Greetings:

Here I go again...Man, do I remember November 17, 1967!! 30 years ago today was my first full day in the United States Army!! The day before, my Dad had dropped me off at the Local Draft Board in Flemington, New Jersey, and I got on a bus bound for Newark, NJ. We stopped in Somerville, NJ to pick up some "happy" people, and we arrived in Newark in the morning. We then rode another bus to Fort Dix and entered the Reception Center as guys who were in the same location to separate out were laughing at us, calling us "cherries."

It was cold in Fort Dix on November 17th, as we got our clothes, stripped to our shorts, lined up and got what seemed like 5 shots in each arm with those inocculation guns, then got kicked out the door into the snow as we tried to hang onto our clothes. We then lined up and heard a Sergeant tell us: "Boys, we need blood for the men in Vietnam. Will you give?" Our self-appointed leader, a big soul brother from Newark by the name of Jenkins said: "Sure!" We were 'promised" 24 hours of free time if we gave a pint, but were also told that we couldn't give if we had colds, fevers, or sore throats. 90% of us were sick, but about 15 lucky souls gave a pint of blood (guess who one of the lucky donors was), and we got back to the drafty barracks around midnight. At 3 in the morning, the lights went on and a Drill Sergeant yelled, "On your feet cruits for some KP!" We, who gave blood, mouned that we were promised 24 hours off if we gave blood. The Sergeant yelled back, "That was the last shift! You're on my time now.!" So, we all went to KP for the next 20 hours! By the end of it, guys were flat on their backs in the hallways, but I felt pretty good. I knew that it was a test, one of many that I would be subjected to in my tour. The Army was good for making one realize the extent of the human endurance. Here we were, down a pint of blood, on our feet for 20 hours, and a few of us "made it." It was a satisfying feeling. When times got tough in Vietnam, I would look back on this day and realize what I was capable of, and I would pull through. Another memory from basic that I would draw on was the time our Basic Company Commander, a Second Lieutenant whose name escapes me, showed us recruits a proper pushup. With the temperature in the teens, he took off his field jacket, cleared 6 inches of snow from the ground, and proceeded to perform about a dozen pushups. That memory of the Lieutenant got me through some rough times, and it still does! Another important lesson learned at Fort Dix in Dec-Jan 67-68 was how to keep warm in cold climates: find a windbreak and stand in the sun, even though it was dark the first and last few hours in our day. Keeping warm in a cold climate is just the opposite of keeping cool in the tropics: find some shade and a breeze. If you can't find a breeze, at least find some shade. Man, was that 30 years ago? Was I only 20 years old? I look at 20 year olds today, and I really, really, wonder!

All right, enough memory lane stuff for now. What has happened to me since my last newsletter on Saint Patricks Day? We had a great turnout of 40 guys, wives, and kids at our reunion in Saint Louis (Our group shot is in this newsletter). We had some difficulty at our banquet as Lee Velta was trying to show his 1000 slides from his tour, but take a look at Nat Ward's letter to Holiday Inn and their response. We shall return to St. Louis in 1999 for some great rates, thanks to Nat. We'll do Las Vegas in 2000, but for 1998, Angry Skipper is going to Charleston, South Carolina! Jim Nix (Skull 68-69) and his lovely wife Nancy have found us a wonderful site at the Quality Inn at Meeting and Calhoun Streets in downtown Charleston. The reunion is officially set for May 14-17, 1998, but the rates of \$79.00 for a single and \$89.00 for a double will be good for three days before May 12th and three days after May 17th. Just call 1-800-845-2504 and tell them that you are with "Angry Skipper." There is a free shuttle from the airport, a pool, a free banquet room if we can muster 30 rooms, and with the motel being in the heart of downtown, everything is within walking distance. There will be a bus tour of the sites, and for those who golf, (Hey! Isn't it time that we form teams between Platoons and the CP and have a tournament with a trophy that has room for about 20 years of inscriptions?). Jim is an

FOR RECENTLY CONTACTED

avid golfer, and I'm sure that he feels that the Skull team can kick anybody's ass when it comes to team competition. Be forwarned: the First Annual Angry Skipper Cup will be fought for in Charleston! Be there!

