

Fall/
Winter
1993



Sua Sponte



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

DOCUMENTARY READY TO SHIP (SEE PAGE 5)

Viva Las Vegas!

Las Vegas, Nevada site of Reunion '93

Newsletter Staff

The Company G(RANGER) 75th Infantry Association will Host Reunion '93 in fabulous Las Vegas Nevada. Once again the Reunion will be held over the Fourth of July Weekend.

In order to take advantage of favorable rates and the long holiday weekend, Reunion '93 is scheduled for Friday July 2nd through Monday July 5th, 1993.

Final negotiations are in progress with major convention hotels and details of the arrangements will appear in the Spring edition of Sua Sponte.

So, mark your calendars and start saving your nickels so you won't miss Reunion '93.

Also Inside:

🛡 We are here to stay!

🛡 Documentary Ready

🛡 War Story

🛡 Minnesota Memorial

From the first to the last

Reunion '92 unites generations of Americal Division LRRPs

The first of the best in New Orleans



BJORK

Attending Reunion '92 in New Orleans, are left to right: Earl Toomey, David Swires, Jimmy Jones, Charles Haussler, Jim Connolly, Gary Bjork and Jerry Schuster. They were present during the formation of the Americal Division LRRPs.

See pages 7 through 10 for the BDA . . .

The Association

Yes, We are alive and well

Newsletter Staff

Several calls have come in to HQ from concerned members who are wondering why there has been a lapse in communications from the Association. It is true that we've had some technical difficulties with regard to the publication of Sua Sponte, but not to worry, we're alive and kicking and we're here to stay.

Equipment difficulties required that we delay publication of the autumn edition of Sua Sponte, but those difficulties have been remedied and this combined Fall/Winter edition will bring you up to date.

Apologies to those of you who have been checking your mail boxes and not finding your newsletter. We'll do our best to make sure it doesn't happen again.

Pointman needed for Viet Trip

The Association is looking for an individual who would be willing to head up a committee charged with the organization of our upcoming trip to I Corps. This project will require a good deal of effort and time to form a committee, put together a tour, communicate progress and generally ensure that the trip will be a success.

Those of you who are interested in chairing or serving on the committee should contact Dave Moncada for preliminary information regarding initial contacts.

Renewal notices to be mailed

This year, each of you will receive a notice to renew your membership. The notices should reach your doorstep by the first week in February. Please take the time to return the postage paid envelope along with your dues payment and also update your personal information if required.

The Association operates entirely on funds from dues and contributions and depends on your support to carry on.

From the Prez

Dave Moncada

Ranger Reunion III, hosted by "Fritz" in his wondrous city of New Orleans proved to be another memorable experience for those who attended. To merely say that the Fairmont Hotel and staff extended us the red carpet treatment during our stay falls greatly short of the truth. The rooms were more than comfortable. The hospitality suite, meeting room, banquet room arrangements and the banquet itself were all deserving of a hearty cheer.

I'm happy to report to all the Membership that our Association business goals were fully met. Most importantly, the Association bylaws were discussed and adopted by the Board of Directors and were ratified by the Membership at large.

We also discussed the study, advanced by the newly created Reunion Siting Committee, regarding the frequency and siting of all future reunions. A decision to incorporate the recommendations of the committee was deferred to next year's reunion to allow time for further comments and evaluation. We appreciated and noted the excellent effort of the committee and by and large it proved acceptable.

Yes, Las Vegas was chosen by vote of the Membership to be the site of Reunion '93 to be held over the 4th of July weekend. Further information, as developed by the "Point Element", will be forthcoming in future issues of Sua Sponte.

Our Auction was again successful in terms of generating much needed revenue for the Association Treasury and I wish to thank all of those who participated in the bidding, especially those who somehow managed to bid against themselves (Earl Toomey and Gary Bjork come to mind.) You LRRP/RANGERS never cease to amaze me!

No Mo Name (Formerly known as "Jarhead") again provided some great Rockin' and Mellow tunes for our musical enjoyment. Do you ever wonder, as I do, whether No Mo Name humped his music in the bush? If so, maybe we should consider renaming him No Mo Brains!

Fritz's Video Documentary of the history of the Company was launched and managed with an air of professionalism that we all will

be proud of. As I understand it, the final product will be available in January 1993. I highly recommend purchasing this documentary tape for your personal video library even if for no other reason than to hear Gary Bjork, who was responsible for creating and establishing our existence in South Viet Nam, explain our genesis.

Jeff Williams, the former war correspondent who attended our First Reunion, is now employed as a travel agent for an international travel agency in San Francisco. He contacted me prior to the Reunion in New Orleans and offered the means by which we can hold a future get together in Viet Nam of all places the possibility of such a trip was presented to the membership and almost to the man, the trip to Viet Nam was met with favor. It was decided to target the trip for 1997, the 30th anniversary of our inception, 1967 - the year that Cpt Bjork started this whole crazy thing!

I was pleased to see all of you who attended the New Orleans Reunion. I wish to personally thank each and every one of you who did come for it is your participation that allows for our continued success. I hope to see each of you and many more in Las Vegas for Reunion '93.

I trust you all had a wonderful holiday season and I'll take this opportunity on behalf of myself and the Association, to wish each and every one of you a healthy and prosperous New Year.

COMPANY G (RANGER) 75TH INFANTRY ASSN.
46765 SPINNINGWHEEL DRIVE
CANTON, MICHIGAN 48187

President

DAVID "CHIEF" MONCADA

Vice President

RALPH "OTTER" TILDON

Secretary

MICHAEL "HO" CHU

Treasurer

ROBERT "BALLERINA" PARKER

Directors

J.R. "ARIES" McCULLOCH - CHAIRMAN

RICHARD "BOOT" CORKAN

STEVEN "CRABS" CRABTREE

BEN "BABYSAN" DUNHAM

JOHN "KRAUT" FRITZINGER

TOM "ROCK" HARDY

DAVID "LIMP" PURSER

FOR INFORMATION CALL:
(313) 453-4155

Business Meetings settle some issues and raise others

Mike Chu

The successful completion of the New Orleans reunion marks the end of the third year of Co. G (RANGER) 75th Infantry Association and launches the Association into the start of its fourth year of existence.

Looking back to 1990 we can take pride in having come a long way in a short period of time. Starting with a small gathering in Sacramento, California, a handful of addresses scribbled on the back of an envelope and a lot of good will, the Association has matured and is now firmly established as a legal entity registered in the State of Michigan and holds a nonprofit status in the eyes of the IRS. We have a mailing list of over 500 former Rangers stretching from Asia, across the United States and to Europe. We have been showcased on national TV. We are financially solvent and the prospects of continued growth and success are bright.

The continuance and well being of the Association however does not happen automatically. The enthusiasm of the membership, the integrity of its leadership, the payment of dues, the distribution of the newsletter and the spirit of Sua Sponte are the crucial ingredients that fuel our success.

