



River Currents



A PUBLICATION OF
THE MOBILE RIVERINE FORCE ASSOCIATION

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American Grunt

To the dirt-eating grunt, Vietnam was an endless succession of bummers. Besides the never-ending fear of death, we had to endure a host of miseries: merciless humps through a sun-scorched landscape packing 80-pregnant pounds, brain-boiling heat, hot-house humidity, dehydration, heat exhaustion, sunburn, red dust, torrential rains, boot-sucking mud, blood-sucking leeches, steaming jungles, malaria, dysentery, razor-sharp elephant grass, bush sores, jungle rot, moaning and groaning, meals in green cans, armies of insects, fire ants, poisonous centipedes, mosquitoes, flies, bush snakes, vipers, scorpions, rats, boredom, incoming fire, body bags, and a thousand more discomforts. Despite all this the grunt did his job well.



Veterans Day 2010, Washington, DC Wreath Layings at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the U.S. Navy Memorial

The MRFA and 9th Infantry Division will be placing wreaths at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC, on Veterans Day, Thursday, November 11, 2010. We will be gathering at the steps of the Lincoln Memorial at 8:30 a.m. on the 11th and proceed to the Wall at 9:00 a.m. We will also have a ceremony at the U.S. Navy Memorial at 3 to 4 p.m. honoring the MRF and 9th Inf Div. Complete with speakers and placing of wreaths at the Lone Sailor Statue in honor of all our fallen brothers, Navy and Army veterans of the MRF and 9th Inf Div.

A first for the Navy Memorial--they have okayed our doing the Missing Man Table Ceremony same as we do at our reunions. We will furnish our own speakers, chaplains, bugler, and wreath layers. More information on our speakers and other events at the Navy Memorial will be in our fall issue of River Currents. If you have



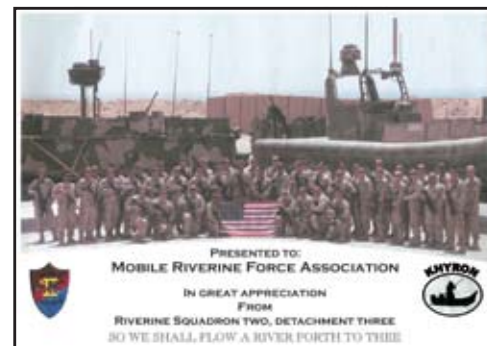
never been to one of our ceremonies at the Navy Memorial, it's something you do not want to miss. The U.S. Navy Memorial is located at 7th Street between Pennsylvania Avenue and Indiana Avenue in Washington, DC (701 Pennsylvania Ave, NW).

We have blocked 80 rooms at the Hilton Garden Inn Arlington/Courthouse Plaza in Arlington, Virginia, from November 8 to 12. Room rates are \$119 (plus tax) per night. For reservations, call 1-703-528-4444 and refer to our group reservation code "MRF." Reservations may also be made on-line at www.arlington-courthouse.gardeninn.com. Be sure to enter the on-line reservation code "MRF" in the booking box labeled Group/Convention code. Reservations under this group code must be made before the cutoff date of October 29, 2010, so make your reservations soon. The Hilton Garden Inn

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Today's Active Duty Force

This certificate and poster were sent to Albert Moore in appreciation and thanks from the members of Riverine Squadron Two-Detachment Three. The flag shown in the photo was flown in Al Taqaddum, Iraq, over Riverine Squadron Two in honor of the MRFA from July 2 to 4, 2009.



Note from Albert

Last year I went to the Veterans Day's morning wreath laying. As I looked around, I noticed something or someone was missing. With the exception of me and LCDR Charlie Ardinger Jr., active duty, we were the only Navy folks there. Folks, we can do better than this! Doc Pries and his guys really go all out on this.

I hear from a lot of the Navy members who say I work or I don't have time. Well folks, so do the men who make this happen every year. The weather was terrible, wet and rainy, and cold but the troops were mustered in front of the Lincoln Memorial on time and things went as planned. Let's not continue this way and let's support our Veterans Day ceremony even if it's

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The Winner Goes to Vietnam!

The winner of the MRFA Vietnam Tour Raffle, Eddie Fast and his wife Chris, returned from Vietnam on 9 March 2010 after a 13-day tour of Vietnam. Eddie and Chris visited Saigon, Cu Chi, My Tho, Can Tho and areas in Long An Province upriver from Ben Luc. Eddie was stationed on the USS Colleton APB-36 in Vietnam from February to June 1967.



"Fantastic trip! Everything above expectations!" said Eddie upon return. "Perfect guides, very friendly people, and wonderful food." He regrets, however, that he didn't try the "fried Cobra." When asked if Vietnam had changed since the last time he saw it, Eddie replied, "I couldn't believe all of the changes and we did make a difference for the people in the Delta."

The Raffle was co-sponsored by the MRFA and Trang Frobenius of Vietnam-Indochina Tours and was held at the MRFA Reunion on September 5, 2009.

Veteran's Day in DC

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Arlington/Courthouse Plaza is located at 1333 North Courthouse Road, Arlington, VA.

Come join us as we honor our fallen Brothers on Veterans Day 2010. We look forward to seeing you in DC.

For more information, contact Board Member Bob Pries at 5832 NW Windy Pines Lane, Port Saint Lucie, FL 34986-4637, (513) 659-4974.

Note From Albert

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

for only a few hours. You don't have to stay at the hotel we have available, you can stay wherever you wish. You can always visit the Hospitality Room and visit with the membership. This year we will also have a ceremony at the Navy Memorial. So let's make plans and support this worthy cause where we honor our fallen brothers of Vietnam. I can't say enough or give enough thanks to Doc Pries, Quinn Sommer, and General Doug Smith for all they have done over the years to keep this worthy cause alive!!! Army & Navy Rocks.

"What to do if..." by Paula Wright (Scott) will be back starting in the Fall issue of River Currents. Paula has been on a well-deserved vacation.

PLEASE NOTE: YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRATION DATE is printed on your issue of River Currents just above your name and address.

History of the USS Mark (AKL-12)



The USS Mark AKL-12 was built by Avondale Shipyard, Avondale, LA, in 1943 for the U.S. Army. She saw action in WWII, rendering her services of resupply to various units engaged in the Pacific Island Campaigns. After the war, The Mark remained in the Philippine Islands area as an Army logistic support vessel until 1950 when she was turned over to the Navy and redesignated an AKL and placed in commissioned service.

During the period from 1956 to 1965, AKL-12 was placed "Out of commission in service" and was used to shuttle supplies and passengers between Subic Bay and Sangly Point, Philippines. In November 1965, Mark, the AKL in its class, was placed back in commission and shifted its area of operation from the Philippines to Vietnam.

Upon arriving in Vietnam, Mark immediately demonstrated her ability to meet and carry out her commitments in providing food, spare parts, ordnance, and ammunition to the far flung field activities of the U.S. Navy in Vietnam.

As a result of sounding and bottom surveys conducted in the Dinh River by Mark, a 1950 survey by the French Government was verified and the decision was made to establish a naval base on this river at Cat Lo for the maintenance of River Patrol Boats and United States Coast Guard Patrol Craft (WPBs). Similarly, Mark conducted the survey of the Dong Nia River, providing the feasibility of using anchorage at Cat Lai, near Saigon for deep draft ammunition ships.

