

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

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 2

APRIL 2018

**2018 Delta Reunion
San Antonio, Texas
September 6-9**

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[THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6](#)

Arrive, Welcome Dinner

[FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7](#)

Lackland AFB, Ft. Sam

Houston, Mi Terria,

Mercado, Alamo, or

Downtown Tour

[SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8](#)

Memorial Service, Business

Meeting, VA PTSD/Benefits

Briefing

Banquet

[SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9](#)

Depart

#1's Corner



April is here and a few of our brothers are traveling to Vietnam, sharing communally old and new experiences "in country." For them there will be some moments of joy and of pain, but there will be comrades to share those moments. To our "travelers": When you return, plan to bring your trip to us through pictures, videos and stories. The 2018 Reunion will be our place to share the joy of greeting one another for the first time or to see each other again. We'll be sharing common (and uncommon) experiences, expanding a tale or two, laughing, shedding a tear, and have the joy of a wedding (more on that in the next issue). I am hoping you will all join me and all our brothers in San Antonio. Register now as I have so you can join us and we celebrate as Family and Brothers United by the Crucible of Combat. Looking forward to seeing you at the reunion.

Among the highlights of this issue is the final installment Bob March's "Two Streams," the story of an important engagement of Delta's Recon Platoon in 1966.

The facts are in! We believe your Delta is the most successful company-sized organization ever in in accounting for its brothers-in-arms! For proof, check out the "Outreach Project."

If you are tempted to put off attending Delta's reunion to "next year" check out "Fiddler's Green."

"Boot to Boot"

Dwight D Edwards
President, AKA #1

Contents

#1's Corner.....	1
Reunion Detail.....	2
Two Streams, Part 3.....	3
Outreach Project.....	4
In the Next Issue.....	4
Fiddler's Green	5
Secretary's Report.....	6
Vietnam Return.....	6
12th Cavalry Documentary.....	6
Other Cavalry Reunions.....	6
Contact Information.....	8

Delta, 1st Battalion, 12th Calvary Reunion San Antonio, Texas, 6-9 September 2018

HOTEL – *El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel* (<http://www.eltropicanohotel.com/>) Rooms are \$127.00 per night including all taxes and fees, with 2 free breakfast buffets. There will be no resort fee and WiFi is free. Rooms are available at this rate for three days before and after the reunion. See booking information on page 1.



LOCAL TRANSPORTATION – A trolley runs every 15-20 minutes with a stop just a block from the hotel, making all of downtown easily accessible. A Double Decker Bus stops in front of the hotel every 20 minutes for a “hop-on, hop-off” tour of San Antonio.

Two Doubles Room at el Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, 6 September – Check into hotel and register. Welcome Dinner at *VFW Post 76*. Our *Hospitality Suite* in the *Trinidad Room* is open from Thursday afternoon through Saturday night.

Friday, 7 September – In the morning attend *Lackland Air Force Base Airman Graduation Parade*, then visit *Fort Sam Houston Quadrangle & Museum*. Lunch at *Mi Tierra Restaurant*, shop in the *Mercado* (Mexican market), or tour *Downtown San Antonio*.

Saturday, 8 September – *Memorial Service* and Company *General Membership Meeting*, or *Wives' VA PTSD & Benefits Briefing* in the morning, take a tour of the *Alamo* or a downtown tour in the afternoon. Our *Banquet* in the evening will be a very special event!

Sunday, 9 September – Departure.

Delta's success at finding its Brothers-in-Arms makes its reunion the place to be. 72 veterans gathered in Tucson in 2017, and we want to exceed that at San Antonio in 2018. Regiment and Division reunions have never attracted that many Delta Vietnam Veterans. Not even close, so San Antonio is where you're most likely to see those you served with. Don't put it off. We know you're sure you'll make it to “next year,” but for many (see “Fiddler's Green”) there won't be a “next year.”