In this regard, the business meetings scheduled at each reunion play an important role. Two meetings are traditionally held. The first is the meeting of the Board of Directors, the second is the General Membership meeting. The importance of these meetings cannot be understated. This is where many key decisions are made with regards to future reunions, delegation of responsibilities, money matters, etc. These meetings are held in an open forum and members of the Association are always welcome to attend. For those of you who participated in the business meetings at New Orleans, many thanks for your input.

As Secretary of the Association, I hereby report the following summary of both meetings:

The Board met on Friday morning of 4 July 1992 followed by the General Membership meeting held later that evening. Both

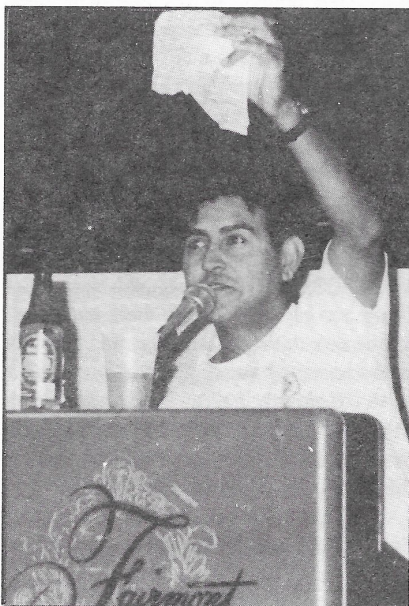
meetings were held at the Fairmont Hotel in New Orleans. The major topics that were covered included the following:

Treasurers Report

A six month interim report of the Association's financial condition (up to June 29, 1992) was submitted at the Board meeting. It showed an overall balance, including reunion deposits, of approximately \$5000 going into New Orleans.

The biggest expense through the past year has been the newsletter. According to the report, the Association spent approximately \$1500 since January on printing,

Takin' Care of Business



MIKE CHU

Dave "Chief" Moncada leads the discussion at the annual General Membership meeting in New Orleans.

postage, locator fees, etc. This was off set by approximately \$1800 collected from membership dues, miscellaneous contributions and interest collected during the first half of 1992.

The report however did not reflect the results of the New Orleans reunion which was still in process at the time of the meeting. [Note: A supplementary report was submitted which shows a profit of approximately \$500 generated by the fund-raising activities at New Orleans].

Non Profit Status

The Association has been pursuing a non-profit status with the IRS for the past year. Tom Robison reported that the IRS has finalized its review of our application and the non-profit status has been granted. This status will basically exempt the Association from having to pay corporate federal income tax and enables us to utilize non-profit post-ages rates. Furthermore, all donations are tax deductible on your federal income tax return. A more detailed explanation regarding deduction of other transactions (i.e. purchase of auction items) will be forthcoming.

By-laws

After a year of battering this around, the Board approved several amendments to its by-laws and voted to bring the entire document before the membership for ratification. The ratification process occurred later that night at the General Membership meeting where the membership moved for adoption. It carried by a majority vote. The complete set of by-laws will be contained in the next publication of the directory

Election Results

Approximately two thirds of the election ballots that were sent out were returned, resulting in the election of four men to the Board of Directors for a two year term ending in 1994. The newly elected Board members are Steve Crabtree, David Purser, Tom Hardy and Ben Dunham. They join three current Board members who carry over from last year. The carry over members are John Fritzinger Richard Corkan and J.R. McCulloch.

Appointment of Officers

Four men were appointed by the Board to serve as officers of the Association. The appointees are David Moncada (President), Ralph Tildon (Vice President), Michael Chu (Secretary) and Robert Parker (Treasurer). The officers serve till they resign or are replaced by the Board. They have the same voting power as a Board member. In addition, Tom Robison will continue to be our legal counsel and J.R. McCulloch will be the Chairman of the Board of Directors for the next year.

Reunion 1993

Three issues were involved here. The first was, "Should there be a reunion planned for 1993?" The Board decided yes. In keeping with the policy of moving the reunion site around the country, the fourth reunion will occur in the western region of the United States.

The second issue was, "Where?" There were two proposals, one from the Marriott Hotel in Scottsdale, Arizona and the second from the Sahara Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada. The Board decided to accept both proposals as viable options but deferred the actual site selection to the General Membership meeting scheduled for later that evening. By a floor vote, the Las Vegas site was selected by the membership.

The third issue was, "How often should reunions be held?" Much discussion was held over this matter. Strong arguments for holding reunions every two years were voiced and supported by the recommendations of

the Reunion Guidelines Committee which was formed earlier in the year. Equally strong arguments for holding reunions every year were voiced and supported by the fact that new members are still being located and More than half of the men at New Orleans were attending a reunion for the first time.

Upon weighing the pros and cons, the Board chose not to take action on the third issue but instead defer the matter until 1993 thereby allowing time for additional research and evaluation.

A straw vote however was conducted later that evening at the General Membership meeting. The straw vote indicated that the majority of the members favored reunions every two years. Expect more discussion and debate on this matter, and feel free to voice your opinion to any Board member, officer or to Sua Sponte.

Expedition to Viet Nam

Former Viet Nam war correspondent

Jeff Williams, whose praise of the LRRPs and Co. G aired on CBS in 1990, sent the Association a letter informing us of his employment with Sino-Soviet Expeditions. He informed us that he is organizing trips back to Asia and wants to put one together for E-51 and G-75 members. He estimates the cost to be \$2000 per person. The notion of re-visiting Chu Lai, Baldy, Duc Pho, etc. was intriguing and the Board concluded that it should be presented to the general membership to see if there was any interest in pursuing this idea. The response was not disappointing and the Association will therefore pursue looking into the specifics and the feasibility of putting together an expedition back to Viet Nam, and more specifically, the I Corps Tactical Zone. Future issues of Sua Sponte will report on how this is shaping up.

It was suggested at the General Membership meeting that if determined feasible, the target date should be in 1997 as it would correspond to the 30 year anniversary of the formation of the Company.

Awards recognize outstanding support

Mike Chu

The issuance of the Certificate of Appreciation was started after the Washington reunion in 1991 when it became apparent that certain individuals, both within and outside of our organization, stood out as being uniquely responsible for the success of the Association and its activities. These individuals often operated behind the scenes and would otherwise go unnoticed, yet it is their unselfish effort and their willingness to lend a hand that distinguished them as recipients of the Certificate. The issuance of the Certificate of Appreciation is presented on behalf of the Board and its membership.

The following individuals have been awarded the Certificate of Appreciation for either their assistance at the New Orleans reunion or their service over the past year.

1. **Iris Fogarty**, The Travel Agency of New Orleans- For handling the transportation and hotel reservations for the Association, and for putting up with our habit of not making arrangements till the last minute.
2. **Jim Monaghan** (Molly's at the Market) For donating the kegs of draft beer that

were made available in the hospitality room, and for inviting us to partake in the local New Orleans atmosphere at Molly's.