In July 1966, Mark stood out of the mouth of the Mekong Delta's Bassac River, thereby successfully navigating through uncharted waters previously considered so treacherous that the Mekong-Bassac pilot's association had not piloted a ship through this area since 1951. The survey by Mark and the opening of the Bassac River to ship travel enabled considerable steaming time to be saved in the area by logistic resupply. At the same time, it enabled the Navy to establish additional bases throughout the Mekong Delta while guaranteeing the ability of Mark and similar ships to resupply them. Mark's resupply trips were not limited to just the rivers of the Mekong Delta. In addition, Mark carried her logistic support to Naval Coastal Installations on the Gulf of Thailand side of South Vietnam.

For her significant accomplishments in a multitude of areas, Mark received a Letter of Commendation from the Commander, U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam, in November 1966.

As part of U.S. Naval Support Activity, Saigon from March 1966 to 25 March 1971,

Mark was awarded the Navy Unit Commendation for her significant contribution to the overall excellence of the U.S. Naval Support Activity.

In the execution of her resupply mission, Mark frequently came under attack by fire from the Viet Cong. Mark received her Purple Heart under attack by fire from the Viet Cong on 20

February 1968 when on a resupply mission on the Mekong River, she sustained a Viet Cong rocket hit amidstships, wounding 12 personnel, none critically.

From 1 January 1968 to 1 July 1970, Mark steamed through 80,000 miles of rivers and coastal waters of the Mekong River Delta while delivering over 21,230,000 pounds of vital cargo, including ammunition, to United States and Allied Naval Forces.

Awards earned during the Vietnam War: Combat Action Ribbon, (3) Navy Unit Commendations, RVN Gallantry Cross with Palm, RVN Civil Action Medal, First Class, with Palm, RVN Campaign Medal with 60s device, and (9) Battle Stars for her Vietnam Service Medal.

USS Mark (AKL-12)

Decommissioning Directive

From: Commander Services Forces, U.S. Pacific Fleet

Subj.: Lease of USS Mark (AKL-12) to the Chinese Navy

The Secretary of the Navy has approved the lease of USS Mark (AKL-12) to the Chinese Navy in Taiwan on 1 July, 1971. The Commanding Officer is hereby directed to decommission USS Mark (AKL-12) immediately prior to turning the ship over to the Chinese Navy on 1 July, 1971.

LT. William B. Robinson Jr., United States Navy, was commanding officer at the time of her turn-over.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DICK RAFFL. CIRCA 69-70.

Photos of the USS Mark (in Nha Be, in Japan, and view of the engine room) supplied by Dick Raffl.



Brenda, Albert, and Charlie too
I just received my copy of the NEW River Currents and it is just beautiful...a marvelous job all you kids have done...thanks very much, I'm looking forward to the next one all ready.

Tom Bityk, A.K.A.-CKM-2

Tra Cu U.S. Naval Advanced Tactical Support Base 1968-1971

These photos, from Robert Stewart 6th/31st, were sent out March 18, 2010. They are the first of Tran Cu I have seen of the Navy Base and the boats from mid- to late 1970.

6th/31st on Tango Boat

Water Explosion

That flume of water went a lot higher than the picture would suggest. The ACVs are from the last three the Army had. All the photos are from 1970. One of the Tangos beached is at Tra Cu. The ACV moving in the distance was taken at Gettysburg.

Albert:

One of your last email of photos you asked for photos of boats and the 6/31st. I'm attaching a few that I took. You are free to use them. The one of the big water explosion was part of a final "improvement" in a canal in the Plain of Reeds to make it more useful to river traffic...probably for the VC river traffic...LOL. The event made the 9th Division Go Devil but would have to see what I did with it.



Echo Company, 6/31st



Navy Base at Tra Cu



Main Drag at Tra Cu



Robert Stewart on Tango



Zippo at Tra Cu



6/31st on Tango Boat



Here are a few more of a Navy outpost that went by the name of Tra Cu. It was along the Song Vam Co Dong and at the time of the photos I think there were also some Arvins there too. These photos are from mid to late 1970. We used to visit it once in awhile. We did admire the Navy for how they managed to raise our quality of life when we visited. That small base even had a hot shower rigged up, and the mess hall served lobster to us mud dogs one day. The only downside to that Navy outpost was that it had plenty of rats. One jumped on me from the rafters of one of the hooches one night on his way to the floor and woke me up for a minute. That place even had a bar that opened in the early afternoon for a couple of hours...until one day a few of us Army guys got to enjoying it too much and they made it off limits to the Army.

If you show my photos in one of your emails, you might mention this link to the 6/31st album (<http://www.6thofthe31st.com/gallery/main.php>). Lots of Navy photos scattered throughout the thousands of photos donated by lots of guys. Any of the photos I sent or in my album at my site, you may use on your site. All other albums are up to the guys who sent them on an individual basis.

Robert Stewart, 6thofthe31st.com

Mike Harris' Recent Trip to Vietnam 40-MM Cannon at the War Museum

This is about the only thing left that I could find regarding our boats. There used to be a 20-MM mount as well, but it wasn't present in the newly remodeled museum.

Here are some shots of Dong Tam today. I connected two shots together for a landscape view.

There was a photo of some of our riverine craft plying the rivers along with an explanation of our purpose, but I'll be darned if it did not show



up in my photos. Here are some photos for all of you old 40-MM Gunners.

This one shows the Kinh Xang canal.



The Mekong River is on the left. There is obviously a lot of construction at the entrance of the Kinh Xang canal now. Warm Regards,

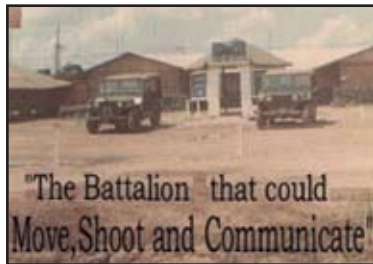
Mike Harris, MRFA Board Member, Web Master and Unit Historian

2/47 Unit Activity in Vietnam

Operations: Akron; Coronado; Counter Tet '68-Cholon/Saigon; Enterprise (3rd Bde.); Junction City, Tet '68; Cambodia (1970); and Task Force Forsyth

Places: Bearcat; Ben Luc Bridge; Bien Hoa; Binh Son Rubber Plantations; Binh Phouc; Cai Lay; nCan Tho; Cholon; Dong Tam...translation "United Hearts and Minds;" Ho-Bo Woods; Iron Triangle; Long Khan Province, near Long Thanh (Bearcat); Mekong River; My Tho; Parrots Beak; Phu Tho Race Track (Cholon - Siagon); Plain of Reeds; Rach Kien; Saigon; Tan An; Tay Ninh; Thunder Road (Tan An to Binh Phouc); Tiger's Lair; Vinh Long; Widow's Village (TET '68); and Xuan Loc.

