

THE RED 5 DIAMOND

The official publication of The Society of the Fifth Division, United States Army.

Volume XCVII, Issue 2

May 2018

Annual Dues: \$15

A Return Visit to Vietnam

Highway 1
Perfume River
Hue
Citadel
Thien Mu Pagoda
Quang Tri City
Dong Ha
Bridge
Ben Hai River
Gio Linh
Alpha 4
Con Thien
C-2
Rockpile
Leatherneck Square
eGio Linh
Cam Lo
Camp Carroll
Da Nang
China Beach
Que Son Mtn's
My Son Holyland



Dennis Coulter

“WE WILL”

Deadline for next issue: July 10, 2018

2017 – 2018 Society of the Fifth Division Officers – Roster

Objectives of the Society

A. To perpetuate and memorialize the valiant acts and patriotic deeds of the Fifth Division; to electrify and unify that invisible current of fellowship, friendship and comradeship molded in the throes of war and the exigencies of a peacetime service, and promote the interests and welfare of its members.

B. To publish and preserve the history of the accomplishments of the Fifth Division and the Society, in war and peace, and set forth the gallant and heroic deeds of its members.

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENTS

- *Maj. Gen. Hanson E. Ely (1919-22,24-25)
- *Col. Philip J. McCook (1922-23)
- *Dr. E. C. Morton (1925-28)
- *Maj. Gen. Paul B. Malone (1929-30)
- *Capt. Peter Murphy (1930)
- *Maj. Walter E. Aebischer (1930-32)
- *Capt. Peter P. Zion (1932-34)
- *W. Walter Healy (1934-35)
- *Lloyd A. Reder (1935-37)
- *Col. Henry Clay Bate (1937-38)
- *William Barton Bruce, Sr. (1938-39)
- *Emil Everts (1939-41)
- *A. Lincoln Bradbury (1941-45)
- *William Gibbs (1945-46)
- *John W. Fonner (1946-48)
- *William L. McGrory (1948-49)
- *Kenyon Stevenson (1949-50)
- *Charles A. O'Connell, Jr. (1950-51)
- *John H. Pflaum (1951-53)
- *Frederick F. Specht (1953-54)
- *John H. Baskin (1954-55)
- *Walter R. Stout (1955-57)
- *Frank H. Deane (1957-58)
- *Edward Pivovar (1958-59)
- *T. Earl McNaney (1956-60)
- *Russell S. Fisher (1960-62)
- *Gordon S. Henry (1962-63)
- *John J. Madison (1963-65)
- *Herbert K. Webb (1965-66)
- *Charles P. DeRose (1966-67)
- *Victor Dunneback (1967-68)
- *Winston Roche (1968-69)
- *Ervin J. Kotowski (1969-70)
- *Herbert Ginsburgh (1970-71)
- *Aubrey Prewitt (1971-72)
- *Michael S. O'Donnell (1972-73)
- *Virgil Scheibel (1973-74)
- *Frank Kolimaga (1974-75)
- *Kenneth Anderson (1975-76)
- *Howard Singer (1976-77)
- *Robert Young (1977-78)
- *Stanley Piotrowski (1978-79)
- *George Bachman (1979-80)
- *Harry Arquette (1980-81)
- *William Stanfield (1981-82)
- *Guido Bemasconi (1982-83)
- *Msr. Harold Prudell (1983-84)
- *Chester Ball (1984-85)
- *William Colon (1985-86)
- *Robert Graves (1986-87)
- *Herman Schell (1987-88)
- *William Stanfield (1988-89)
- *John Goodman (1989-90)
- *William Upham (1990-91)
- *Bradley Brewer (1991-92)
- *Harry Arquette (1992-93)
- *Robert Rochon (1993-94)
- *Charles Coco (1994-95)
- *Michael Giannini (1995-96)
- *Don Brown (1996-97)
- *Cullen Stone (1997-98)
- *Jay Balderson (1998-99)
- *Jimmy C. Walker (1999-2000)
- *Mickey McCoy (2000-01)
- *Carl M. Hiestand (2001-02)
- *Robert M. Rochell (2002-03)
- *James A. Landry (2003-04)
- *Mike Sperling (2004-05)
- *Phil Maniscalco (2005-07)
- *Jim Spiller (2007-08)
- *Pat Andreoni (2008-09)
- *James "JJ" Jackson (2009-10)
- *Bernie "Buck" Kean (2010-12)
- *Steve Wheat (2012-13)
- *Bobby Moody (2013-2014)
- *Wayne Cumer (2014-2015)
- *Robb Robertson (2015-2016)
- *Bob Dudley (2016-2017)

*Deceased

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Greetings from Georgia

Warm weather is here and soon it will be hot. I am already looking to cooler times in the fall because that will be when we hold the 98th Reunion of the Society of the Fifth Division. That's right, the 98th Reunion will be held in Norfolk, Virginia at the Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel. The Reunion will begin on Thursday, September 27 and end with our banquet on Sunday night September 30. I have found Norfolk to be a wonderful city with something for everyone. A registration form has been provided in this issue of the Red Diamond or you may register online with Armed Forces Reunions, Inc at www.afr-reg.com/society2018. I hope you will be taking the tour of Williamsburg on Friday.

Also consider Saturday's tour of the McArthur Memorial and the harbor lunch cruise on the Spirit of Norfolk. As you fill out your registration form, please consider a donation to support our hospitality room. The cutoff date for registration is August 23, 2018 so register soon. Please make your hotel reservations directly with Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel and reference the Society of the Fifth Division to enable the Society to receive credit and for you to get the reduced daily hotel rate and your continental breakfast tickets. The telephone number for the hotel is (800) 325-3535 or 622-6664. Their web site www.sheratonnorfolkwaterside.com.

If you have attended past Reunions, you may have noticed the Reunion Booklet included in your registration packet. You may wonder why these photos and messages are included in this booklet and what is the purpose. Reunions are expensive as you well know. Every year, an effort is made to have a reunion that does not cost the

Society financially. The Reunion Booklet is one way that we collect money to offset the Reunion Expenses. You may submit a picture, a congratulatory message or advertisement to Steve Wheat, our editor.



I want to thank the volunteer members of the Executive Committee for their continuing efforts to promote The Society of the Fifth Division. Yes, I said volunteer members. Maybe you would like to become more involved in the business of the Society. The Nominating Committee has been appointed and would appreciate your offer to volunteer for positions on the board. Please contact Phil Maniscalco, Chairman of the Nominating Committee if you are interested.

Members, don't forget to find new members for our Society. If you know someone who has served with the 5th Infantry Division and is not a member of the Society, encourage them to join. You may want to "Gift" them a membership for a year to get them involved. Just send their information and the membership fee of \$15.00 to John Estrada, National Secretary. Finally, I would like to give Joe Boman a huge thank you. Last year Bob Dudley asked his neighbor, Joe Boman, to help him with our web site. Joe has done more than just help with the website. He has become the Web Master for the Society of the Fifth Division. I invite you all to check out our web site and see what Joe has done. THANKS JOE. Judy and I hope to see ya'll in Norfolk in September.

— Dennis Thompson



During the past week I had the pleasure to have a nice conversation with our First Co-Vice President, Alex Candelaraia to let him know how things are going with planning the 99th Reunion of the Society of the Fifth Division that will be held in San Diego California in the seemingly distant year of 2020. One of the things that Alex had in mind early on in the planning phase was that he wants this reunion to in part recognize all of the hard work that the 75th Support Battalion did in Viet Nam as part of the Fifth Inf. Div. (mech). For any members who served with the 75th please come and invite all of your comrades to this special gathering.

The planning committee met early in April which consists of myself and Col William Baugh, Phil Maniscalco, Mike Sperling, and Alex Candelaria. We discussed the tours, the location, a unique entertainment performance and the menu among all of the details that will go into every Reunion. The summary of our teleconference is this: Things are going on time and in sequence for what will be a very memorable reunion. Having help in part from one of our members a San Diego resident (Col. William Baugh) who knows a lot of the ground surveillance intelligence giving us valuable insights and with the help of the rest of our committee we intend to make it a regular barn burner Reunion. More about this will come in subsequent Red Diamond reports.

Stephen Wheat

Reunion Book Program Advertisement Order Form

We encourage everyone to place an ad in the Reunion Program Book. It is a great way to give a shout out to your friends if you can't make it to the reunion. Also remember, if you are attending, an ad is an excellent means to express your "*special message*" to the best soldiers and friends you will ever meet.

This year the ads will be all one page in size and you can add a photo all for one low price. A single page ad is 4.5" wide and 7.5" tall. With that amount of page space the size of the print and photo are a major factor in making your message readable, so stick to one paragraph. Using your hardcopy or *soft copy photos and words, I will do my best to make something you will be glad to have your friends receive. Net proceeds from the Program Book go toward the reunion expenses. The deadline for ad submission is August 5, 2018.

Full Page Ad – (4.5" x 7.5") Cost \$50.00

Please send our hardcopy ad or photos along with your check or money order made payable to the Society of the Fifth Division US Army for the total amount to the Editor:

**Steve Wheat
4838 Rockledge Trail
Smithton, IL 62285**

***For soft copy ad submissions send to: wheatsco@gmail.com**

Some Thoughts from the Second Vice President

It has been a long, cold winter. There were many nights with the low temperature in the single digits here in Kansas. Even after the vernal equinox, a warmer day would be followed by a week of freezing temperatures. But now spring has come. The days are warm, the nights are cool and every plant and tree is budding. Green is such a wonderful color. Unfortunately, with all this beautiful weather to enjoy, there is only one national holiday in the springtime—Memorial Day.

