



CHINA-BURMA-INDIA
VIETNAM
GRENADA



75TH RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION INC

PO BOX 670174 MARIETTA GA 30066



PATROLLING

OCTOBER 1988

VOLUME 2

ISSUE 3

First National Reunion: Who Was There?

Members from all thirteen Ranger Companies, 75th Infantry, Vietnam, members of twelve Long Range Patrol Companies, Vietnam, four members from provisional LRRP units, Vietnam, members from the 1st and 2nd Ranger Battalions, Grenada, peacetime veterans of the 75th Ranger Regiment, an original Merrill's Marauder - Phil Piazza, and four Vietnamese Ranger Battalion advisors who wanted to share the magic of the moment with us.

Reunion Early Birds

Ron Rucker and Paul Coleman from F/58th LRP and L/75th were on station first, followed by a six man team from F/75th - five of whom were members, and the sixth joined that day. We wish all the F/75th Rangers could have stayed, but most departed right after the Rangers in Action demonstration Monday afternoon. They did get in a couple of good days in the hospitality room, interacting with Rangers and LRP members from every unit in Vietnam and also some from Grenada.



LURPs and Ranger National Reunion attendees at Victory Pond, Fort Benning, arrive to enjoy a Rangers in Action demonstration.

The King is Dead! Long Live The King

by Bob Gilbert

They crowded into Vance Memorial Chapel in Phenix City, Alabama. Red, Green, and Black Berets, members from the original Army Parachute Test Platoon and all that followed then through WW II, Korea, Vietnam, Grenada; and all the troopers in between.

Retired Army Master Sergeant William N. "Red" King, the first enlisted man to jump from an airplane in the U. S. Army was buried August 23, 1988, at the Fort Mitchell, Alabama National Cemetery, just minutes South of Phenix City, Alabama.

Members of the 1st Battalion, 507th Parachute Infantry Regiment, formally the Airborne Department, provided the Honor Guard for this Airborne Centurion. General (Ret) William Ryder, the first officer in the Army to blast through the door opposite Red King officiated along with Reverend George B. Wood, Colonel (Chaplain) (Ret), wearing his camouflaged parachute habit.

Troopers, some of whom I have not seen in over

forty years, were there. Familiar forces from long ago, names lost in time but surfacing to pay their last respects to a tiger amongst Airborne Soldiers.

Honorary pallbearers were the still lean, hard, members of the Parachute Test Platoon. Backs ramrod straight, stomachs flat and tight . . . the cutting edge of the Airborne forces who dropped in Normandy, Holland, Southern France, across the Rhine, Tagatay Ridge, Corrigedor, Sukchon, Sunchon, Munsan, Vietnam, and Grenada; and including my old Jump School First Sergeant, a member of the Parachute Test Platoon, Mike Hostinsky.

Heading down Alabama 431 toward Fort Mitchell National Cemetery I could, at one point, see over a mile to my front and rear; cars in the procession like an Airborne Sky Train in tight formation, keeping Red King on his vector toward Fort Mitchell.

A neighbor who served with Red King at Fort

continued on page 2

The King is Dead! Long Live the King!

Benning during the late 1930's recalled he could kick a football over the top of a Cuartel. Earlier this year I asked Red, who was known as the "Spartan" for his all around physical prowess at nearly any sport, about that he smiled and said, "almost."

Fort Mitchell National Cemetery lies between Fort Benning and Fryar Drop Zone. As the C-130s and C-141s climb out of Lawson Army Airfield, their heading on pass after pass goes right over Red King's final DZ. A fitting tribute to the first enlisted jumper in the U.S. Army - to forever have the roar of the engines at takeoff and the thud of new paratroopers landings echoing on in the history he blazed for all of us during 1940, as a 29th Infantry volunteer for the U.S. Army Parachute Test Platoon.

President's Notes

During the 1988 National Reunion at Fort Benning and Columbus, Georgia, some of the units replaced their unit representatives to the National Association. I have heard from some of you, however, we are not certain who is in (or out) of the system now. Therefore, please write me (at the address shown elsewhere) or call letting me know you are the new or continuing unit representative to the Board of Directors.