3. **Charlie Zewe**, (CNN-News) For being our guest speaker at the banquet and for demonstrating his respect towards our organization by wearing a coat and tie.

4. **Kenneth Ferdinand**, French Market- For donating the fresh fruits that were made available throughout the weekend in the hospitality room at New Orleans.

5. **Jerry Ursin**, Director of Catering, Fairmont Hotel- for the outstanding banquet dinner.

6. **Steve Ferran**, Fairmont Hotel- For hosting the 1992 reunion and giving us the best room rates.

7. **Joe Duke**, News Director, WWL TV- For his support in helping us document our reunion on video tape, and for airing our memorial service on their evening and late night news.

8. **Robert Weaver**, For outstanding professional camera support which will become self evident when the video is released in December.

9. **John 'Kraut' Fritzingier**- For all around excellence in spearheading the reunion and for doing the video.

10. **Gary 'Buffalo' Gentry**- For being one of the original members on the Board of Directors; for being one of the driving forces

that got the Association started; for organizing over 600 pages of data related to the history of the Company; and for always being there.

11. **Steve 'Tower' Johnson**- For being one of the original members on the Board of Directors and the Association's first Vice President; for getting Sua Sponte started; and for his demonstration of support and encouragement for the Association.

12. **Danny 'Bean' Jacks**- For representing E-51 and G-75 at the 75th Ranger Regiment Association; and for being one of the best story tellers on the face of the earth.

13. **Capt. Gary Bjork**- For having the courage to undertake the organization of the Company; for his outstanding presentation at the banquet; and for his enthusiastic bidding against himself at the auction.

**Volunteers
Needed for
Reunion
Committees
Contact HQ**

Documentary: A re-experience of our brotherhood

Mike Chu

About two years ago, the Association and its Board of Directors formulated and undertook a special project. The goal of the project was to produce a video documentary of Co. E-51/G-75. Spearheaded by John Fritzinger and underwritten by the Association treasury, "Who Were We" is completed and should be on the ready line shortly after the New Year.

Just prior to Thanksgiving, the newsletter staff had the opportunity to preview a rough draft of a portion of the documentary. Without 'spilling the beans', here are a few comments about the production:

"Who Were We" is a professionally prepared documentary about E-51 and G-75. There will be no mistaking it for a home video.

"Who Were We" will stand as a landmark in telling the E-51 and G-75 story. It is historically accurate and truthful, without overstating or exaggerating warfare. It contains actual video footage of the Company in action during the war. It is peppered with thoughtful dialogue and special effects, enabling the viewer to follow the history of the Company from its inception up through the reunion years.

"Who Were We" is reflective. It does not limit itself to events that happened at LZ Baldy, Hill 1362 or Chu Lai, but also reminds us of the social and political climate that surrounded and impinged upon our soldiering years.

"Who Were We" is not a Rambo type movie. Rather it is a documentary about the young men who survived through difficult times, parted company, and eventually came to reunite some twenty years later. It is about the birth of a tradition and the rediscovery of Sua Sponte.

Producer John "Kraut" Fritzinger has done an excellent job in pulling the documentary together. From the early days when this project was just a 'good idea', through sifting and sorting through the piles of information about the Company, through the many hours he spent in the editing room, John has stuck with it and has brought us to the threshold of a truly remarkable and valuable re-experience of ourselves and our brotherhood. For this work, the Association will always be indebted to John Fritzinger.

It is unlikely that a sequel will ever follow.

"Who Were We" will stand alone as the official documentary of E-51 LRRPs and G-75 Rangers.

The Association is extremely proud to be able to make this documentary available to our members and hope that each and every one of you will benefit from the thoughtful and accurate portrayal of our history, our brotherhood, and of our mission for the future.

Ballerina

Ballerina

I have some questions I'd like to spread out to the brothers so I can quit going crazy trying to figure them out.

The first one regards a chance encounter I had with a vet in Carbondale, Illinois. It was in the early 70's and I spotted a field jacket with a G-75 patch. It was the first one I had ever seen that was a full color model and I got to talking with the owner. We met again in "The Club", a favorite watering hole of the vets at Southern Illinois University, and although he didn't have an extra G-75 patch, he gave me a Company Recondo patch which I still have. If any of you can remember having a few beers in "The Club" and giving a G-75 Recondo patch to a LRRP, please give me a call or drop a line. Although we introduced ourselves to each other then, 20 years has erased your name from my memory.

Speaking of patches, there were several styles that were, apparently, worn by the generations of Rangers. The E-51 scroll, as I recall, only came in two versions. I believe it was the early one that read LRRP and that scroll was later changed to read LONG RANGE PATROL. The RANGER scroll, however had a more complicated evolution. At first, we copied the E-51 patch and put RANGER on top of AIRBORNE with G and 75 on the tails of the scroll. Soon thereafter, RANGER and AIRBORNE switched to read in a more logical order but G and 75 were still on the tails. I have since seen many patches that were similar but had INF CO on the tails.

In a letter, to CG, 23d Infantry Division, dated 31Dec70, "Distinctive Insignia for Ranger Companies", CPT Mark Hansen mentions a design that was agreed upon by "all currently active Ranger companies" which was depicted in an enclosure that apparently didn't survive with the rest of the letter.

Does anyone know if there was a patch "officially" adopted by G-75? And if so what did it look like? Was it the patch mentioned by Mark Hansen? Did all of the other companies adopt the same patch?

If anyone has any information regarding the patches, please contact "Ballerina"

Documentary Available Now!!

Send Name and Address along with your check or money order for \$30.00 to:

Video
234 Burney Drive
Oliver Springs, TN 37840

Hurry!

Order your copy of this excellent video documentary Now!

