

Winter  
1992



# Sua Sponte



The Quarterly Newsletter of The Company G(RANGER) 75th Infantry Association

July 2 thru 5 - Fairmont Hotel - New Orleans

## Reunion Moves to Alternate

**Low rates and 3 day  
weekend prompt  
change in orders**

### Newsletter Staff

Get your maps together and re-mark your pre-plots. Our mission has been pulled ahead and a new AO has been assigned.

The Company G(RANGER) 75th Infantry Association will hold REUNION '92 July 2nd - 5th at the Fairmont Hotel in New Orleans.

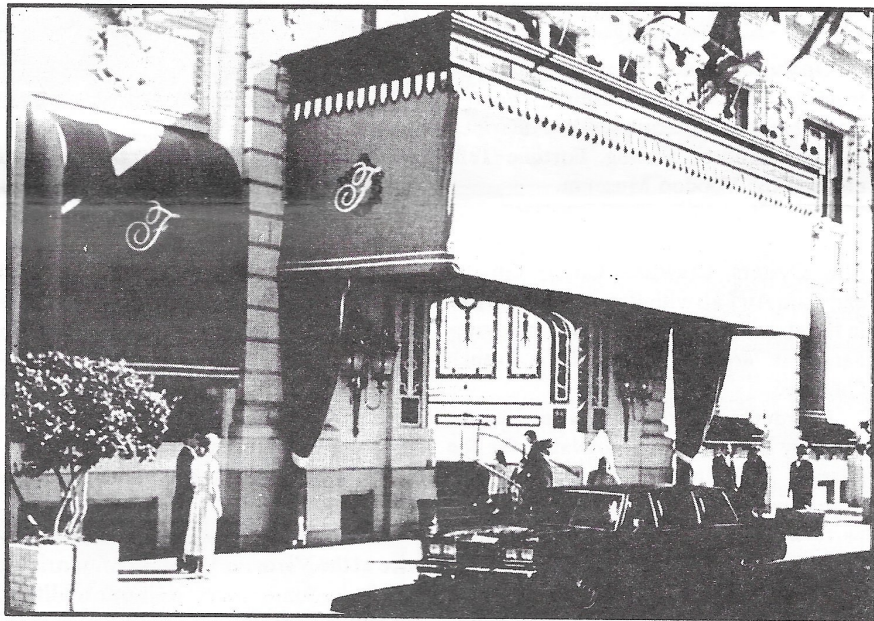
Originally scheduled for July 16th, REUNION '92 will now be held during the extended weekend in order to take advantage of favorable hotel rates and lessen the burden on leave allotments.

The Travel Agency of New Orleans, this year's acting G-2, has assigned the AI and will schedule and coordinate insertion and extraction for a totally hassle free mission.

This one is definitely a go mission. The overflight has been accomplished, the primary LZ has been chosen, SOI's are updated and air support assets have been secured.

So, update your calendars and begin your pre mission preparations for a battalion size ambush of New Orleans.

This is a mission you definitely do not want to miss.



HOTEL BROCHURE

Fritzingers car parked at the main entrance to the Fairmont Hotel in New Orleans

### Fairmont captures essence of New Orleans

#### Newsletter Staff

The Fairmont Hotel, site of REUNION '92, boasts nearly a century of history in the grand hotel style. Located adjacent to the French Quarter, the hotel is lavish in every detail and is part of the rich tradition of a city that reveres its colorful heritage. The Fairmont offers the amenities you would

expect of a world class hotel while preserving the elegance and tradition unique to New Orleans and all at a price that is unbelievably low.

From the stately architecture and extravagant decor to the elegant meeting spaces and lavishly appointed guest rooms, the Fairmont provides the perfect setting for us to PARTY OUR BRAINS OUT!

## Reunion '92 packed with events and attractions for all

### Newsletter Staff

REUNION '92 will feature a host of activities guaranteed to make this event the most memorable of occasions.

Not only will you be reunited with your teammates in a city that is known for its non-stop party atmosphere, but you will be able to enjoy a multitude of attractions during your free time.

