

Boot to Boot

COMPANY D
1ST BATTALION
12TH CAVALRY



VIETNAM, 1965-1972

FOR HE TODAY THAT SHEDS HIS BLOOD WITH ME SHALL BE MY BROTHER FROM THIS DAY TO THE ENDING OF THE WORLD

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About Our Header (Reprise)

Boot to Boot memorializes Delta's roots. Said to have been the unit's "Final Rally" to stand together in combat, it was adopted by those who trained and served together in the *18th Infantry (Airborne)* and first set foot in Vietnam carrying the colors of the *12th Cavalry Regiment*.

Though we rode into battle on winged horses, we trained and fought as infantry, so we color the title *Infantry Blue*.

The Regiment was organized at Fort Sam Houston, Texas in 1901. The *Unit Insignia's* cactus on a *Cavalry Yellow* background represents its service on the Mexican border. The motto *Semper Paratus - Always Ready*.

For the brothers we lost and because we will always be brothers to each other, we adopt the words of Henry V's "Band of Brothers" speech before the battle of Agincourt in 1415, as imagined by Wm. Shakespeare.

#1's Corner



Vietnam veterans.

Over the first year we've introduced regular content: my #1's Corner, Website Update by Delta Webmaster Bob March, and Fiddler's Green, remembering those who have passed since Vietnam.

We've published feature articles about visiting Vietnam, our upcoming reunion (which merited extended coverage in January), and our ongoing research to find our fellow veterans and discover Delta's history.

In this issue, we dedicate Fiddler's Green to memorializing all those we've identified who have passed since our return a half century ago. Bob, in his Website Update, tells us just how popular the site has become. Another research visit to the National Archives is planned

This issue of Boot-to-Boot is our fourth, representing a year of information for and about Delta's

for June.

In January we featured Delta's experience in 1968's Operation Pegasus (Relief of Khe Sanh). In this issue we move the calendar forward to FSB Pace in late 1971.

On the left we're reprinting what the elements of our newsletter header represent.

I encourage all of you to join me at Delta's October Reunion in Tucson, Arizona, a priceless opportunity to share our experiences with those who truly understand - and care.

"Boot to Boot"

Dwight D Edwards
President, AKA #1

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2017 Delta Company Reunion in Tucson

Ron Redalen carried the 3rd Platoon radio and later the Battalion net for Delta in 1967 and 68. Here's his thoughts on our Tucson plans.

Tucson is a good choice for the Delta Reunion. Desert Diamond Hotel and Casino is conveniently located only a short distance from Tucson's Airport, served by several major US air carriers. A free airport shuttle makes it even easier to get in and out of.

Desert Diamond is a well maintained, beautiful complex. I spent a night in a spacious room, with a large desk and chair, comfortable bed, coffee-maker, phone...well, just everything you might need.

Delta's Hospitality Suite will be located on the top floor of a tower that we've blocked entirely for ourselves – now it's up to us to fill it. The Conference Center where we'll have our banquet and other activities is easily accessible – no meandering through a smokey casino to get to our meeting areas. Want to visit the casino? It's just a few steps – all indoors – beyond the Conference Center

A visit to the Pima Air and Space Museum will be a highlight for many. Located on 80 acres with 5 large hangers, two of which are dedicated to WWII aircraft, with all being beautifully restored to original condition. The entire museum with its over 300 aircraft is an awesome display of aviation

history, from the Wright Flyer to the SR-71 Blackbird. A guided shuttle trip will comfortably take us through the museum's outdoor displays. There are two cafeterias for lunch without breaking the bank. We tried one; it was quite good.

Tubac is an excellent outing for the Ladies. I called an old friend who spent a week in Tubac last spring. I told her Tubac would be a day trip for a reunion of Vietnam Veterans. She paused, then told me, "Tubac will be loved by ladies...not so much by male veterans." Exactly what I wanted to hear! "Tubac is loaded with art in shops that line the streets," she said. "A restaurant called Wisdom's which was a good place to eat and serves a "deadly' Margarita!" She loved Tubac! For a village map and other useful information, the Tubac Welcome Center is located at 2 Tubac Road. The Tubac Presidio State Historic Park is at 1 Burruel Street

Frank Crary's AmVets chapter will host our Welcome Dinner. The club feels "down home" and the food (which we tried) was just the kind of "comfort food" that's hard to find, but very much appreciated away from home.