With regard to our newsletter, it is written in Columbus, GA. The layout and editorial work is still done there by Jim England, Editor of **Patrolling**, and we need your input to continue going to Columbus for the newsletter. Sometimes we receive so many pictures it takes a year to run them, however, we eventually get to them so please continue to forward copies with newsworthy items or memories you want printed - especially humorous ones. We also welcome any active duty information concerning the Regiment or Battalions to include the Ranger Training Brigade.

At least for a little while I have convinced Bob Gilbert to continue the column he has written for **Static Line** since December 1986, that tells stories of LRRP, LRP, and 75th Rangers in action. He has recently started on the Medal of Honor (MoH) series, featuring: Laszlo Rabel, 74th Inf. Det. LRP, 173rd Airborne Brigade, the first and only LRP MoH winner in the history of the Army; Robert D. Law, Co. I (Ranger) 75th Inf., 1st Infantry Division, the first American Ranger to win the MoH while assigned to a Army Ranger unit; and, Robert J. Purden, Co. G (Ranger) 75th Inf., 23rd Infantry Division (Americal), the second Ranger MoH winner. Bob does need input from a variety of people who knew and served with all of these Rangers - Rabel, Law, and Purden.

Please forward your recollections of them and other items for possible **Static Line** use to Bob Gilbert at 3657 Irwin Way, Columbus, GA 31906. Items for **Patrolling** should be forwarded to Jim England at 809 30th St., Columbus, GA 31904.

Master Sergeant Ray Wells, S-5 NCO for the 75th Ranger Regiment and a former Vietnam Special Forces



Pam and Donny, "The Works," provided a wide variety of music for reunion attendees and guests.

type who provided us considerable support during the first National Reunion while he was on leave, is going over some historical items with Bob Gilbert for a display at the Regimental Headquarters soon. Many items are no longer available, for example, Tiger fatigues. The ones Bob used in the Mekong Delta during '65-'66 repose in the 101st Airborne Museum at Fort Campbell, KY, with Don Lynch's name tape on them and the LRP scroll. We had to do a composite there to include the LRP in the display for the 101st history. We may have to do so again, elsewhere, to get all oars in the historical waters. Some of the items and photos will, no doubt, be sent to battalions for display.

You have to understand, the system as it currently exists, does not include **all 75th Ranger lineage**. This is the result of Rangers of WWII and Korea doing a lot of complaining to the Secretary of the Army and Army historians. For example, Co. L/75th would, under normal conditions, fall under the 3rd Battalion history. What we have as a result of manipulation is a convoluted history and lineage for the 75th Ranger Regiment which fails to include the only two 75th Ranger Medal of Honor recipients from Companies I and G.

One should be able to expect that the only two Ranger Company Medal of Honor recipients would be part of the active duty Regiment's history - not so! We are considering a campaign to correct the current errors and allow the Regiment to enjoy its rightful historical perspective.

Donations

Our thanks to the following Rangers who made donations to the Association: Tony Libassi, Gene Acherson, Roger W. Hunter, Kevin Henry, Dick James, Roy Boatman, Welton Wardell, Joe Bielesch, Bill Gawthrop, Gary Frye, Larry Chambers, Bob Glasser, John R. Files, Chase Riley, and one whose name was lost that purchased a membership for a buddy named Antonio Taitano Guerrero, C/75th.

Letters

Our host, Major General Kenneth C. Leuer, Fort Benning CG at the time, sent a letter dated July 19, 1988, looking forward to attending our banquet. However, a call from TRADOC caused him to cancel. Retired now, the General advised that, "Your proposal to memorialize the Ranger Medal of Honor awardees by naming something at Fort Benning for them is a good idea. I will be proud to submit their names to our memorialization board for consideration as new facilities are constructed."

From the Desk of the President:

Congratulations to the newly elected officers who will serve from 1988 to 1990. My sincere thanks to all who understood my situation and elected me president; in absentia. Please be assured I will do my best to insure your belief in me is carried out to the fullest.

As you were told, my employment required me to be in Dallas, Texas (all during the reunion), and I live just North of Columbus, GA. You were in my thoughts.

Again, I ask you to forward me any and all copies of orders you may have to help locate your buddies - other Rangers and LURPS.

