

SKY SOLDIER

Newsletter of
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF
THE 173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE



Winter 1993

President — Robert Sigholtz
Vice-President — Ken Gaudet

Secretary — Mark Ludlow
Treasurer — COL Kenneth Smith

Vol. VIII, No. 1

Editor — Timothy R. Stout

AUSSIES PLANNING MAJOR ASSAULT ON TEXAS REUNION!



The 1st Royal Australian Regiment on Parade.

The Chapter XI members that are planning to attend the Texas Reunion are gathering soon at a special Bar-B-Que to get to know one another just that bit better and to plan their journey. To date

the number still stands around 30. "Texans be warned down here we've heard that things are bigger and better in Texas but, you haven't met a thirsty Aussie yet!"

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From the Secretary

SEND US COPIES OF YOUR OLD ORDERS: We need your help in our effort to locate those who served with the brigade. As National Secretary, I have been able to establish and develop via social security and service numbers and other sources a means in which to locate the current addresses of other living Sky Soldiers. The social security numbers are located on copies of orders issued while serving with the Brigade. (Social security and service numbers were first used by the Army around 1968 or 1969. If you send copies of your old orders for decorations, etc., (that list other persons other than yourself) to Mark Ludlow, National Secretary, I will process the information and send letters to all those we are successful in locating. You can really make a difference in expanding our membership rolls, so please send me your old orders; remember, this works!. I just located my best buddy in Vietnam after 22 years! Be sure to send your orders to my attention at the National Headquarters address: P.O. Box 27822, Washington, D.C. 20038-0822.

Mark Ludlow
National Secretary

NOTICE

The Society now has available an updated National (January 7, 1993) Membership Roster for members. The copying, sale of, or non Society commercial use of the information contained in the roster of members is strictly prohibited. Copies can be obtained from the National Secretary at a cost of \$5.00 per copy.

From the Editor

It won't be long before the 1993 reunion will be here and we'll all be scurrying for the registration form to send off. If you're like me, you keep your fingers crossed that your vacation time is not canceled for some "urgent business" that pops up at the last minute that only you can take care of. Well, if it happens to me I'm going AWOL! They can look for me in San Antonio . . . but, then when I get back I may have to look for a new job. Life is dull if you don't add a little excitement to it.

The reunion should be exciting in that Texas is expecting a large contingent of Aussie's to show up to add a little, no make that an enormous amount of good old "Downunder" cheer and comradeship. I am forever questioning my decision as to why I went to Bangkok for R&R and not to Sidney. Did the Aussie's get an R&R? If they did, did they go home or did they go to Bangkok or some other exotic location? Was Bangkok really exotic? That's a topic that will probably be addressed at the reunion, better still, it would make a better topic to read about in the newsletter. If you have any comments about your travel experiences while on R&R, please drop me a line or give me a call.

Tim Stout
P.O. Box 412
River Falls, WI 54022
(715) 425-0125

GLAD YOU ASKED — Some Followup

In the last Newsletter, we responded to questions about why some people's names never appeared in the "News About Sky Soldiers" column. There is some encouragement in the knowledge that most dues payments received in the intervening period have been accompanied by filled out membership forms. In addition to letting your fellow Sky Soldiers know what is happening to you, a correct telephone number lets us contact you when mail is returned because the Post Office has reorganized routes, changed Zips, or the gremlin that resides in our computer has done some unilateral changes. THANKS AND KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!

A frequently asked question concerns membership cards and why some Sky Soldiers don't seem to get them on a timely basis. As a result of a decision at the 1992 convention, LIFE Membership Cards are a hard plastic permanent card issued by the National Headquarters. They take about 6-8 weeks to procure. We will continue to issue the paper LIFE membership cards as a temporary card until we run out. By this time, all Sky Soldiers who were Life members before 1 Jan 93 should have their permanent LIFE membership cards.

Annual cards are necessary in our organization, as they are in other organizations, to provide members with a reminder of when dues are payable (1 January of each year). To avoid confusion, and to save printing costs for the Chapters, the National Board of Directors determined that only National Headquarters would issue annual membership cards. National members receive their cards directly from National Headquarters. Chapter members receive their membership card from National Headquarters *through* their Chapter Headquarters. GLAD YOU ASKED!

Ken Smith
Membership Chairman



3616 N. 36th Road
Arlington, Virginia 22207

13 January 1993

LTC, David Hurley, Commander
1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment
ASC MNF Operation Solace
AFPO #3 International Mil Center
Sidney, Australia

Dear Colonel Hurley,

Welcome back into the fold. Carey McQuillan has just called and informed me that history is repeating itself. Almost 28 years ago the 1st RAR came into Vietnam and joined my command, the U.S. 173rd Airborne Brigade (Separate). The 1st RAR immediately became a welcomed and valued integral part of the organization. They soon became to be considered the most willing, cooperative and capable part of the force.

All of the SKY SOLDIERS of the 173rd will be thinking of and supporting you in your new endeavor.

I am also writing a note to the Commanding General of the U.S. 10th Mountain Division to inform him of how lucky we think he is. A copy of this letter is enclosed.

Sincerely
Ellis W. Williamson
Major General
U.S. Army (Retired)
President Emeritus
SOCIETY 173rd Airborne Brigade

13 January 1993

Major General Steven L. Arnold
Commanding General
10th Mountain Division
Fort Drum, N.Y. 13602

Dear General Arnold,

As you can see by the copy of the enclosed letter that I sent to Australia, many people are pleased with what we visualize as "Your Luck". I received a telephone call at seven o'clock in the morning from Australia. They are thrilled at the idea of once again serving with a U.S. Army unit.

The 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment was attached to and became a most welcomed element of the 173rd Airborne Brigade (Separate) that I commanded in Vietnam. We are confident that they will do as well for you.

Most everyone back here in the U.S. is so pleased over what you and others are doing under rather difficult circumstances. Our text books do not tell us how to run an operation such as you are accomplishing. Some of us think we understand and stand full score behind you.

Our thanks go to you and all your fine personnel for doing for us what needs to be done.

Sincerely
Ellis W. Williamson
Major General
U.S. Army (Retired)
President Emeritus
SOCIETY 173rd Airborne Brigade

A HUMAN MIND

Some years ago, when we were younger, a noted speaker proclaimed: "A human mind is a terrible thing to waste." During our Vietnam tours, in fighting so hard for survival, for each other, and for our outfit, we gave this phrase additional significance. More appropriately, we believed that a Sky Soldier's life was a terrible thing to waste. We fought like demons, risking and sacrificing to protect and evacuate our wounded, and — when necessary — to recover our dead.

Today, on a continuing basis, we have an opportunity to practice this fundamental principle — we collectively can take steps to save a human life and energize a human mind by assisting one of the sons or daughters of our fellow Sky Soldiers get an education. Educational costs are skyrocketing and more and more dependents are asking for help. Once again join with us and support Your Society's Scholarship Fund. Any gift, regardless of size, helps. Our kids are mankind's future hope. A human life — a human mind — is a terrible thing to waste.

In Memoriam

STEVE G. HRONAS

Chapter XVII is sad to announce the untimely death of STEVE G. HRONAS, Co D, 4/503 Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade. May God grant him the eternal rest of those who served their country honorably and well.

NOTICE

Deadline for submitting articles for the Spring edition is: **1 April 1993**

For the Summer edition is is 31 July 1993.

Editor

Comrades Reunited

Recently, 23 years after he watched the medical evacuation of his wounded Vietnamese interpreter and friend Nhon Binh Nguyen, Maj. Gen. Hugh Shelton and Nguyen were reunited.

Shelton, commander of the Fort Bragg, N.C.-based 82nd Airborne Division, was a captain in 1969 when he served with Nguyen in the 173rd Airborne Bde, as commander of Co. C, 4th Bn., 503rd Inf.