Before we headed home we met with the Desert Diamond staff to plan our banquet. I don't mind saying it will be a fabulous evening! I'm looking forward to seeing you there!

Ron Redalen

Other Cavalry Reunions

The 12th Annual 12th Cavalry Regiment Association Reunion, September 12-17, 2017 at the Welk Resort in Branson, Missouri. Details & Registration at <http://www.12thcav.us/pdf/CrossedSabers2017.pdf>

The 1st Cavalry Division Association's 70th Reunion, June 7-11, 2017 will be hosted by the active division at Ft. Hood, Texas, as is always the case in odd-numbered years. Details are in the March-April issue of the *Saber*, and online at <https://www.1cda.org/annual-reunion.html>

About Mailing

Most of the distribution (about 150) of your newsletter is via email at zero cost beyond "production time" (and even that's at a "retirement rate," aka zero). However, some of our veterans do not provide email addresses, so are printed and mailed costing \$3.85 each, a total this month of nearly \$135. That's an unsustainable \$500 a year. We understand some do not have email, but if you do, please provide the address to Bob March [recondelta@embarqmail.com] or Tom Kjos [tomwkjos03@gmail.com].

FSB Pace, October 1971

The story of Pace could be said to begin with FSB Illingworth - built, attacked, and abandoned during 1970 just 10 kilometers west of Pace, which in turn would be built, harrassed, and abandoned during 1971. Ellingworth, not without its own controversies, was one of the most heroic defenses of the war. Pace would be the backdrop for an alledged "combat refusal" in B Company, 1/12th Cavalry, then another just days later in D Company. The overblown story was the work of free-lance correspondent Richard Boyle, who had snuck back into Vietnam via Cambodia, having been previously expelled. Boyle had an agenda.

By October 1971, the 7th Division (PAVN) was deployed around FSB Pace, the 141st Regiment to the north, and the 209th to the south along Highway 22. The 165th Regiment kept Pace occupied with daily mortar and RPG attacks from the woods just a few hundred meters west.

All four line companies of 1/12th Cavalry were on Pace between 24 September and 22 October. C Company was there just one day before moving to FSB Katum. Alpha followed Charlie and spent two weeks before October 7. B Company arrived on the 7th.

On 9 October, Bravo's commander, Captain Robert Cronin, was asked by LTC Robert McCaffree, 2/32nd FA, to send a night ambush patrol of 15 men 500 meters east of Pace's perimeter. The patrol was preparing to move out when members of the platoon heard from the artillerymen that the Engineer unit that built Pace had put boobytraps - including claymores - in the area the ambush was intended to occupy. Specialist Ernest French, point man for the patrol, asked for the maps required for such defenses. There were none. French and 5 others said they would not go without maps of the minefield. The situation soon changed when ground radar picked up enemy movement west of the perimeter, and Cronin was informed that two ARVN companies were out in Night Defensive Positions in the area of the intended patrol. Captain Cronin cancelled the ambush.

So what might have been a combat refusal was an understandable - and resolved - push-back by experienced troops to a patrol that did not make sense, a routine enough occurrence that seldom resulted in further discussion. That should have been the end of it, but for Richard Boyle, who had hopped a ride into Pace that afternoon, heard about the "refusal" and quickly became involved. He convinced the B Company troopers to write a letter to Congress, helped them write it, then left with the letter to write a story about "Mutiny at Pace." That fit Boyle's view of American soldiers, the war, and the ongoing American withdrawal. The *real* story is told by William Shkurti, in his excellent book, *Soldiering On in a Dying War*, including that a patrol by Bravo the following day found those claymores, rigged with trip wires. But the story doesn't end with Bravo and Boyle. It would continue with Delta, another alleged refusal, and with an "above and beyond" act of bravery.

