



NATIONAL DUSTERS, QUADS & SEARCHLIGHTS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER # 3 - DECEMBER 2021

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



To my Brothers and Sisters of the NDQSA, I take this opportunity to wish all of you a happy, healthy and safe holiday season. The 2021 reunion, although delayed was still a success. The hotel was beautiful, the weather cooperated and all had a great time. I want to thank Bruce and Bob for the effort they put in to make this another success. I also

want to share in the loss of Al Hansen. Al's passing leaves a void in the organization. Al was always willing to help in any he could; he represented NDQSA at The Wall for a number of years. He was a member of the board of directors and a good friend. The elections were held and the count verified by our secretary Richard Burmood. I want to congratulate the new Board of directors. Plans are being made for our 2022 reunion in OKC next July and we are looking forward to seeing all of you in July.

Be well and be safe. [Bob Cuce](#) President NDQSA

FEATURED STORIES:

- 2021 Reunion Recap
- 2022 Reunion Plans
- Product Sales Changes
- Letters Home from the field 1967 Pt.2

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NEW MEMBERS/CONTACTS

- [Robert Van A-1/44 69-70](#)
- [Joseph Rossi, D-1/44 68/69](#)
- [William Evans, E-41](#)
- William Sinclair, D-71 HAWK
- [Ron Ledbetter, 4/60 68-69](#)

Send an email to welcome them!

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MEMBERS THAT HAVE PASSED

- >Alfred Hansen, B-5/2 6Dec21 NY<
- Clifford Marine Jr., B-4/60 68-69 17Dec21 WA
- Charles Sughrue, B-5/2 66-67 Jul2019 IN
- Robert Slater, C-1/44 66-67 5Sep20 MS
- Eugene Wimer, C-5/2 6970 17Sep16 OH
- Michael Foukes, D-4/60 70-71 25Apr21 MI
- Dennis Leppanen, C-5/2 66-67 FL
- Charles Reeves, G-29 SLT 67-68 15Nov15 GA
- Norman Koop Vulcan 68-69 16Jul21 NC
- Donald Vandyke, C-4/60 67-68 VA
- Terry Haynes, G-29 SLT 71 21Jan20 VA

They will be missed and we give honor to their service and their families.

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DO YOU HAVE AN EMAIL ADDRESS?

Two pieces of contact information that frequently change are cell phone numbers and email addresses. Typically there are about a half dozen emails sent out each year to every member with a valid (current) email address on record with the Historian. **If you (or a spouse) have an email address and you have not received any emails from the dqshistorian@cox.net, it is time for you to record your email address with him.** Simply [click here](#) and identify yourself clearly (full name). Please confirm your telephone numbers in the same email. When an email is sent to a bad email address, the Historian tries to contact the member by phone to determine their status. This is a time consuming effort, but it does give him a chance to talk to members.

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REMEMBER

NDQSA is an IRS 501(c) (19) non-profit veterans organization so if you are of means and in a giving state of mind, know that you can put NDQSA in your estate plans for when you leave this "mortal plane." Also, NDQSA has several vehicle restoration projects we are still trying to complete: the Widow Maker gun-truck still

needs to pay off the loan of the Quad 50 gun mount (\$20K), and we are still looking for an appropriate Mutt M151 jeep (\$10K) for the Xenon SLT we have at the Tank Farm. We continue to accept donations for the maintenance of the ADA Memorial at Ft. Sill (Project Eagle) and general "Good Works" projects.

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FIND & PHONE A FRIEND!

If you remember the name and home town of a buddy, there is now a real web site that will let you search for him with a good chance of locating him if he is still alive. Go to truepeoplesearch.com and type in the full name and his home town. Look for guys that are 70 years old and see if there are any hits. If you have an old address look down the relevant info that pops up, and it might be there confirming that you located him. Try the phone numbers listed and see if you found him. If not, no harm done. If yes...well you got a lot to talk about. Be sure to let me know how it turns out.

[Bill Sturgeon](#) (A-5/2 '68-69), has access to commercial search websites and is also willing to help you locate a lost buddy. Email him with whatever information you have and hopefully it will be enough to make a reasonable search.

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Synopsis of relevant minutes of NDQSA Board of Directors and Executive Officers Meeting Nov 10, 2021

The NDQSA Board of Directors and Executive Officers met in a 2 hour session during the 38th Annual Reunion in Norfolk VA on November 10, 2021. Much of the meeting was routine or finalizing the reunion sequences of events. Key information to come out of the meeting that needs to be shared with the members involves product sales and heritage preservation.

The board resolved that NDQSA was getting completely out of the product business. While the ADA Association gift shop may be getting off to a slow start in retailing NDQSA specific items, they are good people and will make it happen. Their major hurdles are inventorying, pricing, and web marketing. To help centralize the process and be able to have quality control over orders, they will establish procedures and NDQSA will inform its members how to order directly from the gift shop. NDQSA will no longer process any product sales orders going forward.

The second item is heritage preservation. A Steering and Heritage Committee was established in July to set standards

and procedures, identify capabilities, and establish limits on how the NDQSA will keep its history intact, present our heritage to other organizations, and steer the organization forward with declining membership and capabilities. The Fort Sill ADA Center historian, Dave Christiansen, talked about their capabilities and history preservation role that focuses primarily on unit history with a need to personalize that history with Vietnam experience stories. Our NDQSA Historian primarily focuses on member personal stories and lived experiences. The Vietnam Center and Sam Johnson Vietnam Archive at Texas Tech collects and preserves the documentary record of the Vietnam War in general, although they do maintain personal oral histories. A key take away was that, since the ADA has now established a Learning Center at Fort Sill, the history of the branch is going to be preserved there. That is where our personal stories, our service, and our units are going to be remembered and we need to support them and their effort so that young ADA soldiers and leaders may learn about who came before them, who wore their crests and what they did in Vietnam.

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2021 Reunion Recap

After several years in the making, NDQSA finally held the Norfolk reunion. Thanks again to Bruce Geiger and Bob Lauver for their hard work and dedication to make the reunion happen at all. The Sheraton Hotel was most accommodating and the daily activities and waterside location allowed for attendees to explore this historic city at their own pace.

The numbers were down as was expected due to Covid-19 concerns, travel restrictions and the inability of many of our aging group to travel safely. Still, the hospitality room was filled every night and everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves. The normal reunion schedule was modified to reflect the times. The annual memorial service was held in the hotel which worked out great. The combined President's party and the awards banquet was another fantastic evening and all the tables were full. The same band we had in Gettysburg, The Fabulous Hubcaps, was brought back to replace the 2020 band we had contracted with but was no longer available. They put on another great show and were glad to be performing again. The 1950-60s song sets were nostalgic and fit our age group. However most of the group was sitting towards the back of the banquet room away from

the loudness of the speaker system. But when a specific song came up, the dance floor rapidly became crowded.

There were several awards given out before dinner. The St. Barbara Medals were given to David McCray, William Tuttle, and Jackie Carver. The Molly Pitcher Medals were presented to Janet Tuttle, Deborah Wise and Mary Jane Clemens

This year, the President's Award went to Dave McCray.

The annual business meeting was held Saturday morning and was well attended. The results of the 2021 elections were not available due to a number of unforeseen events that can only be looked at now in hindsight as comical. FUBAR! If something could have gone wrong, it did. Notwithstanding, the election results were certified in the following week by President Cuce and the elected board of directors' names were released. The 2021-2025 directors elected are: Bruce Geiger, George Nagelschmidt, Paul Hanson, Al Hansen, Alphonse Martin, George Walko, Garry Severin. However with the sudden passing of Al Hansen, Rick Liebendorfer, who garnered the next highest vote count was tasked with filling the vacant director position. Former directors Joseph Belardo and Bob Lauver are now in Advisor Positions. Richard Burmood had volunteered to hold the Secretary position earlier in 2021, replacing Garry Severin.

During the meeting several related items were discussed. The Learning Center at Ft. Sill is having a fund raiser for the center and will be offering the purchase of memorial bricks, similar to what NDQSA did for our Project Eagle ADA monument there. There was also a discussion on NDQSA legacy discussed briefly in the Nov 10 meeting minutes.

There was a break between the Thursday banquet and the Saturday night fundraising auction. That did not affect attendance as the hospitality room was filled. The wives (Sue Lauver, Vickie McCray, Pattie Labarre, et al) were short staffed this year with the recent passing of Sally Huelsenbeck yet they did a great job with the setup for the auction and managing the registration table. Thanks to all those that brought items for the fundraiser auction. Kudos (again) to Paul Hanson the night's emcee and auctioneer and along with Joe Belardo, squeezed every penny they could out of the appreciative audience. These auctions are without a doubt one of the highlights of our reunions. Paul Hanson's banter is reminiscent to me of Bob Hope putting on a show for the troops. Well worth the price of admission.

