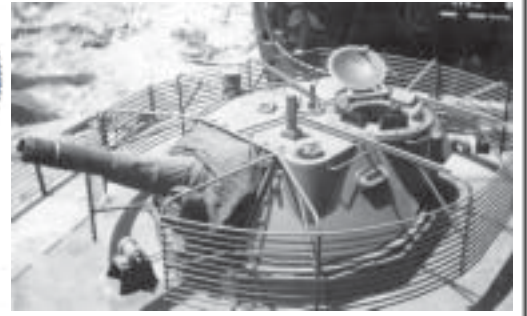


RIVER CURRENTS



A PUBLICATION OF
THE MOBILE RIVERINE FORCE ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 13, NUMBER 2
SUMMER 2004

Vietnam (What Time Is It Now?)

BY BILL FISHER

I was talking to another Vietnam Veteran about what time was like in country. To me there were two dimensions of time; one was tangible and one was intangible. The tangible was easy to deal with, it was the time on your watch or the time you got in country or the time you left. It was the time the sun came up and the time the sun went down. The intangible time was the time that was hard to understand or to explain in any way. But I will try to give you my own thoughts and ideas on it. I was thinking of when my first Fire was going to be. I didn't have to wait long. My first firefight took place on a small river at night. We were heading north up river in an ATC (tango boat). I was the radioman and 50-cal gunner. When all hell broke loose we were hit by rocket fire from both river banks and machine gun fire also. It seemed to last for hours but in essence only about ten minutes has passed in actual time. There was yelling and the returning of fire and total chaos and unbelievable fear inside me. What happens to those hours you thought it lasted? My physical being knew it was only 10 minutes (tangible time). It was on my watch. But my mind knew the intangible because my mind felt the stress and it could see the traumatic events that just happen and knew it lasted longer than 10 minutes. Some years later I had the same experience in a flashback. I remember years ago going fishing with my brother on a beautiful lake in New Jersey before I went to Vietnam. I was

seventeen, that day was of the greatest days that the Lord gave me. It was a real calm morning, the fish were jumping, the birds were singing and the frogs were doing what frogs do. The tree line was right up to the water and the sun was just coming up. I remember saying to my brother I could stay here forever and thanking God for such a beautiful day. I remember going back to this lake years later when I was about 25. This was five years after Vietnam. It seemed a repeat of the first time I went to the lake everything was, as it had been (fish-birds-frogs-sun coming up). But then it took on a different meaning. Different sounds the bird sounds were like cries for help and cries of pain. The woodpecker sounded like machine gun fire and the fish jumping sounded like rocket rounds hitting the water. When I looked at the tree line I wasn't looking at it's beauty I was looking for movement of enemy troops and muzzle flashes, so needless to say the beautiful lake has never been the same for me. The flashback I had lasted for about a minute but when it was over it seemed to have lasted for hours. What happened to the time? It was there in my mind, just like having a dream that lasted for a minute but felt it lasted all night long. So this is my understanding of why so many young men of the physical age and mental age of eighteen went to Vietnam and came back physically nineteen but much older mentally.



The traumatic events that happened to me in Vietnam are in my every day life and they are slowly wearing me down and stressing me out to my limit. I don't see a light at the end of the tunnel. For me for it's just too complicated to understand myself, let alone for society to understand me. So time goes on for me. What kind of time, I don't know. I just know I can't get it back and I can't stop it. I do know that at one time it was a beautiful lake for me and in another time it was a battlefield. What time is it now?

William R. Fisher wrote this 20 years ago and sent it to us recently we thought a lot of you the members could relate to Bills struggle with time. Bill is now a 100% disabled from PTSD and lives by himself with his dog in the mountains of Pennsylvania. Bill says life is less stressful now and is doing better. Bill served on Tango 132-3 6/68-6/69 you may contact Bill c/o 204 Montrose Terrance Park, Montrose, PA. 18801, 570-278-8938, e-mail wfisher5@stny.rr.com.

FROM THE GALLEY

ALBERT MOORE, MRFA PRESIDENT

We will be back at the Drawbridge Inn in Ft. Mitchell, KY in 2005 from Wednesday August, 31- Sunday (checkout) to September 4th. Room rates are \$77.00 for the main Building and \$67.00 for the Garrison Building (detached) the above rates are good for three days prior to the reunion and 3 days following the reunion. We are already in the planning stages with the Northern Kentucky Convention Visitors Bureau's Brenda Jackson about a bus for

you ladies who want to go shopping and tour the area which was not available this past reunion. Associate member Mary Werner has offered her assistance with this since she lives in the area and has many contacts. For you members I'm sure you can jump onboard the bus as well. The Convention Bureau is trying to work a deal where there will be no cost for the bus. Individual hospitality rooms in the main building will be \$125.00 a day; the two in the Garrison building are \$118. More on this will be available in up-coming issues of *River Currents*. You can start making reservations in September of this year. You may be wondering why we're posting this information now.

Folks, it's to help you make plans for your reunion. Some of you are federal workers needing to give a notice of 6 months or a year out and some members make the reunion their vacation time and take advantage of the room rates 3 days prior to the reunion and 3 days following the reunion. For reservations at the Drawbridge 1-800-354-9793 /Hospitality Suites 1-800-426-3841 (Sales) Ask for Jennifer Hesse or Teresa Gorman Seifert.

**NEW MRFA LICENSE PLATES
NOW AVAILABLE!**

See Photo and Order Form ... page 4

Behind the Barrel

Hello again, it's been a while. It feels good to be back in print – thank you Albert Moore, and the board, for the opportunity to work again for the MRFA as editor of *River Currents*.

Before I write one more word, there's one thing you should know. Thanks to you, the reader, your input and articles over several years has made *River Currents* the best damn quarterly newsletter of any military outfit. Thank you!

As you look through this issue plus those of well over a decade you'll see very few changes thanks to Albert, Doug and Brenda. They deserve a big Bravo Zulu! Or, for you Army guys, HOOAH!

For those of you who don't know Brenda, she works for the publisher, Doug Brown, and she's a very talented artist and backbone of our newsletter. Here's some history. During our reunion in Chattanooga, the idea of a quarterly newsletter was born. Shortly afterwards the MRFA board accepted my proposed name for this publication. Doug had Brenda work on the logo. I gave her some ideas and she did all the art work and layout – a very splendid job!

So what can you expect from me? In each issue, readers can look for an in-depth report on a topic of general interest – I hope that you, the reader, will continue to share your stories. If you have a story and need some help putting it together contact me. I'll be more than happy to assist you and give you the by-line. Don't forget photographs. They are essential to any story.

On a practical note, please give us plenty of advance notice when seeking to list an item or to request coverage. Although it's a quarterly newsletter – our deadline means we will be working far in advance to bring good news to our readers.

So if you have an article or idea feel free to e-mail me at JoeRosner@wi.rr.com or send it by snail mail to 2434 55th Avenue, Kenosha, WI 53144-4605.

A final word of thanks to all those who e-mailed me recently as we worked and planned this issue. Your words of encouragement and understanding mean the world to me. Keep reading.

Joe Rosner, GMG 3, RivRon 15, M-6, 1969, Board Member and Editor, *River Currents*

If you have never visited the MRFA web site please do so. There is information on both the Army and Navy and other Vietnam related subjects. If we don't have info on your unit or ship and you have some and want to see it posted please contact MRFA web master Mike Harris at 2196 N 14th St. Coos Bay, OR 97420. 541-267-4755 email mekong152@charter.net

Applying For Medals, Awards, and Unit Roster Information

Medals and Awards

Army — National Personnel Records Center, Attn: Army Medals, 9700 Page Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63132-5100.

Navy/Marine Corps/Coast Guard — Navy Liaison Office National Personnel Records Center, 9700 Page Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63132-5100.

Air Force — Air Force Reference Branch (NCPMF) National Personnel Records Center, Military Personnel Records, 9700 Page Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63132.

Sample Request: (Veteran)

I request to be issued all award emblems that I am entitled. Enclosed is a copy of my separation document (DD-214).

Full Name: _____

Address: _____

Date and Place of Birth: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Social Security Number: _____

Former Service Number: _____

VA Claim Number: _____

Sample Request: (next-of-kin)

As the next-of-kin, I request to be issued all award emblems that (full name of veteran) was entitled to receive. A copy of the separation document (DD-214) is enclosed.

Veterans Full Name: _____

Date and Place of Birth: _____

Date of Death: _____

Social Security Number: _____

Service Number: _____

VA Claim Number: _____

Full Name: (person submitting request) _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Unit Roster Information: _____

Navy Muster Rolls or Ships Rosters for the period 1967-1975; Department of the Navy Bureau of Naval Personnel (PERS-093) Washington, DC 20370-0920.

Army Company Rosters, NPRC Army Reference Branch, St. Louis, MO 63132.

A message from Bob Stumpf, Secretary, MRFA

What are the symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder?

Many people with PTSD repeatedly re-experience the ordeal in the form of flashback episodes, memories, nightmares, or frightening thoughts, especially when they are exposed to events or objects reminiscent of the trauma. Anniversaries of the event can also trigger symptoms. People with PTSD also experience emotional numbness and sleep disturbances, depression, anxiety, and irritability or outbursts of anger. Feelings of intense guilt are also common. Most people with PTSD try to avoid any reminders or thoughts of the ordeal. PTSD is diagnosed when symptoms last more than one month.

One of the most difficult things for us to do is ask for help. Getting help is also one of the best decisions we could possibly make. Please consider making contact with your local Vet Center or VA Hospital. You owe it to yourself and your family!

The following web sites may be helpful in finding the nearest Vet Centers where you live and the types of counseling provided.

- <http://www.ptsdsupport.net/vetcenter.html>
- <http://www.ptsdsupport.net/combat.html>
- <http://www.tpromo.com/usvi/vet-cent.htm>
- <http://www.va.gov/rcs/>

VETERANS DAY 2004, Washington, D.C.

The MRFA and 9th Infantry Division will be placing wreaths at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. on Veterans Day, Thursday, November 11, 2004. We will be gathering at the steps of the Lincoln Memorial at 8:30 a.m., on the 11th, and proceed to the Wall at 9:00 a.m.