Take a Boat Tour or Stroll along San Antonio's River Walk

Need a “tease”? There's a “special event” that doesn't yet appear on the schedule. More? We've invited a special banquet speaker. We don't yet have an acceptance, but we're hopeful. Still more? This is *your* reunion. Tucson was a great success, so how do we beat that? Easy. *You are there!*

Two Streams, a Small Unit Action - April 7, 1966 (Part Three)

Bob March

It was a tough slog. Recon platoon had been reduced to about half its numbers with the wounded evacuated and two of their dead still on the battlefield. They continued to use artillery to pound the NVA, who were well concealed in the brush and tree line near the dried stream bed running north/south. They were still “dug-in”. An element of NVA engineers which had been escorted by their infantry, had fled back towards the Cambodian border. (A fact determined through later NVA revelations during interrogation.)

Small arms fire continued on both sides, but one machine gun was reeking devastation and wounding more troopers in their relatively exposed positions. The gun swept back and forth methodically. Chuck Rose remembers returning fire while crouched behind an ant hill that was being chopped away in front of him, dirt and insects flying all around. The distance between lines was only about 25 meters.

It was at this point that SP4 Frank Crary, a team leader in SGT Webb's squad, suddenly sprang up and ran parallel to the Recon line. Those who saw Frank expose himself this way wondered if he had lost his mind. After all, the troopers had been under tremendous combat pressure, seeing their friends shot, burned, and screaming in pain, with mortars, napalm, bombs, and artillery going off extremely close for hours. Anyone could have snapped. (authors note: never did anyone in Recon “snap.”)

When Frank started running, the NVA tried to shoot him down. Fortunately, they missed and he disappeared into the wood line next to the stream bed. He then worked his way back along the tree line next to the stream bed, systematically killing NVA; some of whom were located on the other side of the stream. Approaching the machine gun position, Frank jumped down into the dried up stream bed and worked his way behind the machine gun which was just a few feet from the stream. He pulled the pin on a grenade and lobbed it the short distance into the middle of the machine gun crew, then ducked behind the wall of the stream bed for cover. The grenade went off perfectly, killing the crew and taking the gun out of action.

Frank's amazing action was both courageous and intelligent. It seemed to break the back of the remaining NVA. Firing stopped from not only the machine gun but also from the other positions in the NVA line. The NVA fled. Recon was no longer pinned down. LT Carpenter got everyone moving. He said: “That path worked for him. Let's go the same way”. So the few remaining Recon troopers swept through the NVA positions, following the same general route that SP4 Frank Crary had taken.

Cautiously Recon moved from tree to tree looking for remaining NVA. None were left alive. But many dead enemy were strewn about the pock marked landscape. Blood trails headed west in parallel lines, heal marks following. Sporadic fire continued. Some of the NVA bodies were burned, some were shot, and some were dead from no obvious cause; likely concussion. Many of the bodies looked like porcelain dolls, with perspiration adding a strange sheen to their repose. Recon pumped a round or two into each body to make sure it was actually dead; a necessity learned during previous encounters with the NVA. There was no thought of souvenir hunting, just clearing the field and a strange feeling of elation treading on what had been the enemy's territory. The ground was alive with stinging ants whose hives had been blasted, angrily attacking all humans, dead and alive. Troopers were being stung incessantly, but after all they had been through, and with immediate danger still lurking, the ant stings seemed barely perceptible.

Bursts of automatic fire erupted a short distance to the west. Elements of A Company were sweeping towards the Recon positions and engaging the fleeing NVA. Delta Recon was notified by radio that Alpha would be closing with the Recon positions. (continued on page 7)

Delta's Outreach Project

In 2012, with Jim Sheppard, Historian of 1st Battalion, 50th Infantry (Mechanized), I visited the National Archives in College Park, Maryland, the place where military unit (as apposed to individual) records are kept. That was the start of Delta's Outreach Project.

There we found a nearly-complete set of 1st Cavalry Division *General Orders*, along with *After Action Reports* for major operations and battles, *Daily Staff Journals* kept by Division, Brigade and Battalion Operations Sections, and more. But nothing is more important than those General Orders; in those nearly 80,000 pages are the names of all of Delta's soldiers on Air Medal and other award orders.