When Shelton left Vietnam, he left a letter for Nguyen, but never heard from him. Then, several months ago, Shelton and his wife got a phone call from Grand Rapids, Mich.; a woman said, "We've got a Vietnamese man here who has been asking for you constantly."

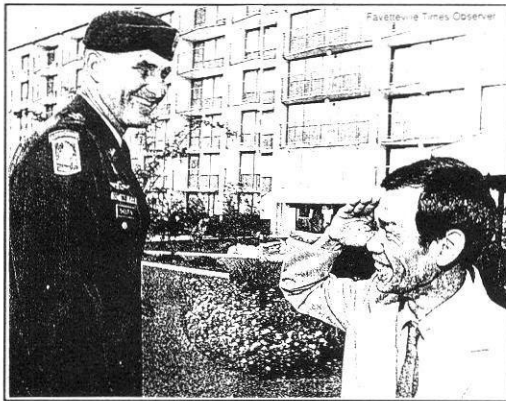
Shelton said "I almost dropped my teeth."

Nguyen and his wife had come to the U.S. in 1989, but hadn't been able to locate Shelton until that moment.

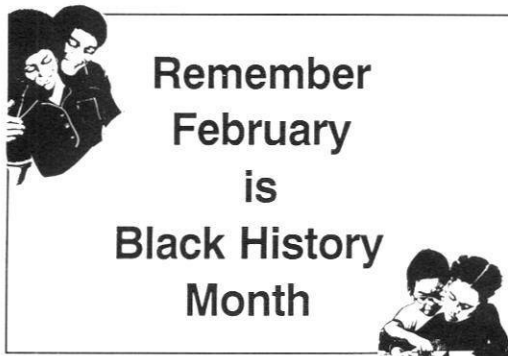
"It was terrific to hear from him," said Shelton, who met with Nguyen and his family in Fayetteville, N.C.

"I knew then that he had survived the ordeal, and I was walking on cloud nine for about three days later," Shelton added. "I'd often wondered what happened to him and his family." Shelton had often imagined that Nguyen, as a U.S. ally, had been killed by the communists. — *Compiled from news clips.*

Submitted by Joe Logan, Chapter IV.



Comrades reunited



Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

In your Fall edition of *Sky Soldier* on news from Down Under you stated that the address of: Rick Jeffrey O.A.M. 12 Sundeck Avenue, Hawks Nest, NSW "raises definite images in your mind", well if I may say so myself it should, as this area is Gods country. We will discuss this in Texas, '93", see you there.

Rick Jeffrey
Australia

Ed Note: Word has it that there will be 30 showing up from Gods country, it should make for a very "lively" discussion.

Dear Editor:

Aloha from Molokai, HI. I was with 3/503 at Ft. Bragg (1967) and was attached to the 4.2 mortar platoon. I then went to the 3rd platoon Delta company until 1968. My last operation was on Task Force South in Bao Loc. I would like to hear from some guys that served with me: Mike Klein (4 deuce and MP's) and Ray Buis who was at Dak To. I am medically retired by the VA. I can be reached at: P.O. Box 919, Molokai, HI 96748 (808) 553-3475.

Lou McKee

Ed Note: Sorry for the delay, Lou

Dear Editor:

I served with Co D, 16th Armor and E Trp 17th Cav 1967-68. I'm checking out of the net now after 33 years. Really enjoy your newsletter, keep up the good work. Airborne!
SGM (Ret) John Anderson
109 Primrose Lane
Radcliff, KY 40160

Ed Note: Enjoy your retirement and keep your "net" open, hope to hear from you again.

Dear Editor:

I just recently became aware of the existence of the Society. I served with the 3rd and 4th battalions during 1967 and 1968. Even though I did not know the Society existed, the 173rd was not far from my heart. I have a Purple Heart license plate with 173AB on it. I am presently working as a physician assistant/nurse practitioner in thoracic surgery at Barnes Hospital in St. Louis, MO. I have met many people here in Missouri who are former members of the "Herd" especially since I got my license plates. I even had a policeman pull me over, only to tell me that he was a member of 2/503 in 1968.

C. W. Scherer
"Hawk 32"
5647 Oleatha Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63139

Dear Editor:

MP's always had their head where their 4th point of contact is.

Anonymous

Ed Note: "Of The Troops - For The Troops" We tried our best to imitate the troops.

“HOOK UP”

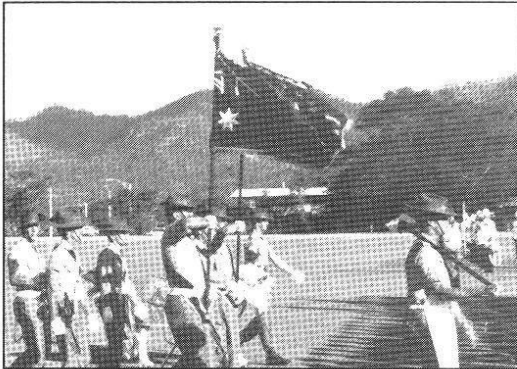
David H. Greenslade (HHC 4/503 1967-68) is trying to locate anyone who may have served with him during his tour with the Brigade. Dave had been denied VA benefits for PTSD and needs supporting information. You can write to Dave at: 385 E. Main Rd. #3, Conneaut, OH 44030.

Robert L. Roedocker (173rd Eng Co/E Trp 17 Cav/ LRRPS 1965-66) is trying to locate former LRRP members who served with him. If anyone remembers Bob Roedocker, please contact: Robert Stave, Department of Veteran Affairs, 1315 Whitehead Street, Key West, Florida 33040 (305) 294-1717.

Robert Goodman (C Btry 3/319 Artillery 1970-71) needs information to help him with a VA claim. Bob would like to hear from any members who served with him to recall names of hills, fire support bases the battery made raids to. Bob can be reached at: 2210 Pritchard Road, Wheaton, MD 20902.

Bruce Holten (Co B 3/503 1968-69) is trying to locate anyone who may have information about the medical unit that supported the battalion while in Bao Loc. Bruce was treated there for a gunshot wound and for malaria, and would like to know where the medical records for the unit are maintained. Bruce can be contacted at: (612) 781-4139.

For Our Friends Down Under:



1st RAR Colors pass in review.

The above photograph, I was told, was taken during the 1991 reunion in Australia. However, there is no explanation as to why the one trooper is wearing a white apron and carrying a double edge axe at what we would call, “right shoulder arms.” We would be very interested to hear from Chapter XI and the significance and perhaps historical meaning behind the apron and axe, and even more so about the white miniature horse with corporal stripes. Since there are horses and axes in Texas, there may be some Texans who are a little more anxious for an answer before the reunion. In good humor we await your answer.

Editor:

Notice of By Laws Committee Meeting

In accordance with Article IX, Section 1 of the Society's bylaws, the general membership by this notice, is being informed that the By-laws Committee will be convening during the 1993 reunion and will consist of the Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Judge Advocate. The general membership can suggest changes to the by-laws in writing and should be addressed to: International Headquarters, Society of the 173rd Airborne Brigade, P.O. Box 27822, Washington, DC 20038-0822. All suggested amendments should be submitted in accordance with the by-laws.

ARTICLE IX Amendments

Section 1. There shall be a By-Laws Committee appointed by the President annually.

Section 2. By-Laws may be adopted, amended, or repealed by two thirds vote of the membership at any Annual Membership Meeting.

No such action can be taken unless the proposed changes have been mailed to the By-Laws Committee at least forty-five (45) days prior to the Annual Membership meeting (10 July 1993)

The By-Laws Committee shall put such proposals into proper form. The Committee shall then mail such proposals to the Board of Directors at least ten (10) days prior to the annual Membership Meeting.

The members may, by two-thirds vote, agree to waive the notice requirements and vote on any such proposals.

Section 3. Amendment by Directors

By-Laws may be adopted, amended or repealed by a three fourths vote of the Board of Directors, provided that any such action shall be ratified by a two-thirds vote of the members present at the Annual Membership Meeting.