Please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery

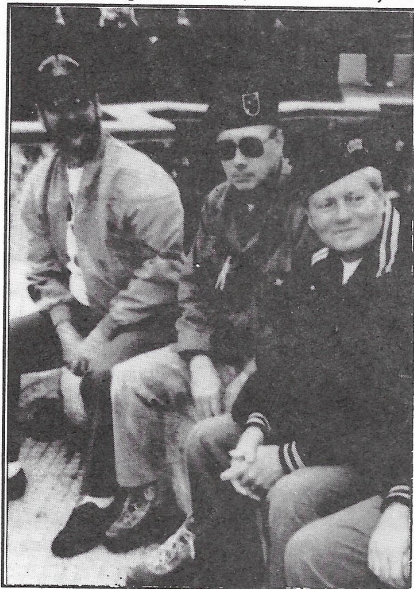
Minnesota dedicates Veterans Memorial

Steve "Tower" Johnson

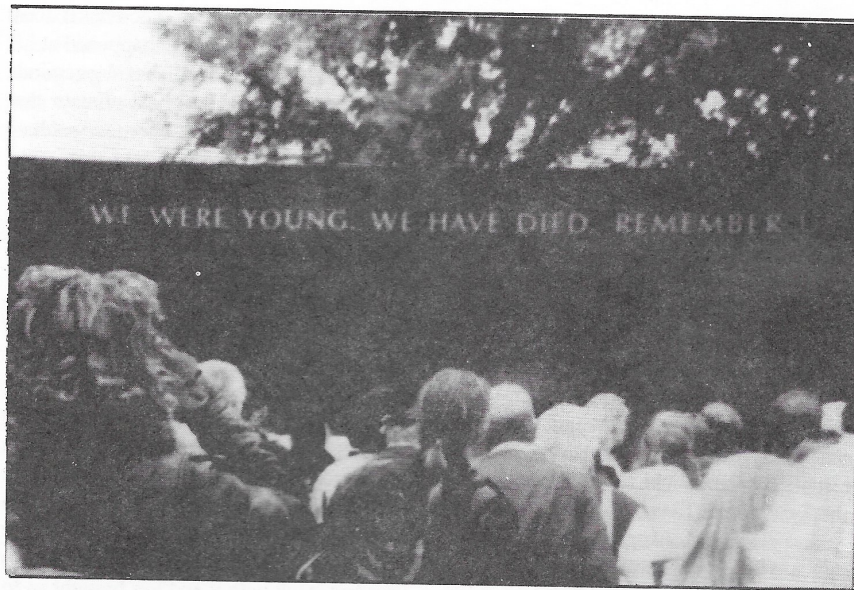
This fall, Minnesota celebrated it's opening of the Minnesota Vietnam Veterans Memorial, located at the State Capitol grounds in Saint Paul. A few weeks prior to the opening, I was into about my third Bud when I grabbed our directory and got ahold of some, but not all of the Minnesota Rangers, hoping to rendezvous and meet these gentlemen, some for the first time.

So, Pam and I took off to the Twin Cities and picked up Ranger Allen Roehl. Allen is a cabinet maker in Princeton, north of the metro area. It was the first time I had met Allen. He served in Danang on Team Moscow, I believe. We stayed at my "Outlaw's" house, got up the next morning and saw Minnesota's wall for the first time.

Borrowing information from a brochure, we walked down a pathway, past an inlaid map of Vietnam, into a 56 by 30 foot outdoor plaza in the shape of Minnesota. The iridian granite floor is composed of 68,000 two inch square grids representing the 68,000 Minnesotans who served in Vietnam. Looking again at the granite floor, there were 1,100



Left to right are Allen Roehl, Bruce Davey and Steve Johnson at the Memorial.



dark green squares representing the 1,100 Minnesota Vets who gave their lives. These green tiles are placed on the map where their hometowns were. Our Company has two such green squares representing, in chronological order, Daniel McLaughlin who was killed on January 20, 1968 and Robert Pruden who was killed in action on November 29, 1969.

On the west side of the plaza is a dark green, granite wall containing the names of our fallen countrymen. Surrounding this entire area are native trees, and pools of water depicting Minnesota's abundant lakes and forests. As I walked across the tiles, I approached the shores of Lake Superior and with surprise noticed someone with a black beret, E-51 and G-75 patches. Bruce "Gator" Davey mirrored one another before we introduced ourselves. He is one Ranger I have never talked to or met before. That's the way things happened that day. Bruce has nearly 20 years with the Minnesota Highway Patrol.

I saw Bob Kalway again. Bob is working for the Postal Service, enjoys fishing and other outdoor things. Bob served with Pruden. Bob and I went through "Puke School" together.

Dave McLaughlin, who served in E-51 along with his brother Daniel, was also there. Daniel was killed while Dave was on R&R and his name is inscribed on the Memorial. Dave's mom who is suffering an illness, was also at the memorial. We certainly hope she is doing all right.

Bruce "Lucy" Johnson was there. It was nice meeting him. He was telling me of an all Minnesota-member mission and I would like to have him do a write up on that. Bruce is living in the Twin Cities, into refrigeration as a profession.

I missed not meeting with Greg "Boxcar" Dodson. He was at the Memorial, but our timing must have been off. Greg is with either the Reserves or a National Guard unit. Next time, Greg. Nice talking with you on the phone, however.

Then there was Westmoreland, flyovers, souvenir stands, bands, hot dogs, marching, Native American groups, special interest groups, non-special interest groups, other LRRPs from other companies, families, friends, and us.

We won't forget. Great seeing you Brother Rangers!

Westy at the Memorial



War Story

Yet another heroic tale from
Danny Jacks and "those other guys"

Danny Jacks

The .38 fit snugly under my left arm. The added bulk threw me slightly off balance as I slowly followed the 5th man in the six man Ranger team that was reconning the area for a build up of North Vietnamese Army troops. The higher brass at Chu Lai, our headquarters, had volunteered us to try out the pistol under live conditions.

A regular .38 revolver was nothing new to the Army, but this one had been developed with a certain mission in mind. When a tunnel was found, someone had to go in and see where it led and what it contained. When confronting an enemy, the common practice was to fire either an M-16, Colt .45 or any of several rifles or handguns at the army's disposal. Unfortunately in the enclosed tunnels, this practice resulted in busted eardrums on several occasions.

What made this .38 so unique was - it was silent. It fired a cartridge with four buckshot in it. The revolver handled the customary six rounds. When fired, all you could hear was a very slight click as the hammer dropped on the firing pin.

Our little six man team worked out of LZ Bronco which was beside the hamlet of Duc Pho. We consisted of our team leader, Bob Pruden, from Minnesota who, at a later date, would be awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor - posthumously. But, that is another story. Our point man was George Schultz from Michigan. I was the assistant team leader - from Arkansas. James Gromacki from Milwaukee, Kalway from Minnesota and Spurgeon Beattie from Salem, North Carolina, made up the rest of the team.

Our primary mission was to recon an area to find out what was going on with Sir Charles. The best way to know what the enemy was doing was to capture one, call in a helicopter, and get out of the area as quickly as possible before the enemy could figure out there was just six of us. This led to several hairy situations. The brass figured if we had the silent pistol it would give us a little added edge.

We had the helicopter drop us on a mountain top where we took two days to slowly work our way down the side to some rice paddies. At the bottom, we set up posi-

tions to watch for enemy movement along a trail that wound around the paddies.

Bob and I were sitting side by side whispering to each other about dreams and ambitions that young men have. While we observed the trail, we went ahead and ate our C rations for supper. I had finished off a tin of sharp cheddar cheese and stale crackers and a tin of pork slices which weren't too bad after adding salt and pepper.

I pulled out my most prized possession, a tin of fruit cocktail for dessert. I had given half of the precious sweet fruit to Bob and had just taken my first bite when I spotted a heavily armed soldier walking down the trail. Elbowing Bob in the ribs, I swiftly pulled the silent pistol from its cut-away holster under my arm and took a steady aim on the enemy's left knee cap which was 10 meters away.