My wife and I disagree on what Memorial Day is all about. She says it is a holiday to remember those who died while serving in the Armed Forces. For me, it is a holiday to remember deceased family, friends, local and national leaders, as well as, veterans. My version comes from growing up in the South. On a Sunday toward the end of May, every cemetery (or more often church cemetery) would have a memorial or decorations day. This always included “dinner on the grounds” and flowers were placed on the graves. It turns out that *Wikipedia* says my wife is right. Of course, we all know *Wikipedia* is full of fake news. Either way, Memorial Day centers on understanding and paying tribute to those great Americans who, in the past, secured the quality of life and freedom we now enjoy. This understanding and paying tribute on Memorial Day is so important. I was disappointed to learn my grandchildren are not taught in school about the hardships and ultimate sacrifices made for America. As an Army Chaplain stationed in Belgium, I had the honor of participating in a Memorial Ceremony in a village located in the region of Flanders. Inside the village between the school and the main road is a small cemetery.

In a corner of that cemetery lies the graves of American soldiers. A handful are from World War I. They were killed nearby and buried in the village cemetery. The rest



are American servicemen shot down over German occupied Belgium during bombing runs in World War II. Villagers would ask the Germans for permission to bury the bodies of American airman in their cemetery. Every year on American Memorial Day, the cemetery is cleaned and the village school children place small American and Belgian flags on each grave. Belgians come from miles around and the little village is packed with people attending the Memorial Ceremony. These folks understand and pay tribute to American servicemen who died fighting for their freedom.

It just seems fitting that this ceremony, as well as, Memorial Day comes in the spring. Spring has a way of energizing and inspiring us. In the same way, understanding and paying tribute on Memorial Day energizes us in patriotism and inspires us in American values.

Hal Roller

The Support Command

By Alex Candelaria

As one of several committee members for the 99th Annual Reunion of The Society of The Fifth Division, U.S. Army, we have selected a theme for the reunion titled, “The Support Command” with concentration on the 75th Support Battalion while in Vietnam. The reunion is being held in San Diego, California in September 2019.

In succeeding issues of The Red Diamond, I would like to highlight, where possible, the military assignments and responsibilities of Support Personnel in the five companies within the 75th Support Battalion, 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized) while the Battalion was in Vietnam. The companies include: Company A (Headquarter and Headquarters Company); Company B (Administration), Company C (Medical), Company D (Supply and Transportation), and Company E (Maintenance).

Support Personnel whom have served with the Fifth Division are asked to provide their story to include your duties to the undersigned and or to our editor of The Red Diamond, Mr. Stephen Wheat. Your story is most important to the 99th Fifth Division reunion and to the History of the Fifth Division.

There is no question that the 75th Support BN was an integral part of the Fifth Division, United States Army. One unit without the other in the “great link” of the whole Division makes for an inferior or unworthy fighting

machine. Once the great link (each level protected and held by its inherent connection to the previous link) is broken or disbelieved, a unit of the whole is soon unable to view its self as a team, collapse into ineffectiveness begins. It seems we either acknowledge our totality or we lose the basis of unity and cooperation with each other.

Militaries throughout the world have a tendency to view only the combatant as important. Rightly so since the combatant is at the head of the spear experiencing the horrendous acts of war. Although this appears to be a common theme inclusive of all branches of the military, let us not forget that “one without the other” does not work well. This perceived state of separateness proceeds from a state of consciousness that only the “grunt” is worthy. The military functions at a high level of efficiency when working as a team toward a common goal. Patriotism reunites that which the mind has begun to punish. The great chain of being then does not depend on higher or lower but simply something greater. We are all honored and included.

During a time of war various MOS titles and jobs can and do overlap.

One part without the other in the “great link” makes for a less efficient unit. We either acknowledge our wholeness or we lose the basis of our unity in defense of our common goals and ideals.

Support troops (clerks, cooks, administrative, truck drivers, mechanics and medical etc.) are subject to incoming mortar, rocket and small arms fire. They are expected and do carry firearms to defend themselves and their



camp during such times. They in essence become a grunt for a brief time. A few are injured or even killed during these attacks. Additionally, perimeter guard and short patrols become a way of life for those in the rear all the while carrying out their assigned duties.

Some Support Personnel are required to go out in the field as part of their assigned duties. Supply and Transportation, Maintenance and Medical

personnel regularly perform their duties outside the camp and they are exposed to enemy hostilities same as your basic grunt.

Respectfully submitted,

Alex T. Candelaria

Reunion Committee and
First Vice Co-President, SOFD



If your service-connected condition has gotten worse and you're planning to file an increased disability claim for that condition, there's a better way to file. Get the fastest decision on your claim for an increase by filing it as a **Decision Ready Claim (DRC)**. Filing as a DRC means you can get a decision within 30 days after your claim is submitted.

Work with an accredited Veterans Service Organization (VSO) or other accredited representative to determine if the DRC program is right for you and your claim for an increase. Your VSO can then help you gather and submit all relevant and required evidence so your claim is ready for VA to make a decision when you submit it.

Don't need to file a claim for an increase? You can also file these other types of compensation claims through the DRC program:

- Direct Service Connection Claims
- Presumptive Service Connection Claims
- Secondary Service Connection Claims
- Dependency and Indemnity Compensation for surviving spouses

Learn more about the DRC program, including eligibility requirements, what medical evidence you need to submit, and how to find an accredited VSO at www.benefits.va.gov/drc.

Thank you for your service!

Veterans Benefits Administration

SOCIETY OF THE 5TH DIVISION ACTIVITY REGISTRATION FORM

Listed below are all registration, tour, and meal costs for the reunion. Please enter how many people will be participating in each event and total the amount. Send that amount payable to ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC. in the form of check or money order. Your cancelled check will serve as your confirmation. Returned checks will be charged a \$20 fee. You may also register online and pay by credit card at www.afr-reg.com/society2018 (3.5% will be added to total). All registration forms and payments must be received by mail on or before August 23, 2018. After that date, reservations will be accepted on a space available basis. We suggest you make a copy of this form before mailing. Please do not staple or tape your payment to this form.

Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.
322 Madison Mews
Norfolk, VA 23510
ATTN: SOCIETY OF THE 5TH

OFFICE USE ONLY	
Check # _____	Date Received _____
Inputted _____	Nametag Completed _____

CUT-OFF DATE IS 8/23/18	Price Per	# of People	Total
TOURS			
FRIDAY 9/28: COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG TOUR	\$65		\$
SATURDAY 9/9: MACARTHUR MEMORIAL / SPIRIT OF NORFOLK LUNCH CRUISE	\$83		\$
<u>SATURDAY: BANQUET DINNER (Please select your entrée)</u>			
Sliced Top Round of Beef	\$44		\$
Grilled Chicken Breast with Sauce Supreme	\$44		\$
Baked Tilapia with Lemon Butter Sauce	\$44		\$
<u>SUNDAY: BANQUET DINNER (Please select your entrée)</u>			
Sliced Top Round of Beef	\$44		\$
Chicken with a Demi-Glaze	\$44		\$
Blackened Tilapia with a Remoulade Sauce	\$44		\$
<u>PER PERSON REGISTRATION FEE</u>			
Covers various reunion expenses.	\$20		\$
DONATION FOR HOSPITALITY ROOM EXPENSES	\$		\$
Total Amount Payable to Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.			\$

PLEASE PRINT NAME AS YOU WANT YOUR NAMETAG TO READ

FIRST _____ LAST _____

SPOUSE NAME (IF ATTENDING) _____

GUEST NAMES _____

UNIT INFORMATION (ex. D CO/1st BN/11th Infantry): _____

YEARS SERVED W/ 5ID(ex. 1965-66): _____

WHERE (CIRCLE ONE): WWII FT CARSON VIETNAM FT POLK OTHER: _____

CURRENT & PAST SOCIETY OFFICE HELD (ex. NATIONAL FIRST VICE PRESIDENT, PAST PRESIDENT, ETC.): _____

STREET ADDRESS OF MAIN ATTENDEE _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PH. NUMBER (_____) _____ - _____ EMAIL _____ @ _____

DISABILITY/DIETARY RESTRICTIONS _____

(Sleeping room requirements must be conveyed by attendee directly with hotel)

MUST YOU BE LIFTED HYDRAULICALLY ONTO THE BUS WHILE SEATED IN YOUR WHEELCHAIR IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN BUS TRIPS? **(PLEASE NOTE THAT WE CANNOT GUARANTEE AVAILABILITY).** YES NO

For refunds and cancellations please refer to our policies outlined at the bottom of the reunion program. **CANCELLATIONS WILL ONLY BE TAKEN MONDAY-FRIDAY 9:00am-4:00pm EASTERN TIME (excluding holidays).** Call (757) 625-6401 to cancel reunion activities and obtain a cancellation code. Refunds processed 4-6 weeks after reunion.

SHERATON NORFOLK WATERSIDE – NORFOLK, VA
(757) 622-6664 or (800) 325-3535
<http://www.sheratonnorfolkwaterside.com/>

Location

777 Waterside Drive, Norfolk, VA 23510
 Located on the waterfront in downtown Norfolk and 15 minutes from Virginia Beach.

Reservation Information

Call the number above and reference the Society of the Fifth Division or please visit www.afr-reg.com/society2018 and click on the hotel link at the top of the page

Group Name: Society of the Fifth Division

Reunion Dates: September 27-October 1, 2018

Rate: \$119 + tax (currently 14% + \$2 flat bed tax) Group rate will be offered 3 days before and 3 days after group dates, based on group block availability.

Cut-off Date: 08/23/18 Late reservations will be processed based on space availability at a higher rate.

Cancellation Policy: A deposit equal to the room rate and tax for the first night for each reservation is due at the time the reservation is made. Deposit is refundable if reservation is canceled 24 hours prior to arrival date.

Parking & Shuttle Information

The hotel is offering discounted self-parking for \$8 per car per day at the adjacent parking garage in Dominion Towers. James River Transportation provides shuttle service from the Norfolk International Airport to the Sheraton. Their counter is located in the Arrivals Terminal (baggage claim area) beside door #3. Currently their rates are \$35.40 per person one way. All prices are subject to change; please verify all pricing when making reservations. To make reservations and verify rates, please visit their website, <https://jamesrivertrans.com/norfolk-airport-shuttle-service/rates/> or call (866) 823-4626.