Our reunion this past May in St. Louis was for the most part a major success. Rather than write down the names of the attendees in this narrative, I direct your attention to the photograph

in this newsletter and the row by row names.

Mike "Mouse" McGhie has done a wonderful job with the "Angry Skipper" website. I'm enclosing a copy of the first page of the website to show you the names and addresses of the D 2/8 Troopers who are online. Our website is linked to many other websites including the 1st

Cavalry Division Association.

Speaking of the Association, Mouse and I and a few others are looking into the possibility of forming up a Chapter of the 1st Cavalry Division Association. It would be an "at-large" Chapter similiar to the Jumping Mustangs (1/8) and the LRRP Chapters. We will be discussing the formation at our next reunion in Charleston. In order to form a Chapter, the members need to be members of National. National sent me a printout of all of the D 2/8 Troopers who are members of National, and the number is 60. Therefore, I have in this newsletter a copy of my 1st Cav Association business card that I had made up when I was with the Connecticut Chapter for those of you who are not members of National, but would like to be, can use. Simply cut out the facsimile of the card, fill it out, and send it and \$10.00 to the National address in Texas. Also, for those of you who signed up years ago but stopped receiving the newsletter from National, simply renew the subscription by checking off that box and mailing the facsimile and \$10.00 to National. One of the major benefits of a Chapter is being able to have published "Chapter news" in the bi-monthly publication of National, the Saber. We can then get updates of our group six times a year through National. BE ADVISED!! I will continue to send out this newsletter at least once an year. What started as a hobby has become very important in my life, and I'm sure in the lives of others, so even if you don't join National and the Angry Skipper Chapter, you will still receive this newsletter as long as I have your correct mailing address and as long as I am alive. At the last two reunions, Nat Ward has initiated a "pass the hat" for me, and in each of the last two years, the reunion attendees have been very, very generous. THANK YOU AGAIN!!

This newsletter, I'm doing something for the first time. I'm attaching a pre-stamped postcard that I would like you to mail back to me with the following information: 1. name, address, phone number, tour, Platoon, nickname; 2. whether or not you will be in Charleston in 98 or if you are simply thinking about it (then I can give the organizers a potential count, and I can send out an update between now and May to those who will or might be there); 3. if you know the whereabouts of anybody else from the unit or remember the names of any KIA's who are not on our Honor Roll; 4. if you want to be dropped from the mailing list or if you want to be listed as confidential (I will honor your request); 5. if you need an updated roster (it might be awhile. I messed up my hard-drive directory of the roster and didn't have it backed up, so I have to rewrite it from a newsletter); 6. if any room is left on the back of the card, add any thing else you want.

This past Veterans Day weekend, I had the honor of being invited to the Range 68-69 reunion. Through the superb efforts of Wayne "Range 6" Tubaugh and Tim "Range 6 India" Kanan over the years (since the year the "Wall" was dedicated; 82 or 83?), we have a great time every Nevember. NOW HERE THIS; if you are on Tim's mailing list (30 or so Range grunts, plus a few distant Cat and Skull cousins, plus "Rocky"), Wayne's bottle of 100 year old cognac is going to be shared by Range in the year 2003 in D.C. If Tim keeps sending you a letter every year, why not show up one of these years?

I hope you enjoy the newsletter.

HONOR AND COURAGE
Range One India

What is ANGRY SKIPPER?

I've been sending out these newsletters for a number of years now, and I refer to the two words "ANGRY SKIPPER" a lot as a symbol for our unit Delta Company, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division. Those of you who served from 1965 to 1967 and from 1970 to 1972 might be confused. Well, here is what I've heard from the written word, the spoken word, and some basic conjecture: Our Division was formed in 1965. The First Brigade (1/8, 2/8, 1/12) trained at Fort Benning from 1964 to 1965 as the 11th Air Assault Division (Test). All the Troopers in the First Brigade were Airborne qualified, and they provided the basis for the Air Mobile concept in warfare. In 1965, when President Johnson said that he was sending the "Airmobile Division" to Vietnam, the 1st Cavalry Division was formed by taking the First Brigade from the 11th Air Assault, taking the Second Brigade (1/5, 2/5, 2/12) and the Third Brigade (1/7, 2/7) from the 2nd Infantry Division at Fort Benning, transfering the colors of the 2nd Division to Korea, transfering the colors of the 1st Cavalry Division from Korea to Fort Benning, and forming the First Cavalry Division for shipment to Vietnam by ship in August, 1965 and arriving in September. The First Brigade was Airborne for the first year but couldn't stay Airborne qualified beyond the "First Shift."