Scholarship Fund

The Society acknowledges the generous gifts of the following to the scholarship fund:

Chapter IX	Gerhard Tauss
Russ Ward	Gordon Roberts
James F. O'Brien	James Mailler

UNDERAGE VETERANS SOUGHT

A national veterans association is seeking veterans who falsified their age and served in the U.S. Military UNDER the age of 17. A national reunion will be held in October. A free handbook on government policy on underage veterans will be sent on request to any underage veteran. For more information, write to Allan Stover, Commander, Veterans of Underage Military Service, 3444 Walker Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21042. (410) 461-9779.

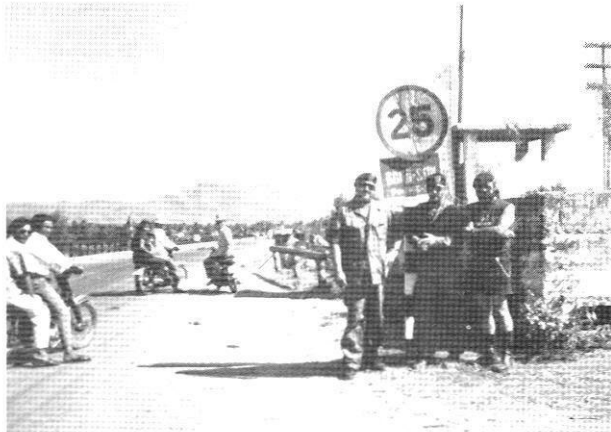
Six Sky Soldiers Return to Viet Nam

Six Sky Soldiers from the 173 ABN, BDE, started this journey on July 10, 1992. One (Larry Smith) was separated in Hong Kong due to an airline mistake, but Larry arrived a day late and spent two weeks teaching in Saigon. He really enjoyed himself.

The five of us landed at Tan Son Nhut Airport where we spent three days in Saigon before starting our journey. We traveled to Vung Tau, Bien Hoa, Dalat (it's still beautiful), Phan Rang, and Quinhon. After spending the night at Quinhon, we were packed and ready to go to Ankhe when John and Ken informed us they were staying because of traveling exhaustion.

The three of us and our three Vietnamese friends headed up to Ankhe. The famous pass is now overgrown. We stopped at the hairpin turn for awhile. The town has grown and the base is completely gone. All that is left is Hong Kong Mountain!

Later in the afternoon, we headed up Highway 1 to Bong Son. We arrived a couple of hours before dark, so we walked down the main street of Bong Son. The people were very happy to see us there. We wore our Ranger berets and 173rd shirts with most of the people's approval. Most everyone came out to see us with smiles



July 19, 1992 — Hwy 1, South End of Bong Son Bridge. L to R: Carlos Sepulveda, Smokey Wells, Jesus Peralta.



July 19, 1992 — Ankhe. Hong Kong mountain in background. L to R: Jesus Peralta, Smokey Wells, Carlos Sepulveda.

and hello's. The children were fascinated with us. The people remember the 173rd with good memories, or at least most did. They said we treated them good and wished we were there now because the economy is terrible!

One old V.C. identified himself and told us, "The V.C. called the 173rd, "The Nails' " because they could not run the herd out of any area, but other American forces they could. He was honest about his feelings toward us. He was still bitter because we killed and crippled a lot of his friends and people from his country.

There is a large V.C. cemetery just north of L.Z. English, one of the many we have seen along this journey. One in Chu Lai has 10,000 marked V.C. graves. We spent the night about 15 miles above L.Z. English. The next morning we found L.Z. English, but the only thing left was part of the runway. We took

some pictures, flew some American flags and 173rd colors. We came back through Bong Son again and ate breakfast across the bridge. The old French bunker is still there. What memories. I remember when we had all worked that A.O. with the Bats, the Rangers and myself with C. Rangers I.F.F.V. and C/2nd Bat 503rd INF. We also stopped at L.Z. Uplift for half an hour, it is completely gone except for a few shell casings and barbed wire.

We headed back to Quinhon and picked up the other two. We then left for Nha Trang. We spent the night on the town and stayed in a nice hotel, on the beach, looking at Hon Tre Island. Carlos and I talked about pulling missions around Nha Trang and going through 5th Special Forces Recondo School and about our time in the hospital there.

We left the next morning heading back to Saigon passing Phan Thiet along the way. We pulled a lot of Ranger missions from there. It took us roughly 12 hours to get to Saigon because the road conditions are not the best.

We had three days left, so Vin had us (Carlos, Jesus, and myself) stay at his house with his family. They treated us great.



LZ Uplift. All that's left is the Hill in background where Recon was. L to R: Carlos Sepulveda, Smokey Wells, Jesus Peralta.

(Continued on page 13)

News About Sky Soldiers

Gerry Ball (Co B 1/503 70) would like to hear from Sky Soldiers with whom he served, especially Freddy Thompson and David Essenbaum. Gerry lives and works in Conrath Wisconsin, and can be reached at: N690 Rangeline Road, Conrath, WI 54731 (715) 452-5356.

John Sacco (173rd Eng Co 65-66) has retired from the Army and is now living in Fayetteville, NC. John would like to hear from members with whom he served. He can be reached at: 5324 Sandstone Drive, Fayetteville, NC 28301.

Geno Banovatz (E Trp 17 Cav/75th Rgrs 69) is living and working in Georgia, and would like to hear from members with whom he served. Geno can be reached at: P.O. Box 1431, Tucker, GA 30084 (404) 979-5034.

J.C. Terry (B/4/503 70) is retired from the Army and is currently living in Sacramento, CA. J.C. is trying to locate former members with whom he served, especially: Melvin Smallwood, John Foltz, (medic) Lt Robert B. Johnson, SP4 Michael D. Fales, SP4 Allen Williams, SP4 Hughs, SP4 Gary Coleman, and SP4 Booley. J.C. can be reached at: 9358 Henley Way, Sacramento, CA 95826.

Thom "Bootnik" Lemmons (B/3/503 70-71) would like to hear from former members of his unit especially: Brian Coughlin, Jim (worm) Early, Bradley (canary kid) S. Hill, Tall T from Tennessee, Bro Brown. Thom can be contacted at: 12102 Beckford East Drive, Maryland Heights, MO 63043-4219 (314) 291-8098.

R. A. "Tony" Harris (1st Bn Royal Australian Regiment 65-66) is now living in Missouri where he owns a business. Tony moved to the U.S. to establish Australian Commercial Enterprises, Inc. in Branson, MO. Tony would like to hear from Sky Soldiers who may remember when the 1st RAR was attached to the 173rd. He can be contacted at: P.O. Box 1431, Branson, MO 65616 (417) 335-3910.

Rick Vogel (Co C 3/503 68-69) was medically retired from active duty in 1969 and is currently living in Winona, Minnesota. Rick would like to hear from members with whom he served. You can write to Rick at: 104 Main Street, Winona, MN 55987-3444 (507) 454-6225.

Richard Hammond (A/2 67-68) is the Florida West Coast Sales and Service Representative of Lyle, Inc., and lives in New Port Richey, FL.

Dexter M. Thompson, Jr. (MPs, 64-65) is an Attorney and part time Public Defender and lives in Elkton, MD.

Salvador Beltran (H/Spt 65-66) is a School Administrator and High School Principal in Pasco, WA.

David Hess (1/50 69-70) is a Special Agent for the Drug Enforcement Agency and lives in Stafford, VA.

Randolph C. Riffe (B/3 69-70) is Senior Deputy U.S. Marshal in Anchorage, Alaska.

George Bembischew (A/3 & D/3 67-68) will graduate from Temple University in May 1993. George recently appeared as an extra in PHILADELPHIA, starring Tom Hanks.

Melvin Fernandez (H/4 69-70) works for American Messenger Service in Fayetteville, NC.