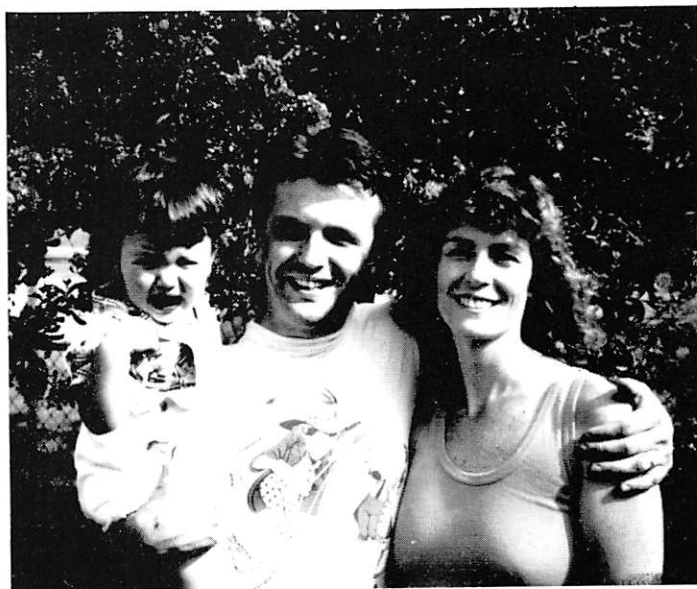
I also solicit comments and recommendations you have regarding objectives we might undertake. Please forward your ideas to me at P.O. Box 670174, Marietta, GA 30066.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Billy J. Nix, President



(L-R, rear) Jim Jordan, Robin Kristiansen, Tom McCoy, Jim Moran, Bob Glasser, (L-R, front) John Yeck, Joe Kennedy, and David Weeks, smile for the camera at the National Reunion. All served with L/75th Rangers.



(L-R) Logan, Donny, and Pam Gaudreau. Pam and Donny were our National Reunion Banquet entertainers.

An Open Letter to All Rangers and Long Range Patrol Members From Your Banquet Night Entertainers, Pam and Donny Gaudreau "The Works"

We feel a need to relay to you our feelings after meeting all of you at your first National Reunion. I only wish I had known then, the night of the banquet, what I learned later listening to some tapes of actual operations you conducted. What a privilege it was for us to participate and share in your reunion.

Pam's uncle, some of you call him Top, never related to her those real life experiences all of you had, risking your lives, while she was just a child. We woke up to reality after meeting all of you.

We realize the mission concerning Joe Champion, whom we read about, is but one of many and the men with whom we spoke from that mission represent but one company out of many. But, that is what is so riveting to us.

The passionate emotions; that incredible capacity for greatness that we saw in each of you we spoke with lives in each and every one of you men. It instilled in us the inspiration to search for the greatness inside of us.

I don't think you realize the effects of what you did are still felt today like aftershock from an earthquake. Ripples traveling far and wide for a long, long, time. By learning your stories, I found hope where there is none. Your spirit of, "Go for it," inspires us to live our lives to the limit of our abilities. We are not trying to flatter you by regarding you as unsung heroes; just stating the facts as we see them.

We hope we can, from this point on, carry the message you conveyed to us in our music so that you will no longer be unsung. Memories of you will live on in us and in our children.

Fond Regards and Appreciation,
Pamela & Donny Gaudreau

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75th RANGER REG
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JULY 2



The parents of Medal of Honor awardee Robert J. Pruden, enjoy reunion activities. Ranger Pruden was a team leader with G/75th.



Whole lotta' shakin' goin on to "The Works."

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Staff Sergeant Laszlo R
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Retired First Sergeant Ralph Banks, a reunion guest, fought for two years with the 42nd Vietnamese Ranger Battalion, and later joined the 173rd Airborne Brigade as a platoon sergeant. Ranger advisers have no place to hang their hat and many would welcome affiliate membership with us.



Yessir baby!!! That is Robin Kristiansen cutting loose on stage with a tambourine and gyrating to the rythm of "The Works."