As I pulled the trigger, I knew my aim was true. To my surprise the man didn't go down with a busted knee cap. Instead he just slapped his leg as if a yellow jacket had stung him, never breaking stride in his march. I knew I had to find a more vulnerable spot on the man since the knock-down power of the .38 was, evidently, very weak.

Drawing a bead on his neck, I fired a second time. His body hit the ground immediately. He was holding his throat with both hands as blood eased out between his fingers. Like a beast of prey after his wounded quarry, I pounced out of my hiding place onto his shoulders placing the snub nosed barrel against his right temple while making a motion for him to be silent or be forever dead. The choice was his.

With confused horrified eyes he stared at me while trying to figure out what had happened. One minute he had been walking down the trail with the sun slowly setting on a beautiful South Vietnamese evening. The next moment, without warning, a crazed American held his life in his hands.

The enemy soldier focused his eyes pleadingly up the trail the way in which he had been heading. I looked in the same direction. Another NVA soldier, his AK-47 slung over

his left shoulder, had somehow gotten past us without being detected. He was trying to figure out where I had come from. I hastily fired two shots at his chest with no visible effect. I raised the revolver up 14 inches, firing the remaining two shots at his eyes to no avail. At 20 meters, he was just out of range.

The Dink grinned ear to ear as he unslung his rifle and started firing a zig-zag pattern toward me. I threw the useless piece of junk, otherwise known as the silent .38, at his buck toothed smiling face, missing him with that also. I dropped to the ground doing the alligator crawl backwards as fast as I could possibly go while screaming at the top of my lungs for somebody to shoot him. The zig-zagging rounds followed me backwards throwing dirt in my face for what seemed like an eternity.

Through the dust being kicked up on the trail by my backward crawling and the AK rounds slamming into the dirt, I saw Gromacki, cool as ice, walk up to the side of the NVA soldier placing his rifle in the man's ear and

blowing his brain out the other side of his head. Gromacki turned to face me motioning for me to stay down. He opened up on full automatic, spewing traces of death just a couple of feet over my prone body.

I glanced over my shoulder and saw a large number of NVA standing not 10 meters behind me. This explained why the other man had not fired directly at me. He was afraid of killing his own men. At this time, the other four Rangers emerged from the jungle firing at the remaining soldiers, either killing them or forcing them to flee for their lives.

Gromacki, the big polak with a two day beard, thick mustache, even thicker glasses, and a Rambo style headband, laughed while handing me the AK-47 he had taken off the dead soldier, telling me to carry a real weapon instead of a play toy. The rest of the team congratulated me on the first kill ever with a silent .38, as the first NVA soldier had died. They all had a good time ribbing me about shamelessly screaming for help. When we returned to Duc Pho for the debriefing, I set the team up for cold beers. We realized that, once again, the six of us had cheated death so maybe someday we could all go home safely.

*"I . . . took steady aim
at the enemy's left knee"*

Reunion '92: Rangers invade Crescent City in style

John Fritzinger

The Company G(RANGER) 75th Infan-

try Association hosted it's third annual reunion in scenic New Orleans, Louisiana. For three days LRRP/RANGERS and their guests enjoyed good times, scenic junkets, delicious chow and renewed friendships as they gathered once again to celebrate our brotherhood, past and present.

Thursday, July 2nd, was check-in day at the historic Fairmont Hotel (long time residence of former Louisiana Governor Huey Long) where the red carpet was rolled out for Association members and their invited guests.

Trained Killers Night

After exchanging greetings and toasting comrades at the reception in the opulent hospitality suite, the first expeditionary squad made it's way to Decatur Street in the French Quarter and Jim Monaghan's Molly's at the Market. Monaghan not only exhibited true bravery, by allowing the LRRPs to take over his bar, but then went above and beyond the call by allowing Ron Ridenhour and John "Kraut" Fritzinger behind the



bar as guest bartenders. (Twenty years ago, that combination could have meant total devastation.) To properly publicize the occasion, Monaghan billed the event as "Trained Killer's Night at Molly's".

Down the Mississippi

Friday, after an energetic Board Meeting, the Rangers went Nautical once again as the Reunion continued with a hearty and delicious luncheon aboard the

River Boat "Natchez" (RB-7 . . . NOT!). As with just about every place else in New Orleans, the grub was awesome on board, the scenery was picturesque, and the fully stocked bar was just the ticket for a hot July afternoon (seems like you can get a drink most anywhere in this town). The Natchez crew seemed to sigh with relief as the combat trained vets departed the stern-wheeler with-out anyone rappelling from the side of the vessel.

On Friday night it came time for the

annual General Business Meeting and as the Rangers engaged the issues confronting the Association, the women and children were spared the bloody details and instead enjoyed a leisurely Horse and Buggy ride through the picturesque streets of the Vieux Carre'.

After the broken glass and busted chairs were cleaned up in the meeting room, the company re-grouped for the annual Ranger Auction and then formed patrols for a free night to see the sights.



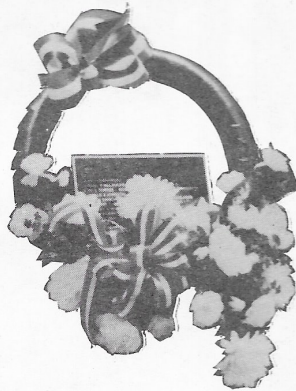


Here in New Orleans, Louisiana on July 4, 1992, as we - the LRRPs of E Company 51st Infantry and Rangers of G Company 75th Infantry assemble once again - we wish to celebrate the lives of our comrades, our friends, who paid the ultimate price for our country, it's most noble principles, and for us.

We wish to thank God for the time we had with these men who shared our fears, shared our dreams, shared our joys, and shared our pride in a hard job well done.

Memorial Ceremony

At high noon on July 4th, Reunion '92 members formed up alongside Louisiana's Viet Nam Veteran's Memorial, on the grounds of the famous Super Dome, for the annual Memorial Service held to honor our brothers who did not return from the war. The Color Guard, veterans of Desert Storm from the Louisiana National Guard, and yet another inspiring speech by Colonel **Ralph "Otter" Tildon** combined to form the foundation of the ceremony as each of our fallen comrades was saluted by the solemn assembly.



We met these men in war, and they would be the first to say that war is not to be glorified. But they helped to teach us that - If you do not stand for something, you will fall for anything. These Rangers, these LRRPs, took a stand. And as long as we have breath and memory, their decency, their glory will not fade with time.

So, to them we say thank you and God bless you. To their families, to the children they might have had, we vow that we will continue to care for each other. We vow to be guided by the reality that those we love are not ours; they are just loaned to us for a little while.

As those who survived, we vow to use our time in the service of others, as our fallen comrades did.

Col. Ralph B. Tildon Jr.



The Banquet

Following the Memorial Ceremony and a few hours to tour the Crescent City, there were more memories to be shared at the elegant banquet dinner in the Grand Ballroom at the Fairmont. Captain Gary Bjork

recalled how he begged, borrowed, and assigned a pair of sergeants to steal in order to form the first Americal Division LRRP Company.