The closing times for the hospitality room seem to be getting earlier and earlier with each passing year. That is fine, we are not 21 anymore.

The reunion closed with a somber ceremony on Sunday morning as the room was being prepared for the next event at the hotel. Everyone made it back home...eventually... as travelers on I-95 on the east coast dealt with Sunday afternoon (and evening) traffic. Better luck next year!

Speaking of next year....

2022 Reunion Preview

Here is a short version of the reunion schedule being coordinated by Dave McCray:

Mon: July 5-10, 2022 is the reunion.

Tue: July 5: is the early check-in day

Wed: July 6: is a free day for sightseeing and continue check-in plus the Board Meeting

Thu: July 7: is the banquet and entertainment in the evening

Fri: July 8: is the trip to Ft. Sill

Sat: July 9: is the annual business meeting and women's auxiliary breakfast, afternoon free, evening is auction

Sun: July 10: check out

Members can have the same rate of \$119 three days prior to and three days after the reunion. The reservation web site for the NDQSA reunion in July 2022 is up and running and ready for guests to start making reservations. To receive the discounted rate, you may either call the reservations line at 1-800-HILTONS and mention NDQSA reunion (or group code **NDQSA**), or you may use the link below to easily book online: https://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/O/OKC-SKHF-NDQSA-20220705/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG

We will have the preregistration form and final schedule in the next newsletter.

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NDQSA Product Sales

Effectively immediately, we will not be processing any more orders for NDQSA products. Our stock has been transferred to Ft. Sill and all future purchases will only be available through their website or store. We will strive to complete all existing product order forms already received, but we will not accept any more orders. The 'breaking in' period is still ongoing and we hope to have the system in full operation soon.

LETTERS HOME FROM THE MOTOR POOL 1967-68

SP4 Phillip McGuire, D-4/60 '67-68

Part 2

Here is the second of three installments of mechanic Phillip McGuire's collection of letters he sent home to his mother and family during his tour of duty. To put this into historical context, these are early tour letters from the start of the 4/60th original deployment to Vietnam, who arrived in early 1967 and set up near Phu Cat airbase in central Vietnam. Phillip was part of the "advance team" and flew over early in



1967 to set up some logistics. The 4/60th was going to be providing support for the largest (by square miles) area of any of the three Duster battalions.



Wed Aug 23 67: Last time you heard from me I think I said we were going to Check Point 95 the next morning which should have been Tuesday. Well I never got to 95. We were about two miles from getting there when Berjins stopped the maintenance truck. He said that a weapons mechanic was needed at Jackson Hole A.S.A.P. So I got my tool box and got into his Jeep. He took me back into Dragon Mountain. I got there in time for chow. I caught one of those small three man bubble choppers out at three twenty five. I got here at Jackson Hole at about three forty five. I took some pictures this time. This was my seventh chopper ride but first time to take pictures. Well as luck would have it, they had the problem gun firing by the time I got here. I checked it out just the same.

Last night at about five fifteen we had a rocket attack here. Fifty rockets were fired, ten hit on the perimeter. What happened to the rest I don't know? One of the rockets hit the part of the fuel dump where the chopper fuel was kept. It made a real nice fire. One of the infantrymen was outside his bunker taking a piss. A piece

of shrapnel from one of the first rockets hit him in the chest. Some hell was raised because he didn't have his flak jacket on. Tell me who is going to put on that vest just to take a piss. Another man got scratched by shrapnel. As far as I know they both are OK.

Two tracks came up from the Oasis today to test fire. I had to adjust the firing linkage on one of the guns. The other gun on the same track broke its auto crank. Since I didn't bring any parts I couldn't replace it. I do have some on the maintenance truck. Both guns on the other track had the recoil cylinders froze up. After they had fired a few rounds both guns functioned OK. I got to fire my M 16. It worked OK. Johnson couldn't pull the bolt back on his it was rusted up enough to freeze the bolt. I don't think much of the M16's looks but it will put out some rounds as long as it is kept clean. Sgt. Oxendine sent my mail and some clothes up by the tracks. He will be up here tomorrow so I will go back with him.

PS We are expecting to get hit by rockets again tonight. I'll let you know what happens. When Mr. and Mrs. Hollowell get Daniels address send it to me. Don't worry about me going hungry there are too many C rations laying around. Tell Phyllis and Mike I got there letter with the pictures. I will answer as soon as I can. Mom I need a picture of you to show the boys.

Saturday 26 Aug 67: I got three letters yesterday. I wrote Mike and Phyllis last night. I addressed it to you'll. It is in their name but your address. I just wasn't paying attention to what I was doing. I was supposed to have taken R&R this month but had it canceled. I will take it later. I think I will try for Australia.

Mom, it took me a while to figure out that letter where you wrote from the bottom of the page up. I will try and drop a line to Grandmother Jones and Dude and Grandmother and Granddad as soon as I can. Say what froze up in the Falcon? Would you believe I am on my last roll of Polaroid film? I have one more 35mm left besides the one in my camera. I haven't done too much today. We came in from Jackson Hole yesterday, we got here around seven o'clock we left there at five ten. The roads are pretty muddy so we had to travel slowly. It has been raining here all day, only slacked up a few times. I won't need any more underwear for a while. I am sending some pictures. Some came out dark. No. 1 Claypool and Lanier acting up. No. 2 Me in front of a track No. 3 Malcolm cleaning an automatic loader No. 4 L-R Fiester, Brooks, Malcolm this is the kind of bunker these fellows stay in sometimes. I will close now and clean my rifle.

Sunday 27 Aug 67: I got that big package today, two of the chocolate chip cookies had mold on them. The rest are OK. They went over big with everybody. I also got the pictures today. Everybody enjoyed looking at them. The

guys said we had a real nice house. Would you believe I had practically forgotten what the house looked like?

If Mrs. Paterson's address was supposed to be in the box I got today I couldn't find it. We were told we would have this afternoon off this morning, but when afternoon came we had to work in shifts painting the bunker. The NCO's also found a few little things for us to do besides this. So between painting the bunker and doing odds and ends we had the 'afternoon off'. We were still able to take it easy most of the time. I have half a notion of asking to be stationed in Alaska when I get back to the states. What do think of it? *(Note: I had 10 months left in Army after Vietnam. Had no intention of extending 6 months in Vietnam for an early out. Did request next duty station be Alaska. Was sent to a self propelled 155 unit at Ft. Wainwright, Fairbanks, Alaska. Enjoyed it as much as the Army would let me. What surprised me there were men requesting transfer to Vietnam to get out of Alaska. I could not talk them out of it.)*

Monday 28 Aug 67: Sgt. Mosely was pissed off for some reason this morning. He woke us up at six o'clock. We had another man assigned to maintenance last week. His name is Mayhew. I am training him to be a weapons mechanic. We had to T.I. two turrets today. One is OK the other will not operate when put into power operation. We will work on it tomorrow. It took all day to get these tracks fixed. The slewing clutches were out of adjustment also the linkage for the slewing clutches was rusted up. Right now it is twenty till eleven. Would you believe I am watching the Late Show on TV. We were able to buy a TV with money that was in the battery fund. I like to have laughed myself silly while watching the Dean Martin show. It makes this war a lot easier to take. *(Note: I still enjoy Dean Martin reruns when I find them.)*

Saturday 2 Sept 67: I got three letters today, two from you'll and one from Mike and Phyllis. I kind of figured people would be mad at Larry for re-upping but not this long. It is a decision he and Pat made. He will need all the encouragement he can get. If you can get word to Jerry tell him I am still waiting for a letter from him and his wife. By the way can you tell me her name again I can't remember it. There are two seasons here wet and dry right now it is wet.

We had a track run over a mine today. One man got a bruised knee. Since Sgt. Oxendine wasn't here, I had to go out and take charge of getting it in here. Six track sections two road wheels one shock absorber will have to be replaced. A few bolts were ripped out of the hull these these will have to be replaced some way. The track that blew up is the sister track to the one Claypool drives. That makes three tracks that have hit mines. We had to take the tracks and blown road wheel off of the track to get it ready to be pulled in. That took us until about one o'clock. Brown, Sgt. Bergins and I sat there until two thirty or three o'clock. The VTR still hadn't shown up. Since the

track was ready to be pulled in we came back to the CP. A little later Sgt. Oxendine, Lanier and Spigner came in from base camp (Camp Enari/Dragon Mountain). I started rounding up the parts we would need. Had to stop for chow. After wards I rounded up some more parts. Then all of us went to where we would work on the track. A truck had gone out and hauled in the track sections. We laid it out and replaced the blown up sections. By then it was dark.