Each Company had four Platoons. Some were rifle Platoons, and the fourth was a weapons Platoon of mortars and recon (Pony Teams, I believe). I believe that the radio call signs for the Company and the Platoons changed often or were just designated by numbers. Then came the Battle of Dak To in November 1967. The 173rd Airborne Brigade became heavily involved in the battle in Pleiku Province and had to put all of their troops into the field. They asked for a Battalion from another Division to provide base security while their troops were in the bush. Our Battalion reinforced the 173rd at Dak To. In trying to coordinate radio communications between our Battalion and the 173rd, mass confusion reigned supreme. So, our Battalion was instructed to create code names for the Battalion, the four Companies, the the Platoons within each Company. Thus, our Battalion became known as "Stone Mountain." Alpha Company became "Custer Dodge." Bravo Company became "Eager Arms." Charlie Company became "Lone Armor." And, Delta Company became "Angry Skipper." The four Platoons in Delta Company became White Skull, Rifle Range, Wild Cat, and Lethal Weapons. Captain Edison Scholes was in command of Delta Company at Dak To, and he states that his Field First, Claud "Big Daddy" Davenport often referred to him as "Skipper," but where the "Angry" part came from is anybody's guess.

When our Company went into the A Shau Valley in early 1968, we went in with four Platoons, but after we left, the fourth Platoon in each Company was taken away to form up Echo Company. Echo Company became the weapons (mortars) and recon (LRRP) functions of the Battalion. As the years drifted by, the Platoon names were shortened to simply Skull, Cat, and Range. In my tour of 68-69, RTO's were referred to as "India." Officers were "6." Top Sergeants were "5." Squads went by 1,2, and 3. The supply Sergeants were "Mike." The Medics were just called "Doc."

For a short period of time in 1968, our Division was named the First Air Cavalry Division, but I hear that the 101st Airborne Division got upset, so we reverted to the First Cavalry Division (Airmobile). In 1971, the colors of the 1st Cav came back to the "World," but four Battalions, one of which was 2/8, stayed until 1972 to form the 3rd "Garry Owen" Brigade, and those four Battalions came home in June of 1972. On May 10, 1972, one month before the Company rotated home, our First Platoon, Skull, and the Company Commander, Kenneth Rosenberg, were killed when their Chinook helicopter crashed on their way to Vung Tau for an R & R.

Delta Company had an interesting "Legend," the "Bummer." I hear that he lied about his age to fight in the Korean War, spent 1965-68 with D Company, 68-70 with the 173rd, and ended up with the 1st Cav in 1972. He was the kind of soldier who would stand up in a firefight and yell: "Lets get these bastards!" Man, I wish I could interview him for the book I should write about the History of "Angry Skipper."

Mr. Nathan P. Ward Page Two

I do hope you will give us another chance to show you and all the troopers that the Holiday Inn Westport not only cares about your men but more importantly appreciates all you have done to make this country strong and free.

Sincerely,

James B. Calhoun, CHA

General Manager

JC/mlw

cc: Ms. Cindy James, Manager Guest Relations HIWW File

1st. Cavalry Reunion. St. Louis Missouri, May 17, 1997

Left to Right:

Row 1; Mike McGhie, Larry Hempfling

Row 2: Terry "Shoop" Shoopman, Steve Showalter, Phil Caffey, Jim Nix, Kenny Patek, Byram Price, Steven Wilcoxon, William Bott, Dan Burris, Walt McClernon, Nat Ward, Bill LaFerriere...

Row 3: Allan Smith, Lee Wicks, Wendell Barrett, George Johnson, Dirk Olson, Bill Davidson, Stan Dillon, Ed Regan, Danny Barnett, Mike Hagler, George R. Thaler...

Row 4: John W. Lee, Johnny Mays...