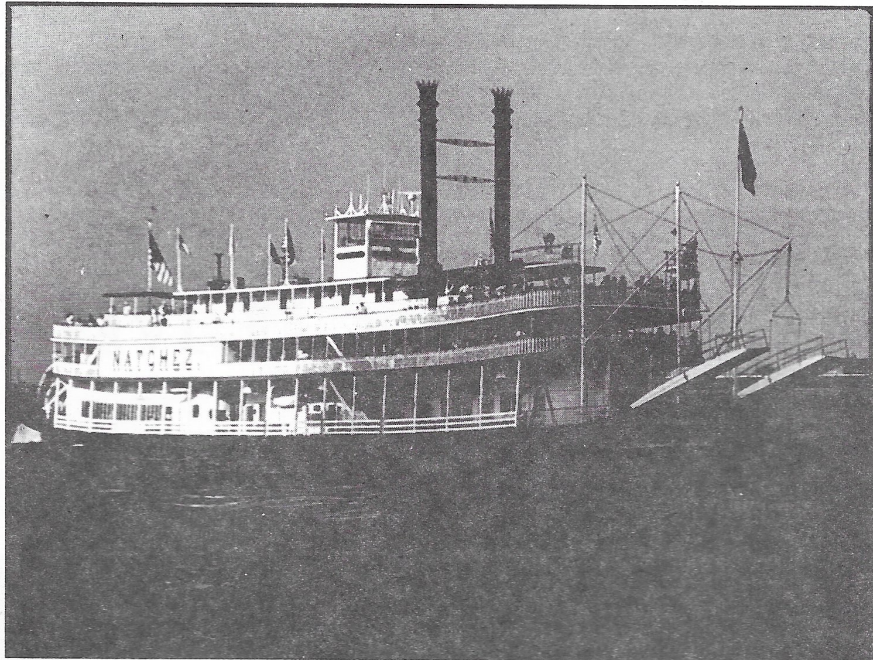
For the adventurous, there's Bourbon Street in the heart of the French Quarter where you will find the legendary all night excitement that New Orleans is famous for.

On the tamer side the attractions range from the Confederate Museum, Carriage Tours and the Aquarium of the Americas, to Thoroughbred Racing, Fortune Tellers, and the Voodoo Museum.

Regardless of how you like your fun, raucous or subdued, the food will be terrific. Oysters, Crawfish, Creole Gumbo and Cafe Au Lait with Beignets can be had in the street cafes, restaurants, and oyster bars that dot the streets of the French Quarter.

In order to ensure that all attending are properly oriented and motivated for the mission, REUNION '92 will begin on Thursday night with a "Combat Center" party which will undoubtedly spill over into the French Quarter for late night revelry reminiscent of R&R.

On Friday morning, interested survivors of the orientation can gather for the annual meeting of the Board of Directors



where shell shocked members of the board will attempt to conduct Association business while in a physical state that only hardened LRRP veterans could endure.

Following the meeting, all personnel will report to the dock at the Spanish Plaza to board the Riverboat Natchez for lunch and cocktails in preparation for an amphibious assault on the French Quarter where you can spend your free time enjoying some of the many attractions and eateries before the Ranger Auction/Party begins at the hotel.

Saturday begins with a memorial service at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial at the Superdome where, as is our tradition, we will remember and honor our brothers who did not return. And of course Saturday evening we'll gather at the hotel for

the grand banquet dinner. After enjoying a sumptuous meal served up by the hotel catering staff and as the applause dies down following the featured speaker's presentation, Jammin' Jarhead will rock us into the wee hours with his awesome collection of dance jams.

Remember to schedule your departures in the afternoon on Sunday because you won't want to miss the festivities as REUNION '92 wraps up in true New Orleans style with a Jazz Champagne Brunch in the famous Blue Room in the hotel.

The combination of a world class hotel, a city renowned for its festive atmosphere and the reunion of some truly world class people, is sure to make REUNION '92 one of the most exciting and memorable events of your life.

## Travel Agency to handle everything for reunioneers

### Newsletter Staff

The Travel Agency of New Orleans will handle all room reservation and air travel arrangements for those attending Reunion '92.

Thanks to Iris Fogarty, President of the agency, we were able to secure rooms at the Fairmont Hotel for \$59.00 per night

(regularly \$195), single or double occupancy.

Also, Iris has made arrangements to book airfares at 10% below Super Saver rates so you're guaranteed the lowest fare available if you book early.

