

Jan 19, 1998

Dear Harry,

Your letter brought a host of feelings out. Although I lost my brother 20 years ago it is still an open wound. My greatest wish is to find a friend of my brother from Nam. I want to know what he was like as a commander. There are just so many unanswered questions for me, and it was only three years ago when I was ready to start looking.

In your letter you said you might be able to answer some of my questions. Boy have I got a bunch of them and I have been trying to figure which to ask first. So maybe if I give you a little history then you might be able to understand and answer my

questions.

I was 13 when my brother Art died. He was 30 married with 2 children a 6yr old daughter and a 3yr old son. His wife is German and they lived in Fort Worth Texas. ^{she still does} (No she didn't go to the reunion although she was invited). I have not been able to get any information from her party due to the distance but mainly because she does not want to talk about him, she has never remarried and still has a shrine almost in her house with his picture and medals.

I also have an older sister, well I am the youngest. We had 5 in our family Gene, Art, Sue, Terry & myself. Basically all of us want to get more information but no one else wants to look so I am.

I'm sure some of my questions may

seem dumb or insensitive. There is just a need to know and attempt to understand.

Art was on his second tour and would have come home in 24 days, in fact when the Capt came to school to pick my brother and I up, I at first thought that Art had just sent one of his buddies ahead to tell his he was coming home, he used to do that, but when I ~~st~~ saw him I knew that he had to tell us that Art had died. I have always felt a deep sympathy for that man. No one wants that job.

So here are some of my questions - one of the things I would like to know is about Arts first tour where he was and what he did all I know is that he was a Lt. ^{How can I find that out?}

Then the hard questions - Where were you stationed? I know Art was shot

down in Quang Tri. Was it an
important piece of land. It ~~was~~
my understanding that he was flying
air support for a mechanized unit -
But I don't really understand that ^{mean}.
Does that mean it was a planned
offensive or that the ground troops
got in trouble and radioed for air
support. I know he went down
very early in the morning, that there
was 6 or 7 men in the bird and
possibly 1 survived. I have been
told that 2 birds landed right
away hoping for survivors and that
there were none - so I have
information but the part I am
confused on is how many men and
was there a survivor ^{I guess what I want to} to know what happened that

Although I am now 34 ^{day} I don't
understand war, ~~an~~ or the need for
it I only understand its pain.
I comfort myself with the knowledge

that my brother believed in what he was doing and felt that the people of Nam were getting a raw deal.

I would also like to know how big is a battalion and a company and platoon - I looked it up in the dictionary and I don't think my dictionary knows either - possibly a military secret (my humor). ^{what is a} Troop?

Then I would like to know what it was like as far as living - I sort of know for I do have many friends who have military background, but I realize each place was different ~~where~~ were you in a area of constant conflict or offenses weekly or depends on enemy movements - I guess I'm looking for the stress level that you were under. Yes I know '69 was the year of the highest casualties but again I realize each area was different.

Well that is quite a list of questions. Many of them asking for more than black & white answers. I ~~am~~ will understand if some of my questions may be too painful to answer, please just let me know if they are. You had put your phone number down I wish I could just call for writing. Takes too long but unfortunately I am on a limited budget and must make pennies stretch.

I would like to have my request repeated in the magazine to maybe reach someone who missed the earlier advertisement.

I would like ~~you~~ to encourage you to write about your group in Nam and possibly what it has done to its survivors. If you would let me know what kind of information you want. I have a couple of

On if you
background
school - as you can
sent those
Please know
will get
for you

his letters. I have a friend who writes
and edits books and I know it is
a lot of work - but there are so many
of us who need that information
that a book on your topic could
benefit a lot and maybe ease questions.

Thank you also for sending me
the magazine I really appreciated
it. The request was a bit of a
shock for over the past 3 years
anyone with a screaming eagle
patch on a pair of wings I have
gone up to and asked if they knew
Art. I even carry his picture at
functions to see if some one will
recognize him, but to me I am not
a woman asking but a very young
13 year girl trying to find a friend
of her brother. I will send a note
to Foster Thayer for following
through with his promise to send in
my requests. I had thought maybe

he had forgotten or lost my name for you are the first person who has contacted me.

I have met another Man Ken Haslam he was a gunnery sgt. and flew a couple of times with Art also but again he too did not know Art well.

I tried to get a list of Arts medals and a Silver Star was not listed but the Army has not given good info anyway. They have him down as joining ~~in~~ when he was 13. Whoops They also had his internment place as his point of entry. An easy mistake with all the numbers they had to work with.

Please write back soon, I appreciate your contact more than you can ever know. I have told both my children about my brother

and they have some of the same questions

Well I could probably write
another 10 pages but I will close now
Again Thank you for writing and
I hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely

Jude Schneider