Fire-Support Bases: FSB Moore, FSB Cud-



Infantry-Cambodia 1970 and last 9th ID unit to go home from Bien Hoa

Places: An Loc--Special Forces camp we defended; Bau Bang--all night battle, where we picked up 231 dead VC inside the wire; Binh Long--our AO of OP Junction City; Loch Ninh--Outpost we defended and worked out of Nui Ba Den--radio-relay position we defended; Prek Klok--Special Forces camp we defended during all out assaults for several days.

gel, FSB Dirk, FSB Danger, FSB Jaeger, and FSB Schroeder

Division Base Camps: Bearcat 67-68 and Dong Tam 68-69

3rd Brigade 69-70: 2/47th

CCB-18

Here are a few historical and early pictures of CCB-18 prior to being turned over to the MRFA; the rest is history. Thanks to Mike Harris and Doug Lindsey for the pictures.

These photos were taken in 1990 at Mare Island by Mike Harris.

This photo was taken at the Small Boat Museum in Rio Vista, CA.



These photos were taken by Doug Lindsey in 2001.



Armored Cargo Carriers Used for First Time by 2/47th

Long Thanh---5-ton cargo trucks are becoming obsolete at the 9th Infantry Division 2nd/47th Mechanized Battalion. The battalion began using Armored Cargo Carriers Feb. 29th to carry supplies to the battalion's units on field operations. The new cargo carriers provide their own convoy security with a mounted .50-cal machine gun. The track propelled carriers are designed to travel anywhere the regular Armed Personnel Carriers can go. They can negotiate normal roads, rice paddies, swamps, isolated areas, and even rivers.

First Lieutenant Carroll W. McDonald 27, from Radcliff, KY, Battalion transportation offi-

cer explained: "I believe the carrier can actually haul more cargo than a 5-ton truck because it has a deeper bin. The cargo track is equipped with an overhead sliding hoist. Thus, we can move large items around in the carrier. McDonald continued, we plan to continue using the 5-ton truck in areas where it can be used. But the cargo tracks will carry supplies to our troops in remote and harder to get out areas.

Supplies Seized

Tan Tru: Two 9th Division soldiers, poking through some roofing bricks during a recent sweep in a village near Tan Tru uncovered a small enemy supply cache. While operating with the 2nd battalion 60th infantry. Sergeant Charles J. Hozicko 21 of Struthers, OH, and private first class Roger Boblit 21 of Williamsburg, KY, discovered three ChiCom rifles, a large stack of documents, several water jugs, and parts and material for a printing press.

Charlie,

I would like to thank you for your work with the MRFA membership. I enjoy reading about all the guys in the MRFA and the job all of us done.

Jack Watson, 3rd/60th



LZ Hairy Adcock: Long Thanh Vietnam

Taken from the Octofoil Magazine

“They know what they’re doing--they know how to do it--and they don’t mind doing it.” Captain James Lawson a company commander for the 4th/39th Inf was describing the enemy his unit grappled with recently near Saigon.

The clash took place in a village without a name. “Actually, it isn’t a village; it is a series of hamlets stretching for about 300 meters along the canal,” Lawson said.

As the eastern half of the hamlet was being swept, the western half was receiving air and artillery support and ground troops were preparing for insertion. Company C was the first to be inserted in the western sector.

“When we first landed,” recalled Lt/Col Robert Adcock, Commander of the 4th/39th, “the landing zone was quiet. But between the first and second lifts the zone exploded with enemy fire.”

Assisted by air and artillery support including six light fire teams, Company C began returning fire. “To put it bluntly,” Adcock. “that LZ was hairy. Their bunkers were so well fortified and camouflaged that you could walk right over the top of them and not know it.”

Meanwhile Fire Support Base Sword began lobbing 81-mm mortar support coupled with a consistent barrage of artillery fire. It soon became apparent that 105- and 155-mm artillery fire was only effective with direct hits.

Air strikes were called in with 500-pound bombs, but the real damage came with the final air strike when 750-pound bombs were used.

You literally have to blow them out of their bunkers. I personally saw a dozen M-79 rounds, three grenades, and one LAW used against one bunker, and the son of a gun was still firing back.

More than 83 Viet Cong and NVA soldiers died in the 3 days of sustained fighting.

I want to thank all that made CCB-18 possible and making her the boat she is today; she is indeed a work of art. A lot of hard work and dedication by a number of members and nonmembers alike has been given in making her the proud boat she is. There’s no words I can say that will or can express my gratitude to those members of the CCB-18 working party and to those of you who have made donations and continue making donations to keep her in tiptop shape. BRAVO ZULU to each and every one of you. If you’re ever in the area and would like to visit the CCB-18, you may contact BMCS Ret Everett Jones oneerj@pacbell.net or BM1 Ret Charles “Boats” Campbell CCICE@cox.net. If you would like to make a donation to the CCB-18 fund, please make a check or money order to the MRFA for the CCB-18 fund and send to MRFA, 1857 County Rd A14 Decorah, IA 52101.

Albert “Army & Navy Rocks”

Visit www.vummf.org to take a virtual tour of the CCB-18. Click on the “Tour the Boats” tab.



Memories of the Tasty C-Rats

Robert Stoner, RStonerCRD21@msn.com

I don't remember C-rats were ever considered to be tasty. I do remember you always wanted a small bottle of Tabasco Sauce handy to liven them up. I do remember some really vile concoctions. I do remember some C-rats that were so old that we got the green can with the three "hockey puck" hamburger patties (along with an inch-thick white-greenish slab of solidified grease) that were last procured in 1958.

Almost all the cigarettes were so dried out that you got about two or three puffs and that was it.

Of the most despised of C-rations was the "beef and potatoes," the "beef with spiced sauce," and that went along with the "ham and lima beans." Many of those cans got clipped to the sides of M60 machine guns to help draw the belt to feed the gun. We threw some "beef and potatoes" C-rat cans to the Vietnamese on the shore, they took one look, and threw them back. Hmmmm!!

When using C-4 to boil water to cook your rations or make coffee or cocoa, one must never stomp on an unconsumed, still-burning piece of C-4. Reason: it will detonate with unfortunate consequences.

Pound cake was always prized. The powdered beverages weren't too bad, but the instant coffee was more like battery acid than coffee. The date pudding was ghastly. Ah, but the real prize was the Hershey's Tropical Chocolate Bar. Whatever Hershey had put into that bar gave it the consistency of concrete. It simply would NOT dissolve in boiling water, let alone melt in hot weather. You might be able to break off a chunk with the severe application of a K-bar or rifle butt. Bite off a chunk? Are you crazy? You want to break a tooth?

Some of us also remember the Long Range Patrol Rations (freeze-dried meals) that came in a green cloth, aluminum-plastic bag. The "Lurps" as they were called, came in a 24-unit case, eight separate menus to the case. Seven of the eight were quite good when reconstituted with boiling water (that's where your canteen cup and a chunk of C-4 came in handy). Allowed to settle for 10-15 minutes, you had a very good hot meal. "Lurps" only had two drawbacks for the user: (1) if you ate them for 2 to 3 weeks in a row, you needed a charge of C-4 to get your bowels regular again and (2) a spoonful of the meal would suck all the moisture in your mouth out and you need about one-third of a canteen to get things rehydrated. The most vile and disgusting of the eight meals was "pork and scalloped potatoes." To me it resembled a orange-colored puke put in a bag and freeze-dried. It was positively ghastly. Fortunately, we had three guys in our detachments who thought it was some kind of gourmet meal. They never had to want judging by the growing pile in the corner of the hooch.