Honor Graduates, Ranger Indoctrination Program

The 75th Ranger Regiment Association has presented plaques to the following Soldiers of the Regiment, according to RIP records. Any soldier listed who has not received his plaque should contact the Association President at the address listed in the newsletter. Each name is followed by their class number: PFC David M. Cooke (8-87), PVT Michael S. Fields (9-87), PVT Dennis W. Largent (10-87), SP4 Stephen Roberts (11-87), PFC Michael W. Grow (12-87), PVT Richard Zimmerman (14-87), PVT Ray P. Naylor (15-87), PFC Timothy O. Henry (16-87), PFC Andrew C. Cygan (1-88), PFC Rod D. Riddle (2-88), PVT William C. Ogren (3-88), SP4 Victor A. Hoyos Jr. (4-88), SP4 Davon L. Lewis (5-88), SP4 Basil Cartegena (6-88), PFC Cecil L. Clark (7-88), PFC Joshua L. Vincent (8-88), William R. Fox (9-88), Randolph D. Brumgard (10-88), PFC Brandon D. Newton (11-88), Stephen G. Taylor (12-88), Jeffrey Damrov (13-88), Jody Milani (14-88), and PVT Raymond A. Bork (15-88). Class 13-87 was canceled, however a plaque was prepared in advance.



(L-R) Sergeant John D. Schlichte, a proud 3rd Bn CSM, and Karl E. Schlichte. The Schlichte brothers won the 7th Annual David E. Grange, Jr. Best Ranger Competition, and were presented a Regimental Association plaque. John is now a college student in Massachusetts studying criminal justice.

So We Hear

by Bob Gilbert

An organization that has been attempting to inflict itself upon other Ranger Associations as an **umbrella** organization for all apparently did it again.

A few years ago they called a National Association meeting at the Airport Holiday Inn in Columbus, GA. Twelve people showed up, all of them local, except for the President who did not come at all. They are getting better though. The meeting they called this time brought in about thirty members according to rumor control and, you guessed it, from rumor control comes the word their President failed to come to this national meeting.

A letter from one of our K/75 Nam Rangers concerning their doubling of national dues caused them to retract that after they read his letter in one of our early **Patrolling** newsletters. We wish them well, however we can do without the umbrella because anything of interest to **combat** Ranger unit associations and active duty Rangers can be accomplished by banding together on a need-to-basis.

The Association plans to do just that in the near future, because the Army historians, et al, refuse to recognize a unit known as the 8213th Army Service Unit as a Ranger unit for inclusion in Army Ranger history. Those of us who fought in Korea during 1950-51 recall the unit by its more common name - 8th Army Ranger Company.

Like the provisional LRRP and LRP TO&E units in Vietnam, those of us who served in Army Ranger Companies believe we are much better judges of who or what units should be included in Army Ranger lineage than a pack of bloody clerks in the Army Historical Branch or the Army Adjutant General who does what

he's told anyway.

If the historians can provide a convoluted history for the 75th Ranger Regiment beginning with the 5307th Composite Unit Provisional (Merrill's Marauders), thence to the 475th Infantry Regiment using those survivors of the Marauders, thence to the 75th Infantry on Okinawa during 1954 (P.S. did anybody count **that** colonel as the nth Colonel of the Regiment?), and on to Vietnam where the 75th was reactivated with the Marauder's lineage, then why cannot those LRRP and LRP units we recognize be included?

You take a guy like Kenn Miller, author of a novel called **Tiger, the LURP Dog**, who served in the 1st Brigade 101st LRRP, Co. F, 58th Inf LRP, and finally Co. L (Ranger), 75th Infantry. Ask Kenn what is/was the difference in all three. About as much as you'll find between three fairies dancing on the head of a straight pin.

Reunion Photography

Robin Kristiansen advises that the 8x10's from the reunion are ready. Contact Robin at: 19520 Michigan Hill Road, Rochester, WA 98579, telephone (206) 273-5813. He took well over 350 photos during the reunion and many of you ordered specific pictures in advance.

POW/MIA Dateline

Prisoner of War - Missing in Action League of Families National Headquarters: 1608 K Street N.W., Washington, DC 20006. Drop them a postcard and see if you can help, or find out how you can help.

Korea, the Forgotten War

The American Battle Monuments Commission is responsible for executing the provisions of Public Law 99-572, which calls for the building of a Korean War Memorial. A tax deductible fund has been established pay for the building of the memorial. Contributions should be sent to: American Battle Monuments Commission (Korean War Memorial Fund), P.O. Box 2372, Washington, DC 20013-2372.