So, the only phone number you need to know to take care of all your arrangements is 1-800-462-2980. Toll free yet.

Iris and her staff are ready to provide you with hassle free bookings for Reunion '92 and she recommends that you confirm your arrangements at least 45 days in advance in order to get the best rates.

Remember, even if you're driving to Reunion '92, book your room through The Travel Agency of New Orleans to get the low rate.

# The Association

## Pitch in and help our Association

### Newsletter Staff

Many of our brothers have expressed the desire to help in any way they can to build the Association and help to make it a world class organization. The fact is, all of you can help and in many ways.

Although we have a broad base of volunteers conducting the organizational and logistics activities required to accomplish our mission, these people are simply a support unit. As with an operational team, the successful execution of any mission is primarily due to the actions of the team in the field.

So, how can you help? Here are just a few of the things you can do to keep the Association rolling and at the same time get some pleasure and satisfaction in the process:

Find a buddy. Look through your directory and if you know a name is missing, let us know. If we have a name without an address, track him down. It's not always easy but it can be done. Start with a hometown you remember and call information. Call city hall or the gas company. Use your imagination and stay at it and you'll probably find your man. We've already found

the easy ones. The rest are going to require a team effort by all of us. Remember, finding people is the toughest part of putting together a reunion and if each of you will find just one of your brothers we'll have them all.

Write a story for the newsletter. Share your favorite war lies. Tell us about vet projects you're involved with or upcoming events. Send your favorite pictures with a story. If it's of interest to you it will probably be of interest to your brothers.

Send in copies of any orders you may have saved. We need orders to help us find our brothers, so send them in.

Let us know how we're doing. Suggest things that the association can do to better serve the membership. Tell us where you'd like to have a reunion. Suggest projects or activities that we can draw upon the resources of the Association to accomplish. We have a strong LRRP/RANGER network so help us make it work for everybody's benefit.

Remember, a mission was only as good as the effort put forth by the team and we've got the strongest team going. So help out. Get involved. It can be a uniquely rewarding experience.

### Sherrif gets his man

## First CO of E-51 found in California

### Newsletter Staff

Gary F. BJORKE, first CO of the Americal LRRPs, has finally been located in Topanga, California.

According to legend, Gary assembled the first LRRP company by running a group of prospects down the beach at Chu Lai and picking the ones that were still standing at the seven mile mark.

Gary was located by Sherrif Jerry Schuster of Jackson County, Oklahoma who served under Cpt. Bjork in '67-'68.

Sherrif Schuster has leads on other early LRRP veterans from the original company and we'll soon be adding their addresses to our growing roster.

## Association dues expire January 1st

### Newsletter Staff

Association dues expired on the first of January and in order to guarantee the solvency of the Association, we would appreciate it if everyone reading this newsletter would take a moment to fill out the Membership Form and send it in along with \$12.00 (cheap) so we can continue to cover expenses.

Although all of the work being done by the Association is being done on a strictly volunteer basis, there are still unavoidable expenses involved with the production and distribution of the Newsletter, organizing our Reunions, and locating our brothers, that need to be covered with the funds we can scrape up from the membership.

At present, nobody has donated their estate to the association so we still need to rely on you to keep us in operation and with your support we will continue to build and refine the association to better serve our elite membership.

So, do it now before it slips your mind. Help us to bring more of your brothers home. Fill out the form and send a check and we'll do everything possible to make it worth your effort.



GENTRY

"Ballerina" (left) and Gary "Buffalo" Gentry help out at the registration desk during Reunion '91 in Washington D.C.

## LRRPs pull missions in Twilight Zone

### Ballerina

The following are extracts from official After Action Reports filed by teams of Company G(RANGER) 75th Infantry during the conduct of operations in The Republic of South Vietnam. All seems in order until we take a closer look at the grid coordinates that the teams reported from.

During a mission that ended on 30 Dec 68 at 0930 hrs, a team reported finding 2 one man canoes surrounded by punji stakes at BS-413453. A study of the map reveals this location to be at the peak of hill 752. Nearest water? Six clicks west.

Another team, on 13 Feb 69, reports calling artillery to destroy a gasoline powered sampan at AT-069180. Strangely enough, according to the Army Map Service, the lowest AT possible is AT-780000. The reported location does not exist. At least not on this planet. Stranger yet, how was the artillery able to hit the sampan? Approximately one month later, another gasoline powered sampan was destroyed at AT-043188.