CSM James H. Strode (B/2 66-67) has retired and now lives in Oak Grove, KY.

Jack A. Moore (E/H/4 69-69) is a Fraud Investigator for Discovery Card Services, Inc. and lives in Reynoldsburg, OH.

COL Gerald H. Early (A/Spt 69-70) of Bethesda, MD, has retired and began a career as a high school teacher starting January 93.

Thomas R. Gilbert (173 Eng 63 & H/2 66-67) is Manager of the Fayetteville Tire Inc, in Fayetteville, NC.

David M. Harlacher (82nd Avn 65-66) is a Railroad Engineer for Norfolk Southern and lives in Conneaut, OH.

William Hornsby (82nd Avn 65-66) is medically retired and lives in Lugoff, SC.

Dennis J. Hupp (B/1, H/1 & H/Bde 67-68) is Manager of the Investigations and Security Division, Federal Aviation Administration and lives in Springfield, VA. Dennis' son 2LT Alan Hupp, recently graduated from Army Ranger School (class 11-92). Way to go Alan!

Charles F. Mendat (H/B 65-66) owns Sunshine Mug Shots Company and lives in Orange Park, FL.

Major General Henry H. Shelton (H/4 & C/4 68-69) is Commanding General, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, NC.

Saul Sorkin (173 Eng 66-67) is Night Manager of the Main NCO Club at Ft. Bragg and lives in Fayetteville, NC.

1SG Cravis Taybron, Jr. (C/75 Inf 70-71) is First Sergeant of HQ Company, 82nd Airborne Division and lives in Fayetteville, NC.

SGM Vander L. Tender (C/3 67-69 & D/2 70-71) is the Sergeant Major of the Division Materiel Management Center, 82nd Airborne Division DISCOM and lives in Fayetteville, NC.

CSM Nathaniel Washington is Command Sergeant Major, 2-505 PIR, 82nd Airborne Division and lives in Fayetteville, NC.

Sherman "Mick" Weisinger (H/Spt 67-68) is an Investment Broker and lives in Richmond, VA.

Robert L. Stave (173 Eng 65-66) is Veterans Service Counselor, Monroe County (Florida) Veterans Affairs Office and lives in Key West, FL.

Stephen "Doc" Fisher (D/3-319 70-71) is a Physician Assistant for the GLAH Medical Group and lives in Holtwood, PA.

SGM Clarence Carr, Jr. (B/2 & 75th Inf 67-69) is Advisor to Alaska State National Guard and lives at Ft. Richardson, AK.

Juan T. Garay (?/4 68-69) is an Aircraft Sheet Metal Mechanic and lives in San Antonio, TX.

SGM Teddy J. Godwin (C/4 67) is the Chief Enlisted Advisor for the Alaska Army National Guard and lives at Ft. Richardson, AK.

SGM Lester D. Logsdon (B/4 69-71) is State Retention Sergeant Major, STARC, Alaska and lives in Ft. Richardson, AK.

David Negri (173 Eng 68-69) is a Bricklayer for the N.Y.C. Housing Authority and lives in Newburgh, NY.

Andrew Walker, Jr. (E/3 65-66) would like to hear from those with whom he served. Write him at: PO Box 5172, Poughkeepsie, NY 12602.

John M. Goss (B/4 69-70) is a DOD Utilities Maintenance Foreman at NAS Pensacola.

William J. Savage (D/4 66-67) is a Plumber at Metropolitan Mech in Minneapolis.

Dennis Hale (B/2 67-68) needs to contact those with whom he served to establish a V.A. Claim. If you served with Dennis, please write him at PO Box 104; Sonyea, NY 14556.

(Continued on page 13)

GREETINGS FROM THE TEXAS CHAPTER (Reunion Update)

We hope to see a record number of SKY SOLDIERS and guests in San Antonio, Texas this year, we picked a great spot to gather. Our hotel is right on the famous River Walk, our main social area on the 22nd floor looks out over the entire city, the famous tourist sights could keep you busy for days, the food is unlike what you ever experienced before, and the shopping for the ladies will be unbelievable. If you never considered the reunion for a family vacation, then this should be the time.

The Lone Star brewery is a museum quality exhibit of Texas history and displays along with an authentic Texas old time saloon. We will be serving up authentic Texas barbecue with plenty of Lone Star beer.

Our intention is to acknowledge the Combat Medic, Fort Sam Houston houses the Combat Medic museum.

We are hoping to have some special entertainment while visiting Fort Sam Houston, so don't be surprised if the next reunion schedule shows some changes.

We haven't confirmed our guest speaker as yet, but were working on it. Watch for additional information in the next issue.

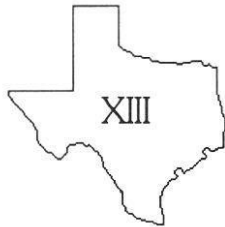
Please make your room reservations and send your registration forms early. We only have limited space available.

Ya'll come down and see us, ya here!

For details or additional information call me at 1-800-959-1734 between 8:00 am to 5:00 pm C.S.T.

AIRBORNE ALL THE WAY
Eric A. Hitchcock
Reunion Chairman
Texas Chapter XIII

REUNION PATROL REPORT



Situation: 173rd Airborne Society ★ July 8-11, 1993 ★
Annual Convention/Reunion
San Antonio, Texas

Enemy Forces: Heat — Humidity is High and Average
Temperature is 95 degrees in July

Friendly Forces: City of San Antonio and Texas Chapter XIII

Attachments: Australian personnel from Down Under (1st RAR)

Mission: FUN – FUN – FUN renewing old friendships and meeting new Sky Soldiers

Execution:

8 July (Thurs)	1300-1700	Registration	10 July (Sat)	0900-1100	LATE Registration	
		Hospitality Room Open				Officers Meeting
	1900-2000	Mexican Buffet				Hospitality Room Open
	1900-2400	Entertainment			0900-1630	Ladies Activities Planned
	2330-0100	Hospitality Room Open		1300-1500	General Membership Meeting	
9 July (Fri)	0800-1500	Registration		1700-1800	Hospitality Room Open	
		Hospitality Room Open		1800-1900	Cocktails	
	1000-1400	Ft. Sam Houston Tour & Troop Lunch		1900-2130	Banquet	
	1400-1700	Free Time		2130-0100	Dance (Party Time)	
	1700-2300	Lone Star Brewery – BBQ Dinner Entertainment	11 July (Sun)	0800-0945	Continental Breakfast	
			1000-1100	Memorial Services		
			1100-1300	End Reunion – Goodbyes visit more of San Antonio		

1993 REUNION/CONVENTION

of the
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE 173rd AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEP)

Hosted by the
TEXAS CHAPTER XIII
July 8-11, 1993 • San Antonio, Texas

_____ <i>Last Name</i>	_____ <i>First</i>	_____ <i>M.I.</i>	
_____ <i>Address</i>	_____ <i>City</i>	_____ <i>State</i>	_____ <i>Zip</i>
_____ <i>Phone</i>	_____ <i>Chapter</i>	_____ <i>T-shirt size</i>	_____ <i>Hat size</i>

I will be Accompanied by:

_____ <i>Name/Guest</i>	_____ <i>Name/Guest</i>
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_____ <i>Name/Guest</i>	_____ <i>Name/Guest</i>
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_____ Handicap Facilities Requested	_____ Baby Sitting Services	_____ No. of children
_____ Non-smoking/banquet table	_____ Amount enclosed (itemized)	
_____ Additional banquet tickets		

Unit Affiliation and Service Dates with Brigade

Registration Fees: ON OR BEFORE APRIL 15TH: \$100 member, \$50 spouse/guest (no reg. packet for spouse), \$25 children under 15 (no reg. packet or Banquet).

AFTER APRIL 16TH thru MAY 15TH: \$110 member, \$60 spouse/guest

AFTER MAY 15TH: \$125 member, \$75 spouse/guest.