We have blocked 25 rooms at the Quality Hotel and Suites in Arlington, Virginia for November 8th –12th. Room rates vary from \$89.00 (plus tax) per night (there are 20 rooms available at this rate) to \$105.00 (plus tax) per night (there are five rooms available at this rate). For reservations call 1-888-987-2555 and refer to our group code MRFA4." Reservations under this code must be made before the cut off date, October 18, 2004. Call early.

The Quality Hotel and Suites is located at 1200 North Courthouse Road Arlington, VA. 22201.

There will be no registration fee or dress code for this event. If this is your first trip to Washington, we suggest comfortable shoes because there are lots of sights to see by walking.

For more information you may contact Board Member Bob (Doc) Pries at 9702 Friar Tuck Drive, West Chester, OH. 45069. Phone: (513)755-1223 or email: rpries@cinci.rr.com.

Hope to see you there!

Forever Changed

By Jerry L. Shearer

I knew the day I entered the service our lives would change forever. The country took ten men. Four married. I'd been married for 2 1/2 years. The day I left for basic training at Fort Benning, GA. I read a bible verse "Let not your heart be troubled" I had to believe it. Three men went to Fort Polk, LA. For AIT. I was one. One man went to the 9th Infantry Division 3rd/60th —me. When I got to South Vietnam my records didn't. Fort Dix lost them! So I didn't have any pay for four to five months. My platoon helped me out. I got many boxes from home. I was glad to share with my men. My wife and I wrote our congressmen and my pay started to come.

I hated that dirty hot dump of a country. Take a shower and five minutes later you needed another, Charlie firing into the camp, and when you wanted to rest you were called out for patrol. I couldn't see much without my glasses but was chosen for sniper school at Bear Cat, that M-14 had such a kick with the big high powered rounds I thought my shoulder would fall off. After awhile I didn't care we were like animals at times. Walking in mud-water to our necks and over. Men's feet rooting. Doing our job. With my job, you were sometimes in front of the patrol. You had to have pride in yourself and your outfit. This had to be hell on earth. Doing missions and operations from helicopters and tango boats. Taking ground, leaving and going back to take it again. Then I had orders to meet my wife Jane in Hawaii. But when I was in NCO school November 30, 1968 our son was born early. I was very happy, but gave my orders to another G.I. to meet his wife in Hawaii. The UPI ran an ar-

ticle on a check-point and had my name and job in it. My wife started getting phone calls from the so-called peace people, calling me names. This was hard on emotions. I told her



just to meet me at the airport in April 1968. I thought the 9th had seen enough of war, hurt and death. Then January 10th 1968 came. We were sent out to help A Company and we were ambushed ourselves. Again men being hurt, crying for help, dying in our arms, incoming fire. Maybe I wouldn't be at the airport. I had the rest of January, February, March and April to go. Many firefight off and on, the entire time. Yes April came and I was on the plane home to my wife and our new son — 5 months old. I made it to the world again. I have a unwavering pride for having serve in Vietnam. With the 9th Infantry Division, MRF and serving my country.

Jerry Shearer served with C/CO/3rd/60th Infantry 4-67 & 4-68 you may contact Jerry C/O 711 Ohio St. Ashland, OH. 44805, 419-281-5635.

History Courtesy of Albert B. Moore

South Vietnamese Navy 1968-1973

We receive many inquires on what happen to all the boats, we had in the Riverine Forces. The following information will give you some idea. In 1973 the SVN was the 9th largest in the world.

The Vietnamese Navy grew from 18,000 men in the fall of 1968 to 32,000 at the end of 1970. By 1973 the Navy had 42,000 men and 1,500 ships, boats and other craft. When departing Vietnam the U.S. Navy turned over many of its craft to SVN. River and Patrol Craft in the RVN (included):

- 28 Coast Guard patrol boats (WPB)
- 108 Swift inshore coastal patrol boats
- 293 river patrol boats (PBR)
- 84 assault support patrol boats (ASPB)
- 42 monitors Mk5 (built as such in 1969)
- 22 monitors (modified LCM-6)
- 100 armored troop carriers (modified LCM-6)
- 8 Command and control boats (CCB)
- 27 River Patrol Craft

Other vessels

1 ARL USS Satyr ARL-23 (riverine transferred SVN 30 September 1971). Transferred to Philippine Navy after the fall of Saigon names YAKAL

1 YRBM-16 (riverine transferred SVN Sept or Oct 1973 Nha Be). Information provided by Jerry Rubin, EN2 70-71

1 YRBM-17 (riverine transferred SVN December of 1970 Tan Chau). Information provided by Doug Lindsey 67-68

2 DER radar picket (twin 76.2mm guns, two 81mm mortars, two 12.7mm MGs, transferred Sept-1971

1 ex USCG vessel (127 mm gun, 2-81mm mortars) transferred 1971

2 fleet minesweepers (twin 57mm AA, twin 37mm AA, three twin 23mm AA, transferred 1962-1970

18 PGM patrol boats (40mm AA, two 20mm AA, two twin 12.7mm machine guns)

1 or more fire-support gun boat LSSL (Landing Ship Support Large)

8 MSB-5 minesweeping boats transferred 1970

8 riverine minesweepers built 1970 (mine warfare version of (ASPB)

8 riverine minesweepers (MSM; Minesweeping Monitor) transferred 1970

5 Landing Ship Medium (LSM)

2 Hospital Ships (LSM-H)

6 LST's transferred 1962, July 1969 and April 1970 (twin 40mm AA, 4/5 20mm AA, four .50 Cal Mg

14 LCU 1466-class (two twin 20mm AA; 156-ton cargo capacity) transferred 1954-70

1 LCU 501 class (two twin 20mm AA; 150-ton cargo capacity) transferred 1955

6 Oil Tankers (YOG)

1 Supply Ship (AKL)

1 Repair Ship (AGP)



MOBILE RIVERINE FORCE ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Charlie Ardinger • 1857 CO Rd. A-14, Decorah, IA 52101

New Member Renewal Donation

Sponsor

CHANGE OF ADDRESS - Note Below!

NAME: _____

STREET: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

PHONE: () _____

E-MAIL: _____

Dates Served in Unit (mm/yr - mm/yr)

WWII Korea Vietnam

Army Member: Unit (Division, Brigade, Battalion, Company, Platoon): _____

Navy Member: Ship, Boat Hull Nos. or NavDet: _____

Associate Member

Membership Rates:

1 Yr. \$10.00

3 Years \$27.50

Donation: \$ _____

To become a member, mail your check or money order (payable to MRFA) to: **Charlie Ardinger, MRFA Membership Chairman, 1857 CO Rd. A14, Decorah, IA 52101-7448.**

Please Note: This form may be used for New Memberships, Renewals and Changes of Address. Be sure to check the appropriate box.

Guerrilla War... Back Again?

22 July 2003 — LTG Patrick M. Hughes (Ret.)

GUERRILLA WAR *n.* • an irregular war, usually favoring some political or philosophical objective, fought by small groups of combatants against an established or occupying power. A Spanish language term, essentially meaning “small war.” Terrorism is a tactic.

Recently U.S. Army General John Abizaid, the new head of U.S. Central Command, said forces under his command face a “classical guerrilla-type war situation”. His description is apt although one can debate whether there is a classic form of this kind of war. The history of using unconventional tactics and the complementary tools of deception, surprise, ruthlessness and uncompromising violence are as old as warfare. Indeed, the only aspect of this developing condition in Iraq that may be new is the fact that technologies are available now that may change the conduct of such warfare. The nature of it has remained the same.

The history of warfare is replete with examples of the enemy within, hidden in the mass of people, using the most treacherous of means, opposing the central authorities. The descriptions vary from one place to another but the similarities are always there: an absence of obvious form, secrecy, some claim to an appeal to the common person, agility, no rules, and utter contempt for the enemy. Any weapon will do. Opportunity guides action, and the target is the will of the opponent. Break the opponent's will to sustain the fight, the guerrilla believes, and you may lose a thousand battles but gain victory in the end. This is the essence of this kind of war.

In its basic form, guerrilla war includes the idea embodied in the phrases from *The Art of Poetry on a New Plan* (1761). Vol. ii. p. 147, by Oliver Goldsmith, (1730?–1774). “*For he who fights and runs away, May live to fight another day; But he who is in battle slain, Can never rise and fight again.*” The short modern version of this idea is more assertive: Fight! Run Away. Live To Fight Again Another Day. The underlying idea is clear. If you stand and fight against a supe-

rior enemy, on their terms using their rules, you may lose your life and you may fail. Thus the imperative for the guerrilla is to oppose their enemy with selective and circumstantial violence that will affect the target and the supporting base, including the political and cultural resolve that sustains the opponent. At the same time the guerrilla's hope is to retain some measure of capability through guile and cunning and the application of tactics that protect the core of their ability to continue.

There have been many approaches to fighting guerrilla war, often dependent on the peculiar set of conditions that exist at the time and place the warfare is conducted. Virtually every guerrilla war has a few consistent features: The importance of language and culture to the success of all sides, the zealotry and resolve of those who participate, and the necessity of support from the indigenous population. Defensive tactics, techniques and methods are certainly important to better protect the force. The guerrilla often relies on compartmentation of small groups and exceptional secrecy to ensure their survival, while the counter-guerrilla force is frequently forced into a defensive-reactive posture that constrains what they are able or willing to do.

However, most soldiers who have engaged in counter-guerrilla warfare believe that an effective strategy cannot be based merely on defensive measures but rather must be tied to an aggressive offensive approach, taking the war to the guerrilla, denying them sanctuary and interdicting their support, stopping their ability to assemble and plan, and taking away their capability to act. This requires exceptional training, invasive presence, insightful intelligence, and an uncommon resolve on the part of established authority to meet the great demands that an offensive strategy embodies. The countering force in successful counter-guerrilla campaigns have been more agile than their guerrilla opponents, utilizing the best of their technologies and tools, and specifically targeting and rapidly acting against the guerrillas and their supporting infrastructure.