But, perhaps the strangest of all occurred on 7 Feb 69, when a mortar position was destroyed by artillery at BT-630536. The team witnessed 1 secondary explosion and reported the sighting of 17 VC with AK-47 and AK-44 rifles. According to the map, this action occurred 35 kilometers EAST of Da Nang.

Could these be typographical errors? Possibly. Could the Team Leaders have all flunked map reading? Not likely. Or could it be that these men, by some strange twist of fate, had unwittingly executed missions in The Twilight Zone?

**Grid Maps Available !**

See Page 7 for Details

## Scrapbook

### My First LRRP Team

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Pictured in front of the "cabana" behind the U.S.O. in Chu Lai are Steve McKittrick and Jerry Walton (kneeling), Raymond Garcia and David Swires.

This photo from Dave Swires' scrapbook was taken by the Korean photographer at the U.S.O. in Chu Lai while the team was on their way back from a mission in early 1968.

Missing from the picture are Team Leader Jim Hardy who had gone straight to the debriefing, and Jimmy Jones who had "left something on the truck" and was attempting to retrieve whatever it was.

Raymond Garcia was killed in action while on a mission on 3 July 68.

Jim Hardy returned to Co. G(RANGER) in 1970 and served under then CO Cpt. Joseph M. Dinoto (some of you former Co. D guys may remember).

While we have been unable to locate Walton, Hardy, and Jones, Dave Swires and Steve McKittrick were on hand at Reunion '91 in Washington D.C.

Dave, who amassed over 80 missions during his tours with companies E/G (which may very well be a record) now lives in Scotts Bluff, Nebraska and Steve owns a body shop in Beloit, Wisconsin.



Pictured at Reunion '91 with other early LRRPs are Steve McKittrick (lower left) and David Swires at upper right.

## Ballerina

### Happy New Year and other thoughts

Thanks to all of you who sent cards during the Holidays. I'm truly honored that the people that I hold in highest regard remembered me during the holidays and I'm thankful that I am fortunate enough to know the best of the best.

I'm sure you can all remember the holidays you spent in Vietnam. Some of you were probably fortunate enough to spend them in Chu Lai where some festivity was at least possible if not plentiful. I spent them with Co. D 4/31 196th where the holidays brought business as usual with a few minutes set aside to "celebrate" and think about what people back in the world were doing.

On Thanksgiving of '68 they dropped a turkey dinner through the triple canopy on the north side of Nui Chom and we chased the cans as they rolled down the mountain halfway to Antenna Valley. We were thankful alright, the first hot chow in days and it had stopped raining. We celebrated

Thanksgiving as best we could while clinging to trees to keep ourselves from sliding down the muddy slope.

Then came Christmas. I was on OP while the company ate Christmas dinner and the Battalion Commander, in his spit shined chopper, brought the mail out to us. He ventured out to my post in his immaculately polished boots and fresh starch to wish us a merry Christmas. Everyone in the company got a gift that was cheerfully wrapped, ribbons and all, by a church group back in the world. It was nice to know that there were still some people who didn't blame us for what was happening but I guess they weren't really aware of the fact that grunts didn't have a place to put a "Punch and Grow Plant". I felt a little hollow as we moved off of what remained of LZ Lurch and pitched our presents into an abandoned bunker, but in the boonies they were just extra weight. O.K. Merry Christmas. Saddle up. Move out.

I remember New Year 1969. We were logged on the edge of a paddy in the Que Son Valley and I could see every LZ in the valley light up during the "mad minute" they had to welcome the new year. It was awesome. Flares of every description, small arms fire, and red streaks from Quad

50's that seemed to go for miles in the night sky. I ate a "Lifer Bar" and went to sleep.

Twenty three New Years have come and gone and the one I remember best was the one I spent in Nam watching the Arty guys and the grunts on the perimeter of LZ West shoot holes in the sky with whatever they had handy.

Of course it was business as usual the next day. We started the new year by ambushing 5 VC traveling on a dike toward our position. Happy New Year! Party's over.