Additional person(s) for Banquet only \$45 (each). Please include with registration.

Registration Includes: Registration Packet (member only), free Hospitality Room, Mexican Buffet, Lunch at Ft. Sam Houston, BBQ Dinner, Tour Lone Star Brewery, Banquet Dinner, Continental Breakfast (Sunday only).

Transportation: Provided to and from Hotel for Lunch at Ft. Sam Houston and to BBQ Dinner.

Location: Hilton Palacio Del Rio, 200 S. Alamo, P.O. Box 2711, San Antonio, Texas 78205. 1-800-445-8667 (Hilton) Rates — \$85/single or double. Call for Suites or Tower Rooms.

Hotel reservations must be made by JUNE 17th to guarantee rates.

AMERICAN AIRLINES — The official carrier for the Reunion/Convention. Reservations: 1-800-433-1790, Star File #8273P7; ask for the Value Fare Plan-a-Head fares.

Make check payable and mail to:

173rd Convention '93
Texas Chapter XIII
P.O. Box 37110
San Antonio, Texas 78237

FOR MORE INFO CALL: **1-800-959-1734** between 8 am-5 pm – Mon. thru Fri. CST

Book Review

By Ray Payne, Chapter XI

BLOOD ON THE RISES

Author: **John Leppelman**

Published by: **Ballantine Books, 1991**

Every Veteran of the Vietnam War has a story to tell of their experiences. All could, and many talk about writing a book, few have actually stopped procrastinating and put pen to paper. Those that do are usually served with the critical judgment of those that never will.

I joined with a group of Australians in 1987 and travelled to Santa Rosa in 1989 for the National Reunion hosted by Chapter X. After some thirty hours of travelling, I'd developed quite a thirst. After checking into the Tropicana Hotel, my good mate Bill Blaikie and I made a bee line for the bar.

The bar attendant was an attractive slip of girl, and hardly looked old enough to serve the beers we requested. The beer glasses were small compared with the 15 ounce glasses we were accustomed to back in Australia, a quick tip of the head and our glasses were empty. Two more quick beers, and dragging our eyes from the shapely figure of the bar attendant we glanced around the bar. Between us and the end of the bar was about twelve stools, on the last stool was a bloke holding his glass and slowly rotating the remains of his beer, other than a love sick couple sitting at a table at the far corner we were the only others in the bar. Looking up from his glass from the end of the bar the bloke smiled and asked "are you guys Herd?" "Aussies" we replied in unison as if rehearsed. Together we left our stools and met at the middle of the bar. With hands extended we introduced ourselves, his right hand firmly gripping mine and his other cupped over the top "Leppelman" "Lepp". Introductions done, we had a number of beers together. It was two days prior to the start of the Reunion, we would over the next week enjoy many hours in "Lepp's" company.

During our many sorties in search of the amber fluid, the area around the bar stools would be knee deep in brass and grenade pins as we compared the jungle tactics of the 173d, Rangers and the Aussies. We listened intently to Lepp and he to us, we told him what he'd been told before, "Put your stories on paper, write book mate".

Lepp arrived Down Under in July '91 for our reunion, we again met in the bar, this time no introductions were necessary, we simply continued on from where we had left off some two years prior, with one exception, Lepp handed me a copy of his just released book. On the inside cover he had written a special message. It would be some months before I would find the time to read in his words, "His misadventures".

His book begins after our Australian Battalion had left South Vietnam and its' service as part of the 173rd Airborne Brigade (Sep). The Australian Army throughout the war rotated whole units each year, units would return to Australia for approximately twelve months before returning to South Vietnam. It appears from his annotations that the "Herd" that he joined in 1967 was a totally different unit than that with which we Aussies operated with during 65-66.

Lepp was assigned to C/2 503d, he tells of his arrival and assignment to the 2nd Platoon, he tells of the adjustment required being a "new guy", the fact that he was issued with faded, used jungle fatigues and an M-16 that was well used, his thoughts of what happened to the last guy that carried his M-16.

When I first met Lepp I had summed him up as a "straight shooter" who in my mind, would have, in his younger days, tended to . . . shoot from the hip. Reading his own words it was quite evident that he didn't tolerate fools, but also, was immature and had not developed the ability to manipulate a situation without drawing attention to himself. A tendency to open his mouth before his mind, would continue to plague him throughout his three tours.

He expressed his jubilation in being able to participate in Operation Junction City, in what would be the only Combat Jump of the war. He showed his short time knowledge of all Armies the world over, when he aired his distrust and disapproval at rear-echelon personnel endeavouring to further their military careers by wrangling a chute. Career Soldiers have since the days of the Trojan Horse always known where is the right place to be, I'm sure that if history could tell us, we'd find that some desk jockey was inside the Trojan Horse as it was dragged into the City of Troy.

Lepp's description of his Platoon's operational procedure is personalized and does not wander off into an overview of Brigade Operations. His thoughts and actions are those of a soldier with a small group of his mates with the war around them. Their war is in the bush twenty feet away or around the next bend in the trail and he tells it that way. I found I could relate to the happenings around him, the RTO humping the extra weight of the radio and two spare batteries, the M-60 gunner crawling under the bamboo or hooked up by a "wait awhile" vine, cold rations, no rations, dirty water, poor equipment, the gut wrenching loss of a mate, no sleep and the frustration of humping for days without results. He told it as it was in a way that those that stomped through the jungles of Vietnam could relate.

Personalities and the perplexity of poor leadership seemed to become a problem with Lepp and in particular his Platoon Sergeant and LT. He extends his tour and transfers from patrolling the jungle to patrolling up and down coast and water ways of Vietnam. It is not long before he again has to deal with fools and again continually "shoots from the hip." His description of the city of Hue during the Tet offensive will stand the hair on your neck.

A further extension of his tour and Lepp is a LRRP. As a Ranger he is now operating more along the lines of the Australian Army's way of fighting a Jungle War. We preferred to operate in small squads and platoon sized patrols. Lepp has continually objected to the noise made by large troop movements during his period with the 173d. Operating under the strict personal discipline required to succeed as a Ranger, Lepp developed bush skills and seemed to find himself. Shooting from the hip seemed to be the way to survive in the Rangers as they worked hard and played even harder.

Airborne, is the heart of this story. I first met John Leppelman in 1989, after reading the words he put to paper I feel I have known Lepp for years. I recommend that you read his story and get to know him.

Chapter News

Chapter I: Sigholtz Capital Chapter, PO Box 27478, Washington, DC 20038-0478

The Sigholtz-Capital Chapter been very active in the past few months. In October the Chapter officially adopted "Child Help USA" an ongoing project. Child Help is a charity that helps abused children nationally. With it's headquarters in Woodland Hills, CA and co-founded by Sara O'Meara Sigholtz and Yvonne Fedderson. Child Help USA is in the process of establishing the Alice C. Tyler Village of Child Help East in Lignum, VA, which is the southern part of the chapter's AO. When the facility is finished, Child Help will take in 88 children between two and twelve years of age. The village is located on 280 acres of beautiful rolling Virginia farm country.

Chapter activities so far in support of Child Help have been:

October 4 — provided 23 "extras" for the Clint Eastwood movie *In the Line of Fire*, which was filmed in Washington, DC. All the people donated their paychecks to Child Help.

October 17 & 18 — 1st "work weekend": Volunteers went down to the Tyler Village and did carpentry and drywall work to renovate the main building per building code requirements for institutional use. Russ Ward also delivered a brush hog (heavy duty tractor mounted lawn mower) donated by his company, Gaithersburg Ford Tractor.

November 21 & 22 — 2nd "work weekend": Volunteers returned to the village for sanding drywall and painting. The guys were joined by thirteen ladies from Alpha Chi Omega sorority at American University.

Future plans include fund raising activities (checks should be sent to Chapter I in c/o Bruce Matthews, Treasurer, P.O. Box 3952, Frederick, MD 21705).