Bjork was followed by another combat veteran better known for his News Reporting of Operation Desert Storm. CNN correspon-

dent **Charlie Zewe** gave an eye opening account of the Media, it's techniques and it's biases in coverage of war and politics. **Jerry Ursine**, the Fairmont's Director of Catering, deserves a standing ovation for the delicious Turtle Soup, Chicken with Crawfish Tails, and Flaming Baked Alaska!



Accolades

For their wholehearted and abundant support of Reunion '92, the Association wishes to extend Special Thanks to our friends in New Orleans who went out of their way to help make our reunion an exciting and memorable event:

Kenny Ferdinand, Market Director of the French Market, for the Fresh Fruit and Shopping Bags that greeted us upon arrival.

Iris Fogarty, President, The Travel Agency of New Orleans, for all of the help in getting the Rangers and their families and

friends to New Orleans and for securing the most lavish accommodations at a truly remarkable price.

Joe Duke, News Director, WWL-TV, for the use of his station's equipment and WWL News Photographer, **Bob Weaver**, for his excellent camera work on WWL's coverage of our Memorial Ceremony and on the upcoming Company Video Documentary.

John "Kraut" Fritzing whose tireless efforts at making sure all went without a hitch extended as far as tracking down

over-zealous LRRPs who unwittingly found themselves dancing with a GU (Gender Unknown) in the Transvestite Bars on Bourbon Street.

And one more round of thanks to **Jim Monaghan** for providing the kegs of beer for the Ranger Hospitality Suite at the Fairmont. By the way, Jim was sorry that the State of Louisiana had not yet turned on the Saloon's Video Poker Machines. However, there will be plenty of chances for that sort of action at Reunion '93, July 4th weekend in Las Vegas, Nevada!

A Letter From Chau

Charles F. "Jolly" Haussler

When we said good-by, she gave me a letter she had written and asked me to pass it on.

It was October. I was short and getting sentimental. That morning I got up, foraged for food, put on a uniform and decided to go into An Ton and say good-by. I walked. Usually I would have finessed a ride or a vehicle, but for some reason, I decided to walk.

It was hot and dusty and as I remember, quite pleasant. I was accompanied part of the way by some of the newer members of the unit. They had just gotten back from one of their first patrols and wanted to talk about it. (I had been one of their trainers) We separated at the USO and I continued alone off base and into the village.

Ever since we had arrived in the AO, the unit had usually dealt with one business in An Ton, the Thuan Thanh Shop. It was small and located at the northeast end of the village. They had a good selection of souvenirs, were honest and did our laundry. Except for girls, if we wanted something they didn't have, they would get it at a good price. It was a family operation. Mom and Dad were seldom seen and the children did most of the work in the back. Chau was their eldest daughter and, because she spoke English, usually dealt with us. I remember one occasion when one of our guys had dropped off his laundry and had left a lot of money in his pant's leg pocket. Chau got word to us and held the money until he could come and get it back. Chau's family fed me well and often.

Chau was a very special person. She was honest and genuinely concerned about us. She would play a silly game with us and I always fell for it. When she walked up to you, she would touch your chest and when you looked down, she would flip your nose. When I got to the shop she caught me with

*Come from: CHAU
THUAN THANH shop
Chulai
South V.N.*

*TO:
INMAN in LRRP
Please you send this letter to every
body.
Thank you.*

Chulai 26 Sept 1968

Dear All my Friend
Excuse me - long time We're don't wright letter to every body - Because we're know well address of every body -
How do you do and your family - We're fine - We're don't know well English - That is we're can't to wright letter for everybody.
Long time We're don't see every body - We're are very miss every body - but what can we do and what can we say -
Now - only Stanfield - how do you well now - and how long do you living in hospital. We happy you are very well now -
And - Inman, Valeriano, Beacher, Brown, Wheeler, Caprio - What do you do now? We don't know what happy for send to every body - only this letter we wright for every body - ok - that is very well for we to you -
We're happy every body wright letter for us and we wright back for every body - Thank you very much -
You can wright letter for we in this address.

*Please you send
this letter to:
TRUONG NGMLA
Ia Bo ote*

*To:
MR. TRAN TAN LONG
43 DOC LAP
DA NANG - VIET NAM (South VN).*

that is this letter to my family is CHAU

her trick as usual. As I told her I would be leaving soon, she touched my chest and as I looked down, she flipped my nose again. She told me that she had done that to me over a thousand times. She said "Jolly, you boucu smart, but too slow. Maybe it a good thing you go home now". She "Souvenired" me a Coke and we talked for a while about the guys in the unit. She missed them and worried about them and was sad that she couldn't say good-by to them. When we said good-by, she gave me a letter that she had written and asked me to pass it on. She had planned to give the letter to Inman but he hadn't been able to stop by and she had held it for a while.

I've kept the letter ever since I left coun-

try. I didn't have Inman's address, and after a while the letter was forgotten. When Jerry Schuster found me and told me about the Association, I started to search through all my "stuff" and found the letter from Chau.

For those of you who came later and did not know us old farts in the LRRP Detachment and E Company, Chau was a lady and a true friend. She sincerely cared about us and did send cards and letters to us until the fall of South Viet Nam. I only hope that she survived the insanity that overcame Viet Nam after we Left. I figure that by submitting the letter to Sua Sponte, I will have fulfilled Chau's desire to say hello to everyone. I have reproduced the letter as she wrote it.

May God bless Chau and her family.

The Mailbag

I want to thank the men of Company G(RANGER) 75th Infantry Association for inviting the wives and families to their third reunion in New Orleans. I had a super time.

The mule drawn buggy ride through the French Quarter was a thoughtful touch. We ladies had a fun time together. We listened to the jazz coming from the cafes on Bourbon Street. We smelled the hot and spicy Creole and Cajun cooking fill the night air as the carriage carried us toward the restaurants on Royal Street. We watched a mime on Decatur street perform silently as we rode toward Jackson Square.

I had a delightful evening and nothing less than a letter will do to thank you for the buggy ride. We ladies appreciate your planning that special treat just for us. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Sincerely,
Florita Tildon

Fellow Rangers,

I was surprised and really proud to receive a newsletter from my old unit. It's been a long time since those days and I thought they were forgotten. Seeing the pictures and faces of people you lived with and depended on for your survival, good times, and friendship, brought back good memories.

A lot of good times come to mind when I think back. One is the hootch & bunker that Danny Jacks and Bob Pruden built that would have probably took a direct hit from a rocket and would have never even woke them up.

Or the time that our team was out in the field. We walked around for three or four days and didn't see anything but an old bell standing in an open field. Rule called in artillery and rang that bell on about the fourth round. That bath house at Duc Pho that Boilek let us go to when we got in from the field.

The good times I remember. The bad times I choose to forget. I often wonder how you guys are and the newsletter is a good way to keep in touch. Thanks for the memories.

