

Unit News

Aviation News

I've received a letter from **Dave Culbertson**, a former crewchief with C/158th Aviation Battalion about a month ago. Enclosed with it was a letter from a young lady named **Shenendoah Mrozek**, the daughter of SP6 **Eric Peter Busch**. Her father had served two tours with the 101st in Vietnam, and was killed in action while serving with the 173rd Airborne in 1970. She is looking for people who served with her father and plans on writing a book about him in the future. I have talked with her and we know that Eric Busch served his first tour in 1965 with the 1st Brigade. During the second tour he served in HHC, 158th Aviation Battalion from October 16, 1969 until March 30, 1970 at Camp Evans. He was transferred to the 173rd Airborne at that time and was killed in August 1970. Eric is believed to have been an aviation technical inspector and served with the Casper Platoon (173rd Maint. Co.) after transferring. She was about five years old when her father was killed. Anyone who might have known Eric is requested to contact her, she would be very appreciative of your information. You can write her at 3803 Grantwood Drive, Parma, Ohio 44134 or call her at (216) 845-5524.



SP6 Eric Busch

Tom Marshall, a former pilot (C/158th and 163rd Avn. Co. 1970/71) is writing a book to be called 'Woodstock 13' which was his callsign with the 163rd. I was asked to preview the manuscript to see if I could add details about Phoenix crewmembers to it. This book starts in early 1970, covers the Firebase Ripcord extraction in July 1970, and covers the entire Lam Son 719 Invasion of Laos. This book contains a lot of 101st history and has a lot of details about most of the aviation companies that were assigned to the 101st. This book is currently being previewed by several others and I would definitely suggest you buy a copy once it's published. Tom has done a fantastic job and I'm amazed at the detail he's captured. He can be reached at 220 W. Garden St. #502, Pensacola, FL 32501.

Mike Slonker, a former helicopter pilot that has assisted a lot of the various companies locate their history, etc. has compiled a Lam Son history that he "found" on his own and it was recently published in the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association's annual membership directory. This information is also very detailed and well worth reading. It gives you a deep appreciation for what the Invasion of Laos was really like and what it was like to be a helicopter pilot or crewmember during this time frame. Mike is a regular attendee of the VHPA reunions, attended last year's reunion at Nashville and personally places/displays our casualty lists at the Vietnam Wall on Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Mike works tirelessly on collecting aviation data and is responsible for providing most of the research done in the last few years. Thanks Mike!

Dave Wolfe (C/158 Avn) called the other day to see if he could get a copy of the picture of the Phoenix pilots that was published in the last issue of "The Screaming Eagle." We're looking for anyone who might have the complete list of names that goes with it, or anyone who might be interested in helping compile a list. He also mentioned that he recently had dinner with **Don Mears** (C/158 Avn) one evening. Don was out in California attending, I believe a three week class.

I received an invitation to the annual training exercise at **Fred Behren's Kingsman's Castle East**, but couldn't attend. This happens every January in Virginia. I hope everyone survived this event and maybe we can get some pictures for the next issue. Fred is a former Kingsman pilot and also served with Eagle Dustoff in Vietnam.

Does anyone have any group photos of pilots and/or crewmembers they would like to see published? I've heard several people comment that "The Screaming Eagle" contains all WWII information. Here's your chance, we need photos and information. How about some pictures of those "hover holes" we used to land in or pictures taken from the ground of aircraft arriving/departing. These photos will be returned, thanks ahead of time for your assistance!

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WWII 101st Reconnaissance Platoon



This picture [taken in Utica, Mississippi, in June, 1994] of a gathering of the World War II 101st Airborne Division Reconnaissance Platoon veterans was sent by **Ken Johnson**.

Those listed are the only known survivors. The list sent includes **George Gano, Kenneth Johnson, James C. Kennedy, Walter E. Bramback, John B. Moore, Louis Rahn, Walter Rofkahr, Clark Smith and Elmer J. Weber**. Missing from the photo are: **Thomas P. Wilder and Ted Klann**. If you were, or if you know of, a WWII Reconnaissance Platoon member not listed please contact **Elmer Weber** at 23 Maple Circle Drive, Tuscola, IL 61953. ■