

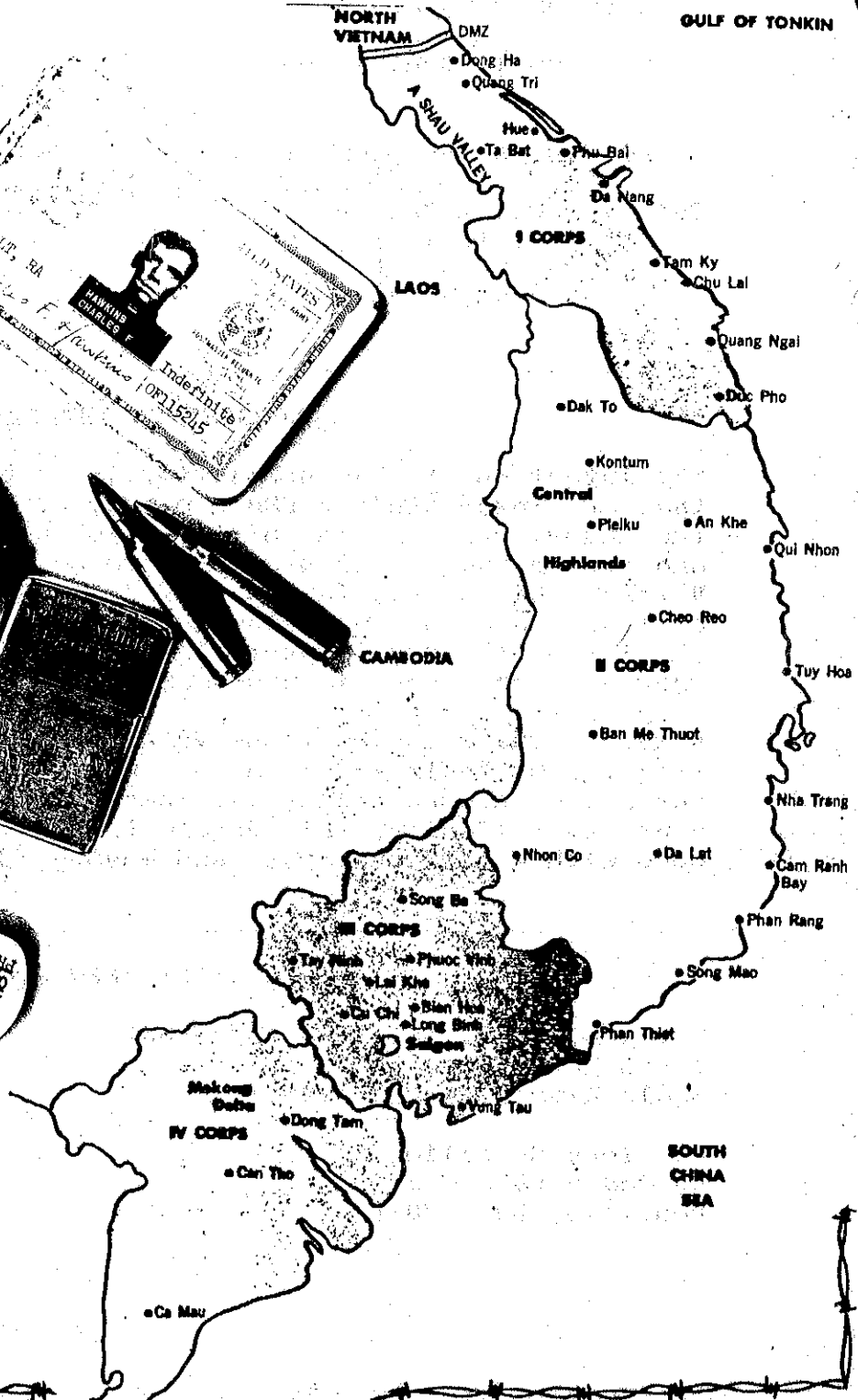
# RIPCORD REPORT

For Friends and Survivors of FSB RIPCORD, RVN

## A Newsletter

No. 25, October 1989

### "MEMORIES"



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Art/Photos	Incoming
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Vietnam on 10 Cents a Day	And more....

(Send Newsletter Items to,)

(Send Donations to,)

Editor: Chuck Hawkins

Treasurer: John Mihalko

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NEWSLETTER INTENTIONS

The intention of this Newsletter is to bring those of us together that are interested in FSB Ripcord, RVN. The events, the people, the humor, the memories of that time are being written by those who served there. We want this to be a healthy experience for the Veteran, his or her family or friends. We encourage you to write, call and talk, or send other appropriate material regarding the Newsletter or about Ripcord in general. We wish to improve as we grow and your input is necessary.

However, there may be those Veterans (or others) who are still troubled by their experiences. We regret this situation, but can not share responsibility for reactions regarding the Newsletter contents. Ideally, this Newsletter will help all of us to better cope with a difficult past and move us toward a rewarding future.

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CONTACTS/NEW FACES

Mr. Rembert G. Rollison (D/2-506)

Mr. Paul A. Greaux

Mr. Tony Novellio

Mr. Jim Duffy

INCOMING

Dear Chuck,

It has been a long time since I've been in touch with any of you guys I met at the Reunion in 1987. I often think of you all, and recall fondly the fantastic couple of days we spent together. I was hoping to get to Whippany this past year but things sort of didn't work out.