Wheelchair Rental

ScootAround rents both manual and power wheelchairs by the day and week. Please call (888) 441-7575 or visit www.scootaround.com for details and to make reservations.

SOCIETY OF THE 5TH DIVISION REUNION
TOUR DESCRIPTIONS

COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Colonial Williamsburg is the only place that takes you back in time to the dawn of America. Start your visit by dining with patriots at one of the three historic taverns – each with its own distinct menu and specialty. Following lunch, step into Colonial Williamsburg's Historic area, where you will be transported back in time to meet tradespeople, women, members of the enslaved community, shopkeepers, and political figures that call Williamsburg home. Explore historic 18th century buildings, engage our nation's founders and gain a new perspective on our American story. With so much to see and do, there is something for everyone – history lovers, makers, and fans of architecture.

9:30am board bus, 6:30pm Return to hotel
\$65/person includes bus, tour escort, and admission.
Lunch is on your own.

MACARTHUR MEMORIAL / SPIRIT OF NORFOLK
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

Downtown Norfolk is home to the MacArthur Memorial, the final resting place of the late General and eleven-gallery museum. Visit the gift shop and see a film summarizing the General's life and achievements. Next stop is the Spirit of Norfolk, the premiere cruise boat on Norfolk's waterfront. The harbor lunch cruise with live entertainment features the sights of Hampton Roads harbor and the mighty ships at the Norfolk Naval Station. Enjoy a wonderful buffet while the captain narrates.

9:45am board bus, 2:30pm back at hotel
\$83/Person includes bus, escort, and lunch cruise

Tour prices do not include gratuity for bus driver and tour guide/escort. In order to accommodate an on-time departure, please be at the bus boarding area five minutes prior to posted time.



Tallahassee – **Michael Wayne Lovern**, 68, passed away Sunday, February 11, 2018 in Tallahassee.

A service, with military honors will be held at 2:00 PM, Thursday, March

8th at Tallahassee National Cemetery, 5015 Apalachee Parkway, Tallahassee, FL 32311. Gifts in memory of Mike may be made to Big Bend Hospice, 1723 Mahan Center Blvd., Tallahassee, FL 32308.

Born February 20, 1949 in Jacksonville, Mike was a longtime resident of Tallahassee and a graduate of Leon High School, Class of 1967. He was an Army veteran of the Viet Nam War, where he was awarded a Bronze Star Medal for gallantry in action. For many years he operated Pro Tec Maintenance Service in Tallahassee. He and his family were members of Saint Paul's United Methodist Church in his younger years.

He is survived by his sister Sharon L. Rudd (David) of Tallahassee; his brother Rick Lovern of Tallahassee and Carrabelle; and several nieces and nephews. Mike was preceded in death by his parents Henry Joel Lovern and Emily Elizabeth Lloyd Lovern; and a brother Robbie Lovern.



Blood - Christian

It is obvious from the study of any human physiologically, that God Divinely Designed blood to be central to the subsistence of the human body; and to life itself. He says in Leviticus 17:14 – For it is the life of all flesh, the blood of it is for the life thereof. The Omniscience God formed man, with all his incalculable intricacy, cell by cell, from the common dust of the earth, which He had already Created on the 1st Day of Creation. Science tells us that, if laid end to end, the average human body contains approximately 60,000 miles of blood vessels, which reaches and nourishes every one of the 200,000,000,000 cells in a human body. The human mind simply cannot begin to understand; this unfathomable Miracle. Adam’s body, though perfectly formed in the morning of the 6th Day of Creation, lay there life-less; until God Breathed a Living Soul into it, From that life, the heart began circulating the blood throughout the human body.

Throughout the Old and the New Testaments, God emphasizes the close and importance role, which blood played in His Grand Master Blueprint... at both the Divine and human levels. Clearly, even human blood is Precious in His Sight, and is considered life itself. When Cain killed Abel in the world’s first murder; God said, “Abel’s blood cried out to Him from where it had spread upon the ground”. God has placed a “fence” around blood, and Commanded, that man was not to drink or eat blood. They might eat meat, which had been first drained of all blood. The shedding of innocent human blood is prohibited by the 6th Commandment.

After sin entered the world, in the Deep Fall of Adam, our Covenant Head; God gave the Promise of Eternal life, which was clearly rooted in Blood.

He rooted it in The Blood of Jesus Christ, which would destroy and erase sin. We see this Promise already in Genesis 3:15 – The Seed of The Woman shall crush thy head, and he will bruise Thy heel.

God illustrated His Plan of Salvation, and the Power of Blood already shortly after Adam sinned in The Garden of Eden. At that moment, Adam and Eve, suddenly discovered to their horror; that they were naked. It never had bothered them before, because they had worn the Spiritual Grand Robe of Righteousness. Now suddenly, they saw, that The Holiness of God; no longer surrounds and “clothed” them. Sin had stripped them, of their Holiness. To cover their “now-exposed shame”, God Himself took a lamb, slew it, skinned it, and used that skin to make cloths, to physically cover Adam and Eve. Clearly, God’s early example in Scripture, pointed to The Grand Blueprint of God, to use the Blood of the Lamb of God, to cover and cloth unholy, but repenting sinners. He pointed to the Holiness, which was lost through sin; could now be replaced by a New Holiness, which He had Designed.

God placed such High Esteem on the Value of Blood, that He has designated it as the central means for Salvation of mankind. If human blood is precious in His Sight; how much more so the Blood of Jesus Christ, The Son of God, The God-man, factored into His Grand Plan of Salvation. He sent His Son, to assume the human nature, to shed His Blood on The Cross. When He Formed Jesus Human nature in the stillness of Eternity, He Gave Eternal Value, to His Human Nature, and to His Blood. This makes the Miracle Birth in Bethlehem; of such incalculable value. The God/man Blood, now flowed in the human nature. Upon the Cross; 33 years later, He shed it.

(continued on page 12)

Blood - Christian *(continued from page 11)*

However, the actual application of that God/man Blood, comes in the Real and Effectual Intercession; which Jesus makes before the Throne of God. We can read of this Divine Application in Rev. 8:4, where this Blood is Sprinkled upon the prayers of the saints. (And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of The Angel's (Jesus) Hand). It is then lifted up upon the Altar of Intercession, and from Jesus Holy Hands, it rises up before the Face of God. Here, in The Courts of Heaven, Jesus' Blood receives it's Divine Value, for God, has "hinged" everything in the universe, on That Blood. God can not deny any Prayer lifted up before Him, which is sprinkled with That Blood. Here, in the Court of Heaven, the most Powerful Command Thunders across Heaven saying; Father, I will that this prayer be answered, for My Blood is sprinkled upon it. Immediately this is done, because all the Promises of God; are yea and amen, in Jesus Christ. What unfathomable POWER; exists in This BLOOD!

Blood - Jewish

In the Jewish culture and religion, blood plays a very important symbolic and spiritual role. It especially centers around the blood and sacrifice of animals. Animal sacrifices were a very important spiritual element, in the nation of Israel.

Each year at Passover, every Jewish family had to slaughter and sacrifice a lamb. Its blood was drained, and it was roasted over a fire. This was done to remind them of their escape out of Egypt, where they were held as slaves for 430 years.

In their religion, each day, in The Temple at Jerusalem, they sacrificed a lamb at the Morning Sacrifice at 9:00 AM; and then again at 3:00 PM, for the Evening Sacrifice. The importance of these animal sacrifices, cannot be over-estimated, and they were maintained with extreme care each day, for 1500 years. These Sacrifices were a sign of atonement for sin, to provide for the forgiveness of the sins of the people.

In the Tabernacle, the "tent-church", for 350 years; thousands of sheep and goats were sacrificed. Later, in The newly constructed Temple, built by King Solomon, this continued daily. For 1500 years, hundreds of thousands of these animals were sacrificed. Certain Feast Days were considered greater than others, and larger numbers were sacrificed. For example, King Hezekiah in the Grand Day of Passover, slaughtered 30,000 lambs, for the Temple sacrifice.

Anyone can easily imagine how The Temple floor, was often covered with the blood of animals. This animal blood was swept out each day. This blood naturally flowed down the Temple's hillside, into the Kidron brook. It flowed many miles through the wilderness, and finally emptied into the Dead Sea.

In a further example, each year on the Day of Atonement, two goats were brought to the Temple. They both had to be without blemish. A special lot, was cast for them. One was thus marked for sacrifice, the other was left go into freedom. The one sacrificed, had all the sins of the people, spiritually laid upon him by The High Priest. His throat was then slit; and his blood collected in a bowl, and sprinkled upon the Altar. Then His body was burned up, on The Altar. The other goat was

left to go free into the wilderness; and to die a natural death.

The sacrifice of animals in the Temple no longer exists; because the Temple no longer exists. Only twice during the 1500 years of the existence of the Tabernacle and the Temple, did the daily sacrifice of animals; ceased. The first time was in 586 BC, when King Nebuchadnezzar conquered Jerusalem, and destroyed the Temple. The Temple was rebuild 70 years later, and stood for 586 more years, until 70 AD. In that year, General Titus,

later to become Emperor Titus of the Roman Empire, surrounded and destroyed Jerusalem, and burned the Temple again. In both cases, The Temples were destroyed on the same day; August 10. Thus ended all animal sacrifices at the Temple, for the Temple was never rebuilt, to this day.

TAPS

(Jan. 2018 - Mar. 2018)

Mike Lovern	Died Feb. 11, 2018	Vietnam
John W. Langston	Died July 17, 2017	Vietnam
Vincent V. Suppan	Died Jan. 26, 2018	46th Field Arty. WWII
Dave Perdieu	Died Feb. 2, 2018	75th Spt Bn. Co A Vietnam
Allan Unrue	Died April 2, 2018	5th Battery Vietnam - 70-71
Allan Max Kilgore	Died Dec. 23, 2017	Vietnam - 69-70

Facts About Age-Related Macular Degeneration

This information was developed by the National Eye Institute to help patients and their families search for general information about age-related macular degeneration. An eye care professional who has examined the patient's eyes and is familiar with his or her medical history is the best person to answer specific questions.

