including all "Commacheros" of A Company and "Kingsmen" of B Company who fought so valiantly during the 101st Airborne Division's tour of duty in Vietnam. The activities will commence on Wednesday, 17 May 1995, and conclude Friday evening, 19 May 1995.

Among the events planned are an Open House, a static display of aircraft and equipment, an Early Bird Social, local tours, a Memorial Service, and a Reunion Dinner with a Guest Speaker. For more information on hotels, maps, a tentative schedule of events and other activities, please contact CW2 Laura Smith, or CW2 John Pruden at HHC, 4/101st AVN RGT, Ft. Campbell, KY 42223, or by calling (502) 798-3128/3189. Come join us and please spread the word!

Walter A. Tangel (B 2/11th FA VN 68-69) who now serves as a lieutenant in the Jefferson County Police Department in Louisville, Kentucky, found CSM (R) Joseph J. Rodriguez (HQ 2/11th FA VN) in the latest directory. Walter was Executive Officer of B Battery 11th FA and Joseph was Battalion Command Sergeant Major. They had not seen each other since Walter left Vietnam in 1969.

Walter left active duty in 1972 and has been a police officer continuously. Joe retired in 1974 and has worked with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and is presently working out of the Louisville, Kentucky office.



(L to R) Walter L. Tangle and CSM (R) Joseph J. Rodriguez who served together in Vietnam in 1968-69 get together, for the first time since Vietnam, at the Louisville, Kentucky Veterans Day Commemoration on November 11, 1994.

Some of the interesting times for these two were in the summer of 1969 in the A Shau Valley at Fire Base Currahee where the 11th FA put out "several" rounds in support of the maneuver units particularly around Dong Ap Bin (Hamburger Hill).

The ceremony where Joe and Walter got together was significant because it began at 11:00 A.M. on the 11th day of the 11th month the anniversary of the end of World War I. The 11th Field Artillery Regiment reportedly fired the last round of that war.

Eugene L. Overton (C 1/506 VN 67-68) who now serves as a governor representing the 506 and is a member of the Legal and Finance Committee sent the following story from the *Pacific Stars and Stripes*. The headline is LAST LAUGH and Gene wrote that the incident happened on July 3, 1968.

CU CHI (USA) - Playing possum paid off for three paratroopers of the 101st Airborne Division's 3rd Brigade during recent action. They killed four surprised NVA soldiers.

The night defensive perimeter of Company C, 1st Battalion, 506th Airborne Infantry, was under heavy attack when Sergeant Charles McManus noticed movement in a clump of bushes.

Several enemy grenades then landed dangerously near his position.

"We opened up with our weapons on full automatic," commented Private First Class Robert Sullivan. "For a while we thought they were dead."

More grenades from the same enemy position landed close to the paratroopers. Sergeant Kenneth Elwaroski told his men to start moaning as if seriously wounded.

"We could hear the NVA soldiers giggling as they thought we were out of action," PFC Sullivan said. "Then they moved toward us."

The Screaming Eagle trio touched off a sudden blaze of bullets and grenades. The next morning four enemy bodies were found about 10 meters from their position.



Gene Overton also sent this photo of his auto license plate that has a helicopter against an orange sun and a stand of bamboo.

Dr. Paul A. Sciplone (101st ADM VN 69-70) is a Professor of Marketing in the School of Business at Montclair State University in New Jersey and the author of six books. While in Vietnam he operated the Army MARS station at Camp Eagle (1969). Paul made an emotional return to Vietnam in the summer of 1994, exactly 25 years after he went there to fight a war. Paul was invited by Dr. Nguyen Thi Phuong, Director of the TuDo Ob/Gyn Hospital in Saigon and Vietnam's foremost birth defects researcher. She and her associates wanted to hear from Paul about the research of the New Jersey Agent Orange Commission and to discuss future studies. Paul took a new 486 notebook PC as a gift to aid their research. The computer was paid for by a grant from the SeaLand Corporation. He returned to Vietnam as a "VIP" since Dr. Phuong is also a member of the Vietnamese National Assembly.