I found this old book entitled "How to Live in Vietnam on 10 Cents a Day", in a footlocker of mine. I brought the book into work and had one of my students draw these pictures from the book. Hope they give you a few laughs. Heaven knows, since Ripcord and the whole Vietnam experience, the laughs for some guys have been few and far between.

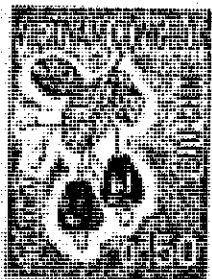
Speaking of the reunion, there were people there that I didn't know personally, but boy, did they ever look familiar. Like Jerry Rodgers, I know I saw him before. Boy, talk about de-ja' vu.

I hope this short note finds you and your wife in good health and that those I met at the reunion in DC are doing fine. I hope to see you all at the next one if possible.

I'm enclosing a small donation to put towards the newsletter and maybe if these drawings are acceptable they could be used in the newsletter as well.

Sincerely,

Bill Ayres  
Kulpmont, PA



Dear Chuck,

I served with A/2-506 from April 8, 1969 thru March 28, 1970. I was on Hamburger Hill and the DMZ.... I left Vietnam as a SSG E-6 after coming in as a Shake-n-Bake E-5.

....Does someone, somewhere have any type of list of those men killed from Co. A, whether it be from Ripcord or other actions? I'd like to think that everyone made it home alright but the renewed interest in the war makes me wonder about some of the friends I left behind.

Thanks,

Art Witnik  
Higganum, CT

Dear Ray (Blackie),

In a land far, far away, it was a place where all men came together as equal.

To all of you who were there I need to say no more.

In light of the recent Supreme Court ruling concerning the burning of the American Flag, I say damn them all to hell.

Enclosed is an article concerning Firebase Ripcord and the flying of that flag we all fought for.

This picture was taken at Firebase Zon. With me is PFC Robert Weber.

Sincerely,

Dan Esposito  
Ventnor, NJ



INCOMING (Cont...)

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Hi Blackie,

April 13, 1971

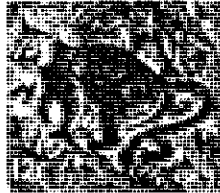
Enclosed is a copy of a letter I received from President Nixon that you might consider using for the Ripcord Report.

Have you ever considered sending copies of the Ripcord Report to the Archives at Ft. Campbell, KY, or to the National Archives in Wash., DC? As you know, there is a lot of material in the Ripcord Report that describes how Vietnam really was like. Also, it would be a great reference source for future scholars.

Take care,

Gary Jestes  
Hampstead, MD

VIỆT NAM DÂN CHỦ CỘNG HÒA



Dear Specialist Jestes:

Some weeks ago one of your neighbors was kind enough to send me a copy of your poem that was printed in your county newspaper. I just wanted you to know how pleased I was to note your support for our Nation's efforts in southeast Asia.

Your own service in Vietnam and your understanding of the situation there lend special meaning to your encouragement of our search for peace with freedom. When this peace is finally won, it will be because of the courage and commitment of the men of our Armed Forces.

With my appreciation and best wishes for the years ahead,

Sincerely,

Specialist 4 Gary D. Jestes  
H & H Co  
101st Airborne Division, 3rd Bde  
APO, San Francisco 96383

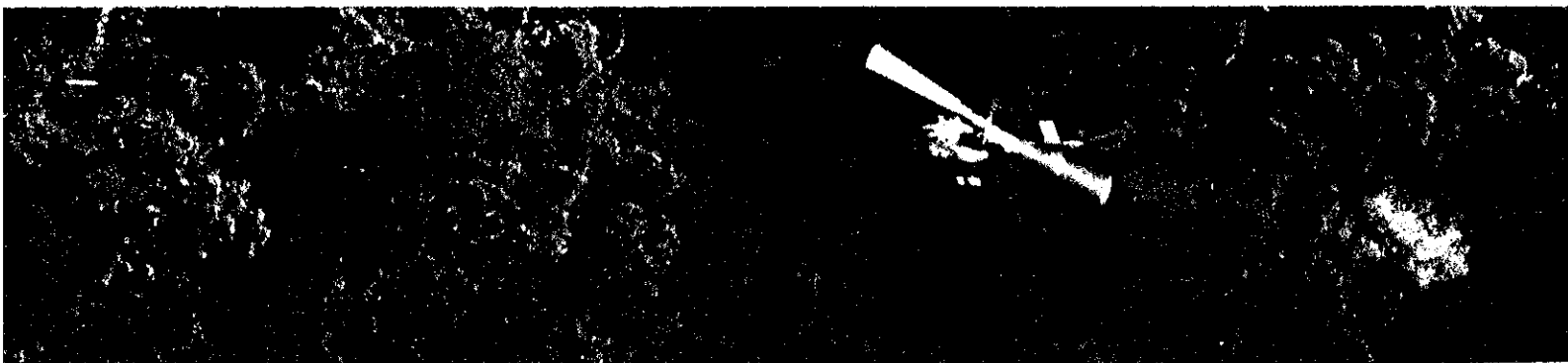
#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The pictures of North Vietnamese stamps were provided by Bill Laurie. Thanks Bill.

And, thanks to Art Wiknik for the copies of the psy-op leaflets.

The "WARNING" card was sent in by Joe Evans. Thanks Joe.

Other pictures are from various 101st Airborne publications.