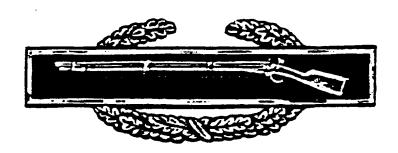
Row 5: Don Welsh, James Dotson, Lee Velta, Chuck Hustedt, Harrison Vaught, Ray Clooney, John Crocker, Bill "Skipper" Neal, Jim Taylor, Martin Rue, Rich O'Brien...

End Trans

Some cipher difficulties.. not responsible for misspelled entries.

(MISSING FROM PHOTO: KARL "CAT6" DERYMS)

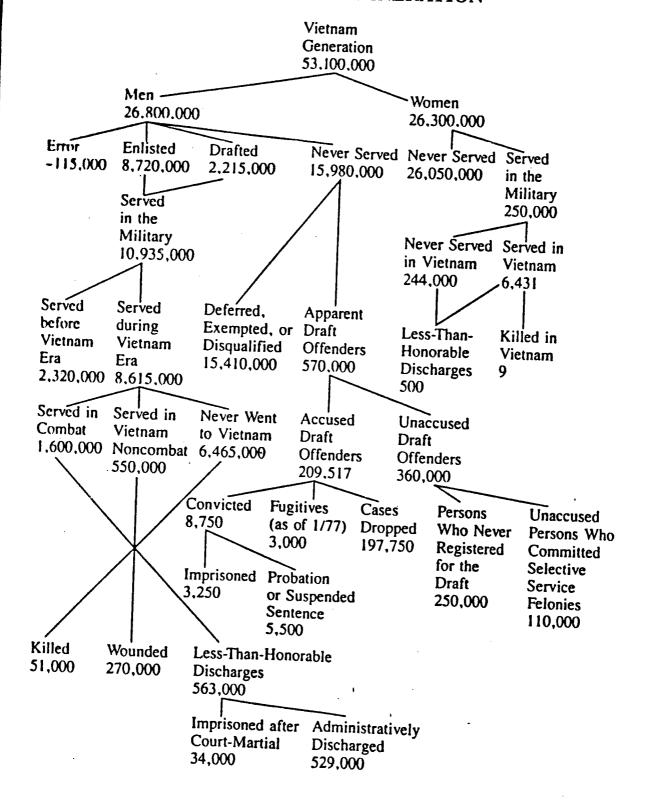




The rifleman fights without promise of either reward or relief. Behind every river there's another hill — and behind that hill, another river. After weeks or months in the line only a wound can offer him the comfort of safety, shelter, and a bed. Those who are left to fight, fight on, evading death but knowing that with each day of evasion they have exhausted one more chance for survival. Sooner or later, unless victory comes this chase must end on the litter or in the grave.