History also tells us that the counter-guer-

rilla force requires manpower, training, tools, tactics and techniques adequate to the conditions extant. In order to succeed counter-guerrilla forces have always had to develop a strategy and a plan, train to that plan, and then act in a very deliberate way. This form of warfare demands something extraordinary with regard to cultural understanding and political acumen. Standard military forces, using standard tactics and techniques, will be sitting ducks for the accomplished guerrilla, especially when operating in urban environs against the backdrop of complicated political, cultural and religious forces. The counter-guerrilla force may often be its own worst enemy if its actions are perceived to be antagonistic to the local populace.

Time is an important feature of guerrilla war. Grinding down an opponent through a long and difficult evolution of small actions designed to erode confidence and to break morale, is a central idea underpinning the guerrilla's long view. The key to this view is the resolve of the guerrilla to have the patience and commitment to succeed. The American culture is sometimes described as the antithesis of this approach. Our goal is rapid success and our hope is to transition quickly to some form of acceptable post-conflict condition in which our forces are not directly at risk. Developing an understanding that some forms of warfare require long and hazardous involvement is a cultural challenge.

It is always better to mount an effective counter-guerrilla campaign as soon as possible. Time is usually an advantage for the guerrilla – not their opponent.

It is not too late to form an appropriate strategy and to carry out a plan to counter the guerrilla threat that at least one U.S. General sees looming before us. However, unless we embark on those activities deliberately, using the best of our capabilities and taking advantage of lessons learned and the experience of those who have fought against such enemies, then we may in fact run out of time.

Patrick M. Hughes is a retired U.S. Army Lieutenant General and was involved in operations against the Vietcong Infrastructure in Vietnam, and against insurgency and guerrilla warfare in other locations. Gen Hughes was a Plt Ldr D/CO 4th/49th (69). Contact: 2013 S. Lynn Ave Arlington, VA. 22202-2128.

A Civil War Heritage (MRF)

Albert Moore

In the fall of 1862, General Ulysses Grant packed 32,000 weary Union soldiers onto river boats and began the siege of the vital Confederate city of Vicksburg, Ms. Using the Mississippi Delta Waterways to position Navy gunboats and to transport men and equipment, the superior Northern forces penetrated the river strongholds. General Grant's forces teaming with Rear Admiral David Porter's Mobile Riverine Force (MRF) carried the North's offensive deep into Dixie. Fleets of armor-pro-

tected boats provided Fire support and ferried troops as the Union assaulted the series of fortifications along the Mississippi. Thundering volleys from Naval Gunboats and mortar vessels played a decisive role in the North's successful winter and spring campaigns of 1862 and 1863. After the defeat of the Confederates in the battle of Port Gibson on April 30, the fortress of Vicksburg fell on July 4. River assaults also played dominant roles as key Union victories claimed Belmont, Fort Henry, and

Shiloh. Riverine warfare virtually split the Confederacy in two. The Riverine Force was born. It's our history and our birth as a Mobile Riverine Force fighting unit.



Mini Reunion Minneapolis, MN

There will be a mini reunion in Minneapolis, MN. November 12-14th the weekend following Veterans Day. More info will be posted on the hotel and cost on the MRFA web site www.mrfa.org shortly, also in the fall issue of River Currents. There will be a wreath laying at both the 9th Infantry Division and Mobile Riverine Force Association monuments.

For more information contact Frank Humphrey, 446 Monroe Street, Columbia Heights, Minnesota 55421; or by email at a_vietnam_vet@yahoo.com.

USS Yolo (APB-43)

Taking on fresh water piped down from the hills. Painted dark green. Later reclassified USS Yolo (APB-43)

LST-677 was laid down on 25 April 1944 at Ambridge, PA. by the American Bridge and Iron Company; launched on 16 June 1944; ferried down the Mississippi River to New Orleans; and commissioned there on 3 July 1944, Lt C. Homer Bast, USNR in command.

LST-677 conducted her shakedown training out of Panama City, FL and then loaded naval construction battalion (SeaBee) equipment at Gulfport, MS. for transport to combat staging areas. She put to sea from New Orleans on the morning of 8 August 1944, with a convoy bound for Cuba, then proceeded by way of the Panama Canal and San Diego to the Hawaiian Islands. She reached Pearl Harbor on 19 September and in the ensuing weeks, conducted amphibious warfare exercises at Maui with Army amphibious teams and their embarked tracked landing vehicles. The duty came to an end on 19 October when she moored at the amphibious repair dock at Waipio, Pearl Harbor, for conversion to a specialized type of support ship for amphibious operations.

LST-677's conversion to a landing ship craft tender, or self propelled barracks ship, was completed by 21 January 1945. The ship reclassified initially to LST(M)-677 spent the following days taking on 406 tons of fresh, frozen, and dry provisions and embarking 315

officers and men for transportation to the Solomon Islands. She left Hawaii astern on the morning 2 February, proceeding by way of the Caroline's to Okinawa. During the voyage to the next stop on the island-hopping campaign toward the Japanese home islands, LST(M)-677 was reclassified a self propelled barracks ship APB-43, and given the name *Yolo*, effective 31 March.

Yolo arrived off Okinawa on 1 April-D day for the strongly held island-and added to the gunfire that drove away enemy bombers that threatened the formation in which she was steaming. The following day she opened fire on a suicide plane, joining other ships nearby in putting up a devastating anti-aircraft barrage that literally blew the planes to bits. That

witnessed the destruction of more than 50 enemy planes in the vicinity of her anchorage. *Yolo's* duties at Okinawa terminated 28 June when she sailed for the Philippines with a convoy of amphibious vessels that reached San Pedro, Leyte, on 3 July. Upon her arrival she reported for duty to SerRon-10 on 22 July, she sailed for Subic Bay with fresh provisions for an attack transport and two attack cargo ships. She then embarked a draft of 50 men for passage back to Leyte. With the cessation of hostilities with Japan in mid-August 1945, *Yolo* became home for 255 men of SerDiv 101, awaiting occupation service in Japan. She headed out to sea on 3 September; joined a troop convoy off Batangas, Luzon; and proceeded thence to Tokyo Bay where she anchored on 15 September-less than a fortnight after the formal Japanese surrender in Tokyo Bay.

Assigned to the Yokohama area, she provisioned small craft on an emergency basis and provided living quarters for men from various naval units until permanent facilities were established ashore.

When *Yolo's* occupation service in the Far East came to an end, she was rotated by way of the Panama Canal to Norfolk, VA. Where she was decommissioned on 9 August 1946. Assigned to the Norfolk Group of the Reserve fleet, *Yolo* remained in reserve until struck from the Navy list on 1 May 1959. She was removed from Navy custody on 5 February 1960 and sold to the J.C. Berkvit Company of New York City, and subsequently scrapped. *Yolo* won one battle star for her World War II service.



LST-677 - Purvis Bay, Tulagi, Solomon Islands (1945)

same day, she became the headquarters ship for the 70th Naval Seabee Pontoon Barge detachment and commenced tender duties that saw her service small craft alongside on 915 occasions. *Yolo* dispensed a grand total of 991 tons of issues - including 514 tons of dry provisions and 477 tons of frozen foods; delivered nearly 200,000 gallons of fuel; and handled more than 12,000 communications. Under day and night threat of enemy suicide planes and bombers she shot down one aircraft; assisted in the downing of three others; and

Dean (Pig King) Ayers' PIG OUT!!!!!!!

Since the Pig Cookout at the last reunion went over so well we have decided to have it again in '05. This is provided by Dean Ayers (709th Maintenance) and the MRFA, at no cost to you, the members. We welcome all volunteers to help shuck corn, etc. We'll post Dean's address, phone number and e-mail information in an upcoming issue of *River Currents*. So, whoever wants to volunteer can and should contact Dean. I also want to thank Jennifer Hesse of the Drawbridge Estates and the hotel staff for letting us do this - most hotels would not allow this.

— Albert Moore, National President (MRFA)

NEW PRODUCT at
www.mrfa.org

License Plate Tag \$750

(Shipping and Handling Included)

SORRY NO DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE!



To order, mail your check or money order (payable to MRFA) to:
MRFA • 1857 County Rd. A-14 • Decorah, IA. 52101-7558

The MRFA products help and assist with keeping the MRFA up and running. There's patch and book, tour info on the web site. Contact Mike Harris if you want a book, etc. posted on the site. Mike makes the final decision on what's to be posted on the web site. If you have questions, please e-mail them to Mike at mekong152@charter.net.

Hello Albert,

Just wanted to tell you I've been diagnosed with cancer of the Larynx and will see the Oncologist this coming Monday 05/17/04. No big deal but we need to tell the members to get serious about any hoarsness or laryngitis that occurs even after 38 years. Agent Orange was used while we were there and I remember being sent to the Long Tam or long Tau River to burn the defoliated brush where the ships were getting nailed going to Saigon or leaving. In fact it happened while we were there trying to burn it out. Got the pictures to prove it.

Enough sea stories, just tell the guys not to ignore anything that can, could be associated with the GOOD STUFF that was supposed to save lives on the river.

—John "Jack" Herrmann

John "Jack" Herrman was ComRivDiv-92 1968. You may contact LCDR Herrman at P.O. Box 252, Eldorado, CA 95623. Phone: 530-620-8042; email: oro@internet49.com.

SNIPER STORY

By Michael Kirby

It was 0630 My men and I awoke to a horrible 90 degrees and 90—yes 90—percent humidity, the two men on guard were drenched in their own sweat from the hot night. We received an order to secure a LX (landing zone). My men and I came through the tree line to a field. We called in coordinates to the Huey choppers en route to pick us up. The pilots requested we pop smoke. We threw the smoke out and heard choppers in the distance. MY RTO handed me the mic. I then asked the pilot to identify smoke. He came back with “I see yellow smoke” I let him know that was us. I heard a small sound almost like a mosquito I turned and looked behind me and saw a small egg-shaped chopper called a loch skimming the tree with its landing skids and armed with mini guns. Then my men said, “Here they come” Two Hueys were coming in to pick us up. They were coming in from the east and the Loch was coming from the west. Just before the Hueys landed the Loch came under fire from the trees. Then from out of nowhere two thin like gunships called AH-1 Cobras came from the south skimming the trees: the gunships flew right over the tip of the Hueys firing their guns and rockets. As we loaded our choppers, we could see the gunships unloading their firepower on the tree line. We lifted off and the gunships continued to provide us with cover until we were out of the area.