SIT/REP

From LZ Oakton

OK. Everybody relax. Now, listen up. The Ripcord Report is not, I say again, is not a casualty. Its alive and well, thank you; I've just had it in a holding pattern behind a nearby ridge until I got this LZ cleared. Its not a great LZ, just a one-shipper, but it'll do.

Oakton, Virginia has been home to Glenda and me for about four years -- one of the "burbs" of Washington, DC. Some of you know it, some don't. But don't let that stop you from writing, or calling, or whatever.

Back in June (or was it May?) Blackie and John asked me if I would assume editorial responsibility for the Newsletter. "Sure.", I said, thinking: and run my own business; do my school work; tend the yard; and show up for National Guard duty every-so-often. Anyway, sorry GI, and here's the next installment. Hope you enjoy. Break...

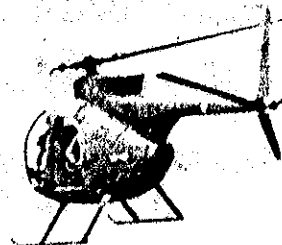
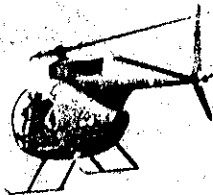
Over the past months I've received mail from Bill Ayres, Martin "Doc" Glennon, Al Booty, Art Witnik, Jr., and John and Blackie. Thanks, guys.

Also, Gary Jestes sent some material about Chaplains in Vietnam, some of which I've included in this issue. Thanks, Gary.

With the new members that signed up this past issue we now have over 180 members on the mailing list. Break...

Of the new members to the Ripcord Association, I'd like to give a special welcome to an old friend and comrad-in-arms, Rembert G. "Rollie" Rollison. Rollie commanded D/2-506 from 6 March to 25 August 1970. Many of you know about him and his men. They were the ones who had two days of tough fighting on Hill 1000 just west of Ripcord after Junior's Recon Team located an NVA mortar position. Rollie and Delta, along with Charlie Company, went to the aid of CPT Don Workman (KIA) and D/1-506 a few days before the evacuation of the fire base. And, it was Rollison & Co. who pulled my butt out of a sling when Alpha ran up against more-than-a-few NVA on 22 July. Thanks, Rollie, from me and a lot of others. Break...

Note: I've got enough material to get this Newsletter out and half of the next. So... keep the cards and letters coming.



## HISTORY OF CAMP EVANS

From the 3rd Brigade History

(Compliments of Jim Fairhall)

In a seldom visited area near the northwest corner of Camp Evans, a heavily rusted barbed and concertina wire fence surrounds an idle patch of land, long overgrown by weeds.

Near the 3rd Brigade Tactical Operations Center (TOC), flanked on either side by captured antiaircraft guns and flags of the United States and the Republic of Vietnam, a weather-beaten monument presides over the dusty parade ground to its front.

Scattered across Camp Evans, resting above the shower houses and water points, are several once seaworthy crafts, sitting high and dry as though discarded by some monster tidal wave of years past.

These relics from the past are reminders of the short, but full history of Camp Evans. The wire enclosure once served as a prisoner of war holding point for the first occupants of Camp Evans, the United States 1st Marine Division. The weathered monument is dedicated to the namesake of the Camp, Lance Corporal Paul Evans, a Marine hero who was killed in action near the present site of the camp on December 22, 1966. The landlocked lifeboats, now used to store water for bathing purposes, were left behind by the Navy Seabees, who built a major portion of the present day Camp Evans in 1967.

The Camp's history was continued by the 1st Air Cavalry Division which occupied the northern Military Region 1 basecamp during 1968. In late October of that year, the 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile), having just moved north to Camp Eagle from Phuc Vinh, relocated again to Camp Evans.

Since that time the 3rd Brigade has made a more or less permanent home of the Marine-named outpost.

*CPT Egan -  
Have someone dig out the contacts  
and attacks if any against Evans  
since 3d Brigade's been there. How  
many (approx) has it been "home" for?*

# Vietnam vet makes music for comrades, all of America

'So many days I've walked  
These twisting trails  
through the jungles  
Praying someday I'm going  
to  
Find someday back home  
Hoping that tomorrow will  
bring me  
Just one day closer  
To my own country  
Where freedom was paid for  
A long, long time ago  
A freedom that without us  
These people here might  
never know'