What you should know about age-related macular degeneration

Perhaps you have just learned that you or a loved one has age-related macular degeneration, also known as AMD. If you are like many people, you probably do not know a lot about the condition or understand what is going on inside your eyes.

What is AMD?

AMD is a common eye condition and a leading cause of vision loss among people age 50 and older. It causes damage to the macula, a small spot near the center of the retina and the part of the eye needed for sharp, central vision, which lets us see objects that are straight ahead.

In some people, AMD advances so slowly that vision loss does not occur for a long time. In others, the disease progresses faster and may lead to a

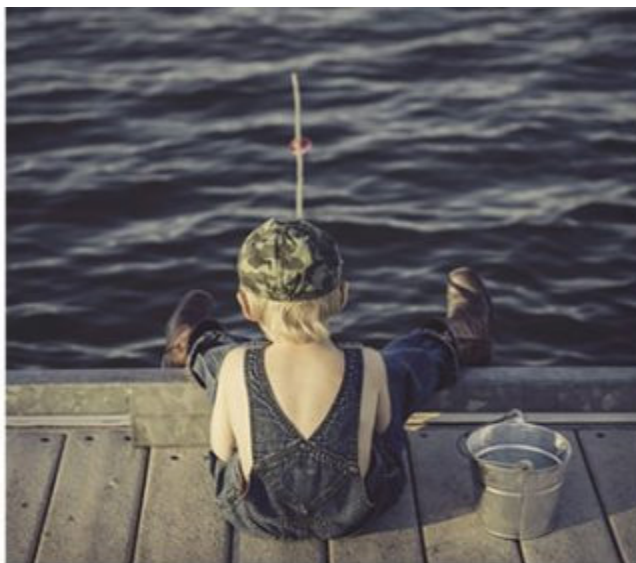
loss of vision in one or both eyes. As AMD progresses, a blurred area near the center of vision is a common symptom. Over time, the blurred area may grow larger or you may develop blank spots in your central vision. Objects also may not appear to be as bright as they used to be.



AMD by itself does not lead to complete blindness, with no ability to see. However, the loss of central vision in AMD can interfere with simple everyday activities, such as the ability to see faces, drive, read, write, or do close work, such as cooking or fixing things around the house.

The Macula

The macula is made up of millions of light-sensing cells that provide sharp, central vision. It is the most sensitive part of the retina, which is located at the back of the eye. The retina turns light into electrical signals and then sends these electrical signals through the optic nerve to the brain, where they are translated into the images we see. When the macula is damaged, the center of your field of view may appear blurry, distorted, or dark.



Normal Vision



Macular Degeneration



Command for 6 More Months – A/7 Engineer Commander Perspective

I want to start with a quote from Gabriel and Savages' book *Crisis in Command: Mismanagement in the Army*. "The rotation policies operative in Vietnam virtually foreclosed the possibility of establishing fighting units with a sense of identity, morale, and strong cohesiveness...Not only did the rotation policy (one year tours with officers serving only 6 months in troop command) foreclose the possibility of developing a sense of unit integrity and responsibility, but it also ensured a continuing supply of low quality, inexperienced officers at the point of greatest stress in any army, namely in its combat units." It has been said that we did not fight the war in Vietnam for nine years, but for one year nine times.

We all knew that when we went to Vietnam, that we were going to be there for 365 days. How did we (the United States army) come up with the "one-year tour?" Well, it can all be blamed on the draft...if blame is the right word. Here's how... Conscription legislation limited a draftee's tour to 2 years; with initial training (basic, advanced, special) lasting 4-6 months plus a month or two for transportation between military training sites and one month accrued leave each year, there was little more than a year remaining for a draftee's tour of duty for service overseas (Vietnam). At some point during the war, President LBJ decided that we would keep the draft, and we would not mobilize our Reserve or National Guard. Some say that this was a political decision.

Senior Army leadership at-the-time (most served in WW II) believed that one-year tours were good because a short tour would counter the battle fatigue evident during WW II combat operations. Army Chief of Staff Harold K. Johnson believed that the soldiers "burnout" point in combat was 180 days. So, as soon as we arrived in Vietnam as the FNG (F***ing New Guy), we would start counting the 365 days until our DEROS (Date of Expected Return from OverSeas).

It was in 1965 that General Westmoreland instituted the 6-month command rotation. This was done for two reasons. The first being, as noted above, that "burnout" would occur in 180 days. The second being that the army wanted to expand its pool of experienced leaders so that when faced with the "REAL" threat (the Soviets), we would be ready. GEN Westmoreland assumed that the Vietnam war would be a short war and he wanted the junior officers to get combat experience quickly. He did not see the war dragging on for another 10 years. Unfortunately, for many LTs and CPTs, getting command meant getting your career "ticket" punched...and had nothing to do with selfless service. David Hackworth referred to the 6-month command rotation as "command musical-chairs rotation policy." Fortunately for today's front-line soldiers, the 6-month command rotation policy no longer exists.

(continued on page 16)

A/7 Engineer Commander Perspective *(continued from page 15)*

So much for the background information prior to my telling you about my personal experience with 6-month command in Vietnam. I took command of A/7 Engr on August 7, 1970. So, in accordance with the 6-month command policy, I was due to rotate out of command in February of 1971. I figured I would fill a staff position somewhere on the brigade staff located at Camp Red Devil until my DEROS.

In January (I don't remember the exact date), I received a call from the Brigade Adjutant (S-1) telling me that I was to have dinner with BG Hill, the Brigade Commander, in the general's dining room. First, I had to find out where is the general's dining room...I didn't realize there was such a thing at Camp Red Devil. It was located just a few hootches down from the Brigade Headquarters bunker.

I physically prepared for the dinner...haircut, shower, shined jungle boots, pressed jungle fatigues, etc. Not much to prepare mentally – I just knew it was about successfully ending my 6-months of command and discussing my next assignment on the staff. When I arrived at the general's mess, I was met by the Adjutant and he guided me to the location of my seat at the table. The table was in the shape of a diamond...yes, a red diamond, the symbol of the 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized). The others attending dinner were from the brigade staff.

When BG Hill arrived, we all came to attention, parade rest, saying of grace by the staff Chaplain, and take seats. I was seated next to BG Hill. Wine was served with dinner. In a way, it all seemed

surreal...a formal-type sit-down dinner just a few miles from the DMZ. I do not remember what was served for dinner, but I do remember having a chocolate ice cream sundae for dessert.

During the meal, all the talk was casual...about families, sports, US news, etc. There was no talk about activities in the brigade's area of operations. During dessert and coffee is when BG Hill told me that he was going to leave me in command of A/7 Engr for an additional six months. He asked how I felt about that. I told him that I'd rather stay in command than be reassigned to a staff position. I felt that the company was accomplishing its mission and that morale was high – things were going well.

It was only later in January, that I learned why he wanted me to stay in command...Dewey Canyon II / Lam Son 719. He knew that A/7 Engr was to play a significant part in the upcoming major combat offensive – the invasion into Laos. One of BG Hill's brigade's missions during the offensive was to construct a pioneer road to Khe Sanh as an alternate LOC (Line of Communications) in case the NVA (North Vietnamese Army) severed Route 9 (as they had done during the siege of Khe Sahn in 1968 against the 26th Marines). A/7 Engr was to build this pioneer road, and BG Hill wanted me to lead this mission. Of course, I did not know about Dewey Canyon II/Lam Son 719 when we had dinner.

My next articles will be about my experiences during the three plus months of Dewey Canyon II/ Lam Son 719.

George B. Shoener

CO, A/7 Engr (August 1970-July 1971)

AUDIT RESULTS FOR THE SOCIETY OF THE FIFTH DIVISION CALENDAR YEAR JANUARY 1, 2017 to DECEMBER 31, 2017

Applying established audit procedures, the Audit Committee of the Society of the 5th Division conducted an audit of the Society's accounting records and financial statement for the year ended December 31, 2017. The objectives of the audit were to determine if Society's funds were properly accounted for and used to accomplish Society objectives.

The Society's National Treasurer provided the Committee with the Society's year end Account Activity Report (See Attachment). The National Treasurer also provided bank records, receipts, and other relevant accounting records in support of the activity report. The Committee used these records to perform the audit.

The audit results are as follow:

- Total receipts of \$28,784.81, as reflected on the Account Activity Report, consisted of 28,731.17 in cash receipts and \$53.64 of in-kind donations of storage containers. These amounts and the amounts shown by category (Dues & Donations, QM Sales, Gain from CDs, etc.), were supported by accounting ledgers, bank statements and other accounting records.
- Total disbursements of \$22,210.52, as reflected on the Account Activity Report, consisted of \$22,156.88 of cash disbursements and a \$53.64 write-off for the value assigned to the donated storage containers. These amounts and amounts shown by category (Treasurer Expenses, Red Diamond Expenses, etc.) were supported by accounting ledgers, bank statements and other accounting records.
- We evaluated the propriety of \$16,419 of disbursements/expenditures (74 percent of the \$22,210.52 incurred) covering each of the nine disbursement categories listed on the Account Activity Report. All disbursements appeared reasonable and necessary to accomplish Society objectives.
- The Certificate of Deposit value of \$41,152.67, as reflected on the Account Activity Report, was supported by an account statement from the financial institution "Edward Jones".

In conclusion, the Society's funds were properly accounted for and disbursements/expenditures appeared necessary and reasonable to accomplish Society objectives. The Account Activity Report accurately reflects the financial condition of the Society of the 5th Division.

