

Tom Marshall

To: Deborah Kidwell
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Lam Son

Hi Deb,

I have a raw film presentation, a documentary on Lam Son 719, which I had a film crew film at during the 2011 Lam Son Presentation, I hosted at VHPA in Orlando. I will get you a copy, if you assure me in writing, that you will not use any of it, without prior written approval. I have a film project for a documentary, that I am still working on. These were key participants, on the worst days of the experience.

The participants were:

Col. Rich Johnson, flight lead for the 173rd Robinhoods. Also flight lead for the Joker Guns and Blue Stars.

Col. Frank Esposito, with the Air Cavalry, recovered the Witchdoctor maintenance aircraft crew shot down in Laos.

Former Captain Tom Ford, flight lead for the 3/5 Air Cavalry at Quang Tri.

CW5 Rick Scrugham, of the Phoenix (C Co./158th Avn. Btn., 101st Airborne Division).

CW4 Doug Womack, who was Chalk 3 at LZ Lolo, March 3, 1971. 44 aircraft were shot up so bad they were salvaged, not repairable, or shot down and destroyed.

CW2 Harold Smith, served as an enlisted Marine, was a courier at Khe Sanh in 1968. A Ghostrider aircraft commander, paralyzed on March 19, 1971, trying to rescue a Joker gunship crew, shot down in the LZ.

Each of these men can refer you to one or two other men, that were there with them.

There is another documentary, I want to get for you. It is a 2 cd set that describes the loss of an Air Force forward Air Controller, trying to assist a downed Army helicopter crew in February, 1971. The second is the loss of Major Jack Barker, on March 20, 1971. That was the day the limit was reached for men and machines.

I will work on the two film copies for you and get their contact info. I will ask them to contact you. I have forwarded this to my old email address to facilitate their contact.

Thanks,

Tom Marshall

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Deborah Kidwell [mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: Monday, December 9, 2013 5:27 PM
To: Tom Marshall
Subject: Re: Lam Son

Hi Tom,

Thanks again for talking with me Saturday. I'm working through the materials you sent. Could you ask Rich Johnson for his contact information and if he would mind if I contacted him? If you need anything I can help with from here, let me know.

Deb

On Fri, Dec 6, 2013 at 6:28 PM, Deborah Kidwell <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Hi Tom

Is it ok to call in the morning (Saturday) around 9am? I received the videos today and hope to view them tonight.

Thanks so much

Deb

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 1, 2013, at 5:30 PM, "Tom Marshall" <[REDACTED]> wrote:

> Hi Deb,

>

> Here it is.

>

> I am available to talk as needed. I am driving 6 hours to Pensacola from
> Orlando Tuesday afternoon.

>

> I can talk first thing in the morning for the next 6 days. When you find a
> time you want to talk, please give me a day notice if possible. I still
> work as a commercial appraiser and things get hectic at year's end.

>

> I am mailing you a documentary film, an anthology that provides the audio
> references to conversations in combat, given me by Lt. Col. Mike Sloniker.
> The units involved in Lam Son 719 are in the movie credits.

>

> I am also sending you a Pentagon Weekly Evening News Summary, I obtained via
> a researcher. I hired an experienced researcher to do selective research
> in the National Archives.

>

> That is the source of quotes in my 1969 and 1970 voice actor portrayals.

>

> The Cooper Church amendment discussion in 1970 was the actual defunding of
> the war effort. Again, NARA audio tape.

>

> Enjoy,

>

> Tom

>

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

> From: Deborah Kidwell [mailto:[REDACTED]]

> Sent: Wednesday, November 20, 2013 10:15 PM

> To: [REDACTED]
> Subject: Lam Son
>
> Hi Mr. Marshall,
>
> I'm so pleased to make your (virtual) acquaintance. I enjoyed your book a
> great deal. The title was very descriptive, and I learned quite a lot from
> the book. Thanks for agreeing to talk with me. Please let me know when it
> would be convenient to call.
>
> Below is my standard introduction, so you know a little about me. I'm
> interested in learning about Lam Son and do research to tell the story of
> Lam Son, basically at the tactical level, with an eye towards the personal
> experience of those who fought. I've attached my standard interview list of
> questions for your consideration. Please let me know when it would be
> convenient to call. I have a day job as an Air Force historian, so that
> slows me down a little bit, but I'm committed to the project and will find
> the time.
>
> As Bob Sander has graciously explained, I'm a historian very interested in
> working on a book about veterans and their experiences with the Lam Son
> operation as a theme or backdrop. In a nutshell, I'd like to write about
> Lam Son veterans--who they were, where they came from, what their training
> was like, what they experienced during Lam Son, and what happened to
> them--how did the experience shape their lives? I will leave the
> operational accounts to Bob and other historians, but I would like to write
> about the personal side of Lam Son from the Veterans' perspective. The
> scope of the project is fairly open at this time as I'm just beginning the
> research.
>
> I earned a PhD from the University of Kansas in 2006 and worked as a
> (military history) professor at the Army Command and Staff school for five
> years before becoming an Air Force historian. I was assigned to Edwards AFB
> in California and the Historical Studies office at the Pentagon, before
> transferring to work in my current AF position at Quantico. Before that I
> was a Mom, ran an environmental lab, and was an extension agent, so history
> is more or less a second career for me. I still teach some courses online
> for American Public University, and currently live in the Washington DC
> area, although I grew up in Oklahoma and Kansas.
>
> The first question I have for you is this: What websites can you suggest
> that will best familiarize me with the Veterans Organizations, unit
> histories, and the community of Veterans that may be willing to provide
> information?
>
> I am grateful for your assistance with the project and look forward to
> talking with you soon. Please let me know when you will be available and I
> can give you a call to get your ideas on how to proceed or we can do an
> interview. I have done several interviews in conjunction with my "day job"
> and have found that it is best to begin with a list of questions, even if
> you don't get to them all and the interview takes a different turn. I've

> attached the current list of questions I plan to use for this project.
> Please take a look and let me know what you think.
>
> Bob also mentioned that you maintained contact with several other crew
> members. If you wouldn't mind asking them if they would be willing to talk
> with me, I'd greatly appreciate you passing along their contact information.
> Any photos, letters, or other material that anyone would like to share with
> me, would be treated with the utmost care and returned after reading.
>
> Sincerely,
>
> Deb
> <Deb Kidwell Lam Son questionaire responses.pdf>

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Deborah C. Kidwell, PhD