"The Other Side of the Water," by  
Marcus Leddy

By AMY MILLER  
Chronicle Staff Writer

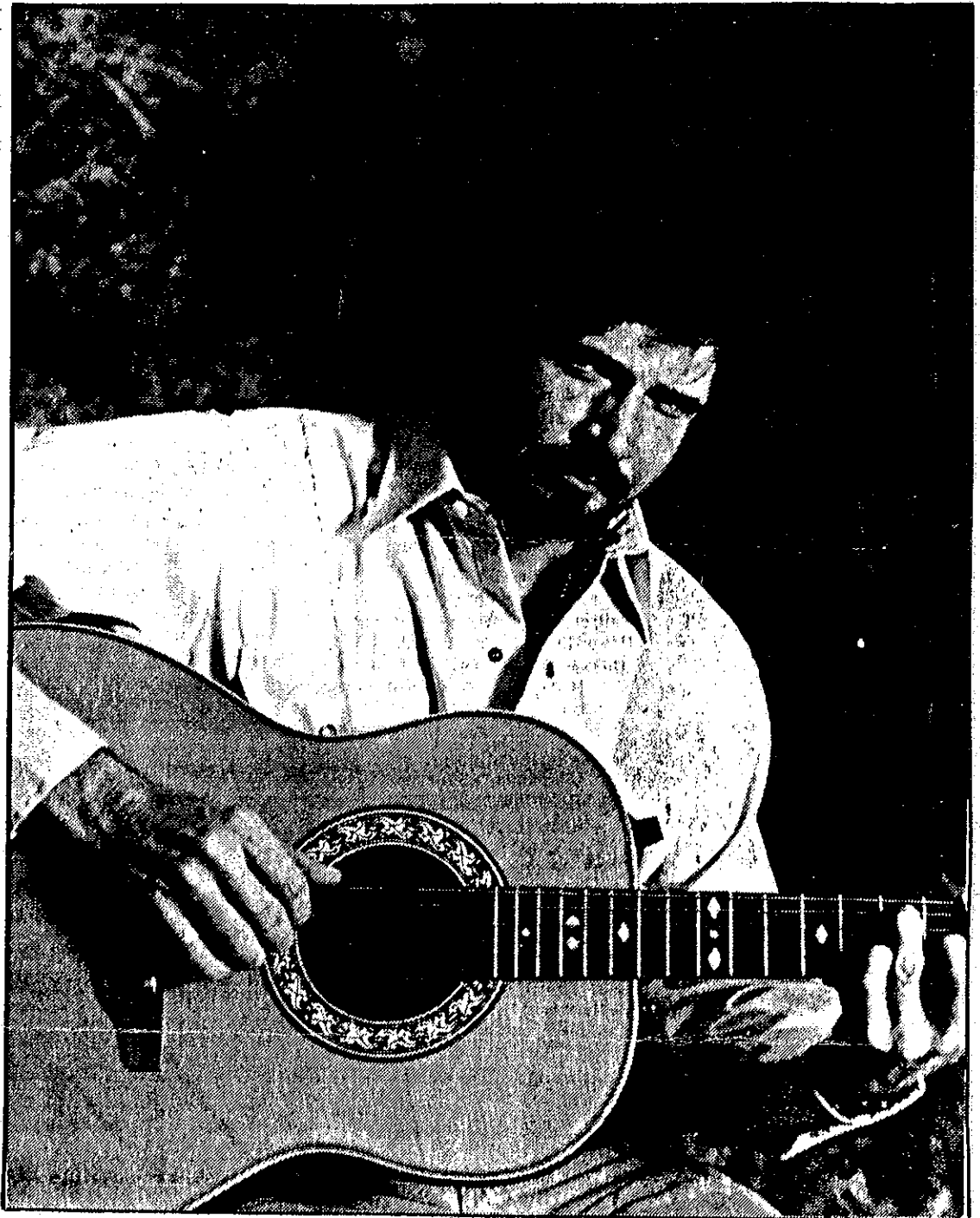
**F**rom brainchild to reality, the dream of Santa Paulan Marcus Leddy is taking shape with his newly-released album "Carry Me Home."

In November 1984, Leddy had an idea. He was attending the unveiling ceremonies of the bronze statue and Vietnam veterans' Wall in Washington, D.C. and got an idea to write and record an album for Vietnam veterans.

Recalling the beginnings of the concept, Leddy said, "I was playing music for a living. I had gone to The Wall in 1984 for the dedication. I was out there with 200,000 vets and met a lot of them and decided to do an album for them. This past Christmas, I decided it was time to start on the project, so I began in January.

"This (album) is this year's project. Next year, I'm going to learn to play jazz guitar."

Although he says he hates to categorize his music, Leddy said... his album, released on Friday... most likely would classify as folk-rock.



Santa Paulan Marcus Leddy has released his album, "Carry Me Home" on Blue Roan Records. He will begin a tour to promote the album next week and will play at the Santa Paula

Moose Lodge to benefit the Arthritis Foundation on Thursday. This promotional photograph was taken by Mark Brodie of Carpinteria.

"I write all kinds of music and I've gone through every style from folk to country to country rock to folk rock. But, if I had to classify this, it would be folk rock because it is greatly influenced by Paul Simon, Cat Stevens, Bob Dylan and Neil Young," he said.

Leddy said he didn't really get interested in music until he returned from service in Vietnam.

"I listened to music intensely during my childhood, but I didn't get into playing until after Vietnam. I wrote a lot of poetry and so the music just came. One day, I just started putting cords behind it (the poetry)," he said.

After deciding to go to work on the project, Leddy began writing the songs that would appear on the album. On March 31, he began recording at Danny McKinney Productions in Palmdale with Danny McKinney and John Thomas producing the album in the "16-track, state-of-the-art studio." The final masters for the album were mixed June 23 and the release came on Friday.

Leddy pointed out that he contracted as much of the work for the album as possible right here in Santa Paula.

"I came to Santa Paula 14 months ago and I just adopted the place. I love the people here and this is my home. I've lived in 38 states, coming here from Nevada, but I plan on staying here. I'm even looking for land here.

"This is my home and I had as much of the work (on the album) done here as possible because I'm a firm believer in shopping in your home town. I believe what goes around, comes around."

Graphics on the album cover

were done by Terri Rericha at Avant Garde Graphics. The printing of the tape insert was done by Mehle Printing and Leddy purchases all of his equipment and instruments from McCabe's Music.

Leddy said the high quality of the album is a direct reflection of his choice of producers.

"It was the smartest thing I ever did. Everyone involved gave the project 179 percent," he said.