As the music moved into high gear at our National Reunion, the night of July 27, three men who had served with the 187th ARCT were celebrating an anniversary. The 27th of July is significant because, first, the guns fell silent in Korea after thirty-seven months of fighting, and second, thirty-five years later they were celebrating at a banquet the melding of four generations of Merrill's Marauders - the 5307th CUP, 75th (Ranger) Infantry and LRRPs/LRPs Vietnam, 75th (Ranger) Infantry Grenada, and peacetime veterans of the 75th Ranger Regiment.

Of the three Korean War veterans of the 187th, one lost a leg to a Chicom grenade seven days before the war ended in a stalemate; but not before taking out a squad of Chinese with his BAR. The other two went on to serve in Vietnam - in the Mekong Delta and I Corps, in different units from LURP to Rangers.

Of these two, one was wounded four times in two months leading LRRP patrols in the Delta while assigned as First Sergeant of the 9th Division LRRPs. When asked who minded the store and took care of the troops, he laughed, saying "the 9th Division had me put out as many as twenty patrols at a time. Nobody minded the store."

A fourth veteran of the 187th ARCT was also at the reunion. After two combat jumps into North Korea as a Pathfinder, he later went on to college.

There are also still POWs/MIAs unaccounted for from the Korean War. Try and make a contribution for the Korean War Memorial if it is within your means to do so - its a nice way of saying thanks.



Awards, Awards, Awards

Did you receive all of the awards you and your unit were entitled to? If not, write to Military Personnel Records Center, 9700 Page Boulevard, St. Louis, MO 63132. You should provide the following information: I respectfully request that my military records be checked for the medals I am entitled to, I may be entitled to some I am not aware of. Please mail the medals to the following address . . . insure you include your zip code. Also provide your: Full name, first, middle, last; home of record at time of entry into military service; date of enlistment; date of discharge; Army service number and/or social security number; and, branch of service.



Lead jumper for the Silver Wings Parachute Team at Fort Benning brought in Herman Brown's Distinguished Service Cross.

Team Photos Wanted!

Send us a team photo for publication

Wartime, Peacetime, Anytime

Seed Money

The Association opened a bank account in 1986 with a deposit of \$2,491.55. Of that money, \$1,176.55 was in the form of donations and was the residue of funds remaining after Don Lynch paid all the bills at the reunion held at Fort Campbell, KY. The remainder came from individuals who, after learning one individual bought the 75th Ranger Monument located on the Airborne Memorial Walk at Fort Benning, sent him funds to defray his personal expenses and became part of that monuments history in the process.

The Association is proud to announce that the newly elected Board of Directors begins their tenure with the Association finances solidly in the black and all reunion expenses paid - well done.

Association members will be receiving a financial statement from Nick as soon as he and Billy sort out how they want the mailing done for it.

Of Special Note

Just prior to the reunion Ranger Medic Bruce "Doc" Johnson came in from the Middle East where he works now and had supper with us. The trauma Doc Johnson viewed during operation Urgent Fury in Grenada gave him some insight to, and puts him in awe of, those Ranger and LRP veterans who sustained combat trauma for a year or even several years in Vietnam.

Book Reviews

A Concise History of U.S. Army Special Operations Forces with Lineage and Insignia, by Geoffrey T. Barker, published by Anglo-American Publishing Co., P.O. Box 41933, Fayetteville, NC 28309-1933. It is also available through the author at 5712 Martinique Lane Fayetteville, NC 28304.

Barker Shows it all in this well researched history. You will see all the authorized and unauthorized insignias from Rangers through Special Forces and other SOF units.

The Regiment's three MoH awardees are also mentioned in the book. Barker is taking the lead to enter those three Rangers in the Special Operations Forces Museum at Fort Bragg. If Barker wins this one, the names will appear on three sides of a column, the fourth side would list Master Sergeant

Roy Benevidez, an SF MoH awardee who was recognized properly for his heroism long after the action.

Inside the LRRPS: Rangers in Vietnam, by Michael Lee Lanning. If you want an authoritative history of LRRP, LRP and Ranger operations in Vietnam, this is it. Lanning knows what he is talking about. The only error noted, and this may be a result of the terrain his source operated in, was his discussion of ladder extractions.

In Lanning's book, you will read about four star Generals, at least one with three CIBs, while because LRP/Rangers could not carry as much on their back as a 2½-ton truck, or stay out longer. They never performed the missions, therefore you just ignore them and move on through a good book.



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