Join me for a walk down memory lane.

C-Rations

Commercially prepared meals were used in the field and at times when hot meals were not available. These meals came in a case containing 12 meals. Each meal was in its own

cardboard box, which contained the individual items sealed in cans. A can opener (called both a "John Wayne" or a "P-38") was needed to open the cans. The accessory pack with each meal was sealed in a foil pouch.

This is the official Quartermaster's description of C-Rations used in Vietnam

"The Meal, Combat, Individual, is designed for issue as the tactical situation dictates, either in individual units as a meal or in multiples of three as a complete ration. Its characteristics emphasize utility, flexibility of use, and more variety of food components than were included in the Ration, Combat, Individual (C Ration) which it replaces. Twelve different menus are

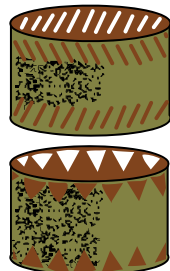
B-1 Units Meat Choices (in small cans):	B-2 Units Meat Choices (in larger cans):	B-3 Units Meat Choices (in small cans):	*Accessory Pack
Beef Steak	Beans and Wieners	Boned Chicken	Spoon, Plastic
Ham and Eggs, Chopped	Spaghetti & Meatballs	Chicken & Noodles	Salt, Pepper
Ham Slices	Beefsteak, Potatoes and Gravy	Meat Loaf	Coffee, Instant
Turkey Loaf	Ham and Lima Beans	Spiced Beef	Sugar
Fruit:		Bread, White	Creamer, Non-dairy
Applesauce	Meatballs and Beans	Cookies (4)	Gum, 2 Chicklets
Fruit Cocktail	Crackers (4)	Cocoa Beverage Powder	Cigarettes, 4 smokes/pack
Peaches	Cheese Spread, Processed	Jam	Winston
Pears	Caraway	Apple	Marlboro
Crackers (7)	Pimento	Berry	Salem
Peanut Butter	Fruit Cake	Grape	Pall Mall
Candy Disc, Chocolate	Pecan Roll	Mixed Fruit	Camel
Solid Chocolate	Pound Cake	Strawberry	Chesterfield
Cream	Accessory Pack*	Accessory Pack*	Kent
Coconut			Lucky Strike
Accessory Pack*			Kool
			Matches, Moisture Resistant Toilet Paper

If you can remember any of the others or what was with each individual meal, please e-mail me and I will update the list.

How to Make a C-Ration Stove

The small cans included in the meal were ideal for making a stove. Using a "John Wayne" pierce a series of closely spaced holes around the top and bottom rims of the can. This stove was satisfactory, but did not allow enough oxygen to enter which caused incomplete burning of the blue Trioxin heat tablet, causing fumes that irritated the eyes and respiratory tract. A whole heat tab had to be used.

A better stove was created by simply using the can opener end of a "church key" (a flat-metal device designed to open soft drink and beer containers with a bottle opener on one end and a can opener on the other commonly used before the invention of the pull tab and screw-off bottle top) to puncture triangular holes around the top and bottom rims of the can that resulted in a hotter fire and much less fumes. With this type of stove, only half a Trioxin heat tab was needed to heat the meal and then the other half could be used to heat water for coffee or cocoa. A small chunk of C-4 explosive could also be substituted for the Trioxin tablet for faster heating. It would burn hotter and was much better for heating water.



A stove was usually carried in the back pack or cargo pocket and used re-

peatedly until the metal began to fail.

Each menu contains: one canned meat item; one canned fruit, bread, or dessert item; one B unit; an accessory packet containing cigarettes, matches, chewing gum, toilet paper, coffee, cream, sugar, and salt; and a spoon. Four can openers are provided in each case of 12 meals. Although the meat item can be eaten cold, it is more palatable when heated.

Each complete meal contains approximately 1,200 calories. The daily ration of three meals provides approximately 3,600 calories."

There were four choices of meat in each B group. Because there were several "vintages" of Cs issued to the Marines in Vietnam, more than four items may be listed in the B groups as well as the brands of cigarettes included in the accessory pack.

peatedly until the metal began to fail.

How to Heat a C-Ration Meal

1. Choose the meal to be consumed.
2. Open the can lid leaving at least one-fourth inch metal attached.
3. Bend the still attached lid so that the inside of the can lid is facing 180 degrees from its original position (inside up).
4. Bend the edges of the can to form a handle.
5. Set meal on stove and heat to desired temperature, stirring frequently to prevent burning.

"Outstanding" Ham and Lima Beans

Open and heat a can of Ham and Lima Beans. When hot, add one can of cheese spread and stir until all cheese is melted.

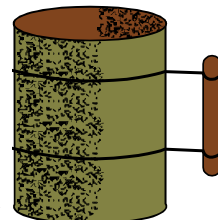
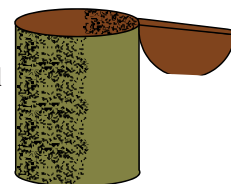
Crumble four crackers into the mixture and blend thoroughly.

Eat when the crackers have absorbed all excess moisture.

How to Make a C-Ration Coffee Cup

Obtain the B (large, dry) can from the C-ration meal.

Follow steps 2 through 4 in How to Heat a C-Ration Meal above.



CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

C-Rats

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Deluxe (Reusable) Version*

1. Remove the top of the can completely.
2. Obtain two lengths of the bailing wire off of the C-Ration case.
3. Obtain a solid, sturdy stick about 4 inches long.

4. Notch out a groove around the stick near both ends.

5. Wrap each length of wire around both top and bottom ends of the can and twist the wire around itself leaving enough twisted wire to twist around the grooves in both ends of the stick 1 inch from the can creating a very nice handle.

6. Trim off excess wire.

Memories of C-Rats

Gee Robert--you got the good stuff. We had some C-Rats from 1941/1942 along with some exotic 50 cal that blew up at the end of the barrel!! Had some Spaghetti C-Rats from 1942 that I sent to Bill Rutledge to sell on e-bay to raise money for the association. The can started to rise because of the tomatoes sauce/oil--this was in 2002--so I guess we found the shelf life, but I bet the fruit cocktail, peanut butter, and jelly was still good

Mike Worthington

The only thing I remember that was good

was the peaches. Cases that I remember from 1965 were dated 1947. The Lucky Strike cigarettes in them were the green packs with the red label, five to a pack if I remember right. There were some crackers that weren't too bad, the rest we fed to the fish. Randy

You guys forgot to mix the Nuk Mom with your C-Rats, that's why they were not tasty!

Jerry

Doesn't anyone remember the beans and franks? I thought they were quite tasty. The GODBEHERE PATROL's monkey, Jocko, would fight you for them.

Coop

My Tho – Some Were Dragged

By SP4 Richard P. Smith

Tet in My Tho embodied none of the gaiety and laughter of past centuries.

The legendary good spirit of the hearth, Ong Tao, reported to the Heavenly Jade on what he had observed in the home. He reported a mother clutching her lifeless child, while an early February wind blew the dank ashes of 20 percent of the city across her flower-bedecked porch.