I guess that's why I'm glad to see each New Year come. Having been in the position on New Year 1969 to consider, if even for a fleeting moment, the possibility of not being around for the next one is an experience I'll never forget. Vivid memories of a time when just being alive was as good as it got, lends a different perspective to some of the trials we face as the years go by. We all paid a high price for that perspective and it's not likely we'll forget.

And now here we are. It's 1992. 25 New Years have gone by since the LRRPs were established and we're planning on getting together again. I like the idea. For me, the upcoming Reunion will be a holiday on par with all of the best I've seen.

## It's History

### Americal Division Marks 50th in May

#### Newsletter Staff

The Americal Division was born in the steaming jungles of New Caledonia and reborn some 25 years later in the equally steaming jungles of South Vietnam.

The original Americal grew out of Task Force 6814, which was deployed to the South Pacific at the beginning of United States involvement in World War II.

Task Force 6814 left to defend the island of New Caledonia on January 23, 1942, sailing by way of Panama and Australia.

On May 27, 1942 -- slightly more than two months after it's arrival on New Caledonia-- the task force was reorganized as the Americal Division.

The Americal name was chosen after a

soldier in the the new division suggested a combination of America and Caledonia, to show that the two countries were working together for freedom.

The newly designated division then adopted a shoulder patch of four white stars on a blue field. The stars are in the form of the Southern Cross, indicating organization of the division south of the equator.

Elements of the Americal were the first army units to conduct offensive operations in any theater during World War II and participated in campaigns at Gaudalcanal, the Northern Solomons, Southern Phillipines and Leyte before The division was deactivated on 12 Dec 45.

In February of 1967, Gen. William C. Westmoreland formed a planning group to organize an Army task force to send to the I Corps area.

Composed of the 196th L.I.B.; the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne; and the 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, Task Force Oregon became operational on 20 Apr 67.

On 22 Sept 67 Brigadier General

Samuel W. Koster assumed command of Task force Oregon and three days later the task force became the Americal Division, composed of the 196th, 198th and 11th infantry Brigades, even though the 198th and 11th were still training in the U.S.

On 22 Oct 67 the 198th arrived in Vietnam from Fort Hood and was deployed to Duc Pho.

With the arrival of the 11th Brigade and the official activation of Company E, 51st Infantry (LRP) on 20 Dec 67, the Americal Division existed, at least on paper, complete with a Long Range Patrol Company as it's "Eyes and Ears".

Actually, it would still be several weeks before Capt. Gary Bjorke would assemble enough volunteers from field units to bring the unit to near Company strength. Capt. Bjork, who was given cart blanche by Division HQ to form the company, actively recruited previous members of the 11th Brigade's 70th Infantry Detachment and other provisional organizations to form the first Americal Division LRRPs.

## Ranger Mother

### "Jarhead" suffers identity crisis after Marine slam

Come in, Ranger Mother!

I have noticed in your informative column that Marines are regarded as sublimine species. This has caused me great consternation (my doctor prescribed a laxative for it) and demoralization (that's being tended to by my Bhuddist Priest - or was that my Nudist Niece?).

Anyway, your attitude toward the Marine Corps has affected me so badly that I've been playing only Jordanian Laments and Scottish Bagpipe Dirges at my DJ gigs. Needless to say, I've lost all of my music business except for a funeral home in Scotland.

I went to court to have my name changed but the Judge turned out to be an ex-Marine and he threw me out of court.

Please, Ranger Mother, what can I do to correct this terrible malady?

No Mo Name

Dear No Mo,

Sorry "Jarhead", just a little inter-service rivalry. All in fun, you know. I never intended for my column to cause you the anxiety and feelings of degradation that you have obviously been experiencing. (if you have trouble with the big words call me) Anyway, you have nothing to be worried about. Everyone thinks that "Jarhead" was just your codename (codenames were often assigned based on a physical characteristic). Not many realize that you spent a tour in the Marine Corps before becoming a RANGER. You should be proud of yourself for having attained elite status after such a humble beginning.

Well, the little hand is on the 11 and it's time for me to sign off. I hope that I have helped you to regain your identity and that the name "Jammin Jarhead" will once again be proudly displayed at DJ gigs across the Nation. There now, don't you feel better?

Ranger Mother

P.S. Is it true that the Marines were commissioned so the Swabs could find somebody who would dance with them?

## The Mailbag

I am sorry that I was not aware of the G/75 reunion in D.C.