The choppers dropped us off with the rest of the platoon. Then the hot meal choppers (our CO always saw that we got one hot meal a day) came in and we ate in shifts those of who

were not eating were on guard. After the meal we rested, then we went in to the direction of the assigned area for our squad to patrol. We humped for over an hour and a half. I turned and surveyed the area and I saw some men walking in the direction of the 4th squad. It was so hard to believe how flat this land really is. We were humping through rice paddies, jungles and swamps. One of my men asked me what we were doing today. I told him we were checking ID's, because there's a report of NVA in the area collecting taxes. We spent the rest of the day searching sampans, hooches and people.

It was about dusk and we came upon a village that had NVA guards so we dug in. (note in the delta we didn't dig in it was too muddy. So I guess you could say we got out of sight.) Where we were was a free fire zone and we were to enforce a 22:00 curfew. We ate chow and around 23:00 the sniper called me over and told me to look through the starlight scope at a man walking around carrying a rifle and swinging a lantern back and forth as he walked from hooch to hooch. The sniper asked me what I thought we should do. I told him the man was

out after curfew, and “you know what to do” the sniper then told me to watch the man. My eye trained on the man through the starlight scope. He was out about 800 yards. Then I heard a faint pop, just as the man swung the lantern out in front of him and right before he swung it back the light went out and the shattering glass looked like somebody threw glitter in the air. The man took off running like no tomorrow for tree line. The sniper began to laugh, and as I was laying there in awe. I too began to laugh.

The guy didn't know what hit him. The day after we arrested two NVA sympathizers and one NVA paymaster with the rank of major. But that's another story.

Michael Kirby served in C/CO/6th/31st 6/



69-10/70. You may contact Michael at 29900 Rancho California Rd., Temecula, CA 92591 or by phone 909-676-3606 or e-mail michaelkirby@gte.net.

OUR MEMORIAL TRAILER IS A GREAT SUCCESS!



The Officers and Board Members of the MRFA would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the folks who made contributions to our Memorial Fund. We think it's a great way to honor our fallen comrades.

Charles E. & Georginia Ardinger, Treasurer MRFA, RivRon-15
 Richard T. Coogan 15th Eng (SONID)
 Brian J. Mahoney, USS Sphinx ARL-24
 Albert B. & Sara Moore, President MRFA, USS Benewah APB-35
 Jimmy Toney, Board Member, E/CO 3rd/60th
 Ralph Tresser, USS Benewah APB-35
 Ken Sundburg, HHC 5th/60th
 Sam Crawford, USS Satyr ARL-23
 ??? Donor
 Roy Moseman 4th/47th VP MRFA
 Dale (Doc) Jones 4th/47th Board Member
 Davil Lull 2nd/47th
 Ralph J. Fries Riv/Sec 543-535
 Mike Harris, RivRon-15, Board Member
 Gunner Larry Ethridge ARL-30 Board Member
 Al Cady USS Benewah APB-35
 Bill Wulff Co/B/3rd/47th
 Rebecca Hancock *In memory of Amy J. Gilbert and Kristin Wagner*
 Nieces of John J. Read USS Colleton APB-36
 George Frank Humphrey E/CO 3rd/39th Board Member
 Paul Eastman RivRon-13
 Vic Unruh RivRon-15
 Charlie Taylor 5th/60th
 John Boling IUWG
 Harry Schoenian C/CO/4th/47th Board Member
 Erol Tuzcu A/Co/3rd/60th

Erol Tuzcu (US Teuss, Inc.)
 George (Duke) Marthenze Board Member
 Tom Schneider 1st/11th Arty, Board Member
 George C. Lang (MOH) A/CO/3rd/47th
 Bob Martin USS Benewah APB-35
 Clarence Cooper RivSec 511 (PBR's)
 Lt/Gen Bill Fulton 9thInfDiv
 Bob Stumpf 3rd/60th Board Member
 William Tamboer T-151-9
 Jim Steffes COS-12-13
 Chris Knabe M-92-1
 Lucien Hinkle 3rd/60th 9th Inf. Div.
 Stephen Luft B/CO/4th 47th 9th Inf. Div.
 Richard Corrick R-112-1 MRFA Board of Directors
 Don Jackson IUWG-1-1 Vung Tau
 L Peraza Casanova D/CO3rd/60th 9th Inf. Div.
 Gery Benedetti, Tango-112-2 / Tango 112-6
 From members of the 47th/Inf and RivRon-11 in memory of SFC Claude Onley 3rd/47th, and William H. Little RivRon-11
 Maj/Gen Lucien Bolduc US Army Ret. 3rd/47th
 Bob & Nancy VanDruff RivRon-9
 Richard (Doc) Nelson & Stella Nelson
 Charles & Cynthia Moran RivRon-9
 Northern Kentucky Convention Visitors Bureau
 Jerry Bogart, USS Tom Green Cty.
 Frank & Mabel Springer, RivRon-13
 Ray Bradbury, USS Colleton, APB-36

Want to help? If you'd like to make a donation to our memorial trailer, please make checks payable to MRFA and send to: **Charlie Ardinger**, 1857 County Rd. A14, Decorah, IA 52101.

Joe Moore, Lt/Jg. USS Colleton APB-36
 Ray Lang, BMCS, Ret. M-112-1
 Ron J. Perry, Tango-132-2
 Vergie Eblen, Associate Member
 Kurt Garbo Tango-39
 Terrence Fetters HQ, 3rd/47th
 Richard Burns 3rd/60th
 Aaron Spurway USS Vernon Cty LST-1161
 Cdr Kirk Ferguson ComStabRon-20
 Jeff Stephenson USS Nueces APB-40
 Joe & Bonnie Rosner RivRon-15
 John Wilk Jr. 4th/47th
 LeRoy Suttief 2nd/39th Inf
 Brothers of the 2nd/47th Infantry Regiment 9thInfDiv
 Phillip Harris HHC 4th/47th
 Chaplain Richard MacCullagh ComRivFlot-One
 John Hantulla M-112-1
 Eric (Doc) Loudob IUWG
 9th Infantry Division Society
 Thomas R. Bogner 2nd/39th Inf
 Jack Benedick C/CO/3rd/347th /3rd/60th Inf
 Charlie Taylor C-3 5th/60th Inf
 Henry Etta Blundell for Capt. Peverill Blundell USN Ret.
 Eddie Tenpenny USS Ticonderoga (66-68)
 Mike Holcomb T-91-5
 Dean Ayers 9thInfDiv Society 709th Maint
 Carl Foley
 James Belee USS Willioite (DER-397-DER-325 (Lowe)



Pride in One's Ship and One's Service

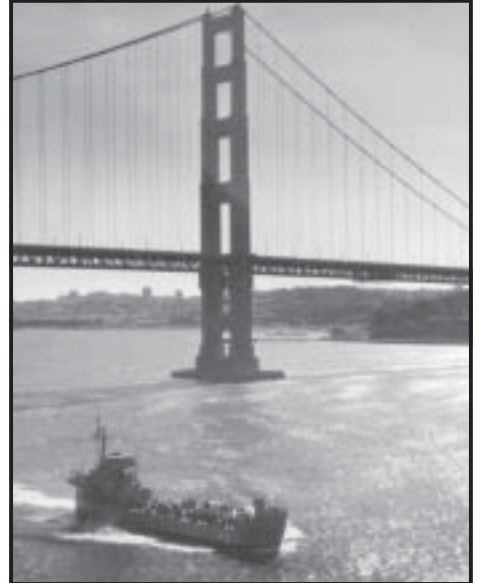
A few months back a picture of the USS Benewah APB-35 while she was in Newfoundland in 1951 or 52 was sent out to the Benewah e-mail list. This is a reply received from a Benewah crewmember.

God loves this ship and the sailors who sailed it to all parts of the world. I'm proud to be a part of the history this small ship played over the years it was in service in so many parts of the world. Time and time again it was called on to do service even after it sat idle for years, forgotten and put to rest to rust never to serve again. Then it was once again called and so were a few good men. Not knowing the mission and how it would play

out. We were all young sailing on a ship that had been on so many missions with those who had gone before us. Only now do I understand how historical and important this old flat bottom ship was to those who served on her during her life time and to the U. S. Navy. Pride in country, the ship we sailed, the men we sailed with, and the honor we hope to instill in the ones who were to follow us. I am proud to be a part of something that lasted for so many years, only to be saddened by the fading of us who will soon be forgotten as many have in the past. My only hope is that in the future more American men and women will have the same feeling when they are at our point of life. Freedom is not free, it has a price to pay. I hope and pray that we never that we never forget the price our forefathers paid, because the debt is never paid. We must continue to suppress the evil of the world and be aware of our homeland first and foremost. Balance, protect and keep the world and us safe. Not an easy task we as American's have to pass on the values and what it takes to keep our freedom in place. Our country is not perfect but having traveled the World twice, I still can't think of a better place to live.

Larry Hidbrader served on the USS Benewah APB-35 in 1967-68. Contact Larry at: 4600 Woodstone Dr., Newburg, IN. 47630. 812-858-2918 e-mail lwh4000@aol.com

You can find out more on the majority of the ships that served in the MRF and those who supported the MRF on our web site www.mrfa.org. Don Blankenship manages the Benewah web site: go to www.b cres.com/benewah/index.htm.



9th Infantry Division (Last Days) 4th/47th

Due to return to U. S. One 9th Infantry Division trooper was killed and seven others wounded Thursday, just three days before their unit, the 4th/47th Inf; was to return to the states.

The troopers were in the out-processing center at Dong Tam when an enemy 107mm rocket hit. Two other infantrymen were killed and 17 other soldiers, four navy-men and a Vietnamese civilian was were wounded.