During Tet, tradition holds that families should not borrow fire from friends, but they should be near their own fire during this most solemn season.

In smoldering My Tho, the hospital seemed the only refuge. Over 900 wounded villagers crowded into the 125 available beds, spilling over into the aisles and corridors. Two bewildered Vietnamese doctors began to do what they could, which seemed inadequate in the overwhelming situation. Women lay in the corridors, nursing their children, as blood-caked and dried-clung to the walls and dust billowed through shattered second story windows. Aimlessly they came, the dazed and the maimed. Some walked, some were helped, some were dragged.

Five days of holiday fighting in My Tho, the Ding Tuong Province capital, had taken their toll. More than 115 Viet Cong terrorists had been killed, but not before the civilian population had felt the purge.

Countless Vietnamese were left homeless, amid untold damage to this once prosperous seaport town. The attack had been launched several hours after the start of a VC-declared ceasefire for the Lunar New Year.

After the village elder called for American medical aid, an assessment survey team from the 9th Infantry Division was sent in. They found meager medical supplies and an inadequate staff, ill-equipped to handle mass casualties.

Lieutenant Colonel Travis Blackwell, Alexan-

dria, VA., Division surgeon, immediately flew into the city by helicopter. He was met there by a medical team from Company D, 9th medical Battalion under the direction of Captain James Smolko, York, PA.

"It was a nightmare. The villagers had no one to take care of them. There were gunshot wounds, shrapnel, massive bleeding. I began breaking them down into three groups. The first group needed immediate operations to save their lives. The second group were seriously wounded and the third group were those convalescing," Blackwell explained.

Blackwell immediately set up a 24-hour operating schedule in the hospital and 35 life-saving operations were performed the first day. "There were so many casualties that needed immediate operations and there were only four operating suites. I was forced to perform 10 operations outside the hospital in the open air," said Blackwell.

With a staff and surgical equipment, Blackwell diligently began performing amputations and other major surgical operations in the street in front of the hospital while savage fighting flared throughout the city.

"I would like to commend the American nurses working in the hospital. They worked round the clock without stopping from one operation to the next, all night long. At one point the battle was being waged right in front of the hospital and these women continued their work undaunted. They were magnificent," Blackwell said.

At 2 a.m., Feb. 5, these nurses administered over 500 injections of penicillin in an effort to curb the widespread infections.

With the hospital secure, treatment of patients continued until some semblance of hygiene had been restored. Four hundred pounds of medical equipment were being flown in as fast as possible.

MRFA Trailer Gets A New Home

The MRFA Memorial Trailer has a new permanent home. Thanks to Rich Corrick for all his hard work and effort in construction of the building and the clearing of the land.



House-to-house fighting raged as American infantrymen moved down the streets pushing the terrorists out of the city.

Some villagers stood alongside the road in the center of town, their eyes vacant. Children, continuing to gather what was left in the ruins, forgot to wave.

One young boy came up to this reporter, face streaked from tears, and shook my hand. "Thank you, American GI. Same, same." He quickly disappeared into the rubble.

This was Tet in My Tho, the brightest festival of the year--communist style.

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Mobile Riverine Story December 2009

By Tom Smith smith1041@aol.com

I have always enjoyed the stories written by our Association Members. The insight into what really happened during our amazing but short military history says much about the quality of the individuals involved. This level of high achievement during our youth has cast us together forever. This fact was recently affirmed by the article "The History of the MRFA" written by Albert Moore in the WINTER 2009 issue. Yes, long ago and far away, a group of complete strangers wearing various Army and Navy uniforms, and some a combination of both, joined together in what has become a lifelong association.

My introduction to the MRF started in March of 1967. I arrived in Vietnam and was assigned to the 9th Supply and Transportation Battalion where I was informed by the Company Commander of my assignment. I would be part of the first Army team sent to setup and run the supply point on a Navy LST. This would include all supply materials and a Graves registration unit. He was lacking most of the details of what this required or how it would be done. The groups being sent from the Bearcat Base were all long time, Fort Riley trained, experience soldiers. Somehow along the way I was selected for this assignment before I ever arrived in-Country. The captain wished me good luck and told me to expect to attend a few meetings to meet my team and its leaders.

The lead NCO would be Sgt. James Reynolds and he found me the next day and told me to stay packed and that we would be going to a place called Vung Tau in a few weeks. During that time I checked in with the Company supply sergeant, Sgt. Young, and drew my weapon and assorted Vietnam gear. I didn't realize it then but I was going on the adventure of a lifetime!

Upon arriving in Vung Tau we were assigned to our barracks and started to meet with Captain Kimbrough and Staff Sergeant Pennyman. They stressed the need for accurate record keeping so we could take cycle inventory counts and order things needed off the inventory cards. SSgt. Pennyman took a liking to me and taught me all aspects of the supply flow for our mission. We were giving the original material layout for the "Tank Deck" of the LST. It was the beginning of an ongoing management style "here is what we think but you guys can adjust anything to make it work."

Our next step was moving onto the LST Kemper County which would be our first supply base and home. Using the Navy's diesel fueled fork lift we slowly moved the tons of supplies into their assigned place and then to a better location that made more sense. When the GR refrigeration unit arrived everyone become more somber and the reality of the mission was front and center. We still did not know about the OTHER ships that were part of the MRF or even the various Navy Monitors, Tangos, etc., that we would support.

The crew of the Kemper County really made us feel at home. They introduced us to the Navy lingo, for and aft, starboard and port, the fan-tail, sweepers man your brooms, etc., we were told that 'the Boatsman' were the stars of the

show and everyone else was along for a free cruise. They taught us how to take Navy showers in cold salt water and later told us "that was a special treat just for us" as they laughingly took hot showers with normal water. We spent lots of time mixing in with the Kemper County crew and talking about home, girls, the War, and all the stuff young guys away from home spend



down time discussing. Finally the word came that we were going down to Dong Tam and the Mekong River for a shake down cruise and to join the other ships.

During this trip we had our first serious meeting on the Graves Registration function and what we could do to help the real GR people do their jobs. Most of the Pros hadn't really processed that many remains but did know all the procedures, paperwork and security issues that would form the core values of the team for the length of the MRF. We met with the Navy Chiefs on how to bring remains aboard from Navy vessels alongside the LST. We practiced how to receive them via helicopter and then lower them through the receiving hole and into the tank deck area. Once down below the training started on how to identify, respectfully handle, and send them off to Saigon for final processing and shipment home. Sgt. Reynolds did an outstanding job of bringing our team together on this topic and everyone, including the Kemper County crew, promised to help when the time arrived.

The time line by now would be late May and word has been received that we would start to change LST every two months. The resources of the LST were being used up quicker than expected. Command also wanted to increase to the larger 1100 series LST and add tons of all kinds of ammo and artillery rounds. Our team would be expanded to include some ammo supply experts and we would support their activities. In fact we were advised to start and plan for a 24 hour, seven day a week support of the army and Navy Combat units.

During this time we recovered our first body off the shores of Dong Tam. The most surprising thing was that the body turned out to be Sgt. Young the first person I met in supply upon arriving in Bear Cat. Most of my co-workers knew him and that made it very personal. That feeling carried forward with each recovered remains during the 15 months I was with the Mobile Riverine Force.