He said he was amazed at how easily the project came together and how much caring went into it, even from the younger people involved.

"Charlie (Charles Crews, electric guitarist) and I are the only ones old enough to be Vietnam veterans and both of us are. The guitar Charlie played on the album was even in Vietnam for a while in Bear Cat and it still shows the battle scars," he said.

"It was a lot of work, but I was lucky to have a lot of help and I was lucky to have selected musicians and music that just fit together. I had the best.

"It's like turning your children over to strangers when you give someone your music. They can dress your kids funny or they can make them into good children. These people made this album into a good child," he said.

The credits of the singers and musicians who worked on the album are endless, Leddy said. Crews has worked with Tony Orlando and Dawn, Burton Cummings and Anne Margaret, among others. Mark Benedict, clarinetist, is from Ojai. Background singer Kristina Nichols is a background singer for Rick Springfield and

backup vocalist Beau Williams unseated long-time Star Search winner Sam Harris during the last week of competition on the show. He also has four of his own albums, which have been released by Capitol records.

The project even has been kept in the family, with Leddy's father, Marion Gilreath, serving as Leddy's manager.

According to Leddy, "Carry Me Home" is basically an album "for anyone who was touched by the Vietnam War and the Vietnam experience. The songs are universal in scope, written perhaps not as much about the war as because of the war."

Born in Burkburnett, Texas and raised in Colorado, Leddy entered the United States Army at 17 and was sent to Vietnam as a photographer and "boonierat" correspondent in May, 1969. A member of the 101st Airborne Division, he spent 19 months in the jungles taking pictures and writing stories. After returning to the states in 1971, Leddy attended college at Abilene Christian College, but quit to begin his folk singing career.

"For two years after returning to the states, I thought of myself as an author and poet. After writing about 300 odes and poems, I discovered that people would listen to them if you put a few guitar cords behind the words," he said.

Leddy has written more than 100 songs and has recorded 20. Nine of his recorded songs appear on the album and two others have been released as singles.

Leddy will leave California to begin a solo promotional tour July

18 and, before it ends Aug. 20, he anticipates he will have played before 400,000 Vietnam veterans. One Thursday, Leddy is scheduled as the feature artist at an Arthritis Foundation benefit concert at the Santa Paula Moose Lodge. His album currently can be purchased at the Santa Paula Airport Cafe, McCabe's Music and at The Mill.

"People have asked me what is the difference between Vietnam veterans and the veterans of Korea or World War II. My thoughts are that Vietnam veterans fought and died exactly as the soldiers in other wars. There were heroes and cowards and the terror and uncertainty of battle, but (Vietnam veterans) did not have the support of their country," he said.

Leddy said there are two things Vietnam veterans should never do — "They should never try to forget the war and they should never wallow in the memories. That is true for any soldier. Some Vietnam veterans just can't move on with life, perhaps that's because to them, the war has never reached a conclusion.

"I would like to see the greatest issue be the South Vietnamese and the immense horror of their lives now under North Vietnam's rule, rather than the injustice done to American GI's. Certainly we were not all treated fairly by our country and that is a shame. But, what is going on in South Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea (Cambodia) is a crime."

Leddy said he hopes his album can be part of the healing process, not only for Vietnam veterans, but for a troubled nation as a whole.

*"There is nothing in the growing body of music about Viet Nam veterans that can compare with it."*

— John M. DeVecchio  
author of  
"The 13th Valley"

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Editor's Note:

## RIPCORD BRIEF

By Chuck Hawkins

In the last issue, Richard Green, Lake City, FL, (Incoming) asked when Ripcord was established. (Richard also authored the excellent piece The Big Lies, which was reprinted with permission of Gallery Magazine.)

I'm not the definitive expert on Ripcord. I don't know if any one person is. General Sid Berry, Acting Division Commander, or General Ben Harrison, then the 3d Brigade Commander, know a lot about the command and operations environment. But they were both relative newcomers to the AO when Ripcord reached its climax. Jim Fairhall, perhaps, comes closest to claiming the distinction, though he is too modest to agree readily. Jim has interviewed several dozen (if not more) Ripcord vets in the course of doing research about Ripcord. I commanded rifle platoons in C/2-506, and then Alpha Company during a 10 month period which included all of Ripcord, and as the Battalion Adjutant I researched and prepared the unit history for 1970. I will state what I believe to be factual.

Ripcord (Elev. 927 meters) was established on 10 April 1970 on a hill about the height of its immediate neighbors (Hills 1000, 902, and 805) on the western edge of Nam Hoa District of Thua Thien Province (Northern I Corps). The straight-line distance southwest to the Laotian border from Ripcord is almost 19 kilometers. By contrast, Camp Evans, home for the 3d Brigade of the 101st, lies about 25 kilometers northeast of Ripcord. Between Ripcord and Laos lies the northwestern end of the A Shau valley.

Ripcord was not a virgin hill. It had been a fire base at least once previous to 1970, and perhaps more. Was it occupied by the 101st in 1969? Or by the 1st Cav in 1968? I don't know. I hope someone out there who does know will share this information.

The first combat assault in 1970 on Ripcord was conducted by Alpha Company on 12 March. The Battalion CO (LTC Lucas, who was killed during the evacuation on 23 July) intended for Ripcord to become a fire base at that time. Alpha was met with a withering hail of small arms, RPG, and mortar fire. Men died. Men were wounded. And, with assistance, Alpha was evacuated. I contend that 12 March is the starting date for the Battle of Ripcord.