Chapter II: Lt. Clare Thurston-Lozada-Watters Chapter, 450 West 148th Street, New York, NY 10031

Need to keep us updated.

Chapter III: Columbus/Ft. Benning Chapter, PO Box 1977, Ft. Benning, GA 31905

The chapter elected new officers and they are: President — Ray Marshall, Vice President — Leigh Smith, Secretary-Treasurer — Darrell Cline. Meetings are still held on the last Wednesday of every month at 1900 hours (7:00 PM) at the VFW, Moina Michalel Post No. 665, 1824 Victory Drive, Columbus, GA. Our quarterly visits to the Tuskegee VA Hospital continue to receive our all-out support. During our October 1992 meeting we voted to donate \$50 to the facility and earmarked it especially for the use of resident veterans. This is a worthwhile and satisfying experience for all who participate.

Chapter IV: Philadelphia/English Chapter, PO Box 345, Ft. Dix, NJ 08640

Chapter IV Philadelphia/English Chapter will be involved in a host of events for the 1993 year. Besides our monthly meetings which are held on the first Wednesday of each month, there will be a Military Collectors Show and encampment on 1 May 1993 at Fort Dix, New Jersey; our annual Memorial Service on 8 May 1993 at the Philadelphia Vietnam Veterans Memorial; a rededication ceremony on 23 Oct 1993; and other events will be announced as they are scheduled.

Chapter V: Ft. Bragg Chapter, PO Box 71313, Ft. Bragg, NC 28307

Need to keep us updated.

Chapter VI: Elite Forces Chapter, 931 South Roselle Road, Suite 173, Schaumburg, IL 60193

Please note change of address: 931 South Roselle Road, Suite 173, Schaumburg, IL 60193.

Chapter VI held its annual election on 15 January and elected into office were: Arlen Betrand, President; Andrew Brown, Vice President; Terry Gannon, Secretary; and Joe Parra, Treasurer.

Chapter VII: Florida Chapter, 5580 Teakwood Road, Lake Worth, FL 33467 — (407) 966-1323

On 24 October 1992, Paul Ross, Commander of the 5th District of Chapter VII participated in dedication services at The Veterans Memorial Park and the Vietnam Veterans Wall South. Paul was part of the color guard and carried the Brigade flag. There were over 25,000 people at the ceremony, and the 173rd was well represented.



Paul Ross with Colors of the 173rd Abn Bde at the dedication of the Wall in South Pensacola, Florida on October 24, 1992.

Chapter VIII: Hawaii Chapter, 44-130 Kou Place, #4, Kaneohe, HI 96744

Need to keep us updated.

Chapter IX: New England Chapter, PO Box 411, East Hampton, MA 01027

The chapter recently sent out letters to all VA hospitals in the New England area. The purpose was to find out what the chapter can do for them, those hospitals that did respond sent us quite a list. The chapter is currently working on a plan that will try to meet the needs of the veterans. If anyone has some baseball caps, envelopes, writing paper, stamps, and personal hygiene products they would like to donate, they can send them to us in care of the chapter address listed above.

(Continued on page 12)

Chapter News — From page 11

Chapter X: Western States Chapter, 1325 Imola Avenue West, Suite 427, Napa, California 94559 (707) 252-6732
Need to keep us updated.

Chapter XI: Australia (Down Under) Chapter, PO Box 45, Chester Hill, NSW, Australia 2162

The following members were elected to office at the Annual General Meeting of Chapter XI. Held on December 19, 1992. President: Major John McNamara (RL), 89 Grandview Road, New Lampton Heights NSW 2305, (049) 52 6609; Vice President: Mr. Val Litchfield, 23 Grose Avenue, North St. Marys NSW 2760, (02) 673-2513; Jnr Vice President: Mr. Paul Goddard, 19 Brisbane Road, Campbelltown NSW 2560, (046) 27 2767; Secretary: Mr. Ray Payne, 29 Pennant Parade, Carlingford NSW 2118, (02) 872 1627, FAX (02) 632 6253; Treasurer: Lt Col Bill Kaine, MBE (RL), P.O. Box 37, Nelson Bay NSW 2315, (049) 84 1438, FAX (049) 84 1438. Official Chapter Telephone (02) 872 1627 (Ray Payne).

Chapter XI meeting venue and dates for 1993.

VENUE: Auburn, Returned Servicemans League, Club Ltd., 33 Northumberland Road, Auburn NSW.

TIME: 1300 hrs SHARP. (AGM 1000 hrs SHARP)

DATES: Saturday, February 20, 1993 (Special Meeting)

Saturday, March 20, 1993

Saturday, June 19, 1993

Saturday, September 18, 1993

Saturday, December 18, 1993 (AGM)

SOCIAL DAYS:

Sunday, April 25, 1993 ANZAC Day Parade

Sunday, August 1, 1993 TEXAS REUNION DEBRIEF

Please make it known that this Chapter has in operation a visitor program. This offers a network system of Australian hospitality to all Vietnam Veterans taking their vacation in Australia. The program is co-ordinated through the Chapter XI Secretary (Ray Payne). Those planning a visit to any part of the "Great Land Down Under" are invited to contact Ray Payne at the Chapter address. The service and hospitality is totally FREE.

October 3rd, 1992, saw the dedication of the Australian National Vietnam War Memorial. Chapter members turned up in force and joined with the past members of 1 RAR's two tours of Vietnam. The parade and memorial service were naturally extremely moving. The three days of reunion shrivelled many a kidney.

The annual General Meeting of the Chapter was held on December 19th, 1992. John McNamara was elected Chapter President. John served in SVN as a platoon commander in Charlie Company and earned the respect of all those under his command and the remainder of the Company. He was wounded late in his tour and returned to Australia. He was later promoted, reaching the rank of Army Major. A keen aviator, he transferred to the Royal Australian Air Force. He currently serves as an active member of the Air Force Reserve as a Squadron Leader. His love of the FA18 Hornet guarantees many stories of sheer speed. At a lower speed, he owns a much sort after MGB, fanatically restored to its former grandeur. John is a Life Member of the Society and a foundation member of the Chapter. John and his wife, Bev, attended the Society's reunion in Santa Rosa and will be in Texas, be sure to say G'day.

On December 15th, 1992, the Australian Government announced that the First Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (1 RAR) would take part in the U.N. OPERATION RESTORE HOPE, in Somalia. This continues our Battalions history of "First's". First into Korea, Malaya, Vietnam and now Somalia. The advance party left on Christmas Eve, with the balance of the Group to be on the ground by January 15th. The Chapter is currently making plans to set up a support network to ensure that the current members of our Battalion are well supported from home. As soon as we have the APO we will advise and ask the guys of the Society to write to these young soldiers It was always great to receive a letter.

Chapter XII: Farthest North Chapter (Alaska), PO Box 35158, Fort Wainwright, AK 99703

Need to keep us updated.

Chapter XIII: Southwest Chapter, PO Box 732, Lampasas, TX 76550

Chapter President and 1993 Reunion Chairman Eric Hitchcock is still hard at work finishing off the final stages of the reunion. With his staff in place throughout Texas, Eric has been coordinating their functions to be online when 8 July 1993 rolls around. Eric has been doing an excellent job and in the Airborne tradition, going "ALL THE WAY!"

Chapter XV: SSG John K. Weber Chapter, P.O. Box 583131, Minneapolis, MN 55458-3131

Chapter XV has a new name and address. The chapter is now known as the: SSG John K. Weber Chapter, P.O. Box 583131, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55458-3131.

By a unanimous vote Chapter XV has officially changed its name to the SSG John K. Weber Chapter. SSG Weber served with 2/503 and was awarded the Purple Heart and Silver Star for his actions on Hill 875 at Dak To. SSG Weber was killed in action during the Tet Offensive on 3 February 1968. SSG Weber was originally from Minnesota, and his mother Kathleen Weber-Ross is the Chapter's Honorary Gold Star mother.