Five years and nearly 400 man-hours later, we've acquired 10,000 document pages, including nearly 3,000 General Orders, from which we have identified 1,386 soldiers who served in D Company.

With those names we began searching the internet for likely matches, using name, age, state joined from, etc. A few volunteers called likely candidates. The table below documents our success so far. To put our success in context, the 12th Regiment directory lists 465 Vietnam veterans of the other companies of its two battalions. Delta alone has found 321 who returned and are alive, and has identified 217 who have died since returning from Vietnam. We are just one company of 12 in the Regiment.

D Co 1/12 th Cavalry	1965-66		1967-68		1969-72		Vietnam	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
KIA	29	9%	36	8%	19	3%	84	6%
DIED SINCE VIETNAM	37	12%	88	19%	92	16%	217	16%
DEAD	66	21%	124	26%	111	19%	301	22%
FOUND	65	20%	89	19%	166	28%	321	23%
ACCOUNTED FOR	127	40%	213	45%	277	47%	622	45%
NOT ACCOUNTED FOR	189	60%	262	55%	314	53%	764	55%
NAMES ON ROSTER	320		475		591		1386	

This project has thus far succeeded only because of the work of a few volunteers. Special thanks to the leadership of Outreach Chairman Fred Mac Lennan, and to Bob March, Ken Goff, Ron Redalen, and Paul Marling. If you can help, contact Fred Mac Lennan (347-853-1281).

Yes, we've been uniquely successful, but we want to account for those remaining 764. Have you been in contact with a few of your brothers? Perhaps you're willing do some research or calling? Please call Fred. We need your help to find those who are still lost to us. *Tom Kjos*

In the Next Issue

Reunion Update, Fiddler's Green, Web Site Update, President's message and other news. Another story of Delta in Vietnam. Your submissions are wanted

Fiddler's Green

We memorialize the Delta Brothers we lost in Vietnam at our reunions. We also remember those who have passed away since our return. Since January we have identified the loss of these 82 Delta veterans.