On the 12th two platoons and the command group of Delta Company were flown into a remote tarmac at Tay Ninh. They were to replace Bravo at Pace.

"We were met by Lt. Richard Lee, A Company, who had been at Fire base Pace earlier in the month," said Paul Marling, Delta's 1st Platoon Medic. "He gave us the lay of the land; what to expect once we got to Pace. Since my platoon was without an officer, Lt Lee went back with us to Pace.

With the Pace taking nearly continuous incoming fire, "the choppers would not touch down but get near the front gate and we were to jump, run into the base, and dive into the bunker just to the left," said Marling. Which is what we did. (Continued on page 7)

Delta Company Website Update

Greetings Delta Brothers,

The Delta Web Site [www.cattrack6india.com] continues to be updated, modified and refined. It takes inputs from everyone to keep things up to date. Fred Mac Lennan has been very active in finding Delta members via telephone. This names search is the fruit of our visit to the National Archives last Fall. Fred has recently found 27 new Troopers for the Late-period Roster. Be sure and check out those that have been found. If you know them, call them and say hello. Another trip to the Archives is planned for June.

Others happen by the web site on the internet, find their name on a roster, then drop us an e-mail saying "Here I am," and providing contact information.

I did a quick look at our web host data for the Delta web page and was surprised that over the last year we have averaged over 3,000 visits, more than 6,000 pages, and 40,000 files downloaded each month. This level of activity shows that many are interested in the story of Delta in Vietnam. The Delta web site is one of the most active of any Company web site of the entire Vietnam War, as evidenced by the high priority that search engines give it.

We still have a long way to go in finding our Brothers-in Arms. We have identified 973 names of those who were members of Delta. Of these, we have accounted for 347, of whom 196 are now found and 151 who were KIA in Vietnam or passed away without being found. (The number that have passed away is likely much higher.) That leaves 626 Delta members that are not accounted for by us. If you have any knowledge of, or if you would like to help us find other Delta veterans, let us know.

UPDATES OF INTEREST

The Mid-period Roster had to be split into two sections (A-L and M-Z) to allow easier loading on some computers. The length of that roster, 410 names, required the change.

There is now a page with all the Delta Newsletters on it, so newly found Delta Members can browse previous Newsletters.

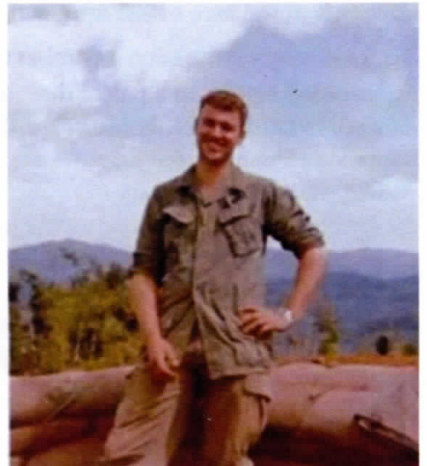
Julian Ynostroza notified us that Leon DeHerrera 65-66, passed away on December 21, 2016 in the Los Angeles V.A. Hospital. R.I.P. Leon. We'll see you on Fiddlers Green.

A few of those that have checked-in via the web site include Michael McKinney, who has promised to send photos. John Slemkewicz checked in and sent photos. (John in photo at right)

That's all for now Brothers. See you in October at the Delta

Reunion in Tucson. *"Boot to Boot"*

Bob March



WHAT WE DO IN LIFE ECHOES IN ETERNITY

Fiddler's Green

We memorialized by a Reading of the Roll of Honor the Delta Brothers we lost in Vietnam at our 2015 San Antonio reunion, and will do so again October in Tucson.

Since launching your newsletter last year, we've realized it's also important to remember those who have passed away after they were "back in the World." Here is a list of those we have identified over the years of building and maintaining a database of Delta Veterans of Vietnam, and particularly since we have begun our research at the National Archives.