On 1 April Bravo Company combat assaulted onto Ripcord. They, too, were met with intense enemy fire and were withdrawn with heavy losses. 1 April is the date that appeared in newsprint when the battle gained notoriety in the media, and which many believe is the beginning of the Ripcord Battle. But, 12 March is a better date to commemorate.

The hill was finally secured by Charlie Company when they conducted an early morning ground attack on 10 April. There was no enemy resistance that day.

Ripcord was evacuated on 23 July. This included Bravo Company on the hill, along with elements of other 101st Division units (Pathfinders, Artillerymen, etc.), and Alpha and Delta Companies from the valley southeast of Ripcord. We (Alpha Company aided by Delta Company) were lifted out at 1235 by 21 hueys under the command of CPT (now Colonel) Randy House. I do not know when the last lift cleared Ripcord. I understand that our Chaplain, CPT Lee Roy Fox, was on a LOH that went to Ripcord that afternoon (and landed?) to ensure that all personnel had been evacuated.

There was a rumor (which I've heard repeated from time to time) that one (or more) US KIAs had been left on Ripcord. This is unsubstantiated and, I believe, just a rumor. To the best of my knowledge, all men were accounted for. There were, however, reports by aerial observers (LOH, FAC, F-4s, Cobras, whatever) that men (presumably NVA) had been seen moving across Ripcord after the evacuation. Perhaps one of these enemy had been killed, which might account for the story. I hope so.

For those of you with maps of the area, I offer the following locations and reference points:

Ripcord -- YD343193  
Hill 1000 -- YD335192  
Coc Muen -- YD318180  
Camp Evans -- YD535322

Hill 805 -- YD362188  
Hill 902 -- YD337172  
FSB O'Reilly -- YD324258  
FSB Rakasan -- YD490198

Dong Ap Bia (Hamburger Hill/FSB Destiny) lies 21 kilometers almost due south of Ripcord. Ripcord, though certainly not the highest hill in the area, sat on a watershed. Streams and rivers to the north ran north into either the Song O Lau or the Rach My Chanh rivers. The Song O Lau then heads east and later northeast, and the Rach My Chanh heads northeast. To the south, water flowed eastward via the Khe Quaun which would become the Rao Trang and finally, the Song Bo River. At the confluence of the Rao Trang and the Song Bo, just east of fire bases Maureen and Kathryn, the flow of water turns northerly and heads for the lowlands. Each of these river systems were traditional infiltration routes for the NVA. They were used prior to Tet in 1968. The NVA attempted to use them in 1969, and again in 1970.



VIETNAM ON TEN-CENTS A DAY

Six simple rules for cheap living in an Oriental paradise.



1. Carry everything yourself. Don't pay expensive porter's fees.



2. Canned goods are inexpensive and easy to store. Don't eat at pricey restaurants -- cook your own meals.





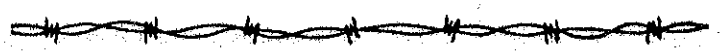
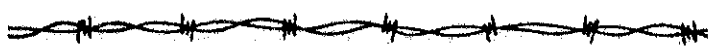
3. Go native. See new sights on your own. Avoid expensive tours.



4. Avoid costly luxuries.



5. Camp out often. Hotels are expensive.





THƠ :

Xuân này nữa là ba xuân tế lạnh  
 Niềm nhớ thương canh cánh bên lòng  
 Tết vẫn đủ hoa, nhang, đèn, pháo bánh  
 Nhưng thiếu anh, em hieu quạnh bề bàng

VONG CỔ :

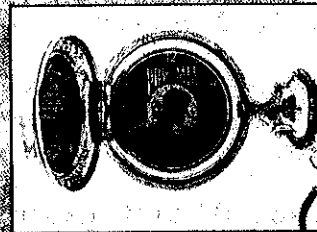
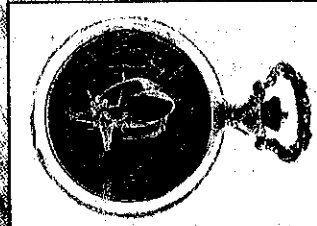
Thơ này em gửi đến anh với nhiều  
 nguyện ước, xin anh lập tức rời bến  
 mê, đừng hại nước non mình... Em tin  
 rằng anh không phải là kẻ bất hiếu  
 vong tình... Anh ơi, có biết chăng  
 cha già luôn luôn trông ngóng, nỗi  
 mẹ già buồn sớm tối khóc than con.  
 (song lang). Một mình em ruộng vườn  
 khó bề chăm sóc, phần con thơ bận  
 bịu một bên, mỗi bước đi là mỗi khó  
 khăn, cuộc sinh sống càng ngày càng  
 túng thiếu, nên gia đình ta ngày  
 nay phải sa sút điêu tàn. 4-83-69

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With special tooling the cover of our finest quality quartz pocket watch has been exclusively designed to hold the Vietnam Veterans National Medal. All moving parts are Swiss made.

This spectacular medal is not a reproduction but the authentic medal as issued by the U.S. MINT. Appearing on the reverse side is the phrase, "In honor of those men and women who gave of themselves in an effort to insure democracy and peace throughout the world this medal is struck by act of congress 1984."

