

VIETNAM REVISITED IN MEMORY

From Sgt. Danny Terrio
RLTW

I Thought I was doing a good thing when I enlisted in the Army in September of 1968. I had just graduated from high school in May of 1968, before many of my classmates had been drafted, I had already enlisted. I had no idea what I was getting into.

My first assignment was under Sgt. John Barnes and Captain George Paccerelli in April of 1969. My first mission was with Bruce Judkins (team leader) and other soldiers until August of 1969. I then went to Recondo School with Gary Mascitalli whom I am still in contact with, thanks to social media.

I graduated number 7378 in August of 1969 and became an assistant team leader. Our first order was for a mission in Quan Loi. We were instructed not to shoot first because it was a Three Day Truce starting on September 12, 1969.

We landed in the jungle early on the morning of September 12, 1969. Our Huey helicopter was about fifteen to twenty feet off of the ground when the shooting started. A cobra was flying high covering us. After Huey and LOCH did their job, Cobra made one of three runs.

We went into the woodline where three bodies were discovered on a high speed trail. Mortar rounds were found in the back packs hidden in rice when the bodies were searched. You never know what you will find when facing this type of situation. You had to always be on top alert for surprises. LOCH said there were four bodies, and we only saw three. After scouting the area we discovered the fourth gook. Once the gook was discovered we were onto him, he immediately got up and started running. Several of us opened up on full auto. I think the gook ran all the way to North Vietnam.

Through the debriefing, we never heard a word about breaking the three day truce. The split decision was the safety of our lives.

I ended up going on 34 total missions. Ten were as a team leader. My memories are vague on some situations, but so vivid on some. I do not remember all of the men that I served with. There were many brave, dedicated young men that I refer to as my friends to this day that I will always admire. Boys turned into men --- "RLTW"

P.S. --- My only son was born on the same month and day nineteen years later ...

September 12, 1988

Danny Terrio