DANA AMBROSEN
DIETER ARNOLD
CHARLES BARNES
JAMES BLEDSOLE
THOMAS BLUNT
LUCIEN BREWER
PERCY BRINKLEY
LARRY BURTRUM
JERRY BUZZARD
PHILIP BYRON
ROBERT CALDWELL
FRANCIS CHALIFOUX
TED CHILCOTE
JOHN CHILDERS
KIRBY CLEVELAND
CLYDE COMBS
WILLIE DANIELS
RALEIGH DEERING
LEON DEHERRERA
ARTHUR DICKMAN
MANFRED FELLMANN
RALPH FORDYCE
TOMMY FOX
ROBERT GANT

JOSEPH GODWIN
DONALD GRIGG
MERLE HAZEN
WALTER HOFMISTER
GARY HOUDE
EARL IMANAKA
EMILE JACKSON
ROBERT JENKINS
THOMAS JENKINS
EDGAR JONES
ERNIE KERSTETER
CLAYTON KILPECK
BENJAMIN KNEE
WALTER KUDLACIK
WILLIAM LAWSON
RICHARD LONBERGER
GEORGE MARSH
CASPER MATHER
ROBERT MCINTOSH
HARVEY MCLAURIN
PATRICK MICK
CHARLES MILLER
STANLEY MINK
FREDDIE MINIX
WARREN MITCHELL, JR.

ANDREW OLSON
WAYNE PELTIER
RICHARD PENDERGRASS
HARRY REH
ANSELMO REID
LEON REYNOLDS
ROBERT RIVERA
ANIBAL ROSA-HERNANDEZ
HENRY SABINE
CHARLES SANCHEZ
MARSHALL SMITH
WILLIE SMITH
ROBERT SUDER
CHARLES TAPP
MIFFLIN TICHENOR
WILLIAM TUCKER
APONTE VARGAS
DONALD WARREN
ARTHUR WEST
ALVIN WHITE
LAWRENCE WHITE
JONATHAN WILD
CHARLES WOMBLES
CRANSTON WRIGHT

This list represents information we have gained so far. Unfortunately, it is a list that will grow longer through time. It is possible that we have listed someone in error. If you see your name here, please contact Delta's webmaster at recondelta@embarqmail.com. Do the same if you know of a Delta Veteran who has gone on to Fiddler's Green.

Bob March, Fred MacLennan & Tom Kjos

National Archives Report

Bob March, Tom Kjos, and Fred MacLennan visited the National Archives in College Park, Maryland, September 26-30, 2016. For a full report, see the October 2016 newsletter, available on Delta's web site at www.cattrack6india.com.

Archives II at College Park possesses a nearly-complete set of 1st Cavalry Division *General Orders*. Also archived are incomplete sets of *After Action Reports* for major operations and battles, *Daily Staff Journals* kept by Division, Brigade and Battalion Operations (G3/S3) Sections, the *Daily Intelligence Summary* prepared by the Division G2, and some *Daily Journals* of Brigade and Battalion S2 Sections. We are returning June 26-30, 2017 with more help and with the same objectives: (1) Identify those who served with Delta in Vietnam, and (2) find documents telling Delta's story. We plan to complete our review of the Division's *General Orders*.

Delta - Served in Vietnam				
	Early (65-66)	Mid (67-68)	Late (69-72)	Total
Total Identified	254	409	310	973
KIA	29	36	19	84
Died Since Vietnam	35	26	14	75
Have Contact Information	60	55	73	188
Total Accounted For	124	117	106	347

VIETNAM VISIT UPDATE

Work on the details of continue with Dave Macedonia, the Marine Corps Vietnam Veteran who will lead our trip. Dave just returned from a month in Vietnam with back-to-back tours. The tentative itinerary remains the solid outline for us while we work out details like adequate "down-time" in Hoi An and Hue and the field locations of special places in our plan - FSB's like Pace, Snapper, and Uplift; battle sites like Hoa Hoi and Tam Quan; campaign terrain like Dak To and A Shau. It seems most of the countryside is now available to visit. So far more than a dozen have expressed interest. No deposit is due until September. Look for more information soon.