Audit Committee Members

Gary Barard

Col. Hank Neill (Ret)

Mike Sperling

(continued on page 18)

Audit Results *(continued from page 17)*

Report of the Treasurer of the Society of the Fifth Division
Account Activity for FY17 (01/01/17-12/31/17)

RECEIPTS

Secretary – Dues (\$5530) + Donations (\$1120)	6,650.00
QM Sales	5,997.29
2017 Reunion Income	14,965.80
2018 Reunion Income	555.00
Gain from CDs	616.72
TOTAL	28,784.81

DISBURSEMENTS

Secretary Expenses	(507.34)
QM Expenses	(3,579.19)
Treasurer Expenses	(100.00)
IT Expenses	(389.90)
Historian Expenses	(64.63)
Fisher House Donation	(160.00)
Teleconference Fees	(535.61)
Red Diamond Expenses	(15,497.78)
2017 Reunion Expenses	(1,376.07)
Total	(22,210.52)

RECEIPTS - DISBURSEMENTS for FY17 **6,574.29**

Report of Treasurer - December 31, 2016 (FY16)

Cash in Bank	14,014.21
Value of Ladder CDs	40,535.95
Net Worth	54,550.16

Report of Treasurer - December 31, 2017 (FY17)

Cash in Bank	19,971.78
Value of Ladder CDs	41,152.67
Net Worth	61,124.45

Net Worth Difference for FY17 **6,574.29**



Lam Son 719 & Dewey Canyon II – A/7 Engineer Commander Perspective – Part 1

Here it was, January of 1971. We made it through Christmas and New Year's Day without any increased enemy activity. It was still the dry season without the monsoons – which we did not expect for a few more months. It was a good time for catching up on some of our deferred maintenance of vehicles and deferred continuous training. The Nixon drawdown continued with many of us looking forward to a shortened tour of duty...maybe eleven-and-a-half months instead of twelve months. Anyway, we were all keeping track of our short-timer's calendars.

Throughout my first five months of command, I struggled with getting replacement parts for most of our engineer equipment...the dozers, graders, and front-end loaders. But, all of a sudden, in January we started getting replacement parts and new equipment. When we received two new D7 dozers, I began to suspect that something was about to happen where engineers support was going to be required. Additionally, I kept getting requests for updates on our readiness status. Replacements were arriving months before they were needed... by the middle of January, the company strength was approaching 300.

Around the 25th of January, I was summoned to brigade headquarters by the brigade engineer, MAJ Miles. MAJ Miles told me that we were going to do a recon of Route 9 from Dong Ha to Khe Sanh.

We boarded a light observation helicopter (a loach) and flew at a rather high altitude over Route 9 and the mountainous jungle area north of Route 9. After the flyover, we spent hours studying the maps and photos of the area north of Route 9. We determined that we could build a pioneer dirt trail/road north of Route 9.

On January 28th, BG Hill briefed the battalion commanders and select company commanders on Lam Son 719 & Dewey Canyon II. Lam Son 719 was to be the ARVN incursion into Laos with the mission of shutting down the Ho Chi Minh trail through Laos. Lam Son was the name of a Vietnamese hero who fought against the Chinese many centuries ago; 719 was the combining of the year (1971) and the route to Laos (Route 9).

Dewey Canyon II (named after a previous Marine operation that took place between Khe Sanh and Laos) was to be the American support for the ARVN incursion. The American forces were to reopen the Khe Sanh airfield, coordinate air support for the ARVN, and to open and secure a main line of communication (LOC) along Route 9.

In 1968 when the 26th Marines were in Khe Sanh, the North Vietnamese Army cut off Route 9. BG Hill was not going to let that happen again...a

(continued on page 20)

Lam Son 719 & Dewey Canyon II *(continued from page 19)*

pioneer road would be built north of Route 9 as an alternate LOC. This is where A Company, 7th Engineers fit into the operation.

The operation began on January 30th. Up until then, the operation had been very secret...only “those who need to know.” BG Hill did not want information getting out to the Vietnamese that worked on Camp Red Devil...which in turn could get to the VC and hence the NVA. When I briefed our officers and senior NCOs, I told them only of their assignments and link-up times.

The A/3/5, 1/77, 1/61, and 1/11 had the mission of opening Route 9 to Khe Sahn and was supported by various engineer units from the 18th Engineer Brigade. Route 9 was a dirt road west of the Rock Pile and was over grown with jungle along many stretches. Also, many bridges were out and needed replacing...six M4T6 bridges and five AVLBs were installed. However, Route 9 was officially declared open for tracked vehicles by noon on January 31st.

Here is how A/7 was organized for the operation... One line platoon was to support the 1/77 Armor Battalion (LTC Meyer), one line platoon was to support the 1/61 Infantry Battalion (Mech)(LTC Stallman), one line platoon and the company headquarters (-) was to support 3/5 Cavalry Squadron (LTC Osborn), and the bridge platoon was in reserve at Camp Red Devil.

I, along with my driver and Operations Sergeant (SSG O'Dell) accompanied the 2nd Platoon (2LT Sokalosky) supporting 3/5 Cav. The 3/5 Cav consisted of 3 Troops (Company-size) with Sheridan M551s and APCs. We were given the

initial order to link up with the 3/5 Cav west of Cam Lo at 0400 hours on January 30th. We were under radio silence. We arrived on time with our 4 APCs, 2 low-boys carrying 2 D7 dozers, and 1 front-end loader. The 3/5 Cav arrived around 0430 hours and we began our mission.

The mission to build the pioneer road started off slow. It took a few days for the 3/5 Cav leadership to understand their role of supporting us as we built the road. We could only move as fast as our dozers could cut through the jungle, and it was sometimes painful for the Cav to move dozer-slow. But, they did provide excellent protection for us as we built the road. They also appreciated how we could recover their M551s and APCs with our dozers when they got bogged down in the jungle.

Lam Son 719 & Dewey Canyon II continued until April 8th when I returned to Camp Red Devil. The next few articles I write will be about some of my experiences while on this operation.

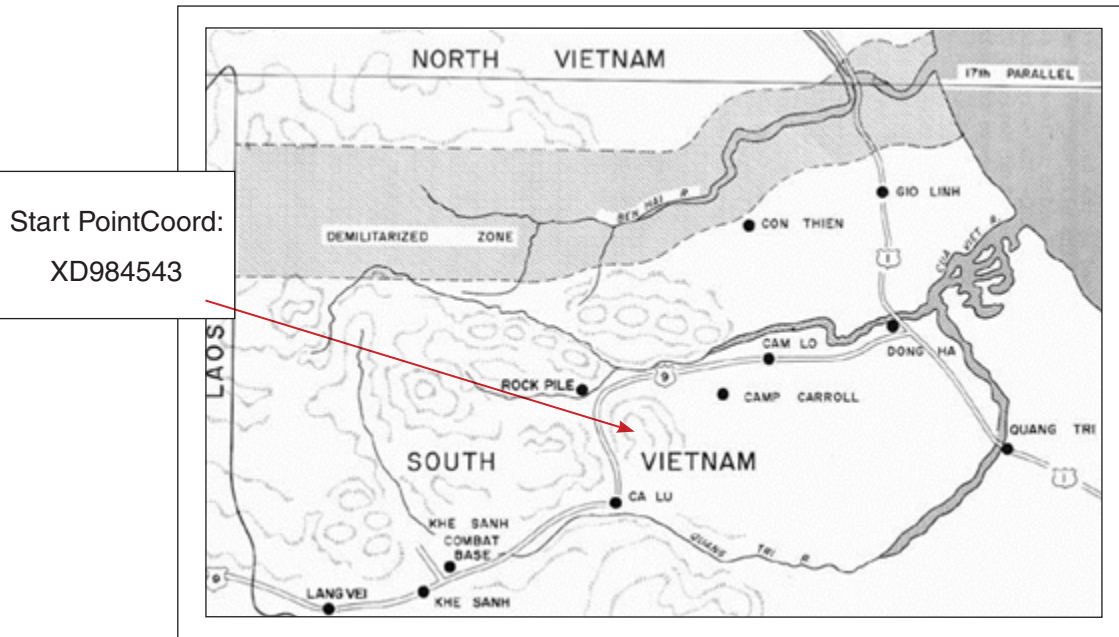
The book *Into Laos* written by Keith Nolan is an excellent book on Lam Son 719 & Dewey Canyon II. It provides the history for and the details surrounding the ARVN part in the operation. It was the last large-scale operation in Vietnam. Some say it should have been the first operation – the cutting of the Ho Chi Minh Trail.

Part 2 (Culverts to the Rescue)

As I mentioned in **Part 1**, one engineer platoon and the A/7 Engineer company headquarters had the mission of constructing a pioneer road (initially a tracked vehicle road) north of QL9 (Route 9) from Fire Support Base Elliott to the northeast of the Khe Sanh airfield. Fire Support Base Elliott was **affectionately** called the “Rockpile” by those

who served on or near FSB Elliott. Another point of reference is FSB Vandergrift, located at Ca Lu, which served as the major logistics and air support

base throughout the Lam Son operation. See map sketch below.



Before I begin explaining how we engineers constructed this pioneer road to Khe Sanh, I want to briefly recognize how valuable the armored cavalry-engineer Team became to our Brigade Commander, BG Hill. General Hill exploited the use of these Teams to build over 80 kilometers (50 miles) of pioneer trails and fair-weather roads in and around the Khe Sanh area. After the pioneer road was completed from the Rockpile to Khe Sanh, numerous additional roads were constructed between Khe Sanh and the Laotian border. Additionally, the Teams were used to continually maintain and upgrade all existing roads. The Team usually consisted of a mechanized engineer platoon with 3 APCs (Armored Personnel Carriers) and one or two bulldozers (or grader for upgrades) from A/7 Engineers and an armored cavalry platoon with Sheridan M551s and APCs.



A/7 Engr D7E clearing a path through a low-lying area in the Punchbowl between the Rockpile and Khe Sanh.