1965-1966

CHUCK DOOLE

1967-1968

GERALD ANDERSON

JIMMIE BOYLES

HENRY BRADLEY

THOMAS BROOME

CHARLES BYRD

HENRY W CALONKEY

WILLIAM R CARNEY

JIMMIE L CHANDLER

GERALD COLE

MARSHALL CROWDER

BOBBY DENNIS

RONALD C DEROME

HERBERT DONALLY

LEE GLOVER

TRINIDAD GONZALEZ

WILLIAM GORGES

ROBERT HARRISON

JAMES LAFLOUR

JOHN A MACFARLANE

JOE MANGUM JR

DONALD MCCOMB

FREDDIE McDONALD

SYLVESTER McDONALD

JEFFERY A MCINTOSH

GEORGE J MEDINA

JOHN S NUNN

KENNETH D RIMMER

ROBERT RORRER

WILLIE E SAPP

JOHN M STEELE

MATTHEW STRONG

LUIS VARGAS-APONTE

CALVIN S WARD

1969-1972

HOWARD ALEXANDER

DALE BARTLETT

LARRY BREWER

THOMAS BUCKLEY

ATWELL CASON

WILLIAM CROUCH

MARION DAVIDSON

OSVAIDO DEL-VALLE

PRESLEY DENNISON

BILLIE DODSON

JOHN FALES

GERALD FULLER

GREGORY FITCHKO

JAMES GIBSON

LARRY GOINES

RONALD GRAVES

LORENZO GREEN

RICHARD HALPERIN

LARRY HANSEN

LEROY HARRISON

DONALD HAWK

MAURICE HELMICK

ARTHUR HENDERSON

GEORGE HODGES

THEODUS JACKSON

CLIFFORD JAMES

ROBERT KAPPLEMAN

GREGORY LIPSCOMB

HENRY L MARTIN

ROBERT L MORRIS

RALPH NEWMAN

CARL NORMAN

JOHNNIE NOWELLS

DAVID OSBORNE

CARL PIPPEN

BERNARDO RACADIO

JOSEPH RODMAN

CALVIN SCRUGGS

WILLIAM P SEXTON

ALLEN SHELTON

FRED SHIMMELL

JACK SMALLS

DAVID R SMITH

THEODORE STRICKLAND

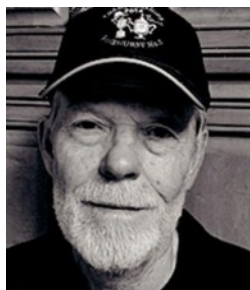
JOHN TAGUE

JACKIE WILLIAMS

REX WILLIAMS

GEORGE YAKSTIS

Unfortunately, this list is growing entirely too quickly. If we have listed someone in error, please contact Delta's webmaster at delta@cattrack6india.com Do the same if you know of a Delta Veteran who has gone on to Fiddler's Green.



We're losing our comrades too often to memorialize them all individually, but Chuck Doole, a proud veteran of Delta who attended both of Delta's reunions, renewing friendships and making new ones, is missed by all of us. He returned from Vietnam in 1966 with two Purple Hearts, an Army Commendation Medal and a Combat Infantry Badge. Charles Doole Passed away March 16, 2018 with family by his side. He is survived by Linda, his wife of 35 years, his children, grandchildren, and countless friends. A veteran who served with Chuck in 1966 and tipped a few with him at our reunions said, "Then and now, he was the ultimate 'good guy'."

Secretary's Report

I hope everyone had a happy Easter surrounded by family and friends.

Well boys, it is less than 5 months before we again have the opportunity to see each other, this time in San Antonio, Texas. Plans for the reunion are moving along nicely with no major SNAFU's.

Look at Fiddler's Green on the facing page; isn't it clear that any time that we can see old friends, we need to take advantage of it? Don't put off registering for another year, or even another day!

Whether or not you have had the good fortune to attend a Delta reunion and experience its unique fellowship, please go to the roster on Delta's web site (<http://www.cattrack6india.com/>), find the roster for the years you served, pick someone you remember and give him a call. You've got nothing to lose, and speaking from experience, it will put a smile on your face.

Our hunt to find veterans of Delta continues. We have accounted for 174 additional D Company Vietnam Veterans in just the six months since our Tucson Reunion. This gives us a total of 622 accounted for, 45% of the 1386 Delta Veterans that we believe served in Vietnam. (See Delta's Outreach Project, page 6) Need help contacting an old friend? Please call me at 347-853-1281.

Fred Mac Kennan

DELTA VETS RETURN TO VIETNAM

Ten Delta veterans and spouses depart on April 8 for a two-week tour of Vietnam designed specifically to visit the places our company fought. Those traveling are: 1965-66 John Gergulis, Chuck Rose, Sam Watson, Walt Wilczak; 1967-69 George Davey & Thuy Chung, James & Sandra Neeley; 1970-71 David Hendrickson, Frederick Lange.

Arriving and leaving from Saigon, the tour, conducted by Vietnam Battlefield Tours and led by Dave Macedonia (101st Abn Vietnam vet) will visit Tay Ninh, Pleiku/Dak To, An Khe, Bong Son, Hue, Quang Tri, Khe Sanh and the A Shau Valley. We'll look forward to their stories and photos.

1/12TH DOCUMENTARY FILM IS IN PRODUCTION

And you should be part of the story! Will you be interviewed for the documentary film already in production about the 1st Battalion, 12th Regiment in Vietnam? Brother Thomas Lon Crabtree writes, "We want your story. To have the Production Team in San Antonio we need to know in advance at least 20 veterans will participate." Watch the trailer at <https://vimeo.com/248661824>. Call Thomas at 432-853-4851 or email mmctlc3@aol.com and tell him "I am in!" Then join us in San Antonio. Reserve your room at the el Tropicano. Mail in your registration. Book your flight or gas up the car. Don't delay.