Dave "Fever" Haysley

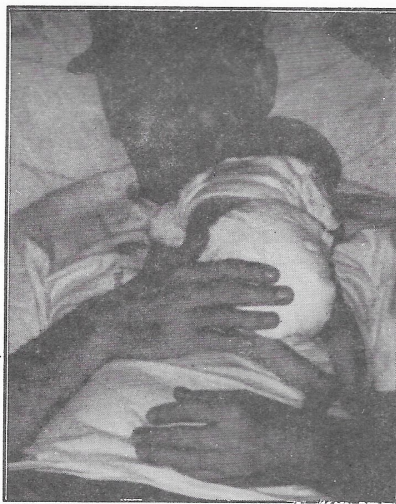
Just received your Summer '92 News Letter. Sure did enjoy seeing some of the old photos you have brought back to life!

I spent an evening with George Beach in November, '91. George looked good. I never thought I would have seen or spoken with George after my tour ended in June of 1971. George is the type of guy you will never forget!

Dale Dinwiddie

This is to tell you that a 41 year old Ranger still can pull it off!! After 12 years, my wife Lori and I had Gregory Alan Braciak at 11:33 May 31st, 1992 weighing in at 6 lb. 7 oz..

I would like to be in New Orleans but, since I can't, here's something from my son to let you know that we are certainly there in spirit. I was going to send you a box of cigars for the guys to have at the reunion but, I figured that you guys can get enough people angry at you at the hotel without stinking up the place to boot!!! So I'll do one better where everyone comes out a winner.



Bob and Gregory Braciak

Enclosed is a check for \$25.00 from my son. This is the amount the cigars would have cost so please use this as a donation to our unit. Gregory, at a very early age, doesn't realize if it wasn't for you guys, both of us might not be here. On behalf of my entire family, have a great time and we'll see you next year.

Robert "Woodpecker",
Lori & Gregory Braciak

Dear Guys:

I want to thank G-75 for putting me on the mailing list of your worthwhile publication. As the new Vietnam Editor for the ADVA (Americal Division Veterans Association) newsletter, I'm most happy to correspond with any of the Americal guys and put their stories in print. I would sure like to do an article on G-75 and how it worked in 'Nam. You guys were "tops"! You suffered more than most, and a price was on your heads the moment you left base camp. It's my goal to build the ADVA membership as you guys have done in G 75

Dave Recob
1341 SW 31st Street
Topeka, KS 66611-2132

You know how it goes . . . a phone call in the night and it's some cop from Oklahoma pissing about some mongoose I had twenty five years ago . . . Paid 50D for it in Tan An - Chulai. Blow it off. Close the door back. Lock it - paint it. Schuster was a good guy.

Then another call, another cop! Better be good. "Jolly" was a friend. We really did experience some things. OK, OK, OK. I'll open the door a crack . . . Really thought it was over - thought everyone was gone . . . They even found Toomey in Germany.

I went to B-4/31st 196 LIB (Join the six-ninety-worst you'll never be glad you did). Flew to Tay Ninh Aug '66 with the advance party - the rest came on the Darby etc. thru Panama, Dego and across. We set up the wire - then I became a machine gunner in B-4/31 (Polar Bears)

In about Nov '66 they asked for volunteers to form the 196 LRP under Cpt Maxwell - the sales pitch was "bring your own weapon because we don't have any and oh, by the way - if you come back to run a second patrol, it's extra because we write you off on your first one. Of course our fingernails peeled back and the hair burned off our arms, our hands raised so fast. Thus started the battle for the black beret. (We had to wear them centered in our hip pocket most of the time)

Back in the Westy days of body count, the objective was to lead the first patrol to kill the first gooks in the LRP. That distinction goes to Team Pink lead by - I think, Darrel Mazzucci (The Zuch).

I remember it well. It's a good story - very good. Remind me to tell it sometime.

We had a good life. Tunnels in Nui Ba Den, French Fort, Song Saigon, trying to avoid the biggest threat in III Corps (That was how to keep the LRP's out of Cambodia.) It got so bad, they wouldn't let us do sustained operations within 3K of the border - You really had to hustle.

Anyway, in March or April '67 we burned everything we owned or couldn't get in a ruck, jumped on planes and went to Chu Lai with Task Force Oregon. The LRP's were attached to the First Marine Amphibious Force Recon (First Force Recon). We went up (about 6 or 8 of us) with an advance party and ran patrols with the Jar Heads (2 Army guys with 6 Jars). I knew they were crazy right away because they burned shit with JP-4 and smoked in the latrine ("head" to them).

Our first major conflict in the new combat zone was when a LRP told a server in the mess hall what food he wanted and the gob told the LRP to get it himself. We didn't know you serve yourself in the Navy mess hall. (That's a good one too)

Anyway, later everyone else came up - then the Marines left. (We had some interesting patrols with them) We were attached to HHC 23d ID then moved over across Highway 1 to LZ Bayonet and attached to F Troop 17th Cav (Anyone remember F Troop on TV?) that is where the sniper used to hose down the chow line. (Anyone remember Joe Maar?) then they started the sniper school (no water buffalo was ever safe again) (at any range). Then we moved back over to the beach. (Anyone remember Crosby "Spook" from Virginia?)

We became LRRP just before we came up north. Does anyone remember Ms Anh? She sewed the LRRP tabs for us. We kept changing colors and designs.

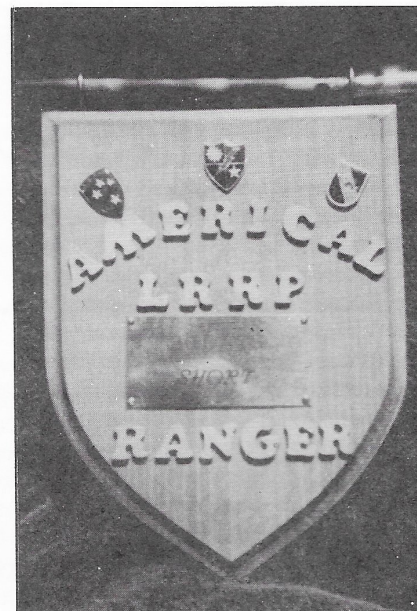
I got shot in '68 in Dragon Valley. When I came back they had changed to E-51, attached to HHC and the band, 23d ID. I pulled out in 69 and went to 4th ID (K-75), G-5, then MACV, then Korea, then Panama, then the US and applied for citizenship again. I spent '66 to '70 in the Nam, most with you guys. It was a grin. this is the first time I opened the door. Thanks

"Kamikaze Willie"

What a great reunion! My wife and I would like to thank all of the LRRPs and their ladies who came to New Orleans. And of course, especial thanks to the officers, directors, committees, and individuals who have worked so hard to make all of this possible, and to Bob Parker for his tremendous work on the Newsletter, and his great talent as an auctioneer, turning \$60 worth of goods into \$600 for the Association, and to Ralph Tildon for his fine tribute at the Memorial Service for our men who didn't make it home.