A VTR came in with the track at about seven forty five. We knocked off for the night. When I talk about "track" I am talking about the Duster vehicle itself and other times it means the iron and metal pads it travels on.

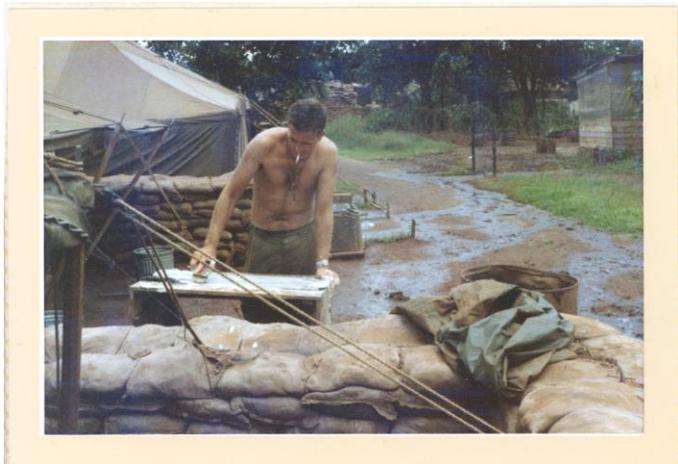
(Note: At this time we did not have a VTR of our own so when we needed one, we always had to find a unit with one and would work with us. Later on Sgt Oxendine was in Qui Nhon at Battalion headquarters they asked him what he needed his reply was a VTR. They were not using the one they had so sent it out to us. We were mighty glad to see it.)



Monday 4 Sept 67: I want Mac to tell me what he thinks of contact lenses. I have been thinking about trying them myself. I hope you and Mac won't have to leave home. *(I do not the slightest idea what this is about... probably a joke of some kind).* Send me a piece of material with some stitching on it. I would like to see it. *(Mother liked to sew).* I eat everything I can lay my hands on. The

fellows have called me a walking garbage disposal unit. Lanier is from Nashville, Georgia or close to it. This morning Lanier and I went in to base camp (Dragon Mountain) to pick up some spare parts. We had most of the day off you could say. We got back late this afternoon. Right now I am watching Perry Mason.

Tuesday 5 Sept 67: Today has been pretty easy. We just got word there is a LP (*listening post*) that is setting outside the perimeter. A guy has a snake four inches in diameter wrapped around his arm. I am watching a movie about the war in the Pacific "Our time in Hell". This morning we made a quick check of the two tracks that stayed in today. I washed some clothes and under wear. This afternoon I did a little more washing. Then Lanier, Anderson and I got some Country and Western records and we piled into the gas truck and drove to Claypool's bunker and listened to them. We also played with the monkey they have for a pet. He is still real young. Sucks his thumb just like a little kid. He stands about eight inches tall. In closed you will find a money order for two hundred dollars.



Friday 8 Sept 67: I just got through writing Mrs. Patterson a letter. I just hope I can find her address. I got three letters today. I don't mix with the Vietnamese very much. Every time we stop the truck there are about ten kids on your ass trying to sell you something. Mom, I haven't got your picture yet. I don't know why Mac can't wear his contacts to school and get use to them there. It's kind of early to be thinking of Christmas isn't it? I haven't thought of anything you could send me. I will let you know if I do. This morning Lanier and I fixed a broke ground cable on a quad fifty truck. We got it started. Then checked out the batteries in one of the tracks. Lanier and Brown went into base camp this afternoon and those of us here were to have the afternoon off, but just as I started to wash some clothes I had to check out the quad fifty truck again. It wouldn't start again. Anderson, Sgt. Oxendine and I spent most of the afternoon but we weren't able to fix it.

Sunday 10 Sept 67: This morning we loaded some track pads on a truck headed for Jackson Hole. Lanier drove the truck and Lt. Bennett went with him. I got a letter from Pop today. He mentioned a convoy getting hit in the central highlands. That's in our neck of the woods. A convoy on Highway 19 got hit with sniper fire last week. We go out on QL19 as far as check point 95. The guys here are a great bunch all right. Lt. Bennett and Bergins are OK. Some of the NCO's are to. The NCO's are something we just put up with. (*Note: Several of our NCO's had served in World War 2 and Korea or both. I was willing to cut them some slack.*)

The monsoon season is almost over now. I have been told. It didn't rain too much today. Some of the units here are getting ready to move to "three tango" at the end of the monsoon season. Rumor has the whole Oasis moving. We haven't heard anything definite. Mom, sorry, I got those pictures of you a while ago. I just wasn't thinking when I told you I hadn't.

PS. Mac good luck in College. Capron got some pictures of his girl in a bikini. He is just standing under the light looking at them. She is a nice looking girl. Could you send me a small Arkansas flag about 6"x 8".

Monday 11 Sept 67: I got one letter today postmarked Aug 30. Mom in the letter you said quote "Mac, John Snodgrass and I have been watching TV. Would you believe it, it came to an end tonight" unquote. What came to an end? I want Mac to send me his address. This morning a transmission went out on one of the tracks. Spigner, Anderson, Mayhew and I were helping Claypool put track shoes together, when they pulled the Duster in. Then Sgt. Oxendine and Joe left for Jackson Hole. I asked him before he left if he wanted us to pull the engine out and get it ready to change the transmission while he was gone. Sgt. Oxendine said no. Then Claypool had to go back on the road. So Anderson, Mayhew and I came back to the CP. This afternoon we tried to adjust some equilibrators. The track was setting unlevel so we couldn't do it. Since the batteries were out we weren't able to move it. So we quit and decided we would do it later. Just before chow a starter came in for the quad fifty truck. Anderson, Mayhew and I worked on it after chow. They had to do most of the work because two of our trucks were at Jackson Hole, one in the ammo dump with ammo on it and the jeep was in base camp. The gas truck was our only transportation left. So I had to make two trips to pick up chow. The first trip the cooks said they weren't supposed to give us any food. Lt. Bergins got things straight so I had to go back again after the food. Then I went back to the quad to help. After a while Sgt. Mosely called over the field phone and said the Dusters were coming in. So I went to fuel them up. By the time I got back to the quad the starter was on. So we loaded up our tool boxes and came back to the CP. I will close now because I have to take a shower.

(Note: Don't know if I have mentioned this Phyllis is my twin sister she was expecting her first child. Mac is my younger brother he was going to college.)

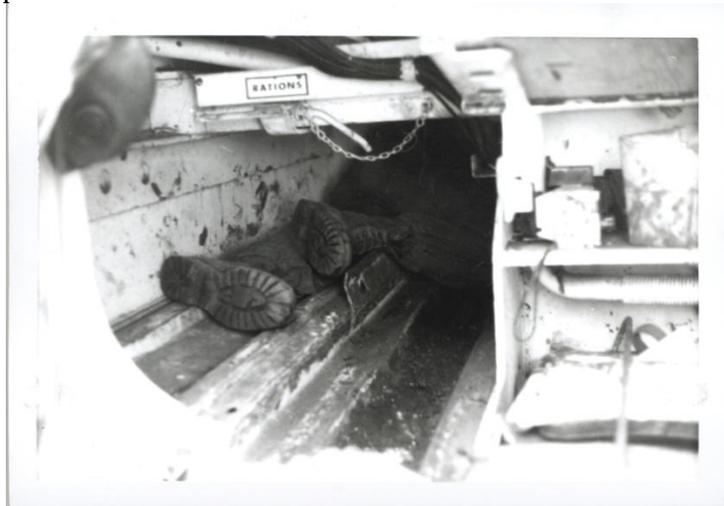
Tuesday 12 Sept 67: This morning we had to put a carburetor on Brown's Jeep. Then we put (four) new batteries in one of the tracks. We had to fill them up with acid first. When we had the batteries in, the engine wouldn't even turn over. A track has two relays a master relay and starter relay. Since neither of them was clicking we decided the master relay was bad since the current has to go through it first. The truck that went into base camp picked up a relay. Anderson and I sat around rest of the day Mayhew went into base camp on the truck. While I was gassing up the tracks this evening the truck had got back from base camp. So we went and put the relay on the track. It was dark by the time we finished. Would you believe the track still wouldn't start? Then Anderson found the trouble. The gear shift wasn't in neutral park. A track is like a car if it isn't in park it won't start. Well at least Anderson and Mayhew learned how to change a starter relay.