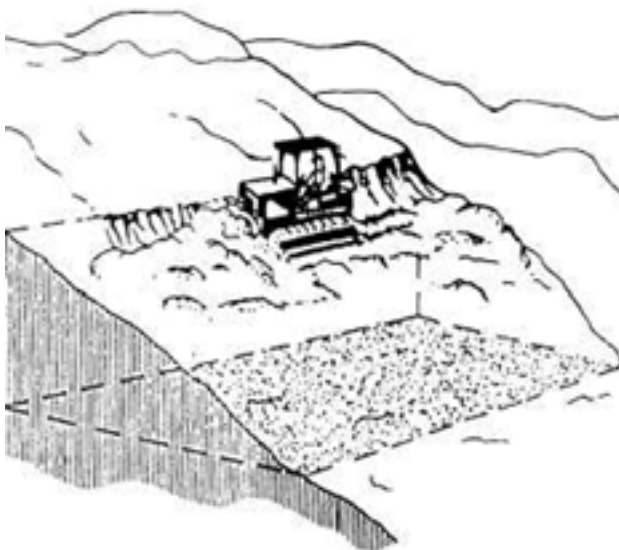
The bulldozers used by A/7 Engineers were primarily D7E bulldozers. Our D7Es were (are)

(continued on page 22)

Lam Son 719 & Dewey Canyon II *(continued from page 21)*

built by Caterpillar, ran on diesel fuel, weighed about 2 tons, had blades of 10 – 12 feet, and were operated by a single-Fort Leonard Wood-trained combat engineer.

Back to the road construction. We began constructing the pioneer road on January 30th with bulldozers leading the way. Moving in a southwesterly direction, bulldozers began cutting a tank trail along and through a rising ridge line, which ran for several kilometers. Many deep side hill cuts and through hill cuts were required. As can be seen in the sketch and photo below, a bulldozer could easily make a side hill cut when the cut was not rock. The photo was taken during the first two days of the construction.



2LT Clinton Blick instructing a D7E team on clearing a path through the jungle (Red Devil Drive, west of Khe Sanh).



Unfortunately, not all “cuts” could be made with the bulldozer. Remember, we were constructing roads over/around mountains west of the **Rockpile**... meaning that **rock** was a primary ingredient in the material that made up many of the mountains. So, it was necessary to break up the rock before the

bulldozer could make the cut. This was done with explosives.

Here is how we did it. First, we would blow holes in the rock using shape charges.

Then we would fill the holes with explosives (primarily C-4, but sometimes dynamite) and

ignite the explosives. This would loosen (blow out) enough rock to allow the bulldozers to make the cut. Once the 3/5 Cav commander, LTC Osborn, saw the effects of using explosives, he made sure that we had enough shape charges and

explosives on hand to overcome any rock cuts. It was apparent that he “loved the smell of explosives in the morning.”



A/7 Engr 2nd Platoon Combat Engineers placing shape charges.

Once again, back to the road construction. Over the first three days, we made many cuts as we moved through the mountains. On the 4th day, we moved out of the mountains into dense vegetation and our first major stream crossing. No problem. Prior to the start of Lam Son 719, I was able to recon (via helicopter) the area where the pioneer trail was to be built. So, I knew that we would run into some low areas and streams. I assigned the Bridge Platoon the mission of building 30-foot sections of 48-inch culvert. The plan was to hook-lift the pre-assembled culverts by CH-47 Chinook or CH-54 Skycrane to streams where needed.

But, there was a problem...because, also on day 4, the rains came. The forecast was for 2 days of rain. And, along with the rains came clouds—low hanging clouds. The helicopters could not deliver

the culverts! We could not wait the 2 days for the weather to clear. There had to be a way.

Back at Camp Red Devil in Quang Tri, my XO, 1LT Murayama, and my Bridge Platoon Leader, Al Swinyard, found the way. The Bridge Platoon would break up the already constructed 30-foot sections of culvert to smaller sections so that they could be loaded on 5-ton bridge trucks. Then the bridge trucks could be used to transport the needed culverts to the stream site where they could be re-assembled and put into place. But, could the bridge trucks traverse the roughly constructed road? YES. The bridge trucks were designed (tires, engines, & axles) to be driven on terrain at and near water.

(continued on page 24)

Lam Son 719 & Dewey Canyon II *(continued from page 23)*

At o-dark-thirty on day five, 2LT Swinyard showed up with several bridge trucks loaded with culvert. The bridge platoon along with the 2nd platoon began putting the culvert together for placement.

Once constructed, the culverts were pushed into place by the bulldozers and covered with dirt. And construction of the pioneer road continued. The rains diminished by the 6th of February, but low clouds and occasional drizzle continued.

It is worth noting here that, through day five, we had no enemy contact at all – even though planning intelligence indicated that the road would be built in known areas of enemy operations. We were forever mindful of security in that the we road builders were always being protected by cavalry units. The engineers would assist the 3/5 Cav with perimeter security when we would establish night positions. Thank you soldiers from 3/5 Cav.

My next article will discuss continued pioneer road construction through the triple-canopy jungle of the Punchbowl.

George B. Shoener

CO, A/7 Engr, August 1970-July 1971



A/7 Engr bridge trucks were designed to be driven on terrain at and near water.



The bridge platoon along with the 2nd platoon began putting the culvert together for placement.

45 Years Ago...

America Officially withdrew from Vietnam, on March 29, 1973, 45 years ago.

The DOD Commemorates 1st Anniversary of National Vietnam War Veterans Day. (Part of 50th Anniversary Remembrance)

Deputy Secretary of Defense and Veterans Affairs Secretary to Lay Wreath at 'The Wall' in Honor of Vietnam Veterans.

WASHINGTON – The Department of Defense announced it will conduct a wreath laying ceremony with the Department of Veterans Affairs at The Vietnam War Memorial March 29, 2018. President Trump recently signed into law The Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017, establishing The National Vietnam War Veterans Day that will, henceforth, be celebrated each year on March 29.

This is the first anniversary of that special day. DOD will also support hundreds of events in many states across the nation to recognize, honor and thank U.S. Vietnam veterans and their families for their service and sacrifices.

Deputy Secretary of Defense, Patrick M. Shanahan, will host the ceremony at the “The Wall” to continue the department’s contribution to the commemoration. He will be joined by Veteran’s Affairs Secretary, Dr. David Shulkin.

“We are proud to partner with the Department of Veterans Affairs in this endeavor,” said Shanahan. “Today is an opportunity to honor all Vietnam veterans who served, and to recognize the families that stood alongside them.”

The DOD, along with more than 11,000 organizations across the country, is joined by the Department of Veterans Affairs, one of its key Commemorative Partners, to help Americans honor our nation’s Vietnam veterans.

Authorized by Congress, established under the Secretary of Defense, and launched by



Society of the 5th Div. Chaplain Ron Van Beek at Vietnam Wall Honoring Fifth Division Fallen.

the President in May 2012, the Vietnam War Commemoration recognizes all men and women who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces from November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975. Nine million Americans, approximately 7 million living today, served during that period, and the commemoration makes no distinction – between veterans who served in-country, in-theater, or were stationed elsewhere during those 20 years. All answered the call of duty.

(continued on page 26)

45 Years Ago... *(continued from page 25)*

President Trump, in his presidential proclamation, stated: “During this Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War, we embrace our responsibility to help our Vietnam veterans and their families heal from the heavy toll of war. We remember the more than 58,000 whose names are memorialized on a black granite wall in our Nation’s capital for having borne the heaviest cost of war.”

By presidential proclamation issued on May 25, 2012, the commemoration extends from its inaugural event on Memorial Day 2012 through Veterans Day 2025.

Commemorative partners – local, state and national organizations, businesses, corporations and governmental agencies – have committed to publicly thank and honor Vietnam veterans and their families on behalf of the nation and have pledged to host a minimum of two events annually.



*Society of the Fifth Div. Chaplain Ron Van Beek
Standing before graves at Arlington Cemetery.*



Editors Two Cents

The winter is finally, well past all of us by now and the best is yet to come. As I write this, the distant whirr of lawn mowers and leaf blowers fill my ears with their spring time music and that is great because all good things like BBQ, fishing, camping and one of my favorite activities Extreme Ukulele Playing begins now, accompanied with my diurnal pal, “soothing warm sunshine.”

Were it not for the many faithful contributors of articles to the Red Diamond this edition would be barren of stories. However, we have a variety of tales that portray what our real members who live real and varied interesting lives are doing out there as they celebrate everyday of living and generously share it with us. How we veterans spend our hard-earned time, freedom and liberty pursuing that individual and unique form of happiness we love is the theme for the upcoming (August) edition. If you will trust me with your stories and photos

of how you are doing this I will treat them with much gratitude and all of the respect they deserve and then I will publish them in the RD. I think it would make for a tremendously good next edition of the RD. So, all of you artists, weekend warriors, drivers, mechanics, farmers, singers, writers, loafers, babysitters, whatever it is let us share your joy and show us what you do. But I can't do it without your effort to send me your stories and pics. I will do my part if you will do yours. No passion or hobby is too arcane, weird, ordinary or small as long as it is within the limits of good taste.

Last quarter I opened the pages of the RD up to host the photographic museum of the keepsakes that we returned with after our tour in RVN. The response was very good and I thank all of you. What follows are captioned photos of those cherished items and moments.



Photo of Leigh and Jeanne Blood on one of the happiest days of his life. The day he graduated from Ranger Training – 1970

(continued on page 28)



Bobby Moody bought a Mother and Father plaque with US and SVN flags an engraved poem and a banner naming Quang Tri and the years he was there.



Bobby Moody also bought a sateen jacket with a map of RVN embroidered on it and an eschatological comment about Dong Ha. Above right is his venerated "Short Timer Stick" .



A note from Penni Evans who was a Red Cross "Donut Dollie"

I was a Donut Dollie and we opened the unit at Quang Tri in Dec. 1970. I was with you wonderful guys until March 1971 when I went home. I will be sending you some pictures – have to do it individually from my photos file. My best treasure is the Red Diamond award I was given. Then there are some wonderful photos Bob Sanford took of me out in the field and he jig sawed one photo. I also have some photos taken by one of the girls I was with at Khe Sahn on an unscheduled overnight. The last is one Lenny Hart sent me – Bob took it as well.