I served with the Americal from Nov 1968 to Nov 1969. The first three or four months were with the 8th Support Bn of the 196th LIB. The rest of my tour was as the G-2 Operations Officer. In this position it was my privilege to work closely with the personnel of G/75 and scheduled the insertion and coordinated the extraction of the LRRP teams.

Each of the teams was named after a state and although we shouldn't have favorites, one that I will always remember was Team Texas. This was led by a short little Sgt that was tough as nails and a great leader.

Shortly before I rotated to the CONUS, G/75 held a surprise going away party for me and as part of the celebration, made me an honorary RANGER and presented me with a black beret which is still one of my most cherished possessions. Working with these outstanding personnel was one of the most rewarding experiences of my entire Army career.

Robert W. Doms Sr.

LTC AUS, Ret

2305 Eastlake Road

Timonium, MD 21093-2709

(Thanks, Maj. Doms, and we hope to see you at a reunion soon. Understand you'll be in Wurzburg on the 4th. Next time for sure. Anybody care to venture a guess regarding the identity of that Sgt?)

Just received the Autumn issue of Sua Sponte, THANKS. But I must correct a few things. I was in the Americal Division, but not as a LRRP.

I've never been a First Sergeant (page 10 article by Gary Gentry). I retired as E-6 in 1976, but I was a Det. Sgt. (LRP) in Hawaii (70th Infantry Detachment - ed.) prior to going to Nam in 1968. We had about 8 men and Captain Clark, who is on your "missing list" of CO's.

Milton Crow

PO Box 32069

Long Beach, CA 90832

(Thanks for setting the record straight, Milton. Maybe some of the guys that shipped over with the 11th will drop you a line. Many were with the 70th in Hawaii.)

How's life treating you? I don't know if there will be periodic newsletters, as in the past, coming from "G" Co. Assn., but my mailing address has changed. I am in Laos now. I'm clearing unexploded ordnance off the Ho Chi Minh trail so that a seismic survey team can go in and do seismic work.

I'm working alone and am having a great time. You should see the looks on the villagers' faces when a white guy strolls up out of the bush. I got shot at by the Pathet Lao the first week that I was out here but, I think that they've all got the word not to shoot at me now.

I get along pretty decently with the people. They are friendly when they're not shooting at you. The villagers love Americans. I get shouts of "No Soviet" quite often when they think I'm Russian, but once they learn that I'm American, they really flock around.

I've got to rush off. I'm heading back to Savannakhet to make a satellite call to Singapore. We've got a satellite phone in Savannakhet and that's the only way to get a call out except in Vientiane and from Vientiane you can never get through to America.

My address is a Thai postal address. They have a daily pickup. Mukdarharn is just across the Mekong River from Savannakhet. I will probably go to Kampuchea and Viet Nam after this contract is up. Drop me a line when you get a chance.

I've got a 2 bedroom apartment in Bangkok that stays empty all the time. It's got daily maid service and a pool and is in the heart of Bangkok. If anyone is coming over to Bangkok and would like a free place to stay, they can write to me and I can write to the Manager to let them use it. The utilities are included with my rent and the only thing they need to pay is laundry and their telephone calls. Well here's my address:

George Beach

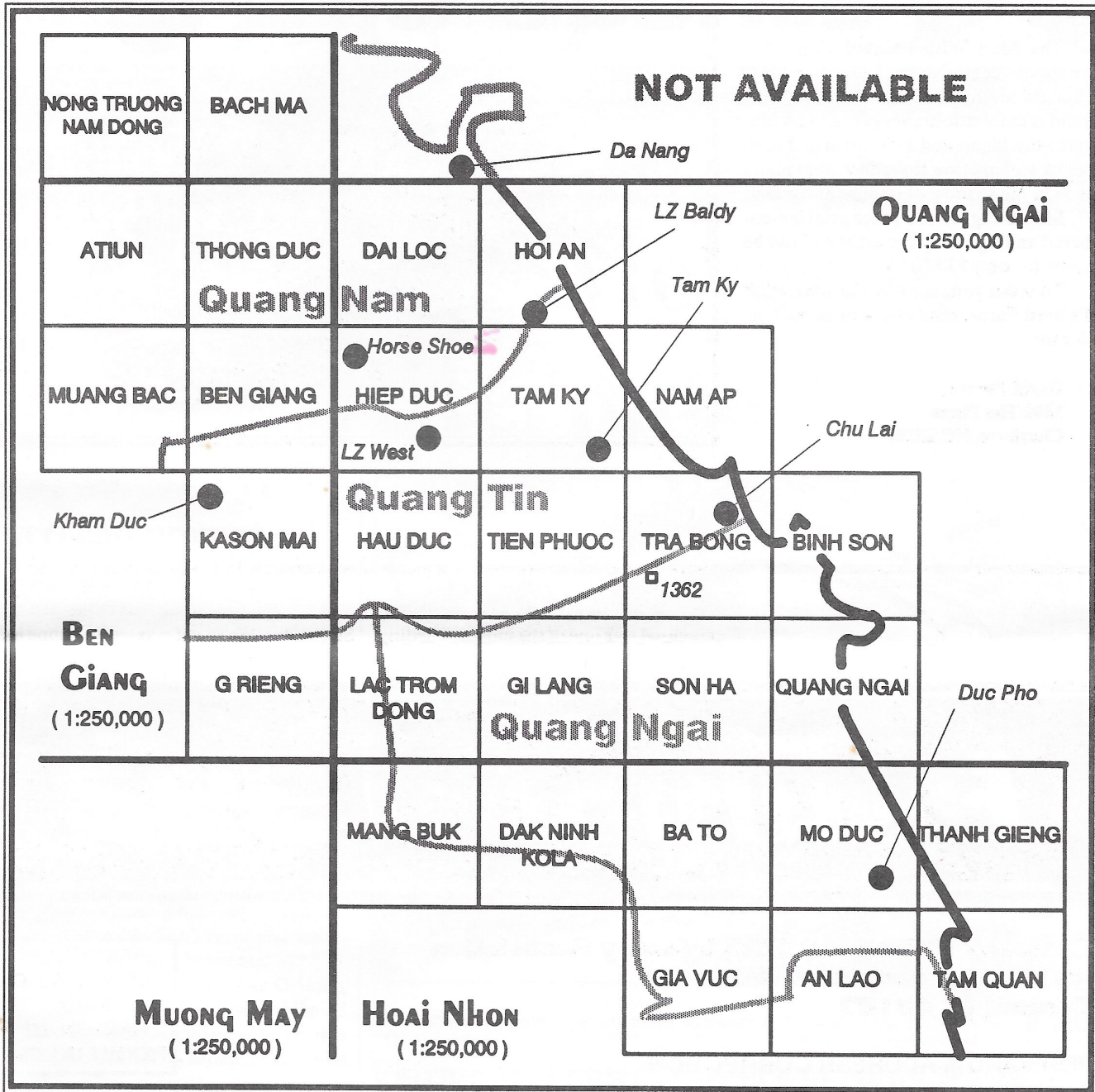
C/O H.G.S. (1802)

PO Box 5

Mukdarharn, Thailand

(George, hope this finds you in good health and PLEASE keep in touch. You're a hell of an expensive guy to find. Keep writing)

# Americal AO Grid Maps . . .



## Maps are available for Americal AO

### Advertisement

The Company G(RANGER) 75th Infantry Association is making available the maps we all grew to know and love.

Although the originals were only produced in limited quantities by the Army Map Service and are no longer available, the Association is able to offer full size black and white reproductions of these hard to get maps.

The maps are available in 1:50,000 and 1:250,000 scales and cover most of the Americal Division area of operations.

The 1:50,000 scale maps are the same ones carried on missions and the 1:250,000 show larger sections of the AO with less detail.

To order your maps, specify by name and scale and send \$5.00 for each map ordered to: **Ranger Maps**  
46765 Spinningwheel Dr  
Canton, MI 48187

## The Men With Painted Faces

The Men With Painted Faces was originally commissioned to commemorate Reunion '91. This limited edition print is authentic in every detail and captures the heightened awareness and feeling of anticipation shared by team members in the shadow of imminent contact.

Measuring 19" x 25", each print is numbered and signed by the artist and can be yours for only \$30.00.

To order your copy of The Men With Painted Faces, send check or money order to:

David Purser  
1800 The Plaza  
Charlotte, NC 28205



# Reunion 1992

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