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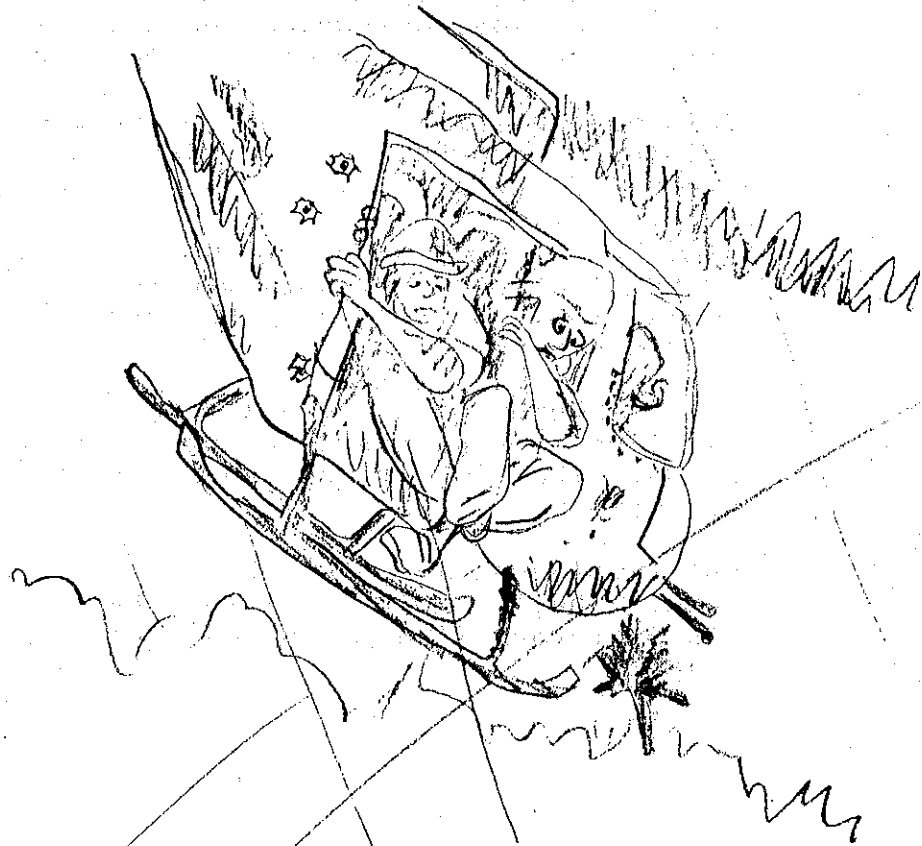
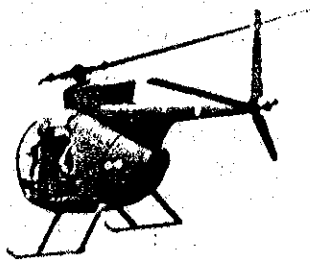
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OL' DOC AND THE POKER GAME

Charles F. Hawkins  
CO, A/2-506th, May 30, - Nov. 17, 1970

Your deal, Lord. My last hand was a bust.

An' the hand before that.

I done sat around this table all night, and not one card could I play. C'mon, Lord. Deal me something. Anything. Gimme a chance to break even.

You at least owe me that, Lord. Are you listenin'?

I got stuck with duces, treys, an' a seven. Terrible bad deal, Lord. The NVA had a full house -- kings over aces. Tough.

I been good, Lord. Mostly. I went to Basic, an' AIT, like you said to do. I even went to Chapel -- once or twice. But Lord, I really have been good.

I got sent to 'Nam, an' didn't gripe. Got sent to the 101st. Figured you had something to do with that; its a good outfit. Then I got sent to Ripcord. I guess you can't have everything.

But, Lord, my company's been in constant contact for the past two weeks. Steady, gut-wrenching contact. I been shot at an' missed, shit at an' hit -- or so they say. Anyway, Lord...

This morning, maybe half a thousand Gooks -- excuse me -- NVA soldiers, attacked our position. An' us just being seventy-six grunts of the line.

They hit us with ever'loving thing they had: mortars; RPGs; rockets; satchel charges; grenades; an' a lot of machine guns an' small arms. An', so help me Lord, they come at us in a massed ground attack.

An' we fought back with all the strength we could muster. Oh, we did fine. We give a good account of ourselves, Lord. You'da been proud. That is, if you can be proud of men killin' and woundin' each other.

But that's not my point, Lord. We're all just tryin' to do our jobs. They're doin' what they believe is right, an' so are we. Its just that I've got a small problem that, maybe, only you can help fix.

Y'see Lord, I'm a medic by trainin'. Ol' Doc they call me. An' Ol' Doc fixes their hurts, an' gives 'em malaria pills, an' cleans jungle rot, an' picks out shell fragments, an' puts on field dressin's, an' ties tourniquets, an' gets 'em on medevacs, an' listens to 'em bitch -- excuse me -- gripe about ever'thin' there is to gripe about. That's me, Ol' Doc. An' so, Lord...

About this here problem. We come outta' this thing in a bit worse shape than we went in. We got fourteen dead; but that's a lick on us -- the NVA's probably got ten times that. The Ol' Man's hit through the neck, but he'll make it. His radio operator's hit in the chest, but he'll get by for a while. But, Jesus Christ, Lord, I got fifty-six wounded guys here. But that ain't the problem. They'll all make it, except for maybe one. That's my problem, Lord.