I got two letters today dated Sept 5th and 7th. I put in for two places for when I get back to the states. Alaska and the Kansas Northeast Texas and Arkansas area. Since I have always wanted to see Alaska I figure this is as good a time as any and it's free of charge. I will be home for thirty days before I go to my next duty station. I got a notice from the paper last week that the subscription will expire in October. There are plenty of paperback books over here for me to read so no need to send any to me. We had two rain showers today. I think the monsoon season is almost over. There is a real good chance we will be moving from the Oasis.

Thursday 14 Sept 67: I haven't been fishing since I have been here. Brown said he was talking about fishing for girls. The people here are not starving to death by any means. They will take anything we give them. I haven't seen any one from Benton but I have met a few boys from Arkansas. There are three in the battery besides me. Mom, I told everybody you said hello. They told me to say hello to you for them. The hope you'll are doing fine.

We had to pull an engine out today and put a new transmission on it. We were working in the rain and actually crawling under the track in the mud. We had fun doing it. After the engine was pulled Spigner and I put a new magneto and plugs in another track. When we had finished we helped put the engine back in. I crawled in to the ammo well to undo the connections so the engine could be pulled. Then crawled under the track to undo the center motor mount. The ammo well was as muddy and wet as the ground. So I let Anderson go in to the ammo well to hook the connections back up when the engine

was put back in. I crawled underneath the track again to put the mount bolt back in.



Friday 15 Sept 67: This morning we cleaned up our tool boxes and also the maintenance truck. This afternoon two of the tracks and one quad fifty test fired. We also kind of put on a firing demonstration. It was a real good one. Sometimes I wish I had a movie camera so you'll could see these guns fire. Included is a clipping about the rocket attack on Jackson Hole while I was up there. It also tells of the time the Oasis was mortared when I first got here. I got one letter today. I need some film pretty bad. I think Mike has a crazy horse.

Mom, so you ran out of gas Ha Ha I think it is kind of funny. When you'll buy another car be sure it is a Ford. I am all ways defending Fords around here. If I had to tell these fellows you'll bought something besides a Ford I would have to tell them you'll were crazy.



Friday 16 Sept 67: Today was another of those easy days. After police call Lanier, Capron, Mayhew and I got a wrecker from 704th maintenance. We loaded the two old track sections that Claypool took off his track yesterday, onto a 2-1/2 ton truck, then Capron took them into base camp to be carried back to battalion. This afternoon Lanier and I fixed a machine gun on one of the

quads. We went to the 704th again to get some parts we needed. We still didn't have one of the parts we needed so we used the old one. Luckily the gun is operational again. Lanier and I put our heads together and got it fixed. Battalion will send us the part we need. We didn't get any mail today. Tomorrow Sgt. Oxendine, Lanier and I are going to Jackson Hole. I don't know for how long.

Tuesday 19 Sept 67: We just got back from Jackson Hole. We have been gone for three days. Would you believe I didn't have any mail waiting for me? Sunday morning we got word we would be moving out. We don't know where to I will let you know when I find out. Tomorrow everybody will be moving into base camp for two or three weeks. Lanier and I will be staying here those two weeks or so. Afterwards I don't know. While at Jackson Hole we pulled one engine to replace a fuel injection line. Yesterday we drove out to a firebase to work on one track while the other had a gun messed up. When it was fired the gun would come back in recoil but didn't go forward (*return to battery*). We took a tankers bar and forced the gun back into battery. Then took the breach block out but the rammer shoes wouldn't release. We took a hammer and drove the shoes forward. Then the loading tray pin wouldn't come out. We beat, cut, and pried on it yesterday and this morning. This afternoon we took a cutting torch to the loading tray and cut it in half. Then we were able to pull the auto loader out. Part of the breech ring safety plunger had fallen out and locked the loading tray in the auto loader. The guide ways were also scored and scratched. We got it squared away before we left. I found out we are going to Cheo Reo, some 75 miles southeast of here, while I was working on the guns. The others were working on three tracks. Since the generators here have been moved, I am writing this letter by candle light.



Wednesday 20 Sept 67: Mom I got two letters that were wrote at Grandmother Jones's today. When you mentioned the leaves turning I happened to think that squirrel season is open now. You don't know how I wish I

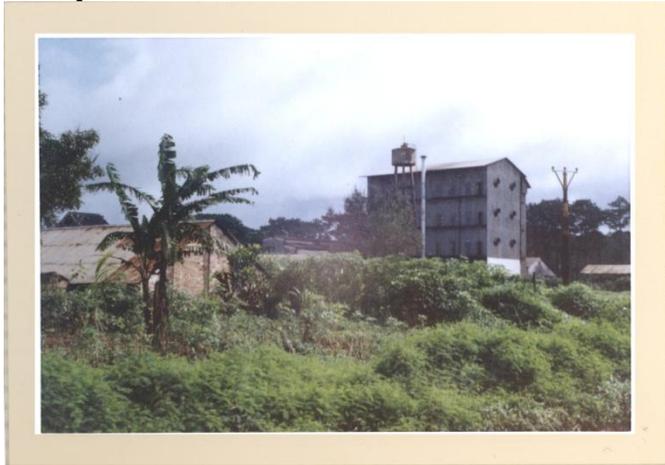
could go hunting. Today has been real easy. Lanier, Spigner, Mayhew, Sgt. Oxendine and I stayed here while everybody else went into base camp. I found out today I would be staying here with Sgt. Oxendine. Lanier, Anderson, Spigner, and Mayhew will go to Cheo Reo. Woodcock will stay at Jackson Hole with the two tracks left there. Brousseau will be here with us. Happening will be in base camp with Barkly, Billings and Ferron. Sgt. Oxendine said he planned on he and I going from place to place spending about a week in each one. I will be driving the maintenance truck again. Anderson will drive the gas truck. This afternoon I salvaged what parts I could off of the loading tray, the one we had to cut with the torch. I was able to get several parts. That is one of the ways I get parts. I just salvage the stuff.

Pop I want you to do something for me, when you get tired of doing nothing. Ha! Go to the car lots and price the pickup trucks. What I have in mind is a Ford three quarter ton. 1967 model or one not too old, say 1966 model and up. I want the big six cylinder, or an older truck with a V8, four speed transmission, radio and heater. Get the price they would ask for if payment is in cash. I guess that is it. Say hello to Mike and Phyllis for me.

Saturday 23 Sept 67: It has been a few days since I wrote home. I figured I had better write while I had the time. Thursday we pulled an engine out of a track and put a new one in. We worked until nine thirty at night getting it in. Friday Brousseau and I drove two quad fifty trucks into base camp. We weren't able to get out that afternoon so we spent the night in base camp. Sgt Oxendine was supposed to come in this morning; I waited for him so I could ride back to the Oasis with him. Lanier, Spigner, Sgt. Oxendine and I ended up going out to check-point 92 to pull another engine. We couldn't get a wrecker so I worked on a computing sight. Then we came back into base camp. We are spending the night here again. I am watching the Academy Awards on TV. While at CP 92 a truck came in with a new engine for one of the tracks here in base camp. That means we will have two packs to pull tomorrow. I got two letters and two news papers today the first mail I have had in about 7 days. I was starting to get worried. The home coming at Cross Roads sounds interesting. I have to close now.

Sunday 1 Oct 67: This letter was to Phyllis and Mike (*My sister and her Husband*) How is the Little Cowboy? Well I am another month shorter. I have about four months to go over here. If I were to tell you I spent most of the day putting a model kit together would you believe me? That is exactly what I did. Hanly got a model of a '29 Ford in the mail the other day. He gave it to Lanier. After Lanier put it together he had enough parts to make another car. I took the wheels and engine off of a '67 Chevrolet model that Devito had. With some cutting and filing I had a nice little competition roadster. This

afternoon about three fifteen we had to build a small bunker. We finished about five o'clock. *(Note: I had forgotten about this bunker, it was part of a secondary defense line. During Tet we had to man this bunker for a few hours. It was during day light when a perimeter probe was made on the Korean fire base across the creek from the Oasis. I want to say one of the Dusters on our perimeter did fire on them. No heavy fire in our direction, what did come our way was high. We got hungry so I went out and got some C rations.)* When I got the mail today it was only a newspaper. It had Phillip Richie's address in it. I am going to drop him a line soon as I can.