General Omar Bradley

THE VIETNAM GENERATION



D 2/8 HONOR ROLL

RANK	NAME & HOMETOWN	DOB	DOD	LOCATIO	ON WALL
SGT	Richard Arthur Coffey, Los Angeles, CA	21Oct41	04Nov65	3 E	17
CPL	Eddie Lee Hill, Jr., Mobile, AL	07Jul40	04Nov65	3 E	18
SP4	Terry Allen Rippy, Hammond, OR	30Sep42	22Apr66	6E	128
SGT	Paul William Malec, Summerdale, AL	24Jan37	14 Ma y66	7E	59
PFC	Fermin Saldana, Jr., San Antonio, TX	10Feb46	23May66	7E	106
2LT	Michael Douglas Derosier, Fort Walton Beach, FL	16Apr43	19Sep66	10 E	117
SSG	Paul Edward Floyd, Jr., Clinton, MA	08May34	14Oct66	11 E	73
CPL	Peter Joseph Keller, Jr., Detroit, MI	31Jan45	28Jan67	14 E	91
CPL	Donald Francis Yates, Round Lake, NY	12Sep46	28Jan67	14 E	94
SGT	William Burton, Jr., Hopkins, SC	02Jan45	01Mar67	15E	125
CPL	Robert Edward Johnson, Highland, NY	14Nov46	01Mar67	15E	128
PFC	Robert Lester Van Gieson, Van Nuys, CA	21May47	12Mar67	16E	71
PFC	Michael Neal Johnson, Brentwood, MD	19Nov47	18Mar67	16E	105
PFC	Ralph Traylor Woodall, Jr., Jesup, GA	14Apr44	18 Mar6 7	16E	108
PFC	Daniel Ivan Nelson, Rutledge, MN	190ct47	30May67	21E	18
PFC	George Steven Sutt, Indianapolis, IN	04Aug47	30May67	21 E	19
PFC	Charles William Krueger, Menasha, WI	13Jul47	31 May67	21 E	23
SP4	Terry Russell McComb, Lapeer, MI	01Nov46	05Jun67	21E	59
2LT	Michael E. Bennett, Brentwood, NH	14Apr46	01Nov67	28E	107
SP4	Allan Eugene Follett, Independence, MO	13Nov44	11Dec67	31 E	79
SP4	John Paul Paulson, Jr., Neenah, WI	15Aug47	11Dec67	31 E	82
SGT	Wyatt Cecil Gordon, Lawrence, IN	03Apr48	31Jan68	36E	4
SP4	Robert Eugene Gardner, Sylacauge, AL	22Sep42	19Apr68	50E	46
CPL	Richard Allan Carlson, San Francisco, CA	30Mar48	24May68	67E	5
SP4	Larry Dean Novak, Platte Center, NE	17Mar48	24May68	68E	5
SGT	Jacob Robinson Weldin, Wilmington, DE	18Aug46	06Jun68	59W	17
PFC	Brian Carl Winner, Detroit, MI	08Sep47	07Jun68	58W	i
IIC	Brian Carr willier, Denois, 1911	063cp+7	(MIA 04Jur		•
SGT	Robert James Ross, Charlotte, NC	01Jul47	01Jul68	54W	32
1LT	Harrison E. Woehnker, Jr., Minneapolis, MN	07Jul43	18Jul68	51W	9
111	That is on E. Woelling, Jr., Willingapons, Wilv	0/34173	(WIA 24Ma		
CPL	Stanley Lloyd Grunstad, Everett, WA	21Apr47	19Jul68	51W	10
PFC	Roger Theodore Fast, Butterfield, MN	14Jan48	19Aug68	48W	54
SP4	Ronald Duane Golden, Superior, WI	22Jul44	20Aug68	47W	7
PFC	Michael John Cromie, Harperwoods, MI	06Apr48	18Nov68	38W	6
SP4	Raymond Joseph Ahern, Jr., Philadelphia, PA	14Jan48	26Nov68	38W	63
SP4	Willie Gerald Jones, Fort Lauderdale, FL	15Nov47	04Dec68	37W	40
SP4	Donald Robert Stoltz, Milwaukee, WI	17Jan48	04Dec68	37W	42
SSG	William Charles Williams, Horton, MS	15Oct46	04Dec68	37W	44
SP4	Elliot Velez-Rodriguez, Vega Baja, PR	29May47	21Jan69	34W	54
CPL	Warren Reed Eskridge, Tangier, VA	09Sep47	28Jan69	33 W	7
SP4	Carl Dale Pipher, Canton, OH	31Mar49	28Jan69	33 W	11
CPL	James Edmonds, Burlington, NC	12Jul48	05Feb69	33 W	62
SP4	Chester Jon Kmit, Williamsburg, MA	11Apr45	05Feb69	33W	65
PFC	Neil Shipp Brown, Salt Lake City, UT	07Aug44	02May69	26W	97
CPL	George Arthur Brown, Whaleyville, VA	19Jan48	12May69	25W	62
ilT	John Preston Karr, Kenner, LA	14Jun47	25May69	24W	104
CPL	Michael Dennis Muse, Garland, TX	07Jan48	16Aug69	19W	51
CPL	William John Anderson, Jr., Lorain, OH	05Jun48	24Aug69	19W	105
SP4	Hugh Henry Sarah, Plymouth, MI	05Aug45	23Sep69	17W	1
		11Apr49	08Oct69	17W	49
CPL PFC	Albert Harold Altizer, Squire, WV Joseph Henning Benson, Coram, MT	16Feb49	08Oct69	17W	49
SP4	Anthony Jack Carlucci, New York, NY	22May49	20Nov69	16W	98
CPL	Peter Karl Matthei, St. Louis, MO	06Sep45	20Nov69	16W	101
SSG	William Joseph Montague, Valley Stream, NY	10Apr42	12Feb70	13W	2
555	11 Hilling Accobit 11 Tottimena) , array a grammed 1. 2			9Oct67 Roster	
			*		