It was a special time, a very hard time as well especially during Lam Son 719. A funny note – Christmas day we went out to FSB Barbara and many other units. At one place we were asked how our party was the night before and the drinks. We were surprised, very surprised. They explained they heard a phone conversation over AFVN Radio!!! Our line at times had AFVN Radio playing over it. We had to yell working to get an operator. We then had to think back to previous phone conversations!!!!



*Lenny sent me this which Bob took Mai Loc or one of the FSB by the DMZ.
In Peace, Penni*

(continued on page 30)



The top left taken at CRAB, same with bottom right.

The top right is Alpha 4 or Charlie 2, the others at The Sahn.

In Peace, Penni



This is one of my most treasured keepsakes.

In Peace, Penni

This is the work Bob did from a photo he took. He found me on an on line Donut Dollie site.

Returning to Vietnam

In 2017, a high school friend who had served as a Marine in I Corp returned to Vietnam on a tour with a nonprofit tour group, Vietnam Battlefield Tours. The tour was specific to I Corp. I decided to check it out. During the 2017 Business Meeting of The Society of the 5th Division last September, I announced that I planned to go on the 2018 tour.

This required some soul searching. My wife felt I should go while I was healthy enough to go. I had started saving some money toward the trip but I still looked inward to answer the question, of why. My answer came through a paraphrase of a quote sometimes attributed to John F Kennedy but also sometimes attributed to Robert Kennedy. John and Bobby were likely to say “When I am asked why, I answer Why Not?” and that was my conclusion and I departed my home on March, 10, 2018 and arrived home March 26, 2018.



Dennis Coulter – return visit to Vietnam

- I have changed since 1969-70. So, has Vietnam. Some general statements.
- Places that used to be country are now populated.
- Places that used to be Fire Bases are overgrown.
- Places that used to be Combat Bases are now cities.
- The Citadel in Quang Tri City is a monument to NVA dead.
- There is as much poverty in some areas as ever.
- There is some prosperity in some areas where it was not before.
- Not once did the population make us feel unsafe. Not once.
- We traveled in air-conditioned buses.
- We stayed in 3-4-star air-conditioned hotels.
- The food was excellent. The beer cold.
- There were some strenuous days.
- Not all went on the strenuous days.
- Four wives were in the group.
- We all got along. I have some new brothers.

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Returning to Vietnam

(continued from page 31)

In trying to help you understand our daily agenda I decided to use the itinerary provided by Vietnam Battlefield Tours. We stuck pretty well to this. The areas near Dong Ha, Highway 9 and the DMZ were the areas of most interest to me.

Vietnam Battlefield Tours will take you right where you want to go. I was interested in A4, C2, Mai Loc and Khe Gio Bridge.

- All that remains at A4 is the concrete bunker on the high point.
- A4 is now a rubber plantation and cattle operation.
- C2 is overgrown and is a rubber plantation.
- The road to Mai Loc is jungle on each side.
- There is a new bridge at Khe Gio. We were able to walk the old.
- The defoliated area at Khe Gio has regrown.

Other guys wanted to walk areas they served. We visited two different Marine crash sites where tour members had gone down. We walked a Patrol area with some 3/26 marines who had been mortared NW of Con Thien. We walked patrol on the North Side of the Rockpile to the base of Razorback Ridge. Found a lot of spent ordnance.

- Five of us climbed Hamburger Hill.
- Five others climbed Hills 881A and 881B.

I do not work for Vietnam Battlefield Tours but I would like you to understand that I think this was good for me. Not one person on this tour was unhappy with the experience.

INVITATION: if there are any 5th Infantry vets who would like to form a group and return on the upcoming 2019 Northern I Corp trip. I will pay my own way for the trip and would like to come on this journey.

On this trip, in addition to me, there were 5th Infantry Veterans Ralph Reynolds (B 1/11 Infantry 1971) and Ed Hall (1/77 Armor Scouts). Ralph was on the 2017 trip and came back this year with his wife, Joyce.

The itinerary was as follows: This is the 2018 Itinerary for the Northern I Corp Trip. The 2019 itinerary is on the web site of Vietnam Battlefield Tours.

Northern I-Corps

11 March - 25 March, 2018 Tour

15 Days Price: \$3,795.00

Ground Only Price is: \$2,800.00

Itinerary

Day 1 & 2: (Sunday - Monday, 11-12 March, 2018) – Enroute

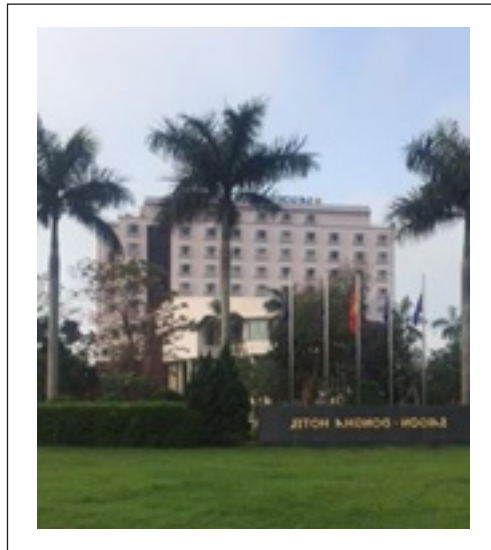
Report to Houston Intercontinental Airport by 8:00 p.m. and proceed to ticketing counter. Depart Houston, TX on our flight to Taipei. Lose one day crossing the International Dateline.

Day 3: (Tuesday, 13 March, 2018) – Ha Noi

After a short layover in Taipei, we depart for Vietnam. At Ha Noi's Noi Bai Airfield, we proceed through immigration, retrieve our bags, clear customs, board our motor coach, and cross the Red River and its dikes to explore the Ha Noi environs. We then visit the John McCain Monument. Tonight, we enjoy our Welcome Dinner.

Day 4: (Wednesday, 14 March, 2018) – Ha Noi to Hue

This morning we visit the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, the Ho Chi Minh House, the One Pillar Pagoda, the fascinating War Museum, and the Hoa Lo Prison (Hanoi Hilton). After lunch, we continue to Noi Bai Airfield and catch our flight to Phu Bai Airfield. After touchdown, we motor north on Highway 1 and transfer to our hotel on the southern bank of the Perfume River in Hue (the old Imperial Capital of Vietnam) for a relaxing evening. Be sure to enjoy the hotel pool. After dinner, you can roam the fascinating shops on Le Loi Street until late at night.



Day 5: (Thursday, 15 March, 2018) – Hue

Today is devoted to the study of the 1968 Tet Offensive battles for Hue. We will first walk the southern battle. We follow the actions of 1/1 and 2/5, covering, among others, the former MACV Compound, Tran Cao Van Street, Joan of Arc Girl's High School, ARVN BOQ, Hue University, Treasury, Public Health Building, Provincial Capital Building area, and the Church of the Redemptress. After lunch we visit the Citadel, with its ramparts and towers, and visit sites specific to the northern battle, including the Chuck Meadows Gate and the Dong Ba Gate. We finish at the Imperial Palace gate blown by 1/5, which allowed the ARVN to enter and lower the NVA flag that had flown from the main flagpole for 24 days. We then visit die Forbidden City, home to the ancient emperors.

Day 6: (Friday, 16 March, 2018)–Hue to Dong Ha
This morning we take a relaxing cruise up the beautiful Perfume River to the Thien Mu Pagoda and the Tu Due Tombs. After lunch we head north on Highway 1 toward Dong

Ha, stopping at sites along the way, such as Quang Tri City, the Ai Ti Airfield, and the Lew Puller School.

Day 7: (Saturday, 17 March, 2018) – Dong Ha

Departing early this morning, we first stop at the Dong Ha Bridge (destroyed by John Ripley which stopped the initial NVA advance during the 1972 Easter

0 Offensive). Next, we pass through the villages of Mai Xa Chanh and My Loc. Taking the beach road we cross into North Vietnam over die Song Ben Hai, the river that was the only true physical demarcation between the North and South. We then explore the tunnel complex in the NVA artillery village of Vinh Moc. On our return from the North, we merge onto Highway One and cross the Peace Bridge making a stop at Gio Linh FSB Forward (Alpha 2) located on the forward edge of the DMZ on the south. Next, we visit Con Thien (the Hill of Angels), pass by C-2, C-3, and stop at the Cam Lo Bridge. We return to Dong Ha for the evening. Today we traversed the four quadrants of Leatherneck Square: Gio Linh, Con Thien, Cam Lo, and Dong Ha.

Day 8: (Sunday, 18 March, 2018) – Dong Ha to Lao Bao

Departing early, we head west on Route 9. Our first stop will be Camp Carroll, the Marine and

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Returning to Vietnam

(continued from page 33)

Army artillery plateau. We continue on to the Rockpile and the Razorback. Along the way we will come upon other sites that were of military importance during the war, including the Khe Gia Bridge, Vandergrift Combat Base (LZ Stud), and Ca Lu. Next is a stop at the Da Krong Bridge for photos and visit a Bru Montagnard village. After lunch in Khe Sanh village, we head north to the Khe Sanh Combat Base where we will spend ample time exploring. Next is the Lang Vei Special Forces Camp, overrun in the first ever NVA tank assault. Co Roc Mountain soars to the heavens just across the border. Tonight, we stay in the Laotian border town of Lao Bao in somewhat Spartan accommodations.

Day 9: (Monday, 19 March, 2018) – Lao Bao to Hue

After breakfast, we return east on Route 9 for a short while and then head south deep into the Da Krong and A Shau Valleys. We stop at the town of A Loui before turning east on Highway 547 back to Hue City.

Day 10: (Tuesday, 20 March, 2018) – Hue

Today is a free day in Hue for shopping, relaxing by the pool, or for personal exploration. Lunch and Dinner is on our own.