During the early part of June, the ships were moved down the Mekong River a few times and the Army and Navy combat troops were deployed. They were put into various positions and situations to prepare for later combat-related roles. No one took this lightly and I

sure don't want to leave the impression that it was like practice on a beach in California. The change of LSTs would start around June 16th and should take about five days of around the clock operations. When the new LST is setup they will also berth a Company of Infantry and some additional supply support personnel for each Company. They would maintain radio field contact with their units and respond to resupply needs with especially quick turn around via helicopter.

This was also the beginning of Operation Concordia. This focused on Long An Province and the Can/Guio District. The battle of Ad Bac Hamlet has been detailed in many of the prior editions of River Currents. Many of our brave infantry were wounded and A Company 4th/47th lost 28 men on June 19th.

We were all in shock and felt helpless as the reports came back of the supply needs and the loss of our fellow soldiers. The whole Mobile Riverine Force got a wakeup call to the reality of war. No matter what your MOS was or affiliation to the Army or Navy the Vietnam War became your War starting with the Battle of Ap Bac Hamlet.

The transfer of material from the Kemper County to the new LST, USS Vernon County 1161, had started and we were tied up side by side to help speed up the transfer. We were alerted by S-4 to prepare to receive some of the remains and were asked to send back to the field a few GR team members to help with the evacuation. This depleted the number of people we had available (staff was less than 8) and some of them had been working on the transfer project for the last 24 hours. Nobody was complaining but we were stretched very thin!

We had stacked about 35 stretchers on the Vernon County main deck and were prepared to unload the remains and load the helicopters with some of the much needed supplies. However no one was really prepared for the reality of what was about to unfold on the deck of the new LST.

Multiple helicopters circled the LST landing zone carrying the remains of the 28 soldiers killed in Company A. There were other Companies that lost men during the Battle as they fought to rescue A Company and secure the area for evacuating the wounded. The nightmare of this battle spread throughout the Second Brigade of the Ninth Infantry Division. We would start with the first helicopter and go on from there.

In order to unload seven of our dead comrades per helicopter we would need help. I can remember climbing into the helicopter to start removing the first group and helping to load on some supplies and our GR personnel. We then started to move the remains on stretchers to the area for transfer down to the GR site. The second helicopter was moving into land and we really weren't ready. Looking up I could see our Navy friends from the Kemper County standing topside along the rail looking shocked and helpless. We weren't on their ship but they knew what needed to be done. We had not even met the new LST crew and you could not blame them for doing their job first and not thinking of ours. With the landing of the second helicopter we started to unload the remains and as if

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Mobile Riverine Story

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

on queue the deck crew of the Kemper County came running to grab the stretchers and move them toward the deck opening down to the tank deck. This effort continued with each additional landing of a helicopter until all the remains were onboard and ready to be processed. Several of the Kemper County crew even came down to the tank deck and helped move the remains from the hold area down to the GR process site in the bow of the ship.

From that point the "GR" professionals did their jobs, often showed us what to do and how to help. We processed the paperwork, got the Medical staff to sign the death certificates and establish the cause of death. Plans were made

to provide escorts on each helicopter to Saigon with the remains. Within 24 hours the Infantry units and Navy ships had been repositioned and all wounded, KIAs, equipment and weapons had been recovered.

June 19, 1967, was one of the worst days in MRF history. I served on seven LSTs during my 15 months with the MRF and the 9th Infantry Division. Many times I have heard a retelling of that June 19th event from the Navy side of things. It set a standard for every following LST crew to try and live up to. I really wrote this story to try and place some honor on the Kemper County and its fine crew who seem to be forgotten in the history of the Mobile Riverine Force.

Over the last 42 years, I know when that date is approaching and always remember those

who fought and those who died during that battle. The names of most of our comrades in arms have long since faded in my memory. The names of those that died are remembered by their families, their close squad and platoon members, and all others on the Wall in Washington, DC.

Tom Smith, NCOIC 9th Inf. Forward Support MRF

Please note my memory, like all those of a certain age, may have slipped a little and any missing data, names, etc., is my fault and not an omission aimed at not reporting the facts.

I served from April 1967 to June 1968. I would love to hear about any related event from that point until the end of the MRF, especially the mining of the Westchester County on which I served twice.

9th Infantry Division Vietnam 1966-1970

The 9th Infantry Division had the dual honor of being the first division since World War II reactivated for direct deployment into combat and the last division sent to Vietnam. The Division had received its colors at Fort Riley, Kansas, on February 1, 1966. Division engineering elements began arriving in Vietnam in October 1966. The first 5,000-troop contingent landed on the beaches of Vinh Long on December 19, 1966. Division headquarters was at Camp Bearcat (formerly Camp Martin Cox) some 20 miles northeast of Saigon. Construction of a permanent base, Camp Dong Tam, in the VC-infested Mekong Delta started in January 1967. Initially, it housed the Division's 3rd Brigade Headquarters and the 3/60 Infantry Battalion.



The Division's first significant contact with the enemy occurred on January 20, 1967, when units of the 1st and 2nd Brigades and the 3/5 Cavalry--participating in Operation COLBY--defeated Main Force VC in the Phuoc Chi Secret Zone (25 miles east of Saigon). On March 10, 1967, the 2nd Brigade moved into Camp Dong Tam and the 3rd Brigade relocated northward to Tan An. To improve Division mobility in the inundated Mekong Delta and Rung Sat Special Zone, two battalions from 2nd Brigade--the 3/47 and 4/47--joined U.S. Navy Task Force 117 afloat in June to establish the Mobile Riverine Force. To bolster armored fire power in I Corps Tactical Zone, the commander of Allied Forces in Vietnam ordered the Division's armor reconnaissance squadrons--A, B, and C Troops, 3/5

Black Knights Cavalry--to Wunder Beach (15 miles south of the Demilitarized Zone) in February 1968. This reassignment distinguished the 9th Infantry Division as the most widespread division in Vietnam. In August 1968, the Division relocated its headquarters and colors to Dong Tam (now a division-size base camp).

The 9th Infantry Division was part of Increment I of the U.S. troop withdrawal from South Vietnam. The 1st and 2nd Brigades, along with Division headquarters, departed Vietnam in July and August 1969 leaving the 3rd Brigade at Tan An to operate as an autonomous combat unit under administrative control of the 25th Infantry Division. The 3/60 Infantry had been given the honor of spearheading the Division's withdrawal by departing on July 8, 1969--the first 9th Infantry Division battalion to go home. The lone 3rd Brigade withdrew a year later during October 1970 as part of Increment IV.