PFC CPL	Tony Rava, Mt. Angel, OR Kenneth Michael Flashner, New Orleans, LA	30Aug49 21Nov46	18Feb70 28Feb70	13W 13W	31 68
CPL	Francis Louis Ware III, Youngstown, OH	10Sep49	06Mar70	13W	89
SSG	James Cooney, New York, NY	01Jul47	09Apr70	12W	112
CPL	Vannath Walter Cander New Downsials NI	021/47	(Listed on 29Oct		
CPL	Kenneth Walter Gonder, New Brunswick, NJ	03May47	19May70	10W	64
CPL	Craig Thomas Waterman, Rockwell City, IA	30Sep49	03Sep70	7W	37
	James Melvin Cardwell, Castro Valley, CA	26Jun50	20Apr71	4W	135
CPL	Danny George Drinkard, Ferndale, MI	15Oct50	20Apr71	4W	135
CPL	Joseph Lindsey Hall, Little Rock, AR	05Apr51	20Apr71	4W	136
CPL	Stanton Gerald Sargent, Grenada, MS	15Jan50	21Apr71	3 W	1
SGT	Mike John Aguilar, Compton, CA	24Jun46	10May72	1W	15
SP4	Oscar Aguilar, Fairfield, CA	05Apr51	10May72	1 W	15
SGT	William Arvel Boatright, Abbott, AR	28Dec49	10May72	1 W	16
PFC	Steven Edward Bowersock, Lima, OH	25Sep51	10May72	1 W	16
SGT	Edward Denzel Burnett, Jay, OK	06Dec51	10May72	1 W	16
PFC	Clint Edwin Carr, Alexandria, LA	02Mar53	10May72	1 W	16
SP4	Dennis Gyman Dunning, Raymond, MS	11Aug53	10May72	1 W	17
SP4	David Cruz Flores, Agana, GM	20Aug52	10May72	1 W	17
SGT	Dieter Kuno Freitag, Ft. Dix, NJ	10Sep46	10May72	1 W	17
PVT	James Douglas Groves, Maysville, KY	06Jul53	10May72	1 W	17
PFC	Dale Lamont Hayes, Detroit, MI	07Mar52	10May72	1 W	18
SP4	William Frederic Henaghan, Bethpage, NY	25Nov51	10May72	1 W	18
SP4	Frank Theodore Henson, Massapequa, NY	06Oct51	10May72	1 W	18
SP4	Donald Edward Howell, Los Angeles, CA	14Nov47	10May72	1 W	19
SP4	Freddie Jackson, Cocoa, FL	14Feb44	10May72	1W	19
SP4	Thomas Allan Lahner, Eau Claire, WI	18Jun51	10May72	1W	19
CPT	Kenneth Rosenberg, New York, NY	25Oct42	10May72	1W	19
PFC	David Allen Lydic, Johnstown, PA	08Sep53	10May72	1W	20
SP4	Gary Robert Monteleone, Saugus, CA	27Jul52	10May72	1W	20
PFC	Dean Anthony Phillips, Tiro, OH	14Nov51	10May72	iw	20
SGT	James Christian Jensen, Elsinore, UT	21Jun51	10May72	iw	21
PVT	Jackie Ray, Jackson, MI	19Apr49	10May72	1W	21
SP4	Richard Ridgeway, Bloomington, IL	13Aug51	10May72	1W	21
PVT	Efrain Rivera-Agosto, Sabana Grande, PR	13Jan53	10May72	1W	21
PFC	John Tenerio Sablan, Agana, GM	03Jun53	10May72	1W	21
SP4	Clarence L. Saulsberry, Jr., Chicago, IL	31Dec51		1W	22
SP4	Raymond Joseph Shiko, Kingston, PA	02Aug53		1 W	22
SP4	David Wesley Sulser, Galion, OH	28Oct51		1W	22 22
PFC	Thomas Eugene Wood, Tacoma, WA	16Aug53	<u> </u>	1W	22 22
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1st CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION



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EDWARD P. REGAN

Public Information Officer Connecticut Chapter D Co. 2/8 1968 - 1969

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