Day 11: (Wednesday, 21 March, 2018) – Hue to Hoi An

Departing early this morning we drive south on Highway 1. We stop at interesting sites along the way before heading up the Hai Van with a stop at the Pass to explore old French bunkers and take in a view of Da Nang and the bay. Continuing down the Hai Van, we visit Nam O Bridge, the III-MAF

area, and Red Beach II. Finally, we pass through Dog Patch as we enter Da Nang City and stop for lunch. After a quick photo stop at China Beach on the South China Sea, we pass through the MMAF (Marble Mountain Air Facility) area. We then visit a marble carving shop and climb Marble Mountain to explore the VC hospital area located within. Our last stop today will be a silk factory and wood shop.

Day 12: (Thursday, 22 March, 2018) – Hoi An

Today we travel west and parallel to the southern edge of Go Noi Island, until we arrive at Hill 119 for a hike to the top of this Recon outpost. Our next stops are Liberty Bridge (south) and An Hoa Regimental Combat Base. We will make a special visit to the My Son Holy land located deep in the foothills of the Que Son Mountains. My Son is the site of Trakieu, the ancient capital of the Cham Kingdom and contains ruins dating back to the 5th Century. Tonight, we are on our own for dinner.

Day 13: (Friday, 23 March, 2018) – Hoi An to Da Nang

After a leisurely breakfast, we travel to Da Nang, where the balance of the day is a free day for personal exploration, shopping, or relaxing. Lunch is on our own, but tonight all hands gather for a very special Farewell Dinner at the most famous restaurant in Da Nang, the Kim Do.

Day 14: (Saturday, 24 March, 2018) – Da Nang to Ha Noi

After breakfast, we head to Da Nang Airfield for our flight to Ha Noi. After lunch, we prepare for the journey home and more last-minute shopping.

Day 15: (Sunday, 25 March, 2018) – Departure

For those opting for one of our fabulous post tours, your day begins as we bid our new friends

a happy journey home. After breakfast, those heading home transfer to Noi Bai Airfield for the flight to Taipei. Departing from Taipei, we gain a day enroute to the continental United States by re-crossing the International Dateline, arriving in Houston at approximately 11:05 p.m. this same day.

On the day we visited A4 and C2, Ralph Joyce, and two others payed an early morning visit to the market in Dong Ha (an adventure in itself) where we purchased 31 yellow Mums. Ralph, Ed and I laid those flowers at the approximate site of C2 in honor of our brothers killed in a Rocket Attack May 21, 1971.

Here are some photos of Northern I Corp. Space prohibits the number presented here. I will have more at the 2018 Reunion and answer your questions there. I kept a daily journal with photos on my Facebook Page. You can find my page by searching my name on the page of The Society of the 5th Division.



These churches along and near Highway 1 just south of Quang Tri City were needlessly destroyed by the NVA during the 1972 Easter Offensive.

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Returning to Vietnam

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*Quang Tri Citadel
which is now a
monument to fallen
NVA soldiers.*





Quang Tri Citadel which is now a monument to fallen NVA soldiers.



One of our guides buying machetes for our hiking adventures scheduled for the next day.

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Returning to Vietnam

(continued from page 37)



The structures behind me were the HQ for Madam Linda in 1969 and 1970. Linda was the Main Madam for the local Ladies of the Night. She also controlled a great deal of the Black Market in Dong Ha City. As an MP we had several negative encounters with Linda. The Local Police would do nothing to stop Linda. We did not have the authority. I asked for "Linda" that morning but the locals forgot how to speak English.



Jules, one of our British tourists standing in a large crater.



One of the guys looking out from the bunker.

*Ed Hall (1/77 Armor),
Ralph Reynolds (1/11
Infantry), and me (HHC MP
Platoon) at the old French
Bunker that sat on
the East side of A4.
This bunker and some
craters are all that remains
at A4. The current use is
for cattle and as
a rubber plantation.*



*We reached a
location identified the
Guides as the former
location of Firebase
Charlie 2.
Also, now rubber and
cattle operations.
We picked a spot and
laid 31 Yellow Mums
in honor of the
31 Brothers who died
as a result of the
May 21, 1971 rocket
attack. Ralph and Ed
were still in country
on that date but not
at C2. I had rotated
out the previous
October.*

(continued on page 40)

Returning to Vietnam

(continued from page 39)

Brother Steve Wheat asked me to be on the lookout for a pair of socks he left hanging on the wire at Charlie 2. Well, no wire to be found but I asked these two young ladies selling Souvenirs along the road just north of Cam Lo if they knew anything about Steve's missing socks. After rummaging around for a while they came up with these which they assured me they had in their possession at this souvenir stand since before "The Americans" left. The socks smelled awful but are in good shape.



Split into three groups today. Some went back to Hue, some hiked hills 881A and 881B. My group hike to the top of Hamburger Hill.



Taking a short break about halfway up. Feels like temp was 97 degrees. The red Diamond is actually a mosquito repellent patch. I chose Red.



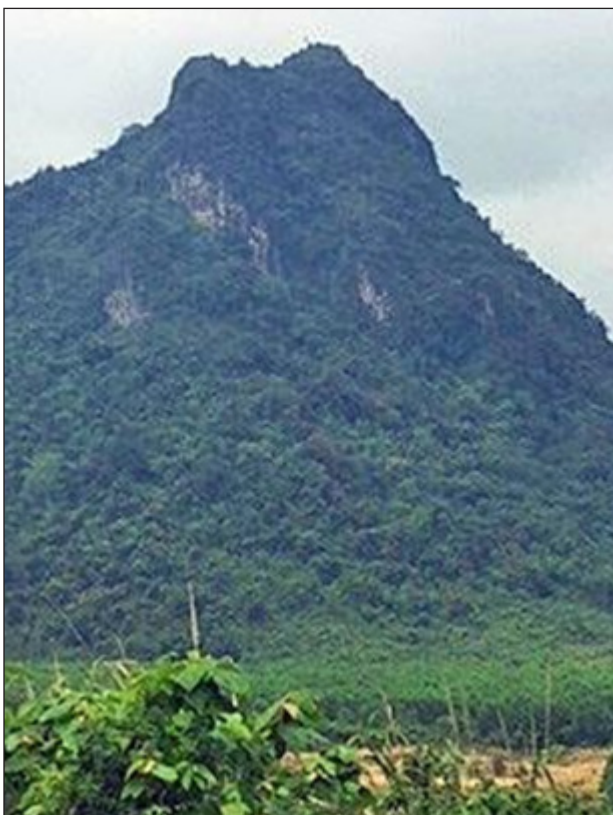
At the top...This was hard with a 20lb pack (mostly water). I cannot begin to imagine fighting up that hill with a full ruck. (continued on page 42)

Returning to Vietnam

(continued from page 41)



This was completely defoliated during the war. Hillside above Khe Gio Bridge.



*Hiked to the north side of "The Rockpile"
Lot of expended ammunition lying around.*

QUARTERMASTER REPORT

Following are pictures and descriptions of merchandise that is available for sale from the Quartermaster.

Society of the 5th Division Polo Shirts



Black or White Polo Shirt w/embroidered logo design. Choice of short or long sleeve. Cotton/Polyester (50/50)
Cotton/Polyester (50/50).
Specify size: Short Sleeve: M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL - \$40
Long Sleeve: M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL - \$50
S & H: 1 shirt - \$5; 2 shirts - \$7.50
Larger orders: Contact the Quartermaster

Society of the 5th Division T-Shirts



Black or White T-Shirt w/embroidered logo design.
Choice of Short or Long Sleeve.
Cotton/Polyester (50/50). Specify size:
Short Sleeve: M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL - \$25
Long Sleeve: M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL - \$30
S & H: 1 shirt - \$5; 2 shirts - \$7.50
Larger orders: Contact the Quartermaster



PIN (Hat/Lapel)
1 Inch Red
Diamond,
Silver finish metal
Cloisonné, \$5.00 ea.

Shipping & Handling Add
\$1.50 for order of 1 to 10 pin

Contact Quartermaster for larger orders

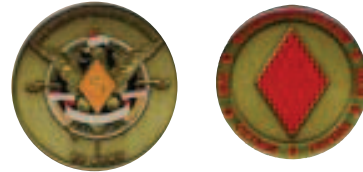
Pins Temporarily out of stock contact QM before ordering.

Fifth Division Hats

w/embroidered logo design,
adjustable, \$15.00 ea.
plus \$6.00 shipping costs.
Contact Quartermaster for
larger orders

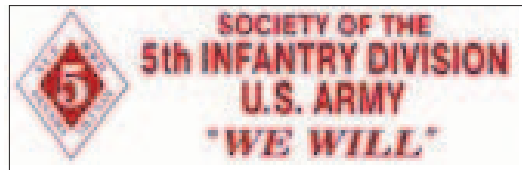


Fifth Infantry Division Challenge Coin



Fifth "Infantry" Division Challenge Coin
(front and back shown): \$10.00 ea.
w/shipping and handling included.
Antique gold (sandblasted texture)
w/epoxy finish; 1 3/4" x 1/8".

Detail is exquisite. This is the only authorized Challenge Coin issued by the Society of the Fifth Division.



Bumper Sticker: "WE WILL" BumperSticker; 1 1/2" x 3"; \$1.00 ea. Add \$1.15 for shipping and handling for each order.



Compilations of New York Times Articles: This is the book which was made available to those who attended the Reunion. It is available now at our cost of \$9 plus \$9 shipping/handling for a total cost of \$18. Contact Quartermaster for larger orders.

**Dennis W. Coulter -
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PLEASE PRINT FULL NAME
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- become a member in
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... the Society of the
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- an Associate Member

and herewith submit my
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to include a year's
subscription to the *Red
Diamond Magazine*.

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

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I served in _____

Co, Bty, Trp / Battalion / Regiment / Brigade

- WW-II
- Vietnam
- Panama

Other _____

\$ _____ Gift to the Society.

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P.O. Box 5764
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The dues for membership in the Society are \$15.00 for annual membership. Any member wishing to become a LIFE member may do so by paying the following one-time dues: age less than 61, \$150.00; age 61-69, \$75.00; age over 70, \$50.00. All LIFE members are subject to any special assessments declared by the Executive Board or adopted at any meeting.