The Dong tam headquarters of the 9th infantry division also took about 10 rounds of 82mm mortar fire Friday night, but know casualties were reported and damage was light.

The 800-odd men of the 4th/47th Inf, left for the states Sunday. The other GIs killed and wounded were mostly members of the divisions 3rd brigade, which is remaining in Vietnam.

Meanwhile the current slow pace of the ground war continued Friday, with only scattered unit skirmishes reported by military spokesmen. Sporadic Communist rocket and mortar fire hit 22 allied camps and towns overnight.

A fire support base occupied by units of the 52nd Arty Gp. Four miles north of Phan Tiet came under mortar fire twice Friday. About 20 rounds of 82mm mortar fire hit the base, causing only light casualties.

Red gunners lobbed about five 122mm rockets into the 101st Airborne Div, headquarters at Camp Eagle late Saturday night. No damage or casualties were reported.

—Taken From Stars & Stripes July 1969. Submitted by Mike Harris.

9th MEDICAL BATTALION (DIVISIONAL)

The 9th Medical was part of the 9th Infantry Division, arrived in Vietnam January 4th, 1967, departed August 18th, 1969 previous station was at Fort Riley, KS. Authorized

strength was 371. The 9th Medical battalion provided division level service, including command and medical administration. Receiving, sorting, temporary medical and surgical treatment, emergency dental treatment and evacuation of patients from unit and aid stations. Service also included unit level medical services, transport of medical supplies and equipment and providing medical support and limited maintenance. No matter where the 9th division soldiers were ashore or afloat in the Delta they were assured that medical assistance was only a few minutes away, 9th Medical doctors, Nurses and Medics stood ready at base camps or riverine operations for any emergency that may have arisen.



Upcoming Issues of *River Currents*

Last March, Ms. Sandy Doyle, Senior Writer/Editor of the Naval Historical Center, gave *River Currents* permission to use the Naval Historical Center's on-line synopsis of the book *By Sea, Air, and Land*. We are looking at chapters 3 & 4. We realize that it's on our web site and the book has been donated to the MREFA Mobile Museum (courtesy of Albert Moore). On the other hand, not everyone has access. So take a look at what chapters 3 & 4 have. If you see something you want highlighted in an upcoming issue, let us know. Contact Joe Rosner using the information located in *Behind the Barrel*.



DEPT. OF THE NAVY - NAVAL HISTORICAL CENTER
805 KIDDER BREESE SE - WASHINGTON NAVY YARD
WASHINGTON DC 20374-5060

The publications of the Naval Historical Center are for sale through the Superintendent of Documents.

Depicts the United States Navy's contribution to the twenty-five year American and Vietnamese campaign to defend the Republic of Vietnam. More than two million naval personnel served in Southeast Asia, and 2,551 Americans lost their lives. Covers 1950- 1975. Most of the illustrations are black and white photographs. Also includes a few color maps, reproductions of paintings, and photographs. Indexed. Navy ISBN 0-945274-09-2. L.C. card 91- 33197. Item 399-A-2. ISBN: 0-16-061331-0 Author: Edward J. Marolda.

You can order this book or other books by mail, phone, or the internet.

By mail: print out the order form located on line at <http://www.history.navy.mil/nhc6b.htm> and mail with a check or credit card number to:

Superintendent of Documents

Box 371954, Pittsburgh PA 15250-7954

By phone: call the Government Printing Office ordering and information number at (202) 512-1800.

Chapter 3: The Years of Combat, 1965 - 1968

- The Naval Command in Southeast Asia
- The Carrier Force
- Rolling Thunder
- Amphibious Landings in South Vietnam
- Bombardment from the Sea
- Coastal Interdiction
- The Naval Command in South Vietnam
- River Patrol
- Riverine Assault Force
- The Naval Advisory Effort
- Civic Action
- The Navy's Logistic Support of the War
- Naval Support Activities

Chapter 4: Winding Down the War, 1968 - 1973

- The SEALORDS Campaign
- Allied Navies on the Offensive
- Vietnamization of Naval Operations
- Task Force 77 Operations
- Allied Surface Warfare
- Vietnamization Completed
- Countering the Easter Offensive
- Linebacker
- Withdrawal from the War

For some balance in our newsletter, we are also looking at the on-line version of VIETNAM STUDIES RIVERINE OPERATIONS 1966-1969 by Lt. General William B. Fulton (Ret.) USA, 4739 34th Rd., Arlington, VA 22207-4209. Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 72-600370. First Printed 1973-CMH Pub 90-18. Book is not available for sale.

Lt. General William Fulton, USA, (Ret.) was intimately involved in the early development of the riverine warfare concept as commander of the 2d Brigade, 9th Infantry Division, which arrived in Vietnam in January 1967 and immediately began combat operations in the Mekong Delta.

The following pages are courtesy of the United States Army

I BACKGROUND

- Previous American Experience
- French River Warfare in Indochina, 1945-1954
- The Mekong Delta
- Enemy Forces
- Republic of Vietnam Forces
- US Forces
- The Situation in 1966

II THE CONCEPT OF A RIVERINE FORCE

III RIVERINE PREPARATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES AND IN VIETNAM

- Review of the Mobile Afloat Force Concept
- 9th Infantry Division Studies the Mobile Afloat Force
- The Coronado Conference and Doctrine
- Final Decisions on Deployment
- 2d Brigade, 9th Infantry Division, Arrives in Vietnam
- Rung Sat Special Zone Operational Training



IV INITIAL DELTA OPERATIONS

- Movement to Dong Tam
- Final Mobile Riverine Force Preparations
- 2nd Brigade Operations
- Mobile Riverine Force Campaign Plan

V PLANS AND OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES FOR THE MOBILE RIVERINE FORCE

- Intelligence
- Planning
- Operational Concept and Procedures

VI CORPS OPERATIONS AND THE THREAT TO DONG TAM

- Can Giuoc Operation
- Go Cong Operation
- Further Can Giuoc Operations
- Dinh Tuong Operation
- The Mobile Riverine Force Returns to III Corps
- Ben Luc Operation

VII CAM SON TO THE RACH RUONG CANAL

- Dinh Tuong Province and Coronado V
- Coronado IX
- Six Months in Retrospect

VIII TET OFFENSIVE OF 1968 AND US REACTION

IX PACIFICATION AND KIEN HOA PROVINCE

- The Third Battalion
- Operation SEA LORDS

X CONCLUSIONS AND SUMMARY

GLOSSARY

Again, if you see something you want highlighted in an upcoming issue, let us know. Contact Joe Rosner using the information located in *Behind the Barrel*.



National WWII Memorial Washington DC

On April 29, 2004, as a service and tribute to members of the World War II Generation, the National World War II Memorial opened for public viewing, exactly one month prior to the formal Dedication Ceremony which took place May 29, 2004. The World War II Memorial is the first national memorial dedicated to all who served during the Second World War. The memorial, established by the American Battle Monuments Commission, honors all military veterans of the war, the citizens on the home front, the nation at large, and the high moral purpose and idealism that motivated the nation's call to arms. The Second World War is the only 20th-century event commemorated on the Mall's central axis.

The memory of America's World War II generation will be preserved within the physical memorial and through the World War II Registry of Remembrances, an individual listing of Americans who contributed to the war effort. Any U.S. citizen who helped win the war, whether a veteran or someone on the home front, is eligible for the Registry. Names in the Registry will be forever linked to the memorial's bronze and granite representations of their sacrifice and achievement.

The Registry combines four distinct databases that can be searched for names of those whose service and sacrifice helped win the Second World War. The Registry includes the names of Americans who are:

- Buried in American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) overseas military cemeteries.
- Memorialized on ABMC Tablets of the Missing.
- Listed on official War and Navy Department Killed in Service rosters now held by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).
- Honored by public enrollment in the Registry of Remembrances.

If you are interested in processing an entry to the WWII Registry of Remembrances, go to www.wwiimemorial.com/registry/edit/donor_nameaddr.asp

He was old and worn and bit forlorn as he ambled
through the park,
He spoke to me and I could see that his eyes had lost
their spark.
His gait was slow and his voice was low as he asked
to sit with me,
And I answered him with a friendly grin, "The sittin'
here is free."
He gave a smile and we talked a while and his voice
was rather weak,
But his mind was strong and it wasn't long till he
began to speak
Of yesteryears and I saw the tears as the mem'ries
flooded through
For he spoke of times and other climes as old men
often do.
He smiled at me and I could see as he glanced at my
Navy blues
That he'd earned his keep on the briny deep and
paid his share of dues.
I asked if he would share with me some mem'ries
from his career,
He said he might if the price was right, and the price
was a can of beer!
"I've shipped on subs and oily tubs, on battleships
and cruisers,
Ten thousand mates and I can state not one of them
was losers.
LST's on foreign seas, from Solomons to Leyte,
You name it, lad, I've been there, from Alaska down
to Haiti."
"Liberty ships of paper clips, balsa wood and glue,
I saw one break apart one time and lose her gallant
crew.
Marine Corps I took ashore on Tarawa and Truk."
Oh what the Hell, for quite a spell, I've had my share
of luck."
"One thing more," he said, "before I move along,
There ain't no air that's quite as fair as the pipe of
the boatswain's song.
And the place to be is on the sea riding a fair sea
swell,
With mates like you in Navy blue who'll follow you
straight through Hell."
"So here's to you and your Navy crew who take our
ships to sea,
You've fought and died and never cried throughout
our history.
You're heroes all and ten feet tall and your spirits
never lag,
You're the nation's best and you never rest in de-
fense of our country's flag!
He rose to leave and I believe that he seemed to
move much faster,
His eyes a gleam like a laser beam and his skin was
alabaster,
He glowed at first then soon dispersed in a cloud of
misty cotton,
A dream at most, perhaps a ghost, but not to be
forgotten.