Paul flew to Vietnam via Frankfurt and Singapore on June 19th and returned on July 2nd, a couple of days early, when he developed bronchitis from the repeated contrast between the 100 degree outside temperatures and the air conditioned cars and vans his guide Hien provided. His first few days were spent in Saigon (no one there calls it Ho Chi Minh City), visiting the hospital and briefing the medical staff as well as visiting the former U. S. Embassy (a total wreck!). His hotel was not fancy but was convenient to the sights. Paul's guide was Doan Quang Hien, a 40 year old former RVN helicopter pilot who spent nearly four years in a NVA "re-education camp" after the Communist victory in 1975. Paul also got a city tour on the back of the motorcycle of a genuine character, Ed Henry who is the Vietnam representative for Viet-Tour, the Colorado agency that planned Paul's trip. After several days in Saigon, Paul and Hien took an Air Vietnam flight to DaNang where they were startled to find two U. S. Air Force C130 transport planes had just landed 15 minutes before. They were the first U. S. planes back in DaNang in 19 years! The United States representatives of the Joint U.S./Vietnam POW-MIA Investigation Team had arrived on the two C130s. They subsequently found the remains of more than a dozen missing Americans. Paul and Hien toured the beautiful city and harbor, Marble Mountain, the ancient village of Hoi An and spent the night at the Non Nuoc Seaside Resort Hotel on China Beach. A government conference was in session at China Beach. Paul was introduced to the dinner crowd as a "Distinguished visiting American professor." Later that evening the Vietnamese officials invited Paul

to a genuine weenie roast and bonfire on the beach. The setting was incredible! Paul more than held his own in a spirited debate about the free enterprise system vs. socialism and central planning.

Then next morning Paul and Hien drove through the beautiful, but dangerous, Hai Van Pass to Hue/Phu Bai where Paul served in 1969-70 with Division Headquarters. Paul was shocked to see how little is left of the big base that housed more than 5,000 Screaming Eagle soldiers. His old office and hooch are now behind barbed wire, part of a Vietnamese Army basic training camp. The airport and old French-built control tower are still there.



"Where the heck did Camp Eagle go?" These were the words of Paul Sciplone as he stood atop the remnants of what was "Eagle International" helipad. (Sciplone Photo)

Continuing northward, Paul revisited the base camp of the 101st Airborne Division at Camp Eagle (nothing left but a few concrete slabs, collapsed bunkers and broken pavement from old roads and helipads). They visited the Phu Cam canal on the outskirts of Hue. It was made famous by a scene in the movie FULL METAL JACKET. Paul and Hien ensconced themselves at the deluxe Huang Giang Hotel on the south bank of the Perfume River and made trips all over what had been the northernmost sector of South Vietnam — to the Hue Citadel, several royal tombs, the 400-year old Thien Mu Buddhist Pagoda and the Hue University Library where Paul doubled their collection of U.S. books about the war in Vietnam by donating copies of his book SHADES OF GRAY and his recently published book on the history of MARS operations during the war in Vietnam, MARS: CALLING BACK TO "THE WORLD" FROM VIETNAM.



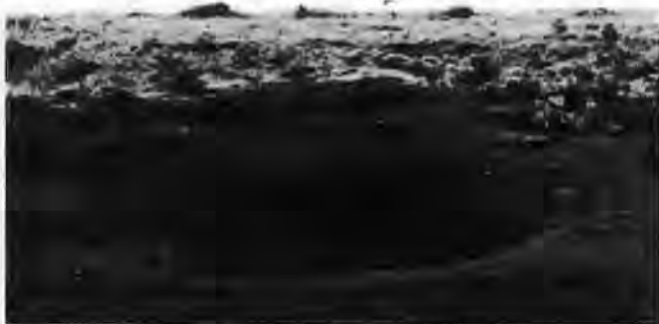
The Hue Citadel, Summer 1994. (Sciplone photo)