Chapter XVI: Pacific Northwest Chapter, 27610 27th Avenue South, Federal Way, WA 98003

Need to keep us updated.

Chapter XVII: Western Pennsylvania Chapter, c/o Jerry Sopko, 101 Center Street Ext., Jeannette, PA 15644

John Schulte, Chapter Secretary has taken up marathon running at the young age of 40. On October 11, 1992, John ran in the Columbus, Ohio Marathon and completed it in 3 hours and 53 minutes. Then a week later John ran in the Columbus Zoo Run which was five miles, and John finished 4th for his age group (40-44) AIRBORNE!

Chapter XVIII: Oklahoma Chapter, Carl Baldwin, 4350 Will Rogers Parkway, Suite 100, Oklahoma City, OK 73108

Need to keep us updated.

Chapter XIX: New Zealand Chapter, NASU Christchurch, PSC 467, Box 211, FPO AP 96531-2000

Need to keep us updated.

Chapter XX: (Tentative) 3519 East Water, #B, Tucson, AZ 85716 (602) 326-2465

Need to keep us updated.

News About Sky Soldiers — From page 7

Norman D. Herring (172 MI 70-71) is the Quality Assurance Inspector, Personal Property Section, Ft. Hood Transportation Office.

Donald G. Byrne (H/C/3-319 67) is General Manager, Market Research Division, USPS, Washington, D.C.

Fletcher R. Ruckman (C/Spt 66-68) is a Postal Worker and lives in Glenolden, PA.

COL Ernest D. Westpheling (D/3 68) is Chief of Staff, New Jersey Army National Guard and lives in Maple Shade, NJ.

Claude E. "Skip" MacInnis (B/3 69-70) is a Union Carpenter and lives in Billerica, MA.

Joe F. Atkinson (C/1 66-67) is retired and lives in Fayetteville, NC.

SSG Richard D. Celander (C/1, D/2 and B/2 70-72) is Support Platoon Sergeant, HHC/3-505 PIR, Ft. Bragg.

John L. Cole (C/3, A/1 & H/4) is a Truck Driver and resides in Fayetteville, NC.

I. J. Elder (C/2 65-66) is a Life Insurance Agent and lives in Fayetteville, NC.

Jack A. Leaird (C/1 70-71) is a DMV Enforcement Officer for Trucking Enforcement and is stationed in Scotts, NC.

MSG James L. Reese (H/3-319 70-72) is in Division Food Service, 82nd Airborne Division and lives in Fayetteville, NC.

COL (Ret) Paul J. Raisig (3-319 68) is a Lawyer who lives in Sanford, NC.

Frank O. Vavrin (A/ADM 65-66), Chaplain, Retired, lives in Ashville, NC.

Thomas G. Changelon (E/17 70-71) is a Truck Driver and lives in Wonder Lake, IL.

Dennis P. Hill (E/1 & E/1 69-71) is Assistant Operations Manager, John Hancock Financial Services (Protective Services) and lives in Norwood, MA.

Floyd E. Mishoe (A/3 67-68) works for T.G. Lee Foods, in the Dairy Processing Division, and lives in Winter Park, FL.

MG Paul H. Smith (CG, 2/66-12/66) is retired and lives in Melbourne, FL.

James J. Colinet (D/1 68-69) works for the USPS and lives in Adah, PA.

James Kivlin (H/B 68-69) is a Powertrain Assembler at the GM Willow Run Facility and lives in Garden City, MI.

John Moorman (A/1 68-70) is Commander of 4-123 Aviation at Fort Wainwright, AK.

Wayne Walker (Recon Plt E/4/503) is the Postmaster for the beautiful village of Springbrook, Wisconsin and he would like to hear from two Sky Soldiers with whom he served. "Eagle" from Detroit, and Snider from Kansas City, MO. Wayne can be contacted at: P.O. Box 21, Springbrook, WI 54875 (715) 635-6013.

Six Return to Viet Nam — From page 6

In general, we found the South Vietnamese people wish Americans were still there. A lot of changes have taken place. There are controlled check points checking your papers, new homes along Highway 1, towns have grown, many North Vietnamese are living in the south, very little refrigeration, and mostly Soviet vehicles (very little American vehicles left). Vietnamese would say Soviet and European #10, American #1.

Re: Humour From the Field

The Australian Soldier is a Jungle Warfare specialist, most of our training prior to our tour Vietnam was in what to expect from the Viet Cong. Knowledge passed on to us from our NCOs, the majority of whom had seen service in the jungles of Malaysia fighting the Communists insurgents. We went to Vietnam knowing that we could live up to the reputation of our forefathers. We were tough, no task was too difficult or threatening.

Patrolling in War Zone D for the first time gave us the opportunity to prove our ability, we moved silently through the dense green jungle, playing Charlie at his own game, our platoon spread out over some 500 yards, each man knowing his job as we endeavoured to find Charlie before he found us.

Being short timers in country, along with the rest of the Brigade, we were yet to discover the Viet Cong tunnels we had heard so much about. This was to be short lived.

A signal was transferred down the line of our patrol from our left hand element. We halted, taking up our positions ensuring that every man was on full alert. Hand signals were the only permitted method of communication. A tunnel had been located. Close in, was the signal, form a defensive perimeter around the tunnel. I was late in the afternoon our night harbour position was a further 2000 yards. We had engineers travelling with Company Headquarters, they had trained in tunnel chasing, it was their task to clear them.

Radio communications with CHQ advised that the tunnel would have to be cleared by our patrol as the engineers would not reach us prior to night fall. The word was passed that a volunteer was required to clear a tunnel, our Sergeant picked a volunteer.

The tunnel dropped straight down for about four feet then veered off at right angles, fresh foot prints could be seen at the entry to the tunnel. Our volunteered soldier was naturally apprehensive about the task ahead of him.

Permission was granted to reach down over the edge and direct automatic fire down the branch of the tunnel. Two mags of automatic fire, two frag grenades and another two mags of automatic fire, we could feel the tension in the air as our volunteer took hold of his torch and carbine, his eyes met those of our Sergeant's, it was obvious that our Sergeant was also concerned about the outcome, taking a deep breath that we all simultaneously took with him, he slid head first into the hole. Our hearts were pounding, nobody spoke. Then from the hole the silence was broken by a roar of laughter.

Those standing by raced to look down to the floor of the tunnel, only to see our volunteers feet sticking out. The tunnel ended some five feet in. Our volunteer squeezed himself back out and up and reported with a grin from ear to ear "tunnel cleared Sergeant".

Ed Note: The above story was submitted by a member from Chapter XI — whose name became separated from the letter. My apologies to the author.

I want to personally thank Carlos Sepulveda and Jesus Peralta for their friendship and brotherhood. It was amazing for the three of us. It was like we never left. Things that are 22 years old in our minds came right back to us instantly. I thank you Carlos and Jesus for your time in Nam then, and now, for hanging tough for these two weeks. It was a very physically and mentally strenuous trip. Troopers, it was a hell of an adventure. ALL THE WAY!

Smokey Wells, 173 Abn. Bde.

From the Outback to the Ozark's: Aussie Settles in Missouri

The Society is pleased to announce that R.A. Tony Harris is now living in the USA. By way of introduction from Ray Payne former Chapter XI President and currently Chapter Secretary, Tony served with the 1st Royal Australian Regiment from June 1965 to June 1966, at that time the Regiment was attached to the 173rd Airborne Brigade (Sep). Tony served a second tour in Vietnam with the same Regiment and rose to the rank of Sergeant before his discharge in 1969.

In his letter about his "presence in America", Tony mentioned that his father was American Captain John Christian Eagleson who was killed in action with the 4th Infantry Division in 1944. Tony was raised in England until he was 16, when he emigrated to Australia. After two years in the outback and at the age of 18 he joined the Australian Armed Forces for a six year enlistment. After two tours in Vietnam, Tony was honorably discharged from the Australian Army in 1969. He then attended Sidney University and embarked on a career in international distribution.