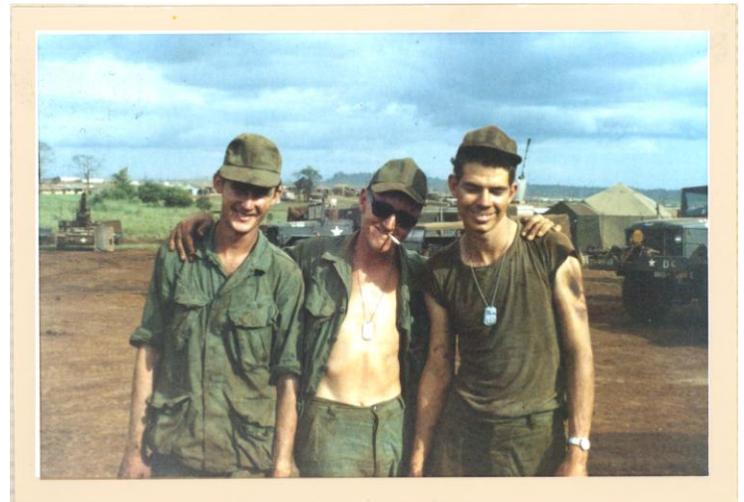


There is a Tea plantation between here and base camp. The VC kidnapped the foreman last night. When the tracks went out on the road this morning and pulled into position they found him. He had been beaten up and a rifle butt was used to cave in his head but fortunately I didn't see it. Sgt. Oxendine and Brown went out they said it was kind of bloody so I am glad I didn't go out. I should have written mom and dad today. Since I just have enough time to write one letter. I would appreciate if you would share this with them.

Tuesday 3 Oct 67: I am using some of Lanier's paper to write on tonight. We are back at the Oasis. We left the battery area about five thirty. We didn't get to the Oasis until late. We had stopped to help a fellow with a flat tire. His front tire was flat. He didn't have any tools to take it off with and put another on. So we got some of our tools off the truck and helped him. We took one of the tires off the rear and put it on the front. While in base camp this afternoon we fixed a flat on the maintenance truck. It didn't take us to long. Anderson and I took it off then he broke it down. I put the patch on the tube and put the tire back together. Would you believe the tires on these trucks break down into five parts? Then Lanier and Mayhew put it back on the truck. Ask Mac if he would like to have some Country Western records. I have three I am thinking about sending home Buck Owens, Willie Nelson, and Jack Green. They are good records. They are 33 1/3 albums. If you can get some pictures of the '68 Ford car and pickups send them to me. Also in the next care package include some

writing tablets. Phillip Richie's address is in the paper I am going to drop him a line now so I will close.

Wednesday 4 Oct 67: Today was another fairly easy day. This morning Brousseau and I fixed a carburetor on a jeep. While Lanier and Mayhew put a starter relay on a track. When Brousseau and I finished we straightened up our supplies in the supply tent. Lanier and Mayhew got back just before chow. After chow the four of us worked in the tent. It didn't take us to long to finish it. Then I went to the Post Office to get some money orders. They didn't have any so I got some paper to wrap a package in. I am going to mail a package home tomorrow. The package will have fatigues in it and some film. Just store the fatigues till I get home.



Lanier, Mayhew and McBride

Thursday 5 Oct 67: I got a package on the way home today. It will take it anywhere from two weeks to a month to get home. I will try to get the other package off tomorrow. I am working on another package so that will make three all together. The second platoon will be moving to Ban Me Thuot about the 1st of November. I don't know how Sgt. Oxendine will handle the maintenance section yet. One of the tracks has a damaged slip ring and cables. I checked it out this morning. It will have to go to Ordinance. *(Note: I remember this track. We ended up getting a new one to replace it. I replaced the good parts on it with bad parts off the guns we were using.)*

This afternoon Brousseau and Mayhew and I took a generator off of a track. Brousseau and Mayhew pulled the "Little Joe". I went into the ammo well and worked from the inside. I pulled the fuel filter off and had most of the nuts holding the generator of by the time they got the "Little Joe" out. Then Brousseau sat down in the engine compartment where the Little Joe was. Then reached in and pulled out the generator. Then I sat down and read a book. When I finished the book I went to the Post Office got some money orders and mailed the package. Then I read some on another book. After chow Brousseau and I took a shower. That water was downright cold. The

package I am packing now has two field jackets in it. I want the good one, the one with my name tag and Sp 4 patches, packed away. I left one at home when on leave. This one and the other one in the box Mike and Mac can wear or if Dad wants to use one of them to wear while mechanicing or rock hunting he can. No letters today.

Saturday 7 Oct 67: I got two letters today, one from Phyllis the other from you'll. From what Phyllis writes it sounds like all the girls back home are expecting. I got one of the packages wrapped today. I will try and send it out tomorrow. I have decided to keep the best field jacket here with me. I will be getting home in February. I will be wearing short sleeve kakis. I will need a field jacket to keep me warm. We pulled another engine today, this time so we could put a new transmission in. I spent most of yesterday laying in an ammo well so we could put a new generator on the same engine. The new transmission didn't come in today. So the engine and old transmission are setting on the ground tonight. I had enough time this afternoon to wash some clothes. Enclosed you will find the front label off of a cigar package. I would like for you to send me a few cigars of this type. I guess that is about it.

Wednesday 11 Oct 67: Today was another fairly easy day. This morning Mayhew, Sgt. Oxendine and I went and inspected the two tracks that were here on the perimeter. We finished that at about 11:00. We came back to the CP. I took it easy until chow time. After chow I helped Brousseau work on his truck. Later this afternoon I replaced my flak jacket with another one. The padding in mine got where it would ball up. I found one in the supply tent. It looked like it had been thrown in the mud. I washed it up. It was almost as good as new. Thomas bought him a Sony tape recorder. He got off of another fellow. We have been trying to get it to work. It is a big one with a lot of dials. We can't get much out of it. So we finally gave up on it. We are supposed to go into base camp tomorrow. I guess I will close and go shave. I have found that if I shave and brush my teeth before I go to bed I can sleep later in the morning.

SMALLPOX			TYPHOID		
DATE VACCINATED	TYPE OF REACTION* AND DATE DETERMINED	SIGNATURE, GRADE, AND SERVICE OF MEDICAL OFFICER	DATE OF EACH DOSE	AMOUNT	SIGNATURE, GRADE, AND SERVICE OF MEDICAL OFFICER
11 Feb 67	I mm.	Francis P. ...			Francis P. ...
*Immediate reaction, accelerated reaction, typical primary vaccinia.					
CHOLERA			TETANUS		
DATE OF EACH DOSE	AMOUNT	SIGNATURE, GRADE, AND SERVICE OF MEDICAL OFFICER	DATE OF EACH DOSE	AMOUNT	SIGNATURE, GRADE, AND SERVICE OF MEDICAL OFFICER
10/10/67	1 cc	Francis P. ...	10/10/67	1 cc	Francis P. ...
YELLOW FEVER					
DATE	ORIGIN (Name of manufacturer)	BATCH NO.	PLACE OF ADMINISTRATION (Station)	SIGNATURE, GRADE, AND SERVICE OF MEDICAL OFFICER	
12 March 67	Wt. Drug	1057	4. Park La.	Francis P. ...	

Wednesday 18 Oct 67: I am in base camp right now. Yesterday afternoon Lanier and the rest pulled a pack

while I put a new generator in one of the tracks. After chow our battalion medic checked our shot records. I got three shots flu, typhoid and cholera. Let me tell you there isn't a person in the battery that feels good today. Almost everybody had to get a flu shot. That is a rough one. Everybody has sore muscles, arms and aches all over.

We called into battalion for a new engine. They said they couldn't get us one for us to take the front assembly off of the engine and find what was broke. They would try to get a part to us. We have worked on that engine all afternoon. We have three can's full of nuts and bolts some more laying loose on the engine. Parts are scattered ever where and we haven't got the front assembly off yet. We are having to go into the engine deeper than any of us were trained to do. We don't know how it is put together. Only thing we can think of is the oil pan has to be dropped so we can get to some nuts. Sgt. Oxendine called battalion and asked for some help. They are coming up tomorrow. I got a letter from Phillip Ritchey today. He is doing OK. I am enclosing a picture taken in the barracks here at base camp.



