

Subject: RE: Lam Son 719 research

Date: Thu, 30 Sep 1999 07:02:25 -0400

From: "Sloniker, Mike E" <[REDACTED]>

To: "Mac Jones" <[REDACTED]>, "Sloniker, Mike E" <[REDACTED]>

Bob Clewell
Bruce Emerson <[REDACTED]>, Dave Schave <[REDACTED]>
Ed MacDonald <[REDACTED]>, Fernando De Pierris <[REDACTED]>
Glenn Dooley <[REDACTED]>, James Connell <[REDACTED]>
John Loeffler <[REDACTED]>, Mike Horsch <[REDACTED]>
Richard Bittle <[REDACTED]>, Rick Miller <[REDACTED]>

Tom Marshall who wrote the Price of Exit, was in the 4th ID avn sect, C/158 and 163d Avn is at [REDACTED] He lives near Pensacola FL. I have be working with Tom since 1990, and met him at the 1990 VHPA reunion in New Orleans.

Tom is writing another book in Lam Son 719.

Keith William Nolans book is a keeper but know that a LOT of data is missing because of the non responsiveness of our fellow aviators with Nolan asked for information in 85-86 when getting the research for the book. This caused MASSIVE consternation in C/158. When the dust settled, I discerned it was because guys were furious with themselves for not responding. This was a major factor in my effort to get the 1994 VHPA directory dedicated to Lam Son 719.

I spent my entire 1994 reunion at Philly doing research with Bob Clewell, A/101, Joe Kline B/101, Doug Womack 71st AHC, Fred Thompson 174th AHC, Modjewksi from DMZ Dustoff, Skip Butler D/158, and others. Never have I ever met anyone with the depth of knowledge of the 2/17 Cav like Mac Jones and Rick Miller.

I have the pages from the April 1971 Armed Forces Journal about Molinelli's interview with them concerning Lam Son 719 and his Congressional Testimony. I have them scanned in and on a zip drive ready to be forwarded to whoever wants them.

I also have pictures of the 3 destroyed PT 76s by FB Ranger South.

I suggest that it is high time we collected the data, used Marshall as the vehicle and got the story out on 2/17 in Lam Son 719. I would really like to do this, for myself, in memory of a LT that was in my flight class, 70-38, named Hale who died in 2/17 Cav during LS 719. He kept talking about how he did not think he would return, and didn't. Self fulfilling prophesy.

The two sites that I have LS 719 data on are works in progress. The angelfire site will be upgraded with pictures that accompany the text.

As a matter of background. My first tour, 67-68 was in the 101st. I was an artillery forward observer with A troop 2/17 Cav at Song Be during Tet 68. It was a ground troop consisting of Jeeps with mounted M-60s and 106mm RRs.

They came in country in 1965, and were really seasoned by time I was with them. We acted like dismounted infantry most of the time. B Troop was M-113 ACAV unit and came with us in Dec 1967 during Eagle Thrust that brought both brigades over from the states to join the 1st Bde. Went to flight school in 1970. Joined the 174th in Jun 71 and flew with LS 719 vets whose stories are still seared into my heart today. LTC Julius Becton, later LTG Becton was the Squadron Commander.

I put a piece in "The Primer of the Helicopter War" that I co authored with Charles Holley about 2/17 Cav. I put in the piece from Mac McComic when he got in a shotup snake and was trying to hover it off the active when the controls failed and it hit a 2 1/2 ton full of ARVNs very early in Feb 1971. Mac is now a preacher in California.

Mac, thanks for all the data. I will be keeping my end of the deal up this weekend when I copy all the data and send to you.

Jim McDaniel the Webmaster at the 174th web site is responsible for putting the sounds to the visuals. He digitized the audio tapes I gave him.

Out Front

Mike Sloniker

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Mac Jones [SMTP:condor03@earthlink.net]

> Sent: Wednesday, September 29, 1999 8:12 PM

> To: Mike Sloniker; assault49@aol.com; Bob Clewell; Bruce Emerson; Dave

> Schave; Ed MacDonald; Fernando De Pierris; Glenn Dooley; James Connell;

> John Loeffler; Mike Horsch; Richard Bittle; Rick Miller

> Subject: Lam Son 719 research

>

> Just a net call , about finding Lam Son 719 books. They are usually out

> of print. The best source I have found for getting ANY book is

> <<http://www.bibliofind.com>> It is a network of bookstores with used

> copies. I just checked on INTO LAOS by Nolan. They have 6 copies from \$5

> to \$28.50 (Hint--it cost \$18.95 first edition, book club version

> cheaper). It is a MUST read!!!!

>

> Then there is a monograph titled, LAM SON 719 by Maj Gen Nguyen Duy

> Hinh. It can be found at Dalley Book Service. E-mail is

> <dalleybk@swva.net> It was written for the US of Army.

>

> THE PRICE OF EXIT by Tom Marshall is also a must read. It is in

> paperback only. (Mike, if you have already sent me a copy, Thank-you and

> I'll get it to another 101st Type).

>

> It's been a long time since I went to the search box and typed in Lam

> Son 719, why doesn't someone try it and see what turns up.

>

> Also, in addition to Mike Slonikers source at

> <<http://www.angelfire.com/ga2/vnhistory/index.html>> there is also his

> fine work as the 174th Avn C. historian at

> <<http://www.americal.org/174/>> It has some excellent (ie scary)audio

> files of flights into Laos, some very long download, but worth the

> wait. By the way Mike, WitchDoctor was probably picked by A Troop, but

> the flight included all Cav Troops in the 2/17+ package (less B-2/17).

> Somebody had to bring back the Hoc Bao, they were our favorite RVN

> buddies.

>

> Happy reading,

>

> Mac Jones

> Condor 03