

TO THE 1/8TH CAVALRY

I KNEW OF YOUR DEEDS BEFORE I JOINED YOUR RANKS.  
YOUR FAME WAS WIDESPREAD INCLUDING THOSE ON YOUR  
FLANKS.

ON THE 6TH AND 7TH OF DECEMBER PAST, YOU  
MET THE NVA AND HE BREATHED HIS LAST.

YOU HAD FOUGHT A BATTLE THAT IS STILL TALKED  
ABOUT, OF YOUR VALOR AT DAI DONG THERE IS  
NOT ANY DOUBT.

LETS MEET THE MEN WHO WITHSTOOD THE TEST,  
AND COUNT THEM AMONG AMERICAS BEST.

"A" COMPANY HAD A COMMANDER BOLD, AND IRISHMAN  
NAMED McANDREWS WHO WAS NOT VERY OLD, YET  
THIS YOUNG CAPTAIN WITH A FLIP AND A GRIN, SAID  
"THEY NEED US COACH, PUT ALPHA IN".

THEY WENT IN FAST IN THE EARLY LIGHT, BEHIND CS  
AND FULL OF FIGHT; THE TOT WAS SHORT SO THEY SAY  
AND ALPHA HAD SOME WOUNDED THAT DAY.

"B" COMPANY WENT IN ON THE NIGHT OF THE 6TH  
LOST TWO MEN BUT GOT IN THEIR LICKS.  
THEY FOUGHT ALL DAY ON THE 7TH OF DECEMBER  
A DAY THAT EVERY MAN IN "B" WILL REMEMBER

"C" COMPANY JOINED IN THE FIGHT I KNOW,  
BUT HAD SOME CASUALTIES TO A THING CALLED  
"GO-GO".

"D" COMPANY PROVED THAT THEY HAD WHAT IT TAKES,  
WHEN THEY TANGLED WITH "CHARLIE" WHILE OPCON  
TO THE 2/8TH.  
THIS WAS LATE IN DECEMBER, BUT AFTER ALL  
OUR ONLY PURPOSE IS TO MAKE THE ENEMY FALL.

NOW BIG DUKE "6" WAS A REAL FINE MAN,  
HE COMMANDED US WITH AN IRON HAND  
YET FOR ALL HIS SIZE, AND BEING TOUGH;  
FOR "SNUFFIE", HE COULDN'T DO ENOUGH  
THE MEN KNEW WELL THAT THERE WASN'T A DAY  
WHEN "6" DIDN'T SEE THEM AND HAVE SOMETHING  
TO SAY, THEY KNEW THAT THE SKIPPER WOULD  
BE ON HAND AND HELP THEM SURVIVE THIS TROUBLED LAND.

ED BURBA AS THE "3" AND LUM THE LNO,  
COMBINED THEIR TALENTS, AND PUT ON  
MANY A SHOW.

AS A TEAM THEY WERE GREAT, AS \*\* INDIVIDUALS  
JUST FINE, I'D BE PROUD TO SERVE AGAIN, ANY  
OLD TIME.

WITH ZROJEWSKI AS ONE AND WILSON THE FOUR,  
ITS A WONDER WE GOT MAIL OR SOMETHING TO POUR.

VIQUE AND HIS HEADQUARTERS CREW  
BROUGHT IN FROM THE SNATCHES  
A CD OR TWO.

NOW HEINTZMAN AND CHURCH CAME OUT OF THE FIELD,  
THINKING PERHAPS IT WAS A REAL GOOD DEAL,  
THEY SOON FOUND OUT MUCH TO THEIR WOE,  
WHEN WORKING IN THE TOC, TIME GOES SLOW.

CARTER AND CHUNG, THOSE INGENIOUS GENTS  
PLAYED CARDS FOR MONEY BOTH DOLLARS AND CENTS;  
BUT EXPERIENCE PROVED, WITH BILLFOLDS BENT,  
THAT THE MONEY; INSTEAD OF COMING- IT WENT.

JIM POOR AND TOP FISCHER, MY HAT IS OFF TO YOU  
FOR KEEPING THE COMPANY UP TIGHT, AND FIGHTING  
THE WHOLE NIGHT THROUGH.

I HAVE MISSED SOME NAMES, BUT I KNOW THESE MEN,  
THEIR FACES ARE NOT FORGOTTEN, THE MEMORY IS NOT  
DIMMED.

SOME PLACE, SOME DAY WE WILL ALL MEET AGAIN,  
AND REMEMBER EACH OTHER AS FIGHTING MEN  
AND AS BIG DUKE ALWAYS SAID AS HE FLEW AWAY;  
"KEEP YOUR HEAD AND TAIL TOGETHER EVERY DAY".

DAVID D. VALANDRY  
MAJOR, INFANTRY  
EX-BIG DUKE 5