I got him set up in the corner of two tree roots -- you know, the big ironwoods they got here in 'Nam. Half his face is gone, an' I've got that bandaged. His right arm is burned real bad, an' that's wrapped up. He took three, maybe four, AK rounds in the gut -- guys say he charged a machine gun position -- but I've stopped most of the bleedin' an' got my last IV pumpin' into him. But he's gut-shot, Lord. Right through to the back, an' I think he's gonna' die. I don't even know his name.

But you cain't never tell, Lord. Some men were meant to die before we figure its time, and others not. But as many as I've seen go Lord, I recon' this one's goin' rather than stayin'. An' that's the thing, Lord. I don't want him to go. I really don't.

So if you could just deal me one more hand, Lord. One more hand. An' if you've ever had a mind to cheat at cards, or anythin' else Lord, please do it this one time. If not for me, then for him. I need some aces this time, Lord. As many as you've got.

Well, you got the picture, Lord. What ever' you can do, we'd be obliged. Amen.

Of the seventy-six men who fought the six-hour engagement against superior NVA forces southeast of FSB Ripcord on 22 July, 1970: six were unscathed; fifty-six were wounded; and fourteen died. Of the wounded: about half were ambulatory; and the rest were in critical condition.

Every one of the wounded made it out alive.

Martin J. "DOC" Glennon is a pastor in Indiana.

# Viet Soldier Returns Flag For Parade

WALLINGFORD — Several months ago the American Legion Post 187 here sent an American flag to Dan Esposito, a local boy who was serving in Vietnam. Now the flag is back in town and will be flown over the legion headquarters this Sunday for the Loyalty Day parade.

The legion post sent the flag to Esposito after reading a story in The Register about the Vietnam soldier and his problems with the Army's re-enlistment procedures. The Army's

information bureau claimed that Esposito was re-enlisting and the soldier's mother repeatedly said that Dan had no intentions of remaining in Vietnam or the Army. Her boy was coming home to get married, she said.

After sending out an information officer into Vietnam combat zones in search of Esposito to check the story, the Army retracted its announcement of the soldiers re-enlistment. The legion post decided then to send Esposito a flag.

The local boy flew the flag over his bunker in various combat zones where he was assigned and brought it back with him when he came home recently on leave. He returned the gesture by presenting the flag to the legion post.

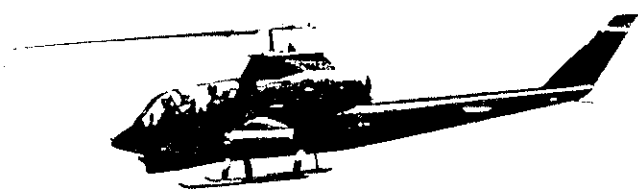
According to Frank Yasensky, adjutant for the local post, the flag will be flown Sunday during the Loyalty Day Parade and on special occasions after that, including Memorial Day.



Dan Esposito, right, and a fellow soldier pose with a flag flying over their Army bunker located in a Vietnam combat zone. Esposito was sent the flag by the American Legion post here and recently returned the flag to the post where it will fly for the Loyalty Day Parade.



XUÂN VẼ TRÊN KHẮP NỖ ĐƯỜNG  
XUÂN VẼ LÀ CẢ TÌNH THƯƠNG  
CHIÊU HỒI.



### WARNING

I SUFFER FROM OCCASIONAL LOSS OF MENTAL STABILITY, AND BECOME VERY VIOLENT WITH ONLY SLIGHT PROVOCATION. THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION HAS DETERMINED THAT BOTH MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HARASSMENT OF MY PERSON MAY BE HAZARDOUS TO YOUR HEALTH AND WELL BEING. SO STAY THE HELL OUT OF MY FACE

THANK YOU





# RIPCORD

12 March - 23 July 1970

The Battle for Fire Support Base Ripcord extended from 12 March to 23 July 1970. During the peak of the battle, from 1 to 23 July, there were 61 KIA and 345 WIA. It was the most costly action by US Forces during 1970. It was the last major battle of the Vietnam War that was fought by purely American units.

At the center of this cauldron of fire were soldiers of the 2-506th Infantry Battalion, and Bravo Battery, 2-319th Artillery Battalion; 101st Airborne Division. There were others: infantrymen from sister units; men who flew in jets and helicopters; men who fired supporting artillery; men who pushed supplies forward; men who kept vigil by the radios; men and women who staffed the hospitals; and others, who provided support in a thousand different ways.

The men at Ripcord fought aggressively, and well.

Today, we're looking for these people. These brave souls who fought the Battle of Ripcord; who survived; who are friends and relatives of those who fell there.

To receive the monthly Ripcord Newsletter, fill out the form below and send it to: The Ripcord Association, c/o Chuck Hawkins,

\*\*\*\*\*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Unit \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Nickname \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*



FIND-A-VET\*

To have your name listed in the FIND-A-VET\* program, a locator service for veterans who served in Vietnam, please fill in the form below.

Name Last \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ MI \_\_\_\_\_  
Nickname \_\_\_\_\_

Current address:  
Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Military Information:

Military Unit in Vietnam:  
(include Co, Bn, Rgt, Bde, Div, etc)

Branch of Service \_\_\_\_\_  
Years Served IN Vietnam from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
Home state at time of service in Vietnam \_\_\_\_\_  
Service # \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle shoulder patch worn by your unit, if it appears here. If not, you may submit a drawing on back of form.

Return for to:  
Tom Sutterfield  
FIND-A-VET\*  
P.O. Box 567  
Stone Mountain, GA 30086-0567

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