9th Infantry Division Vietnam Era Unit Information

Hq and Hq Co., 9th Inf Div Dec '66-Aug '69
Hq and Hq Co., 1st Bde, 9th Inf Div Jan '67-Aug '69
Hq and Hq Co., 2nd Bde, 9th Inf Div Jan '67-Jul '69
Hq and Hq Co., 3rd Bde, 9th Inf Div Dec '66-Oct '70*
Hq and Hq Bty, Div Artillery ' Dec '66-18 Aug '69
Hq / Hq Co., Div Support Command ' Dec '66-27 Aug '69
6th Bn/31st Inf Apr '68-Oct '70* Began with 3rd Bde
2nd Bn/39th Inf Jan '67-Aug '69 Began with 1st Bde
3rd Bn/39th Inf Jan '67-Aug '69 Began with 3rd Bde
4th Bn/39th Inf Jan '67-Jul '69 Began with 1st Bde
2nd Bn/47th Inf (Mech) Jan '67-Oct '70* Began with 2nd Bde
3rd Bn/47th Inf (Riv.) Jan '67-Jul '69 Began with 2nd Bde
4th Bn/47th Inf (Riv.) Jan '67-Jul '69 Began with 2nd Bde
2nd Bn/60th Inf Dec '66-Oct '70* Began with 3rd Bde
3rd Bn/60th Inf (Riv.) Dec '66-Jul '69 Began with 3rd Bde
5th Bn/60th Inf (Mech) 1 Dec '66-Oct '70* Began with 3rd Bde

Coy E/50th Inf : Co. E/75th Inf2 Dec '67-Aug '69

Coy E/75th Inf Oct '69-Oct '70*

3rd Sqn/5th Cav Feb '67-Nov '713

9th Avn Bn Jan '67-Aug '69

2nd Bn/4th Art (105mm How) Jan '67-Oct '70*

1st Bn/11th Art (105mm How) Jan '67-Aug '69

3rd Bn/34th Art (105mm How) (Riverine) Dec '66-Jul '69

1st Bn/84th Art (155mm How/8" How) Feb '67-Aug '69

15th Engr Bn Oct '66-Aug '69

571st Engr Co. Oct '69-Oct '70**

9th Medical Bn 4 Jan '67-18 Aug '69

9th Signal Bn ' Dec '66-' Aug '69

I am sure there may be some dates that are not correct but it's the info we received from the National Archives and from some Army records.

Activated 1 Feb 1966 for service in Vietnam and sent there Dec 1966-Jan 1967. The division served in III and IV CTZ, and its 2nd Brigade was the Army component of the Mobile Riverine Force. Division headquarters was at Bearcat Dec 1966-Jul 1968 and Dong Tam Aug 1968-Aug 1969. The 9th Infantry Division began withdrawing in summer 1969, leaving its 3rd Brigade behind as a separate unit (under command of 25th Infantry Division) until Oct 1970.

9th Supply and Transport Bn 16 Dec '66-23 Aug '69

709th Maint Bn 26 Jan '67-20 Aug '69

9th Admin Co. 30 Dec '66-26 Aug '69

9th MP Co. ' Dec '66-25 Sep '69

335th ASA Co. 12 Jan '67-5 Apr '71

99th Support Bn 1 Oct '69-12 Oct '70**

* Remained as element of separate 3rd Brigade, 9th Infantry Division.

** Formed as element of separate 3rd Brigade, 9th Inf. Div. Notes:

1. Gave up mechanized equipment and converted to infantry Sep '68

2. Co. E/50th Infantry (LRP) inactivated 1 Feb '69 and as-sests used to form Co. E/75th Infantry (Ranger).

3. Remained with the separate 3rd Brigade, 9th Infantry Division until that unit left and then served as GHQ unit, moving to the I CTZ in the north.

Arrivals and Departures by Brigade

1st Brigade, 9th Inf Div Jan '67-Aug '69

2nd Bn/39th Inf Jan '67-Aug '69

4th Bn/39th Inf Jan '67-Jan '68

2nd Bn(M)/47th Inf Jun '67-May '68

2nd Bn/60th Inf Apr '68-Nov '68

6th Bn/31st Inf Aug '68-May '70

4th Bn/39th Inf [2] Dec '68-Jul '69

3rd Bn/39th Inf Mar '69-Aug '69

2nd Brigade, 9th Inf Div Jan '67-Jul '69

2nd Bn(M)/47th Inf Jan '67-May '67

3rd Bn/47th Inf Jan '67-Jul '69 Riverine from Jun '67

4th Bn/47th Inf Jan '67-Jul '69 Riverine from Jun '67

3rd Bn/60th Inf Mar '67-Jul '69 Riverine from Jun '67

2nd Bn(M)/47th Inf [2] Jun '68-Jul '69

3rd Brigade, 9th Inf Div Dec '66-Oct '70

2nd Bn/60th Inf Dec '66-Mar '68

3rd Bn/60th Inf Dec '66-Feb '67

5th Bn(M)/60th Inf Dec '66-Oct '70 gave up mechanized equipment Sep '68

3rd Bn/39th Inf Jan '67-Feb '69

4th Bn/39th Inf Feb '68-Nov '68

6th Bn/31st Inf Apr '68-Jun '68

2nd Bn(M)/47th Inf Aug '68-Oct '70

2nd Bn/60th Inf [2] Dec '68-Oct '70

6th Bn/31st Inf [2] Jun '70-Oct '70

The DS artillery battalions were shifted. 3rd/34th, for example, was initially in DS of 3rd Brigade, but then shifted to 2nd Brigade and the Riverine role. 2nd/4th was initially in DS of 2nd Brigade, but shifted to 3rd Brigade by the time it became a separate unit in summer '69.

1st/11th is also shown as having first served in DS of 2nd Brigade.

2nd Bn/4th Art (105mm How) Jan '67-Oct '70*

1st Bn/11th Art (105mm How) Jan '67-Aug '69

3rd Bn/34th Art (105mm How) (Riverine) Dec '66-Jul '69

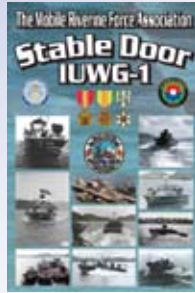
BANNER ORDER FORM



A - TF115-TF116



B - WHITE RIVER



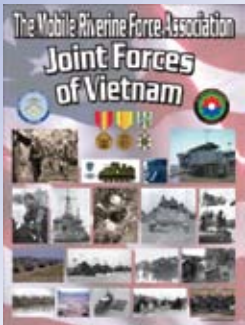
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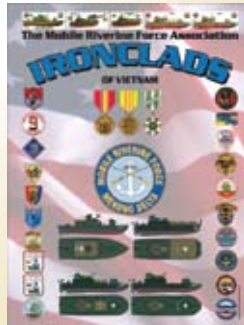
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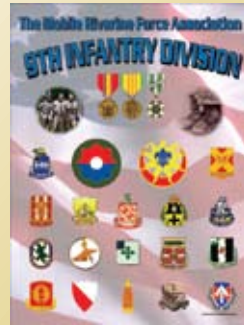
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May your family and friends comfort you in this time of great loss.

Member **George W. Schneider** passed away on December 13, 2009. He had been sick for a few years with Agent Orange-related cancer. Although sick, George never missed a reunion. At our last reunion, he and I spoke and he said it would be his last reunion. George needed help getting around but he never complained. He was really a fighter and also a darn good shipmate. I asked the Executor if there was a next-of-kin he said "no." George had also told me that he had no one left. I will really miss George he was really a great guy. George served onboard the USS Benewah as an EN2 October 1967 to December 1968.



Member **Terrence Golden** passed away January 21, 2008. He served in the Navy (1969-70). You may contact the family c/o Christine Golden, 401 Varsity Dr, Throop PA 18512.