Aside from that sadness, it was a wonderful gathering, full of warmth and friendliness, and for me a truly incredible experience -- to see some of the men I knew a quarter century ago, and to meet others who came after. I also realized something very important as I watched the LRRPs walking down the streets or sitting at the tables talking with one another, or just having a good time. We really are a unit. Whether a man came into the outfit in 1967 or 1971, he was the same kind of man. And that's what gives reason and meaning to a newsletter and reunions, and the coming together of a small group of men (from a Division of over 4,000) who *chose* to do what others dared not, and who went into the jungles alone.

Six of the early LRRPs were able to make it to the reunion, and they gave me a plaque in remembrance of times gone



past. I'm sending along a photograph and if you have room in the newsletter, I'd appreciate if you'd show it. It's not something that just came off a shelf from Sears. Every letter was cut out by hand and carefully glued to the board, as were the insignia, and that kind of caring is what the LRRP was, and still is, all about.

Warmest Regards to All,
Gary Bjork
1415 Fernwood Pacific
Topanga, CA 90290

Behind the Lines: Linderer paper profiles Special Operations

Newsletter Staff

Gary Linderer, whose books, *Eyes Behind the Lines* and *The Eyes of the Eagle*, relate his experiences with the 101st Airborne LRRP and RANGERS in Vietnam, is currently engaged in a new publishing venture. Gary, along with a team of professional writers, has launched a heavyweight bimonthly paper devoted entirely to the elite forces of the military.

Dubbed "The Journal of U.S. Military Special Operations", **BEHIND The LINES** takes an in-depth look at Special Ops, the missions, and the men. The paper is loaded with

current and historical information and features personal accounts of combat missions from all eras of Special Operations.

Currently carrying a series on the 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional), "Merrill's Marauders", **BEHIND The LINES** is professionally written and produced and is just the ticket for you story hungry Ranger vets.

Gary has generously offered to send a complimentary trial copy of **BEHIND The LINES** to each member of the Association so keep your eye on the mailbox because each of you should be receiving your trial copy soon.

Ranger Mother

Dear Ranger Mother:

We were at the Fairmont Hotel in New Orleans attending the convention for barber shop quartets. Perhaps you noticed us. My wife and I were quite concerned to discover that we would be sharing the hotel with a bunch of Viet Nam veterans, Rangers no less. Our fears however were quickly put to rest. Your group acted as perfect gentlemen. If anything, it may have been us who may have gotten a bit carried away with our spontaneous outburst of our favorite songs in the hotel lobby. Yeah, we do tend to get a bit wild.

Unfortunately we are not familiar with tunes such as, 'The House of the Rising Sun' or 'Magic Carpet Ride,' and were therefore unable to accommodate your many requests.

Good luck in your future reunions. Hope our paths cross again. Next time we'll buy the beer.

Singers of Ohio

Dear Singers:

No problem. We enjoyed your company and talent. There's nothing like a red-hot "Sweet Adeline" to put us in the party mood.

We hope that brave group who joined us and learned our Ranger Cheer will be able to put it to four part harmony. And by the way, if you're going to buy the beer, you'd better bring some deep pockets.

Dear Ranger Mother:

My Ranger husband returned from your New Orleans reunion last week. He obviously had a good time and now insists that I plan on joining him next year at your 1993 reunion in Las Vegas. This conflicts with plans that I have made quite some time ago for us to be in Paris next summer. Is there any possibility that your organization would consider Paris as opposed to Las Vegas? I would hate for this to become an issue of contention between us. I am sure you will appreciate and understand the merits of Paris.

Wife of Ranger

Dear Wife of Ranger:

Thanks for writing but the fact is that Paris is a bit out of the way for us. Hell, it's all the way over in Arkansas. Besides, other than Danny Jacks and Steve Castile we hardly have any Rangers living near Paris. My advice to you is rent an RV, ice down a 12 pack, start driving at least 2 days in advance and read up on the finer points of blackjack and 7 card stud..

Dear Ranger Mother:

Like, I came across your newsletter, you know, while I was, like, sitting in my psychiatrist's waiting room. I thought the pictures of you guys wearing, you know, like, those awesome shirts with the stars, cute hats and those excellent Airborne Ranger labels looked totally balls. I, like, clipped your Mesa, Arizona address and I'll, like, be sending you money to buy some of your totally buff LRRP gear. If my friends, like, think it's as fresh as I do, like, I can see us, you know, using it to win our high school senior class award for the most totally excellent club outfit.

Jennifer

Cucamonga High School, CA.

Dear Jennifer:

I'm glad to hear you are seeing a professional and I am sure that with adequate treatment you will get a grip on things. Yeah, I agree. Our LRRP gear does look pretty cool. As far as using our gear as the prototype for your club, please knock yourself out however, be advised that we accept only cash or money orders from minors. If your club does win an award we will be happy to send a representative to help accept the awards, NOT!!!

P.S. You're not a blonde, are you?

Codenames: How did you get yours?

David "Hustler" Swires

Question - How many of you Rangers think this photo looks like a ballerina?

Every time I look at it I wonder just how, why and when a fine, good looking, smart and obviously a male figure could get such a name as his.

Was there something in the air or maybe in the food or water that made us pick or be given such names? I myself have a weird codename.

Maybe the fellow in the photo will explain. He is one of the hardest working Rangers right now that I know. I myself owe this gentleman a lot of gratitude for what he has done for me over the last three or four years. If you haven't guessed his name yet, it's Bob Parker.



DAVID SWIRES

The "Ballerina" in Chu Lai, July 1969

We all have code names. I would like to know through the Newsletter just how, when and why we got some of them. I'll bet there are some real wild and funny tales to tell.

From an old LRP - the "Hustler"

The Ballerina's Reply:

Well, David L., to get things rolling I'll relate just when, where and why I was blessed with my codename.

Us "Pukes" (an Odom-ism) were assigned codenames just before the "final exam" in Recondo School so they could immediately radio in who it was that screwed up the training mission. If you'll recall, at this time the Parker T-Ball Jotter was the pen being heavily advertised on TV and when Captain Mac needed to come up with a codename his first thought was "Parker . . . Pen!".

He could have left it at that, but being the creative guy that he was, he looked in his hand and saw one of those little blue ballpoints, made by the Ballerina Pen Company, with "U.S. Government - Ballerina" stamped along the side and the rest is history. Although my codename may seem a bit strange, I don't envy "Sperm" or "Insect" or "Dork". Maybe some of these guys can follow up with an explanation.

**Look For Your
Membership Renewal
in the Mail.
Don't Forget to Renew
ASAP**

SPECIAL FALL/WINTER EDITION

**Company G(RANGER) 75th Infantry Association
46765 Spinningwheel Drive
Canton, MI 48187-1422**

FORWARD & ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

**FIRST CLASS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CANTON, MI
PERMIT NO. 264**