Paul, Hien and their driver, Mr. Mai, went further north on an exhausting 15 hour visit to Quang Tri City (not much left); Dong Ha (now a thriving city); the infamous Route 9 past the Rockpile and



Paul Sciplone by a kilometer marker on Route 9, on the way to Khe Sanh in June 1994. (Sciplone photo)

Dakrong Bridge that became the major point of entry for the Ho Chi Minh Trail and to Khe Sanh, site of one of the major battles of the war. Paul found a moonscape of old bunkers, remnants of the runway and even a few unexploded artillery rounds. He then visited the Con Thien battlefield and crossed the bridge over the



A "moonscape" at Khe Sanh. (Sciplone photo)

Cua Viet River into what we knew as North Vietnam. Con Thien and Khe Sanh are areas that were heavily bombed and sprayed with Agent Orange during the war. Paul was encouraged to find that the Vietnam landscape has largely bounced back, although many people suffer from health problems believed to be related to the dioxin in Agent Orange.

It was especially emotional for Paul when they took off from Phu Bai Airport aboard a Russian AN-28 turboprop to return to Saigon. It was from that same airfield that Paul was medevaced in March of 1970. On the flight to Tan Son Nhut, they flew over the old Bien Hoa Air Base where Paul spent his first three months in Vietnam. Paul spent the next three days making trips to Bien Hoa and Long Binh, the tunnels at Cu Chi and to the RVN Presidential Palace in Saigon, as well as revisiting TuDo Hospital. Paul had made a new friend in

Hien and his family who invited him to dinner at their house on his last evening in Vietnam. Paul and Hien are now communicating regularly by fax about a new business venture and Hien's son Quac has applied to be a computer science major at Montclair State. Paul departed from Vietnam with indelible images of peace and growing prosperity that will replace the images of war that dominated his thoughts for 25 years.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

I have had some complaints from members about lack of coverage of particular units, specific events, certain combat actions and particular wars the 101st Airborne Division and its members were a part of.

In each case my question is; WHAT HAVE YOU SENT TO BE PUBLISHED?

The answer is usually "I have sent nothing, but I do want to read about" my unit, Desert Storm, Vietnam, the peacetime training at Fort Campbell, and other significant parts of the history of THE SCREAMING EAGLES that person was part of.

Everything submitted for publication in THE SCREAMING EAGLE magazine cannot be used [there are space constraints], but some, or most, of the material can and is, and will be used. If you want to read about something in particular, send an inquiry so other members can reply or send an account of something that happened, with photos if you have them. Photos will be returned when publication is complete.

It is your magazine. Use it.

LIGHTNING IN THE STORM

As the only air assault division in the world, the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) flew and floated to Saudi Arabia to join Desert Shield; 18,000 soldiers, including 700 women, and 400 helicopters - Apaches, Cobras, Kiowas, Black Hawks and Chinooks - to play a critical role in Desert Storm. This is the story, told by Tom Taylor (who served with the Screaming Eagles in Vietnam and is the son of General Maxwell D. Taylor who led the division in World War II) after he interviewed hundreds of these Persian Gulf 101st veterans.

The Gulf War was their "RENDEZVOUS WITH DESTINY." They were superbly trained and led by America's foremost officers, uniquely qualified for the task at hand, tested by cruel destiny - the 101st performed two major tasks in the war: the assault on Iraq's radar which "plucked its eyes" in General Schwarzkopf's phrase, and the cutting off of Iraq's main supply route from Baghdad to the forces in Kuwait.

Before the story ends, we get to know many of the combatants, leaders and those whom they led; men and women, and their families in Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

In a conflict where everything that could go wrong, didn't, they were the best operators of the best equipment in the world, giving America its most stunning military victory, its greatest surge of patriotic pride.

To purchase this book see page 52 in Association Items for resale. Cost is \$29.50 plus postage (see chart).