Twenty years later, Tony's best friend met an American girl from St. Louis, Missouri in Acapulco, Mexico. After a long distance USA/Australia relationship they were married in August 1989. Tony flew to the USA to attend the wedding, and while at the pre-wedding bridal party Tony met the brides step brother. The brother, Jerry Simpson, thought he had met Tony once before. After further discussion, Tony learned that Jerry was with the 173rd at Bien Hoa in 1966, and that is where they had met. As Tony put it, "some coincidence!"

Tony researched the family background of his father, and in September 1991, it was established by court decree that he was the legal son of Captain John C. Eagleson. "I felt at home in the Ozark's and decided to start an Australian corporation in the area." Tony is now married and they are expecting their first baby in May 1993.

Families are Looking for Veterans Who Knew These Men

173rd Airborne Brigade

Name	Rank	KIA	Unit
ADAMS, Clarence M.	SSG	12/26/68	503
CHRISTY, Gilmore W.	SP4	2/6/67	
DULAC, Malcolm C.	E7	5/5/68	A, 1/50th Inf.
ENGRAM, Randal C.	1LT	10/3/66	
LEATHERS, Clifford Wayne	SP4	6/21/67	
LOGAN, Gordon Wesley, Jr.	CPL	11/12/69	
MERCHANT, Carl L.	SGT	3/18/68	D, 1/503
MORTON, Jerry W.	SGT	1/2/66	Ben Hoa
MYERS, Richard V.	SP4	11/13/67	39th ISPP, Scout Dog Patrol
OGLE, David R.	SP4	3/3/68	
PERSON, David Eugene	MAJ	9/22/67	E/17th Cav
PETERS, Robert C.	CPL	1/30/68	
PIERCE, Larry Stanley	SSG	9/20/65	Bien Cat
SORRELLS, Bobby H.	SSG	7/20/67	
WALDRON, George A.	PFC	10/3/66	
WILKIE, Arthur Wayne	SP4	1/16/67	B, 4/503
WINTERS, Steven A.	CPL	9/7/68	A, 4/503

If you would like to be in touch with the families of any of these men, please contact:

In Touch

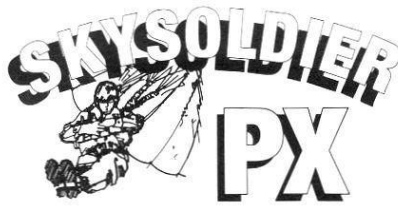
c/o Friends of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial
2030 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 412
Arlington, VA 22201
(703) 525-1107

173d MONUMENT FUND UPDATE

COL (Ret) Mike Ekman

The Society gratefully acknowledges contributions from the following listed Sky Soldiers to the Monument Fund.

James E. Fitzroy	Robert A. Glacel	Michael R. Lagerstedt
John R. Jones	James K. Cullinane	Gilroy M. York
SGM John Anderson	Risden Wall	Chuck Reep
Alan B. Phillips	J.R. Beket	George Braziller Publishers
COL Edwin H. J. Carns	COL Stacy McMarlin	Edwin Kehoe
SSG Weber Chapter XV	COL James Crouch	Dr. Edward Mostromonaco
MG Paul Smith	John Y. Averella	Edward H. Anthony
Raymond R. Holliday	Edgar L. Ford	LTC (Ret) James T. Dowdy
James F. Westerberg	COL (Ret) Robert Stryjewski	Stephen M. Kennedy
In Memory Henry Spencer, KIA Hill 875	James F. O'Brien	COL Richard H. Mackey
In Memory of Galen Christ from EHS	MG (CH) Patrick Hessian	Michael McInerney



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All Embroidered Jackets: (Front Left: Airborne Wings, Front Right: "Airborne All The Way" and your name. (Back From Top: "173rd Airborne", Herd Patch in center of Master Wings. "Brigade" beneath.

Backs of Silk Screened Jackets have Herd Patch, 3 parachutists, 2 helicopters, 5 men in rice paddy and "1965 VIETNAM 1971". Jump Wings, "Airborne All The Way" and your name on front.

Polo Shirt features Herd Patch on the left front, and words "173rd Airborne Brigade"

T-Shirts feature Herd Patch (10") on front.

• Superb Custom Embroidery •

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Summer	\$70	Embroidered	Black or Royal Blue	S-M-L-XL-XXL*	Your Name Embroidered
Shirts	Each	Process	Colors	Sizes	Show Your Colors!
T-Shirts	\$9.50	Silk Screen	Black or Royal Blue	S-M-L-XL-XXL	
Polo Shirts	\$20	Embroidered	Black, White or Royal Blue	S-M-L-XL-XXL*	

(* All XXL sizes, add \$2.50 for each jacket or shirt ordered.)



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 503rd 503rd (The Rock) POW/MIA



Vehicle Window Decals

For Inside or Outside Use
 173rd Color Decals - \$2.50
 C.I.B. Color Decals - \$2.00



Wings - Metal

Novice \$3.00
 Senior \$3.50
 Master \$4.00

Full Color License Plate	\$5.00	RVN Airborne Jump Status Designators Badge	6.50
Ranger Tab - Color or Subdued	\$1.00	Black Airborne Caps (w/Scrambled Eggs)	\$10.00
C.I.B. - Metal	\$6.00	N. Company Ranger Patches - Color or Subdued	\$4.50
Cloth Wings - Color	\$1.50	C. Company Ranger Patches - Color or Subdued	\$4.50
Cloth C.I.B. - Color	\$1.50	Flashes - Color	\$2.50
173rd Dress Ties	Out of stock	Ovals - Color	\$2.00

This Is An Airborne Form. All "Legs" Disregard This Form!

Ordering Information

Name _____ Phone # _____
 Shipping Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Money Order Check Visa MasterCard Credit Card Acct# _____
 Credit Card Expiration Date: _____ Signature: _____

Item & Description	Size(s)	Quantity	Personalization Instructions	\$ Ea.	Total

To Order: Send your name, address and phone number listing all desired items, including size, quantity and price. Use a separate, larger sheet of paper if you wish. For personal checks, orders will not be shipped until your check clears. All other orders, allow 4 to 6 weeks for delivery.

Total: _____
 Illinois Residents Add 8% Sales Tax: _____
 Shipping: Orders Under \$15.00 = \$3.00. All Others = \$5.00: _____
Grand Total: _____

Good Luck Herd Coin

\$10.00 ea.
 Size, Weight and Feel of a Silver Dollar. Solid Metal with Silver Finish.
 Bound to be a collectible.
 Front features 173rd Patch and Jump Wings. Reverse side features Statue of Liberty and the words, "America's Best". Often called "Challenge Coins" when Herd Members meet. Custom dictates that the member without his Herd Coin buys a shot of "Crown Royal".

Patches

100% Embroidered Patches, Full Color - Regulation Size. \$3.50 ea.
 173rd Crest, 503rd Crest, 319th Crest, HQ Crest, 320th Crest, RVN Jump Status Designator Crest, 101st, 82nd, and MANY others available.



INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
SOCIETY OF THE
173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE
P.O. BOX 27822
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20038-0822

APPLICATION FORM

Society of the 173d Airborne Brigade

Annual Dues: \$20.00

Life Membership: \$173.00

Checks Payable to:
Society of the 173d Airborne Brigade

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Last Name	First Name	M.I.	Date
Street Address	City	State	Zip
Area Code/Home Telephone	Area Code/Office Telephone	Social Security Number	

CURRENT JOB TITLE OR MILITARY POSITION

Job Description/Occupation & Company		
Current/Highest Rank	Years Active Service	Chapter Affiliation

SERVICE WITH THE BRIGADE

FROM (Date)	TO (Date)	UNIT (Company & Bn)	RANK HELD



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**FORWARDING AND RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED
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