Saturday 21 Oct 67: Today was another fairly easy day. Brousseau and I made the trash and water run. We hauled off the trash and filled up the water cans. We also took the clothes to the laundry point. (Note: The engineers had set up a laundry near the creek. We would put our clothes in a laundry bag then they would throw all the bags into a large washer.) When we got back I sat in the cab of a truck and talked with Hap while he done some painting. After chow I finished painting on the truck while Hap cleaned the fuel filters on another truck. Late this afternoon one of the tracks started blowing oil out of the engine. We thought it was an oil line. After the engine had cooled we replaced the oil line started the engine and it was still blowing oil. Then we knew it was the oil cooler. We have one on the maintenance truck. It was too dark to change it. So we will have to do it in the morning. Lanier went into Qui Nhon this morning to check on his pay. He didn't get any money last pay day. I gave him my last dollar this morning so he could at least buy a few cokes. All I have now is ten cent's. I don't really need that. I guess that is about all. I had

better let you'll know I got a letter from you today. It sounds like fun staying in Russellville except for having to stand up in the rain. I see in the paper where deer season has been changed around some.

Friday 29 Oct 67: Sounds like Grandma and Dude are really fixing up the place. We left Dragon Mountain this morning. An engine and transmission came in for the track yesterday evening. The battalion mechanics pulled the engine and transmission out of a salvaged track and sent it up to us. All we had to do was drop it into the track. We had it in and running in about two hours. We got to the Oasis about nine o'clock this morning. We haven't done anything since we got out of the truck. I was watching TV but some crazy show was on so I thought I had better drop a line to you'll. I have around 120 days until I go home. PS The newspaper had a picture of the church in it. The church is looking real nice.

Tuesday 31 Oct 67: I am in base camp again. Sgt. Oxendine and I came in yesterday. Rather I came in Sgt. Oxendine was already here. First platoon (*at Ban Me Thuot*) has two tracks down. One with a road wheel arm another has cracked pistons. I brought the road wheel arm with me from the Oasis yesterday. The new engine was already here. We tried to catch a C7 caribou (airplane) out to their location today but the engine wouldn't fit in the plane. So we will take a convoy out tomorrow. All of the mechanics here in base camp will be going to drive a truck and ride shotgun. First platoon is about seventy miles from here. The situation might get a little flakey. I will drive the maintenance truck with Sgt. Oxendine for shotgun. Billings will take another with Barkley for shotgun Lanier will drive another with Farron for shotgun. Two trucks and Lanier will stay with first platoon, Barkley, Farron, Billings will catch a plane back tomorrow afternoon. Sgt. Oxendine and I will drive back in a convoy the next day. We had a little party tonight. Captain Yanney and First Sgt. Berry are leaving us for new assignments. There are a lot of new faces in the battery. PS I got a letter today. Three the day before yesterday. One of them from Dad. Say Hello to everybody for me.

Saturday 4 Nov 67: It has been quite a while since I have wrote. I wrote the last night in base camp that was Tuesday night. We got up at four fifteen ate and breakfast. Then drove to the 704th maintenance where the convoy formed. I rode shotgun for Lanier. A MP told us we wouldn't leave until eight o'clock. So Lanier and I went to sleep. About seven thirty Farron woke us up by beating on the door. Then we moved out to check point 31. Waited a while there. Then we came out here (*Ban Me Thuot it was about a three and a half hour drive*). When we got here we had three tracks down and not running. One had a broken road arm, one a road wheel broken off. We replaced the road wheel. I had put the wrong road wheel arm on the

truck. So we took the old one off called in for the right arm.



Late that afternoon we got a wrecker to pull the pack with a cracked piston. We had the new engine in at eleven thirty pm. It didn't take me long to get into bed. (*Note: I remember this. We were working under lights. On a forward fire base at night working under lights you feel like a great big target. You are just waiting for that mortar round.*)

Thursday morning we put the road wheel arm on the track. Then put a new generator on one of the tracks. The same one we put the new engine in. It wasn't putting out any juice and charging the batteries. Then that track moved out to a fire base. Claypool is squad leader on that track now. Then we worked on another track with bad mags and then the last one whose fuel injection pump needed adjustment. Friday I worked on one of the guns. We worked on two and a half ton trucks putting on CV boots, adjusting brakes and clutches. Last night the fire base Claypool was on got mortared. He was supposed to move out, but his track wouldn't start, the batteries were dead. I haven't done much. We worked on another two and a half ton. I pulled a little maintenance on the truck. I sleep late every morning until about eight or eight thirty. Sgt. Oxendine and I were supposed to go into base camp today, but a bunch of VC were spotted in the area. No vehicles were allowed in or out. So here we are tonight. We just got word if we come under attack Lanier, Anderson and I are supposed to go to the only track on the perimeter and pass ammo up to them while they fire. I just hope nothing happens.

Wednesday 8 Nov 67: I got the package today. It got here while I was at Bam Bleck. Sgt. Oxendine and I got into Dragon Mountain yesterday afternoon. It was a 60 mile drive. The convoy made pretty good time. We could have done better. There was a wrecker pulling a truck in the convoy. So we couldn't get to fast. There is a stretch of paved road outside Dragon. It has a lot of chuck holes in it. Just before we got to base camp those fellows started driving like maniacs for some reason everybody wanted to get to base camp first. I just let up on the gas and let them go and fell in to the last position and kept up with

them. There were several that fell in behind me. We just let the rest have the road. Last night Sgt. Oxendine got word we were getting a VTR. (Vehicle Track Retriever), one of the small ones. I hope so. He and I are moving into base camp. He is going to try and operate out of base camp with it. I will keep on driving the truck. We also got a welding rig. I am going to try getting Barkley to teach me to weld. Billings has also had experience at welding. With both of them I might learn. By the way I don't know if I will ever have the time to put it together. The fellows have built a nice EM club in the barracks. I am thinking about putting it there let everybody have a chance to work on it. *(I might be referring to a model that was sent to me)*

You mentioned a TV report on a big attack on Camp Carroll. I have never heard of the place. It is not around Camp Enari (Dragon Mountain). I told Brousseau you said it was winter at home. He said "My parents say there is snow on the ground back home", he is from New Hampshire. So be glad you're in Arkansas. According to the TV the high here during the day is 82 at night 62. "Winter! what's that?" I will keep my eyes open for the fellows from Channel 7. Don't worry about not sending a letter one day for the last few weeks I have gone for days at a time without writing, so I won't complain. There are some letters in the glove compartment of the truck I wrote two weeks ago. I haven't mailed yet. One is to you'll the others to all my grandparents, Mike and Phyllis. I got the letter that Pop and Mac wrote. Mac, how about a rocket launcher instead of a tank? I will keep my eyes open for that field jacket. PS Now that I have paper and am going into base camp I should be able to write more. I will try.



I am in base camp right now. Sgt. Oxendine and I will be going to Bam Bleck tomorrow. They have a track needing a left rear road wheel arm. We are taking it to them. He says we will be staying for about a week. Brousseau moved into base camp today. We fixed a flat on the truck (I had fixed one yesterday). Then took the truck and drove to the Oasis to pick up his stuff. We stopped at where the 10th Cav use to be. We picked up a .50 cal mount for a 2 1/2 ton truck that the Cav left behind when they moved. We are going to put it on the maintenance truck. It has been raining here all day. There is a typhoon somewhere. We are getting part of it. I have been in and

out of it all day, I got kind of wet. I am going to bed early tonight. We have to get up early in the morning about 4 or 4:30 am.

Saturday 12 Nov 67: ("hope" was written beside the date). We didn't get to Bam Bleck today. The convoy was canceled last night because of the rain I guess. We tried to catch a plane today. It was canceled. I don't know what for. We got the parts on a chopper this afternoon. Tomorrow we will try to catch a convoy again. We spent the morning trying to get a flight out. This afternoon I slept till 2:00. We spent the rest of the afternoon trying to get the parts on a chopper. We got them out at 5:00. I also mounted the spare tire on the truck. Right now I am setting in the EM club watching Gun Smoke on TV. I didn't get any mail today. So I don't have too much to say. I bought a Field and Stream magazine yesterday. It had a picture of a '68 Ford pickup. It looks pretty good.

I am in base camp again. We got back this afternoon in time for chow. We got to Bam Bleck about noon on Sunday. That afternoon we put in a generator, voltage regulator, road wheel arm and one shock. That night we pulled an engine and put on a new transmission. Monday morning we put a fuel pump on a track. We spent all afternoon trying to get a good starter to put on a 2-1/2. We had a few old starters, tried to get a good one out of them. This morning Barkley sent up a good starter only thing it was the wrong kind, the Bendix spring had a gear for a 5 ton truck. So we broke out another old starter changed the rear end and had a starter that worked. We left Bam Bleck at 2:00 got here at 5:00. I really did some wild driving getting here. The convoy really moved out. I had to do some hard driving, I enjoyed it. Dak To is about 80 miles north of here. Just send something to eat for Christmas. Cookies, fudge, Hi Ho crackers, canned cheese spread, etc. That snow sounds pretty good. I got a letter from Phyllis today; tell her I will answer as soon as I can. I don't feel right if I don't write pretty often. I have been real busy lately. The weather sounds just about right for squirrel hunting.