The Army's Best Invention

Story by Maj. Renita Foster

It was developed in just 30 days in the summer of 1942 by the Subsistence Research Laboratory in Chicago. And never in its 52-year history has it been known to break, rust, need sharpening or polishing. Perhaps that is why many soldiers, past and present, regard the P-38 C-ration can opener as the Army's best invention. C-rations have long since been replaced with the more convenient Meals, Ready to Eat, but the fame of the P-38 persists, thanks to the many uses stemming from the unique blend of ingenuity and creativity all soldiers seem to have. "The P-38 is one of those tools you keep and never want to get rid of," said Sgt. Scott Kiraly, a military policeman. "I've had my P-38 since joining the Army 11 years ago and kept it because I can use it as a screwdriver, knife, anything." The most vital use of the P-38, however, is the very mission it was designed for, said Fort Monmouth, N.J., garrison commander Col. Paul Baerman. "When we had C-rations, the P-38 was your access to food; that made it the hierarchy of needs," Baerman said. "Then soldiers discovered it was an extremely simple, lightweight, multipurpose tool. I think in warfare, the simpler something is and the easier access it has, the more you're going to use it. The P-38 had all of those things going for it." The tool acquired its name from the 38 punctures required to open a C-ration can, and from the boast that it performed with the speed of the World War II P-38 fighter plane. "Soldiers just took to the P-38 naturally," said World War II veteran John Bandola. "It was our means for eating 90 percent of the time, but we also used it for cleaning boots and fingernails, as a screwdriver, you name it. We all carried it on our dog tags or key rings." When Bandola attached his first and only P-38 to his key ring a half century ago, it accompanied him to Anzio, Salerno and through northern Italy. It was with him when World War II ended, and it's with him now. "This P-38 is a symbol of my life then," said Bandola. "The Army, the training, my fellow soldiers, all the times we shared during a world war." Sgt. Ted

Paquet, swing shift supervisor in the Fort Monmouth Provost Marshal's Office, was a 17-year-old seaman serving aboard the amphibious assault ship USS New Orleans during the Vietnam war when he got his first P-38. The ship's mission was to transport Marines off the coast of Da Nang. On occasional evenings, Marines gathered near Paquet's duty position on the fantail for simple pleasures like "Cokes, cigarettes, conversation and C-rations." It was during one of these nightly sessions that Paquet came in contact with the P-38, or "John Wayne" as it's referred to in the Navy. Paquet still carries his P-38, and he still finds it useful. While driving with his older brother, Paul, their car's carburetor began to have problems. "There were no tools in the car and, almost simultaneously, both of us reached for P-38s attached to our key rings," Paquet said with a grin. "We used my P-38 to adjust the flow valve, the car worked perfectly, and we went on our merry way." Paquet's P-38 is in a special box with his dog tags, a .50-caliber round from the ship he served on, his Vietnam Service Medal, South Vietnamese money and a surrender leaflet from Operation Desert Storm provided by a nephew. "It will probably be on my dresser until the day I die," Paquet said. The feelings veterans have for the P-38 aren't hard to understand, according to 1st Sgt. Steve Wilson of the Chaplain Center and School at Fort Monmouth. "When you hang on to something for 26 years," he said, "it's very hard to give it up. That's why people keep their P-38 just like they do their dog tags. ... It means a lot. It's become part of you. You remember field problems, jumping at 3 a.m. and moving out. A P-38 has you reliving all the adventures that came with soldiering in the armed forces. Yes, the P-38 opened cans, but it did much more. Any soldier will tell you that."

—Courtesy of "Soldier's Online"



PLEASE NOTE:

Reunion notices are placed as a courtesy to MRFA members. Posting of notices for non-members will be billed at \$25.00 per announcement, per issue. We're sorry for any inconvenience this may cause to any of you, but our membership must come first. Thanks for your understanding.



MRFA Catalog Products



Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Reunions...

USS TUTUILA ARG-4 REUNION

When: September 16-17-18-19, 2004
Where: Crowne Plaza Hotel, 23 South 2nd Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101-2004
Phone: 717-234-5021; **Fax:** 717-234-6797
Toll Free: 1-800-359-7234 **Email:** cpharrisburginfo@yahoo.com; **Website:** http://www.ichotelsgroup.com/h/d/cp/1/en/hd/MDTDT.

USS GUIDE, MSO-447

October 28th-31st, 2004 at the Drawbridge Inn, Ft. Mitchell, KY. Contact person: Harold Foster 925 Estates Dr., Kerrville, TX 78028. 830-895-7752 or e-mail hfoster@kfc.com.

9THINFDIV 39TH CAV PLT ACV

Ben Luc Vietnam • Summer 2004 Williamsburg, VA. POC Jack Kavanaugh 902-535-2228; jackkavanaugh@hotmail.com.

USS SNOHOMISH CTY LST-1126

August 16th-19th 2004 Las Vegas, NV. Contact person: Joseph C. Miller, 7351 Maynard Ave., West Hills, CA 91307; phone 818-340-0463; or E-mail jcsrockie@dslextrreme.com.

5TH BATTALION / 60TH INFANTRY ASSOC.

June 17th - 20th 2004 • Dallas-Ft. Worth Marriott All Information on website www.5thbattalion.org; POC: William Metzler Metz560@frontiernet.net; 707-374-1377.

NAVY MINE SWEEPER OCEAN ASSOC.

MSO's, MSC's, MSB's, MSL's June 2-5 Drawbridge Inn, Ft Mitchell, KY. POC: Larry Fugh, 7209 Lismore Ct., Orlando, FL. 32835; 407-292-2394; Email: flafoo@aol.com.

Seeking...

EM1 JAMES C. MITCHELL JR.

— Susan Mitchell Matterna is seeking anyone who knew her father, James C. Mitchell EM, who served on the Staff of Commander River Patrol Forces CTG-194 and was KIA in a UHIB Helicopter crash 1-8-70 Kein Giang province. Petty Officer Mitchell may have been a passenger. We believe CTG-194 was off the Benawah.

If you can help Susan contact her by e-mail at NurseMatterna@aol.com or drop a line: Susan Mitchell Matterna, 401 West 220th St # 20, Carson CA 90745, Phone: Home (310) 618-1451, Work Day: (562) 622-4377 M-F.

10% discount on all these products until August 1, 2004

T-SHIRTS Fully Embroidered logos

All Shirts are \$22.50 (includes S/H). Please indicate quantity and size in space provided.

- NEW!** River Rat (Tan) Qty: _____ Sz: _____
- Combat Action Ribbon (Tan) Qty: _____ Sz: _____
- River Assault Force TF-117 (Ash) Qty: _____ Sz: _____
- 9th Infantry Div. (Dark Blue) Qty: _____ Sz: _____
- MRFA Army & Navy (Ash) Qty: _____ Sz: _____
- Combat Infantry Badge (Ash) Qty: _____ Sz: _____
- USS Benawah APB-35 (Tan) Qty: _____ Sz: _____
- USS White River LSMR-536 (Tan) Qty: _____ Sz: _____
- 2nd/47th Mech Infantry (Ash) Qty: _____ Sz: _____
- ★ Boats ASPB Monitor Tango (Ash) Qty: _____ Sz: _____

Embroidered Sweat Shirts

\$44.50 each (includes S/H)

- MRFA (Ash) Qty: _____ Sz: _____
- 9th Infantry Div. (Dark Blue) Qty: _____ Sz: _____
- River Assault Force (Ash) Qty: _____ Sz: _____

Patches \$4.00 each (Includes S/H)

- MRFA Qty: _____ 9th Infantry Div Qty: _____
- TF-117 Qty: _____ River Rat Qty: _____
- MRF Mekong Delta Qty: _____ IUWG Qty: _____

Hat Pins \$4.00 each (Includes S/H)

- MRFA Qty: _____ 9th Infantry Div. Qty: _____

MRFA Bumper Sticker High quality, full-color, vinyl.

\$4.00 each (Includes S/H) Qty: _____

Forces Afloat Full-color, MRFA video.

\$27.50 each (Includes S/H) Qty: _____

Ambush Print Limited edition, full color print by Bill McGrath \$150.00 each (Includes S/H) Qty: _____

MRFA or 9th Infantry Satin, Nylon or Denim Jackets

Jackets embroidered with MRFA or 9th Infantry logo.

Satin Jacket Colors:

- Black (solid) or White with gold collar/cuffs. Specify Jacket Color: _____
- Navy Blue (solid) with white collar/cuffs. Specify Jacket Color: _____

Blue and Gold Collar and Cuffs Available with Nylon Jackets Only!

- Satin or Nylon Jacket. Embroidered with large MRFA & 9th logo on back only. S-XXXL \$135.00
- Satin Jacket. Embroidered back and front. Name on right front, unit on left front. S-XXXL \$155.00
- Quilted. Embroidered back only. S-XXXL \$155.00
- Quilted. Embroidered back and front. Name/unit on right front MRFA/9th Logo on left. S-XXXL \$165.00

Embroidered Hats \$21.50 each (includes S/H)

- 9th Infantry Division (Dark Blue) Qty: _____
- MRFA (Dark Blue) Qty: _____
- Combat Medic (Black) Qty: _____
- CIB Hat (White) Qty: _____
- ★ Purple Heart Hats (White) 9th Div Qty: _____ MRFA Qty: _____
- ★ Boat Hats (Off White with Blue Bill) Monitor Qty: _____ Tango Qty: _____ ASPB Qty: _____
- IUWG (Dark Blue) Qty: _____
- USS Benawah APB-35 (Dark Blue) Qty: _____
- 2nd/47th Infantry (White with Blue Bill) Qty: _____

Embroidered hats also available with gold lettering showing unit name and ship with "VIETNAM" text.