REUNION UPDATE

We are pleased with your response so far to the Tucson Reunion. With over five months to go, those who have registered and/or who have hotel/RV park reservations as of April 19 include:
34 DELTA VETERANS PLUS 3 VETERANS OF OTHER UNITS: (65-66 = 10) (67-68 = 16) (69-72 = 11)
22 SPOUSES, SIGNIFICANT OTHERS & FRIENDS
61 TOTAL ATTENDEES

With still more than 5 months to go, more than 20 Delta Veterans in addition to those above plan attend. Now we're going to "pull out the stops." Don't delay. Our room block is getting filled.

(Continued from Page 3) “No sooner than we were in the bunker when Lt. Lee appeared with words I will always remember. ‘Boys, a Cobra just crashed into the wood line. He was protecting us, now its our turn to protect him. Are you with me?’ The twelve of us that were on the ground dropped our rucks and went out that same gate we had just rushed through.”

Two columns were formed, with SP4 Mark Caldwell pointman for one. “The Cobra kept blowing up and we had to pull back when we got too close,” he said. “I didn’t think anyone would alive after those explosions,” added Lt. Lee.

The patrol reached the crash site 100 meters inside the woodline. Behind a mound was injured co-pilot Capt. James MacLachlan, pulled to safety by the pilot, WO1 Ernest Rickenbacker (a distant relative of the WWI Ace), who had gone for help. The patrol established a defensive perimeter while armed helicopters provided sepressing fire, and attempted to carry MacLachlan out. Finding he was too injured to be carried far, SP4 Marling, Delta’s medic, stabilized the Captain’s left leg compound fracture and other injuries. A medevac was called and hoisted the Captain out on a litter.

Delta’s combat effectiveness was not “disintigrating,” the questionable thesis of too many post-war writers. “The men went in without hesitation, although Bravo Company had found an automatic ambush [the claymores] in the same area the previous day,” summed up Lt. Lee.

The next day Pace had incoming five times between midnight and 0600. At 0930 Delta was assigned a patrol into the woodline to the east. Third platoon’s second squad, having already heard “Pace stories,” said they wouldn’t go. When company CO Captain Kenneth Smith polled the platoon, 20 of 26 agreed. Major Joseph Dye, 1/12th S-3, who had been sent to Pace on 10 October to “get in there and fix whatever is wrong,” now intervened. He explained the mission: to screen to provide security for incoming resupply aircraft, and offered to lead the patrol. Within 30 minutes Second Platoon had their gear on and headed out with their platoon leader.

The Army Chief of Staff provided a Fact Sheet on these incidents to the White House on 22 October 1971. It read in part, “The third platoon and all other platoons of the company went on all scheduled patrols between October 13 and October 22,” when all US Troops were withdrawn from FSB Pace. “There were no combat refusals. Consequently, there are no grounds for disciplinary action.”

THE VALOROUS UNIT AWARD FOR EXTRAORDINARY HEROISM IS AWARDED TO THE 2ND 32ND FIELD ARTILLERY, AND... COMPANY A, 1ST BATTALION, 12TH CAVALRY, COMPANY B, 1ST BATTALION, 12TH CAVALRY, COMPANY C, 1ST BATTALION, 12TH CAVALRY, COMPANY D, 1ST BATTALION, 12TH CAVALRY...while engaged...during the period 23 Sep through 22 October 1971. General Orders No. 1484, United States Army Vietnam, 3 July, 1972.

Tom Kjos with Paul Marling

Sources: Shkurti, William, *Soldering On in a Dying War*, University Press of Kansas, 2011
Pacific Stars & Stripes, no byline, date likely late October
Personal recollections of Paul Marling, Company D, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry

In the Next Issue of *Bud-to-Bud*

More detail about our October 3-6th Reunion in Tucson, AZ. Fiddler’s Green, Web Site Update, and Dwight Edwards’ #1’s Corner. Another story of Delta in Vietnam. Your submissions are wanted.

Boot to Boot

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