OTHER CAVALRY REUNIONS

The 12th Cavalry Regiment Association Reunion, September 11-16, 2018 at the Welk Resort in Branson, Missouri. Details at <http://www.12thcav.us/>

The 1st Cavalry Division's 71st Reunion will be held in Charleston, West Virginia, 20-24 June, 2018. Details at <https://1cda.org/annual-reunion/information/>

THANK YOU

From the Veterans of Delta to Colonel John Gergulis (Ret), our first Vietnam commander, who made a contribution to 1st Cavalry Division Museum at Fort Hood, Texas of behalf of D Company, 1/12th.

Two Streams (continued from page 3) LT Carpenter and SFC MacLaurin cautioned everyone to hold their fire towards the west. A half hour later troopers from Alpha slowly emerged from the brush, appearing like shadows silhouetted by the setting sun. They were a welcome sight to the dozen or so remaining troopers of Recon.

After elements of Alpha Company (about a platoon) linked up with Recon, an organized search of the recent battle area was conducted. The search was focused on the dried stream bed area that made up the western leg of the “L” shaped NVA positions. After the search, most troopers were carrying several rifles over each shoulder.

LT Carpenter led the combined Recon and Alpha troopers back north towards LZ Hawk. Since medevac choppers were unable to carry the dead, SGT Lute and PFC Baylor's bodies were being carried by two troopers each, one on arms, one on legs. A vast trove of weapons, and three NVA POW's, who had been captured by Alpha while fleeing the battle area, were also being transported. SFC MacLaurin set up the order of march, with the remainder of SGT Webb's squad leading the patrol on point. The tactical situation was serious, as it was now dark and an ambush by the NVA could not be ruled out. Therefore, noise discipline, proper interval, and communications had to be maintained, even while transporting loads of extra weapons, two dead bodies, and three POWs.

The POW's hands were tied behind them. A trooper who had been assigned to guard the POWs tried to assist an NVA down a steep embankment, to prevent him from falling and making noise. The NVA soldier tried to kick the trooper in the face as he reached up to assist him. His bad judgment was rewarded with a good thrashing which broke the noise discipline momentarily. The NVA became a believer and cooperated fully after that.

Another incident occurred during the return patrol. Carrying the bodies was exhausting and troopers traded off, both Recon and Alpha sharing the load. At one point a trooper from Alpha was assigned by SFC MacLaurin to help carry a body. The trooper said to “Mac” “I ain't carryun' no damn dead body”. SFC MacLaurin pulled his 45 cal side arm, put it to the trooper's head and furiously whispered “ You're carrying him or we'll leave your *damn dead body* right here! Got it?” The trooper believed Mac was serious and, with some alacrity, helped carry the body.

Recon made it back to the LZ Hawk perimeter about midnight with no further incidents. The POW's were interned in a roped off area and assigned a guard to protect them and prevent escape. Recon was allowed to sleep the rest the night. LT Carpenter debriefed the Battalion S-3 and went to sleep about 1:00 AM. Then at 4:00 AM he was awakened by the S-3 and ordered to guide a patrol of Alpha Company back to the firefight area to do a more thorough search. Only one of the two adjoining streams had been searched the previous day. So a very tired LT Carpenter guided another patrol back to the firefight area. They found more bodies and weapons near the east/west stream bed, where the initial contact took place. A total of 43 NVA bodies were found.

After 52 years, the Army recognized SP4 Frank Crary's bravery and approved the Distinguished Service Cross. Frank's award was signed into law by President Trump on December 12, 2017.

SGT Lute and PFC Baylor (both KIA) were awarded the Bronze Star with V. (Baylor should have received the MOH.) Many others deserved medals of valor that day.

D Company KIA: SGT Harry Lute, PFC Jerome Baylor, SP4 David Bailey (died of wounds April 8th)

D Company WIA: PFC Kirby Cleveland, SP4 Robert Ruiz, PFC Donald Freed, PFC Charlie Miller, PFC Carl Berg, PFC John Rockwell, PFC Billy Prewitt, PFC Freddie Abram, PFC John Childers, PFC Lawrence Dean, SGT Basil Wolf.

Boot to Boot

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2018 Reunion

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