Wednesday 16 Nov 67 I am still in base camp. We put a transmission in a track. We spent most of the morning trying to get a wrecker and I finally got here this afternoon. We had the engine back in before 5 o'clock. Billings and Farron are taking a transmission up to Dak To tomorrow. The truck they are taking had two flats. We took two tires off of a dead lined truck and put them on their truck. Dak To got mortared at 9:00 this morning. One of our quads was in another mortar attack last night. They have a punctured gas tank and three tires with mortar fragments in them. We took the gas tank off of the dead lined truck and sent it out to them. I want you'll to send me all of my color negatives. A few of us are going to trade negatives. We will be able to get some good pictures that way. Sgt. Oxendine and I will be going to the Oasis

tomorrow. We will be spending the night. One of the guns blew up last night. The fellow feeding it forced it to double feed. (Put a round in the chamber with one already in it) He is in the hospital now. He has some 3rd degree burns & shrapnel in his arm. He is doing OK. That is all.

Friday 17 Nov 67: Well I am back in base camp again. Sgt. Oxendine and I went to the Oasis yesterday. He took the truck and checked out a track at the Rock quarry between the Oasis and Jackson Hole. I worked on one of the guns. The elevation travel lock was hard to work. I adjusted the linkage and oiled it. Then it worked OK. I helped Jurk (*Jurklovonich?*) and Munt tear the guns apart and clean them. That track only has a one man crew. That's Jurk. Munt helps him. At night some of the men out of headquarters section go with Munt and Jurk around the perimeter to fire H and I. This morning we pulled an engine out and got the track ready for the new one when it gets here. Then after lunch we were back here. Parked the truck, got out and pulled another pack (*engine and transmission*). We put a new transmission on this one and had it back in and ready to go before dark. I also had a flat tire while at the Oasis. I took the tire off broke it down. The tube had a cut about 3in long in it. We don't have any patches that big so I put the parts in the truck and put the spare on the truck. The tire had an 8 common nail in it. If I had taken the tire off when I first saw it flat I could have patched it. I just didn't have the time. So we drove it flat. The tire was on one of the rear dual tires. So it didn't hurt to drive it. The tires are easier to break down if you drive the flat for a little while. Since we break them down by hand it is worth it in my book.

I got the newspaper today no letters. You'll should see my hair it is pretty long. The last time it was cut was about 28 Sept. I have to comb it back on the sides so it won't tickle my ears. I will get it cut as soon as I get the time. I don't know when that will be. I hope tomorrow. I can't think of much else to say. Besides being tired I am OK.

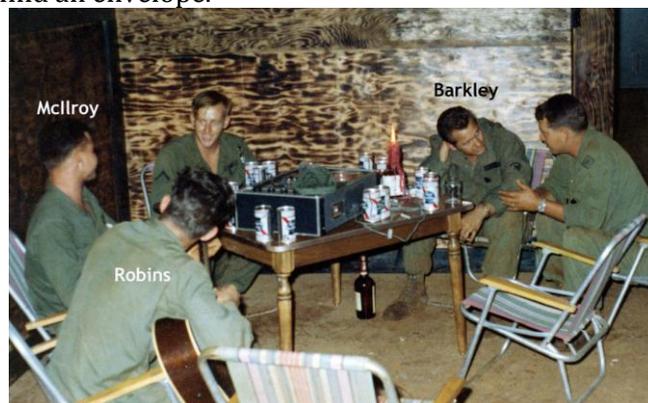
PS. It may be a while before I can get a letter off to Mike & Phyllis & Mac tell them Hi from me and just to hang on.

Sunday 19 Dec (NOV?): I got two letters today. Pop said you'll hadn't got a letter in 7 days. I hope you have got one by now. I am sure you have. We went to the Oasis yesterday to put an engine in one of the tracks. The same one we pulled out a few days ago. Farron and I took the maintenance truck out. Barkley and Sgt. Oxendine went to artillery hill to pick up the engine then went to the Oasis. We had the pack (engine & transmission) back in by 7:00. The starter had a broke wire. The engine wouldn't start. Farron went back to base camp with the Captain. I don't believe I have told you we have a new Captain, also a new First Sergeant. The rest of us spent the night. We put on another starter in the morning. When we left it was running like a clock. Right now Robins, Barkley, Billings, Farron and I are setting around chewing the fat. Listening to Barkley (Buck) play the guitar. I am going to have to get

some envelopes pretty soon because I am fast running out. I will close now tomorrow we are going to put a rear seal in the transmission of one of the jeeps.

Monday 20 Nov 67: Well another day gone. This morning two quads and two forty's went out to test fire I went along with them. Before we left I worked on a quad. We got back about 1:00 this afternoon. After eating I went to the motor pool and checked out one of the guns that didn't extract a round. I couldn't find anything wrong except the gun was dirty. Then I finally got around to putting that tire together I broke down the other day. Pop you said you were getting tired of traveling. I am getting tired of the Army. If I can hold out a little longer I will be OK. Brousseau got back with the VTR late this afternoon. (*Note: Brousseau went into Qui Nhon and picked up the VTR*) He brought a new man in with him a Sp5. He will be in the maintenance section. I will be using my last envelope for this letter. So if I don't get any today I will have to bum one tomorrow night. I guess that is all.

Wednesday 22 Nov 67: I wrote a letter last night. I didn't mail it today so I will enclose it with this letter. This morning Billings and I went to Artillery Hill, with a truck with a broken valve lifter. We got a tow bar and pulled it behind our truck. Every time we turned a corner the front wheels would turn left or right and lock. We would stop I would straighten the wheels and we would take off again. After while Billings found out if he took the turn kind of fast it wouldn't do it. We got there OK. We tried to turn the truck into Ordinance until 1:30. Finally we gave up and headed back. Billings took one sharp curve to fast and the truck jackknifed on us. It bent the tow bar pretty bad. We got the truck straightened out. I got in the truck being pulled and steered it around the turns. We got back here about 3:30 without any further mishap. Tonight about 7:30 one of the tracks had a shock mounting bracket fall off. Billings, Lanier and I got some bolts and fixed it. There was a 155 mm howitzer about 30 yards from us firing. We had to put a finger in our ears every time it fired. We got through with that about 9:30. Rest of the night I have spent in the EM club listening to Barkley play the guitar and sing. It is now 5 till 11 lights are out at 11:00 so I will have to close and find an envelope.



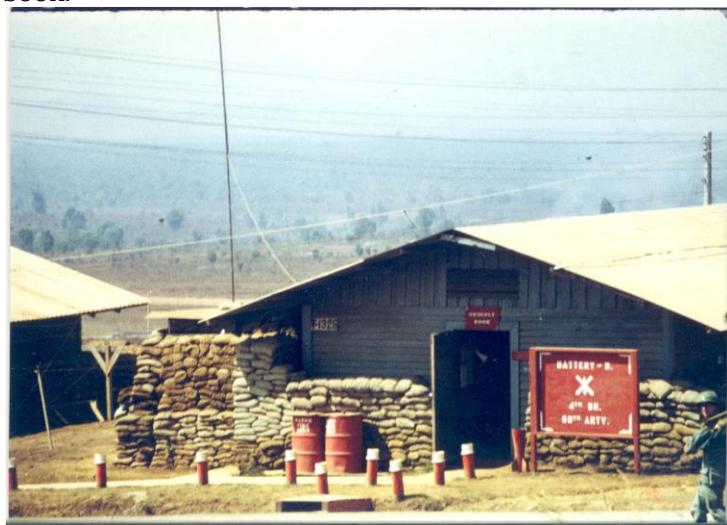
Thursday 23 Nov 67: I got one of those packages marked do not open until Christmas. We have a few fellows that are real short. Bland has about 4 days left and Robins has 8 days. Another bag of mail came in, Lanier is sorting it. I am watching TV. I am on CQ runner tonight. This morning we used the VTR to stack a bunch of track sections that were piled up. It took most of the morning to do that. This afternoon I tried to sweep some of the dirt out of the maintenance truck. Since it was real windy I just rolled the canvas back and let the wind blow it out. It didn't blow it all out. I figure a few more days of it the truck will be pretty clean. I also got a letter today saying you'll had got 5 letters. Tell Dude I am rooting for him and Dick to get a deer. I want Mac to get one to. Tomorrow Billings, Farron and I are going to Artillery Hill to turn in an old engine to them and try to get some artillery parts. Lanier came in from Bam Bleck today. He is going to battalion HQ (in Qui Nhon) to get his pay straightened out. He hasn't got any money the past two months. I can't think of anything else so I will close now.