- USS Colleton APB-36 Qty: _____
- 9th Medical Battalion Dong Tam Qty: _____
- Riverine Infantry (Khaki) Qty: _____
- MRF-TF-117 Staff Qty: _____
- USS Nueces APB-40 Qty: _____
- USS Tom Green Cty LST-1159 Qty: _____
- USS Mark AKL-12 Qty: _____
- USS White River LSMR-536 Qty: _____
- USS Carronade IFS-1 Qty: _____
- USS Satyr ARL-23 Qty: _____
- USS Sphinx ARL-24 Qty: _____
- USS Askari ARL-30 Qty: _____
- USS Indra ARL-36 Qty: _____
- USS Krishna ARL-38 Qty: _____
- PBR's TF-116 Qty: _____
- USS Mercer APB-39 Qty: _____
- USS Nueces APB-40 Qty: _____
- USS Hartnet Cty LST-821 Qty: _____

Personalized MRFA Coffee Mug

\$30.00 each (includes S/H) MRFA Member's Name (max. of 16 characters spaces)

Rank (max. 4 characters/spaces) _____

Command in Vietnam _____

Specify insignia for reverse side of the mug:

- Army Navy USMC USCG Purple Heart

Denim Jackets do not receive color choice, and tend to run larger than other styles. Denim jackets are not available in quilted styles.

Denim. Embroidered logo, back only. S-XXXL \$135.00

Denim. Embroidered .ogo, front and back. Name and unit on right side. S-XXXL \$155.00

Jackets Ordered

- Size: _____ Style: _____ Cost: _____
- Size: _____ Style: _____ Cost: _____
- Size: _____ Style: _____ Cost: _____
- Size: _____ Style: _____ Cost: _____

Grand Total Enclosed \$ _____

Make check or money order payable to MRFA. Send to MRFA 2906 Starlite Dr. Topeka, KS. 66605. You may contact Bob or Nancy VanDruff by calling, 1-785-267-1526 or e-mail bvdmrfa@networplus.net. You can also check our products web site out at www.mrfa.org.

TAPS*Those gone, but not forgotten...*

Lt. Roger Jensen passed away on the 11th of February 2004 in Hastings, MN. Roger served as the XO of the USS Benewah APB-35 (1966-7/67). You may contact the family C/O Dr. Jennifer Jensen 219 W. Summit St. Somerville, New Jersey 08876; Phone 908-685-3043; email: drjen97@yahoo.com.



Nancy Hahn, wife of member Michael Hahn, passed away February 20, 2004. Mike and Nancy had been married 38 wonderful years. Mike served on the USS Benewah APB-35 as the Operations Officer 1966-67. You may contact the family C/O Michael A. Hahn 6343, Tasajillo Trl., Austin, TX 78739. Email mnhahn@austin.rr.com.

Member **Raymond R. Bollinger** passed away October 11, 2002 of skin cancer. Raymond served on PBR's 1966-69. You may contact the family c/o Rose Marie Bollinger, 6060 Emmaus Church Rd., Providence Forge, VA 23140; 804-966-2425; email roseb@3bubbas.com.

Lucy Brown, mother of MRFA board member Doug Brown, passed on 5/26 after a long illness. Contact the family at 42 Carr Road, Marshfield, MA 02050. Doug served with the 1097th Med. Boat Co., 68-69.

The MRFA would like to express its most sincere sympathies to the families.

CCB Working Party

If you live in the San Diego area and would like to assist in the restoration of CCB-18 by being an MRFA volunteer (on the Working Party), Army or Navy, contact either:

Charles Campbell at 677 G Street, SP#1, Chula Vista, CA 91910 (619-427-6835; ccicec@aol.com) or

Everett Jones, 1947 Gotham St., Chula Vista, CA 91913; 619-421-3721; oneerj@pacbel.net.

**Get Well Wishes**

Charley Cox (Dec. '67 — Dec. '68) (RAD 111) wrote an e-mail on April 26th to let us know about Nate Loesch who was the Force Chaplain for the MRF from Dec. '67 to Dec. '68. The good Chaplain underwent surgery for his left knee the previous week. Cox reported his condition as doing fine, and was transferred to a Rehab Facility. The Naval members of the MRF - especially those of River Assault Squadrons 9 & 11, and/or the accompanying ships, will certainly remember the "Padre." Members of the Ninth Infantry Division, who were with the MRF during that time frame, will undoubtedly also recall him. While in Country, he road the boats on virtually every major engagement; he was, and is, a Man of God, while simultaneously being a Sailor's Sailor. Chaplain Loesch would appreciate your prayers, and he would also be very grateful to hear from any of you. His address is 24511 Aguirre, Mission Viejo, CA 92692. Chaplain Nate Loesch was on board the Westchester County on the night that she was mined. He was one of the first men to enter the severely damaged First Class compartment, and actually helped to pull some of the wounded men to safety, while ministering to both the injured and the dying.

MRFA Board Member **George Frank Humphrey II**, is having some heart problems and not feeling well... Frank served as a Platoon leader in E-CO-3rd/39th Infantry 11-67 & 9-68.. You may contact Frank C/O 4946 Monroe St. NE. Columbia Heights, MI. 55421; 765-572-394; email: a_vietnam_vet@yahoo.com.

BMC Don P. Jackson has been under the weather.. Boats served at IUWG-1-1 VC-Hill (Vung Tau) 1967-68.. You may contact Don C/O 87 Oakville Av. Osterville, MA. 83815.... 508-428-3661 jacthchf@aol.com

Tom Forrest has been in the Hospital but is now home recovering and doing some what better. Tom served on PCF-102, 68-69. Tom is the President of the Swift Boat Sailors Association and a plankowner member of the MRFA. You may contact Tom at 21128 Hunt Club Dr., Harperwoods, MI 48225; tompcf102@aol.com.

Advertising in River Currents

Due to the many request we're starting to receive from the membership to place Ads in River Currents. Books, Medals, Patches, Watches, Boat Models, etc. Also everyone wants a photo of their product posted. We're unable to do this for space reasons. From now on the only thing that will be published will be the name of the product and phone number or postal address. Or an email address. If you the member received this service in any other publication there would be a cost involved.

McGrogan's Military Patches: Phone: 208-762-4481; Email: macpatch@earthlink.net.

Ships Histories: 1-800 732-9333.

In Memory Of

This section is for the members who wish to sponsor the MRFA by placing a notice in memory of one of their fallen comrades. In some cases the name of the sponsor will precede the name of the person who was KIA or who has passed on since Vietnam.

Jack Benedick for C/CO/4th/47th 66-68 C/CO/3rd/60th 69

E/CO/3rd/60th Inf KIA 4-7-68

James J. Byrnes for members of the Junk Force, Dung Island

James Roselli for Mark Schoenberger B/CO/3rd/39th Inf.

David R. Lynn For Howard Burns (QM2) Robert Bouchet (SM2) Herman Miller (GM3)

8-11-68 IUWG - 1- Unit 3

Bob Sutton For Lt/Jg James F. Rost KIA 11/17/1969

Frank T. Buck SKCS Ret For Son ENFN Frank H. Buck KIA-12/28/67

T-92-10

Lanny Snyder For David "Doc" Hearne T-92-6

Chet "Gunner" Stanley for Jerry Pappy Ashcraft (cox'sn) CCB-111-1

John Philp For LTC William B. Cronin KIA April 27, 1967 CO 2/47th

John Philp For Colonel Arthur D. Moreland USA Ret. 2/47th 4/67-12/67

Fred Gottwald For Sgt. Walter J. Garstkiewicz C/Co/3/60 & C/Co/6/31st KIA-1-9-1970.

Gene Cooper for Steve Brichford FT2-68/69 / Jerry Roleofs 67-68 USS White River LSMR-536

Bill Brennan For Tom Swanick GMG3 USS White River LSMR-536

David Lynn For Howard Burns (QM2) Robert Bouchet (SM2) Herman Miller (GM3) 8-11-68 IUWG-1-3

Brothers of the 2nd/47th For all Army and Navy KIA's Bruce McIver for Doc Zeth Lane (RAID) RivRon-13

ATTENTION:**YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRATION**

DATE is now printed on the front of your issue of River Currents.

Military Watches: MRFA & 9th Infantry; 541-863-3144; seaweed@chiefsquarters.com www.chiefsquarters.com.

Boat Models: All Brown Water Boat Models. George & Sharon Johnson, 2222 Ash Ave, Las Vegas, Nevada 89101 or e-mail: sharonjohnson5@aol.com.

Books: www.mrfa.org.

Supplier of Challenge Coins & Military Key Fobs (Frank Gubala) Fgubala@aol.com; 716-873-4821.

The only products to be shown in *River Currents* will be MRFA products. www.9thinfantry.bravepages.com.

SPONSORS

MARSHALL ADAMS D/CO/3RD/47TH 9TH INF/DIV
 LT. MARK ALEXANDER COMRIVDIV-132
 GEORGE AMADOR, USS KRISHNA ARL-38
 DONALD ANDERSON, D CO., 15TH COMBAT ENG.
 CHARLES & GEORGINA ARDINGER
 1SG JOHN ARMSTRONG HQ 3RD/47TH
 CHRISTIAN F. BACHOFER JR. COMRIVDIV-92
 JACK BENEDICK C CO., 4TH/47TH
 DAN S. BIEN CO/E/5TH/60TH INF (LRRP)
 ROBERT BLAIR USS CLARION RIVER LSMR-409
 CAPT. PEVERIL BLUNDELL, USN (RET.), COMRIVRON-13 (68-69)
 MAJ/GEN BLACKIE BOLDUC, 3RD/47TH, 9TH INF. DIV.
 THOMAS BRADY B/CO/4TH/47TH 9TH INF/DIV
 ANTHONY BRAND JR. MSB DET ALPH 66-67
 DONALD BRATH HHC 3RD/47TH 68-69
 EDWARD BRENNAN E/CO.3RD.60TH 9TH INF/DIV
 BROTHERS 2ND-47TH (MECH.) INF. 9TH INF. DIV.
 CPT KENNETH L. BROWN A/CO/3RD/60TH
 MAJ/GEN WALT BRYDE JR. 3RD/34TH (FA)
 WANDA BURKE ASSOCIATE MEMBER MRFA
 AL CADY (COMM OFFICER) USS BENEWAH APB-35
 VIC CAMPBELL USS BENEWAH APB-35
 DAVID W. CARGILL HHC 9TH INF DIV (CCSS)
 CRAIG L. CHAMPION, D CO., 3RD/60TH
 GRAIG "DOC" CHAPMAN 3RD/47TH INF
 DONN E. CHRISTENSEN C/CO/3RD/60TH
 GEORGE CLANCY JR. NSA DANANG
 CDR. CHARLES W. CLARK, JR. USN RET. CO USS
 MONMOUTH CTY - LST 1032 (2/66-3/67)
 RANDALL G. COOK, USS MONMOUTH CTY. (LST)
 HOWARD W. CRAMER, D CO., 3RD/60TH INF.
 JULIAN R. CURLES, ALPHA 132-3
 WILLIAM DABEL, C CO., 3RD/39TH
 ORVILLE (COOKIE) DALEY USS ASKARI ARL-30
 FRANK DE LA OLIVA QMC (MDV) RET, HCU-1- (CSB)
 GERALD DENKUS, E CO., 3RD/47TH
 CDR. DAVID. DESIDERIO USCG PONTCHARTRAIN
 WHCC-70