Member **BMC Chief Michael Quigley** passed away February 5, 2010. He was 84 years old. Michael served in the Navy for 32 years and was a WW-II, Korean, and Vietnam Veteran. During the Vietnam War, Chief Quigley served on YRBM-16 (1967-68). You may contact his wife Edna Quigley c/o 528 Mountain View St SW, Lenoir, NC 28645, 828-754-0551. We have lost two of the association's WW-II, Korean, and Vietnam Veterans within the last month. May our brothers and Sisters all rest in peace.



Andrew (Andy) Wampler died December 27, 2009. Andy served on T-92-6 (01/65-09/68). You may contact his wife Pauline, at 7425 Convair Dr, Corpus Christi TX 78412-5145, 361-992-4261. May our brother rest in peace.



LT John "Jack" Lynch (USN Ret.) suffered a cardiac arrest due to arrhythmia on February 2, 2010. He completed his mission and reported for a new assignment at 4:20 p.m. with his family at his side. Jack joined the U.S. Navy at the age of 17 and served honorably for 22 years. He graduated from Underwater Demolition Team Replacement Training BUDs Class 29 and had a distinguished and diverse career as a U.S. Navy SEAL, surface warfare officer, saturation diving and salvage officer, and Navy parachutist. Jack was the current President of the UDT-SEAL Assoc.

Member **Mackroy White, USN (Ret)**, passed away in the second week of March 2010. Mackroy served in

RivRon-15 (4/68-1/70). You may contact his brother Tom White, at PO Box 181, Princeton, IN 47670, 812-386-7500, molliedawg.hound@yahoo.com.

Member **William Wolverton** passed away March 13, 2010. William served as a BM2 on Tango-111-5 (09/67-10/68). You may contact his wife Dorothy at 8 Lily Cv, Huntsville, TX 77340-2338, 936-436-1134.

Heido Dalquen-Cook wife of Member Randall G. Cook passed away (elle est morte) in the afternoon of Thursday, February 18, 2010. She was not in pain and died in her sleep. Heido was a strong lady and she fought a very hard and courageous battle to overcome her cancer; she gave it all she had. May our Sister Heido Dalquen-Cook rest in peace and in the arms of our Lord. Randall served on the USS Monmouth City LST-1032 in 1970 as a LT. You may contact Randall c/o 414 E. Shubert St, Fredricksburg, TX 78624, kw662@aol.com.



"Sadly, I must tell you that I lost My Jessie this morning, a few minutes after 1100 am. June 10th, 2010. We took her off life support and she was gone in a few minutes. She now is with God and her family. Thank all of you for your kind wishes and prayers."

- Fritz

Jessie Turner is the wife of member Dean "Fritz" Turner. She had been in declining health for a couple years. Jessie was a real fighter as she fought her cancer to the end. May our sister, Jessie Turner, rest in peace. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family. Dean "Fritz" Turner served on the USS Brule AKL-28 (Vietnam) 10/66-10/68. You may contact Dean c/o 8700 N West Lane, Space 207, Stockton, CA 95210, deanturner@sbcglobal.net.



Get Well Wishes

Ray Shockley fell off a ladder, Saturday, May 15, and is now convalescing at home. He will be incapacitated for most of the summer; no driving, mowing, or even weight bearing for quite awhile. You may contact Ray Shockley at 3951 W 100 N, Kokomo, IN 46901-3891, 765-452-6040, or jesshock_us@yahoo.com. Ray was with E Co. 4th/47th Infantry (01/67-11/67). His wife Jeanne mentioned that he welcomes calls.

MRFA Vice President Roy Moseman has been under the weather with a couple of health issues but is now up and about and feeling much better. You may contact Roy at 180 Riverview Rd., Athens, GA 30606, 706-549-0749 moseman@charter.net. Roy served with C Co 4th/47th Infantry.

MRFA member **David H. Schoenian** has also been under the weather. Dave recently had a pacemaker put in. Dave says he now feels 100% better. You may contact Dave c/o 1007 Wheeling Ave., Glen Dale, WV 26038, 304-845-5574, hschoenian@comcast.net. Dave served with C Co 4th/47th Infantry.

In Memory Of

This section is for members who wish to sponsor the MRFA by placing a notice in memory of one of their fallen comrades. In some cases, the name of the sponsor will precede the name of the person who was KIA, or has passed on since Vietnam. It's \$25 for four issues.

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Brothers of the 2nd/47th Inf for all Army and Navy KIAs Frank Buck for son Frank H. Buck ENFM USN T-92-10 KIA 12/28/67

Michael Connolly for LTJG James Francis Rost, Jr., RivDiv 132, KIA November 1969

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Joe Hilliard for Joe Benack from Florida and Donald Hartzell from Pennsylvania

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David Lynn for Howard Burns (QM2), Robert Bouchet (SM2), and Herman Miller (GM3) IUWG 1-3 Qui Nlon KIA 8/11/68

Lee "Tex" McKean GMG2 for James "Buddy" Hood GMG2 USS White River LSMR 536

Men of C Co 4th/47th 1967 for our Brothers KIA 03/19/67 Benito Alaniz; MIA 04/09/67 Ronald P. Schworer; KIA 04/13/67 Charles "Duffy" Black; KIA 05/15/67 Donald M. Peterson; KIA 06/19/67 Robert J. Cara, Robert J. Jindra, Timothy A. Johnson, Forrest L. Ramos, Cameron A. Rice, David A. Robin, Sheldon B. Schulman, Hubert J. Fink, Kenneth D. Frakes, William M. Geier, John L. Winters; KIA 07/11/67 Marion "Butch" Eakins, Elmer F. Kenney, Harold W. King, Philip A. Ferro, George E. Smith; KIA 07/29/67 Cecil B. Bridges; KIA 09/29/67 James M. Sunday; KIA 10/06/67 Gale A. Alldridge, Danny D. Burkhead, Charles W. Davis; KIA 11/10/67 Charles W. Grizzle; and KIA 05/06/68 John T. Hoskins

Adam Metts for Donald L. Bruckart T-111-2 KIA 03/31/69 A R "Monti" Montillo for William "Bulldog" McLaughlin B Co 3rd/60th KIA 10/03/68 and Barry "Butch" Copp B Co 3rd/60th KIA 10/28/68

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Dave Remore for Paco 3rd/60th Inf KIA 05/02/67 and Bandido Charlie 5th/60th Inf KIA 07/30/67

Chet "Gunner" Stanley for all the USN and USA KIAs of the MRFA (1967-70)

Ken Sundberg for Michael David Sheahan 5th/60th KIA 02/25/68, Robert L. Conley 5th/60th KIA 02/01/68, and Glenn Dean Taylor 5th/60th KIA 02/01/68

Robert Sutton for LT James Frost Vin Te Canal Chau Duc KIA 11/69

Robert Thacker for SFC Earl T. Pelhan Jr. KIA 15th Combat Engineers

Steven Totcoff for my brother CPL Dennis S. Totcoff B Co 3rd/47th KIA 5/2/68

USS Guide MSO-447 for Shipmate and Brother Harold Foster Ronald Wallace for all those lost in 3rd/47th

Gary Williams for Dale Winkel C Co. 3rd/60th 9th Inf (01/68-01/69)

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