Saturday 25 Nov 67: I have CQ tonight from 6:00 this afternoon until 12:00 tonight. I wake Sgt. Negron up at 12:00 then he takes over. My sinuses are acting up. I have been sick all day. I think I might have a cold also. I spent most of the day putting a CV boot on a 2 1/2 ton. It is a rubber sleeve that fits over the front axle inside of the hub. It keeps dirt out of the steering knuckle it is packed with grease. It is held on by two wire hoops. I would get the inside on and start to put on the hoop it would slip off of the axle. I finally got it on at about two o'clock this afternoon. I had to quit about four times. I got so mad I had to stop and cool off. *(Note: When I put a boot on I would have grease all over me. Billings could put one on and only have grease on his finger tips)* Besides the wind was blowing dirt in my face. Like I said I wasn't feeling too good. The truck I was working on is going to Ordinance to have a new clutch put in. The other truck we have been working on went into Ordinance yesterday morning. I put it in myself. It is time to wake up Negron. I will close for now.

Thanksgiving 1967 I didn't know today was going to be Thanksgiving until late last night when someone told me it was. This morning we got to sleep late. I slept until 8:00. Barkley, Lanier and I took that 2-1/2 ton to Ordinance. One of the men inspected the truck. He said it was in real good shape except for little stuff such as loose bolts, one of the batteries had a hole in the top and the brakes needed adjusting. A 2-1/2 ton has dual tires on the rear. The tires are supposed to be mounted so the valve stems are 180 opposite of each other, two of the tires weren't like this. We brought the truck back to the motor pool to work the gig's off. We quit at 1:00 ate chow at 2:00. Believe me we had a good meal and lots of it. I ate two tray's full. Came back to the barracks laid down and slept till 6:00. I slept through supper. I ate enough at lunch

to make up for it. I am going to close Barkley is starting to tune up his guitar. You'll may not get to much money the next two months. I am going to send Mike & Phyllis the money next month to buy everybody presents with. What is left I'll have them give you to put in the bank to buy a tape recorder. That is about \$125.00 for that. I got one letter today.

The last time I wrote Saturday night I was sick. Yesterday I woke up with a bad cold. Sgt. Oxendine wanted me to drive out to check point 95. I told him I was to sick. So he got Barkley. I slept till lunch got up and ate. Being sick didn't affect my appetite to much. I ate just as much but slower. "Band Aid" (our Aid man) has been feeding me pills since Saturday afternoon. I am taking two different type's now besides my malaria pills and vitamin pill. I slept Sunday afternoon got to bed early Sunday night. I woke up this morning feeling much better. I still have the cold. I am pretty sure I will be over it in a few days. I didn't work real hard today just helped Billings and Barkley around the motor pool. Sennet just handed me a letter and a package. Since I can't open the package until Christmas I will put it in my wall locker with the other one. I am sorry about Porter he was a great guy. I wish I could have attended his funeral with the rest. My base camp is Camp Enari we call it Dragon Mountain. It is about 15 miles south of Plei Ku (Play-coo) I have about 75 days before I leave for home. I am going to close and read a book.



Delta Battery HQ at Camp Enari next to Dragon Mountain.

This is the end of Part 2, we will finish up in the next newsletter.

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4/60th Re-Activation 2021

I believe it is official; the 4th Battalion 60th Air Defense Artillery has been re-activated after a 50-year hiatus. There will be a formal ceremony in early 2022 at Ft. Sill. Former 4/60th vets are welcome and encouraged to attend. We will try to get more details ASAP.

Dues:

/ /22 Ck# Total \$

Donations: Q- S- E- GW- B-

Mailing Label ->

NEW ADDRESS

Cut out and tape to envelope

Allan Penwell

**1613 Congressional Way
Champaign, IL 61822**

NDQSA- MEMBERSHIP INVOICE / ROSTER UPDATE FORM

(Tear off this page and mail it in with your up to date contact information and unit history)
This version supersedes any previous forms as certain options are no longer available.

Roster Contact Information (Please Print)

Are you a new or existing NDQSA contact?

circle one → (New) (Existing)

First Name: _____

Middle Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Nickname: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email(s): _____

Home Phone: () -

Cell Phone: () -

Service Information (Viet Nam) (fill out even if on file)

Dates of 1st tour (m/yr): ____/____ to ____/____

Addtn'l tour (m/yr): ____/____ to ____/____

Primary MOS: _____

Primary Battery/Unit: _____

Attached To: _____

Names of bases:

Names/hometowns of buddies you knew:

Rank (highest grade while in Viet Nam)

Grade: Officer: ____ NCO: ____ EM: ____

Valor Awards

PH () DSC () SS () BS/V () ACM/V ()

If you want to get the newsletter only by email and forego the paper mailed copy, please check this box. () ←

If you want to switch back from email to paper mail, please check this box. () ←

DUES - DONATIONS

Make check/MO payable to NDQSA

Dues: circle payment(s) for (2022) (2023) (2024) (2025)

DUES ARE \$25 PER YEAR \$ _____

Donations: Quad 50 restoration \$ _____

Searchlight restoration \$ _____

Operation Eagle Repair \$ _____

Good Works \$ _____

NEW-> ADA Bricks \$ _____

NDQSA IS NO LONGER ACCEPTING PRODUCT ORDERS

Product: NDQSA Emb. Patch @ \$5 = \$ _____

NDQSA Logo Decal @ \$5 = \$ _____

Bumper Sticker @ \$10 = \$ _____

Circle (Duster)(Quad)(SLT)(HAWK)(Vulcan)

Challenge Coin: ____ coin @ \$12 = \$ _____

Lucite Challenge Coin: ____ @ \$25 = \$ _____

NDQSA Pin Set: ____ sets @ \$8 = \$ _____

.50-cal bottle opener @ \$14 = \$ _____

NEW NDQSA HAT @ \$15 = \$ _____

NDQSA T-shirt (black)(grey)

Size: ____ # ____ @ \$15 = \$ _____

NDQSA Polo Shirt (black)(tan)

Size: ____ # ____ @ \$30 = \$ _____

(regular) (tall)

-No more jackets being produced

TOTAL \$ _____

If paying dues presents a hardship for you but you still want to be an Active Member, check this box [] ←

Some members have made donations to assist you.

National Dusters, Quads &
Searchlights Association
1613 Congressional Way
Champaign, IL 61822

<= New Address

Forward Service Requested



Dusters, Quads, Searchlights, Vulcans & HAWKS
Air Defense Artillery
“First To Fire...Last To Leave”

**39th Annual Reunion
Oklahoma City & Ft. Sill OK
July 5-10, 2022**

<http://www.ndqsa.com>

Issue 3 December 2021

Face Book [Dqs historian](#)

Many of you have already paid for multiple years, so look carefully at the mailing label for the year which shows when you are paid up through. (2022 or beyond)

However, if you see the number 0000 or 2021 and below, we have not seen a dues payment from you in a while. If you can't afford the dues, we fully understand so do not worry about it. We only ask that you update your status and verify your contact information, **phone numbers and email address**. Just mail in the info using the multipurpose form or send an email.

Current rosters are printed out in early 2022 and will contain the most up to date information. So please make any updates or changes ASAP!

If you have changed your phone number or email address recently, send an email to Paul Kopsick at dqshistorian@cox.net or leave a message on (202) 262-9560.

To be sure you get the newsletter via email, tell your email program to accept emails from dqshistorian@cox.net.

MISSION STATEMENT

The National Dusters, Quads & Searchlights Association™ (NDQSA™) is the original, official representative for ADA Veterans who served in Viet Nam. NDQSA is the **only** organization of Viet Nam ADA Veterans officially recognized by the Air Defense Artillery Association headquarters in Ft. Sill, Oklahoma. As a tribute to the memory of over 210 ADA warriors who lost their lives during the war in Viet Nam, NDQSA members have funded, constructed and dedicated a magnificent monument in the Memorial Park at Ft. Sill.

NDQSA was founded in 1981 by John Huelsenbeck et al, holds annual reunions and has grown to over 500 active members with a directory of over 2200 ADA Viet Nam Veterans and supporters.

NDQSA is an IRS 501(c) (19) non-profit veteran's organization and is incorporated in the State of Indiana.

We welcome and encourage all ADA Veterans who served in Viet Nam to join NDQSA and to share the fellowship, mutual support, and continued service to our nation on behalf of all military veterans and active duty personnel. Welcome Home!