DANIEL S. DODD, PHC (RET.) COMRIVFLOT-ONE
 ROGER B. DRUCKER, C CO., 9TH SIGNAL BN.
 ROBERT DURRETT TANGO-112-7
 PAUL EASTHAM TANGO-132-11
 S/S LEON B. EDMISTON B/CO/3RD/60TH 68-69
 RICHARD EHRLER, E CO., 50TH ABN, 9TH DIV.
 CAPT. JAMES D. ELDRIDGE USN RET. COS RIVDIV-91
 CHRISTOPHER EMERSON A-112-4
 EDITH ETHRIDGE ASSOCIATE MEMBER
 LARRY (GUNS) ETHRIDGE USS ASKARI ARL-30
 CDR. KIRK FERGUSON, USN (RET.)
 TERRANCE FETTERS HHQ/3RD/47TH 9TH INF. DIV.
 BILL "BOATS" FISCHER TF-116 PBR'S MY THO..
 DEAN FITZ AND CAROL CAMPBELL
 LT. GEN. WILLIAM B. FULTON, USA RET. 9TH INF. DIV.
 TONY GARVEY, C/CO, 4TH/47TH
 LEE D. GAVET, A CO., 4TH/47TH
 BILL GERAGHTY USS WHITE RIVER LSMR-536
 EDWARD J. GRAFF, A CO., 2ND/47TH INF.
 MERVIN W. GREEN LTC USA RET. B/CO/3RD/60TH 68-69
 FRANK GUBALA 3RD/47TH 9TH INF. DIV.
 CHARLES GUREY, CWO3, USN (RET.), USS WHITE
 RIVER (LSMR-636)
 LTC NOAH E. HALFACRE 6TH/31ST 9TH INF/DIV.
 PAUL T. HALL SFC USA RET.
 OLIVER G. HALLE COSDIV 11 PCF-70
 ROGER HAMILTON, USS MARK AKL-12
 REBECCA HANCOCK, ASSOCIATE MEMBER
 WILBERT HANNAH, USS WHITE RIVER LSMR-536
 FRED HANSWORTH USS HUNTERDON CTY LST-839
 MIKE HARRIS, IUWG-1-3, QUI NHON
 BERNARD HARMON NSA/SAIGON APL-55
 WILLIAM A. HARMAN, TANGO-132-2
 MIKE HARRIS IUWG-1-CAM RAHN BAY
 JOHN HARRISON, C CO., 3RD/47TH
 LCDR. JOHN JACK' HERRMANN, USN (RET.) RIVDIV-92
 JOE HILLIARD, TANGO -15-48
 ALAN HODGKINSON A/CO/3RD/60TH
 JOHN HOLLAND 4"/39" 9TH INF. DIV.
 COMMANDER G. GIBSON HUBBS USN RET. NSA
 DANANG
 LTC JIM L. NOYES, 3RD-4TH ARTY.
 ALAN G. HYDE 9TH SIGNAL 9TH INF/DIV 66-67

DON JACKSON IUWG-1-1 VUNG TAU
 BRAD JENKINS 3RD/34TH ARTY /2ND/47TH (MECH)
 68-69
 DUANE JOHNSON 15TH COMBAT ENGINEERS
 EVERETT JONES, BMC (RET.), C-151-4/C-152-5 (69-70)
 FRANK B. JONES, RIVRON-15 (T-48)
 MILTON KEENE A CO., 3RD/60TH, 9TH INF. DIV.
 FRANK & LINDA KEIM
 CHRIS KNABE, MONITOR -92-1
 MAURICE KOCK RIVDIV 531 PBR-101
 DENNIS KOTILA, TANGO-131-2
 GEORGE C. LANG, A CO., 4TH/47TH, 9TH INF. DIV. MOH
 RAY 'BOATS' LANG, USN (RET.) M-112-1
 WALTER LINEBERGER III LT/JG XO RIVDIV-91
 KEN LOCKE, USS WHITE RIVER (LSMR-536)
 KELLY LOUDON, NAG MAT-55
 JIM LUKASZEWSKI, APL-30, 68-69
 ERICK LUOMA USN SEAL RET IUWG-EOD-LSMR-536
 CHAPLAIN RICHARD MACCULLAGH, COMRIVFLOT-ONE
 GARY MANNINGER (A-92-5) 67-68
 BOB MARBURGER 2ND-60TH INFANTRY
 DAVID P. MARION TF-115
 PATRICK N. MARSHALL USS JEROME CTY. LST-848
 BRUCE McIVER TANGO-131-7 RAID 72
 PHIL F. McLAUGHLIN, USS BLANCO CTY., LST-344,
 LST-836
 "MAC" THOMAS L. McEMORE, 1-112-7, 1967
 JIM MEEUWENBERG IUWG-1-2 CAM RAHN BAY
 ALLEN METZER NAS DANANG
 WALTER MEYERS (WALLY) SK2 USS BENEWAH APB-35
 JOHN & LINDA MILLER ENC (DV) USN RET. A-91-3 (67)
 ALBERT & SARA MOORE
 JAMES & ALICE MOORE RIVRON-9
 CHARLES & CYNTHIA MORAN (BMCS) RIV/DIV/91-595
 FRANK MORAN B/CO 4"/47" (2) YEARS
 ROY & LYNN MOSEMAN
 RICHARD (DOC) NELSON RIVRON-15 STAFF
 NORTHERN KENTUCKY CONVENTION VISTORS
 BUREAU
 GEORGE R. O'CONNELL USS TERRELL CTY.
 LST-1157
 JOHN OXLEY RECON/E CO/3RD/47TH 1967

COL. PETE PETERSEN, USA (RET.) CDR. 3RD/60TH
 LTC NATHAN PLOTKIN USA RET. HQ/2ND/BDE 9TH INF
 DIV.
 WILLIAM POSEY, BM1, CRAFTMASTER YTB-785, 67-68
 CDR. DAVID RICHARDSON, USN (RET.) USS HAMP-
 SHIRE CTY.
 DON & MARIJO ROBBINS USS BENEWAH APB-35
 LARRY ROSE, CRIP 9TH INF. DIV.
 JAY ROSENBERGER LCM6, #26 RIVER SWEEPER
 JOSEPH K. ROSNER, RIVRON-15-M-6
 BONNI ROSNER (ASSOCIATE MEMBER)
 NORMAN SAUNDERS, B CO., 3RD/39TH INF.
 JOHN SCHLEICHER IUWG-1
 JERRY (DOC) SCHUEBEL B/CO/3RD/60TH
 LAWRENCE J. SHALLUE, HHC 2ND/47TH INF
 JERRY J. SHEARER 2NB/PLT/C/CO/3RD/60TH
 DONALD J. SHELTON, LSMR-536
 WILLIAM E. SINCLAIR, USS WHITE RIVER (LSMR-536)
 TOM SLATER, USS HAMPSHIRE CTY (LST-819)
 BR. GEN. DOUGLAS SMITH, 2ND/49TH, 9TH INF. DIV.
 FRANK & MABEL SPRINGER RIVRON-13
 ALAN STRICKLAND, A CO., 2ND/47TH INF.
 TERRY STULL, A/CO, 3RD/47TH
 JOHN P. STURGIL, USS COLLETON (APB-36)
 WILLIAM TAMBOER, TANGO-151-9
 JAMES J. TANNER CCMA(C)
 VICE ADMIRAL EMITT TIDD, USN RET., COMNAVFORV
 JIM TONEY, E CO., 3RD/60TH INFANTRY
 EROL TUZCO, A CO., 3RD/60TH, 68-69
 USS TERRELL CTY LST-1157
 ROGER VALENTINE, CS1 USN RET., USS ASKARI ARL-30
 BOB & NANCY VANDRUFF
 RON WALLACE, B CO., 3RD/47TH INF.
 GARY T. WEISZ ALPHA-91-4
 CHARLES WESTCOTT RIVDIVS 111-112-132
 TOM WHITE, C CO., 4TH/47TH INF.
 BRUCE WIENER C/CO/3RD/47TH INF
 GEORGE WILFONG, USA (RET.), A CO., 4TH/39TH
 9TH INF. DIV. (VN)
 BOB WITMER, USS KRISHNA ARL-38
 ROBERT ZIMMER USS MERCER APB-39 68-69

Webmaster Mike Harris has posted more great info on our web site: www.mrfa.org. We now have 9th Infantry Division and MRF Medal of Honor Recipients and all 9th Division KIA list, as well as more great stuff. Mike has worked hard to make this what we consider the best site on the web. You can reach him at mekong152@charternet.com. Thanks for all your hard work!

MRFA Web Site

Our expressed thanks to those who have become MRFA sponsors! It's never too late to get on board as a sponsor, so we continue to seek and welcome those who wish to sponsor the MRFA! Sponsoring in the MRFA helps in the past had for a period by the printers. Sponsorships with information appear in four issues. Send your \$25.00 payment to: Charlie Ardinger, 1857 CO RD A14, Decorah IA 52101

MRFA Sponsors

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

1857 CO RD. A14
 Decorah, IA 52101

Mobile Riverine Force Association



NON-PROFIT
 US POSTAGE
 PAID
 MARSHFIELD, MA
 PERMIT NO. 51