

# Bravo Regulars



B Company 3/22



Vietnam Service

www.bravoregulars.com

September, 2023



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## President's Column

Carl Lammers  
President  
(618) 741-1002  
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Greetings Bravo Brothers,

Where has the summer gone? It has been a very busy summer for our family. We have two granddaughters getting married, Sydney's wedding is September 2nd and Nicole's is November 11th. We had a great time in Gulf Shores, Alabama with our daughter, Carla, and her family. We are now gearing up for our church's Mega Flea Market. I'm not bragging, but I have to crow about making a hole-in-one on my golf team's league night. I think it was more luck than skill. We never lack for something to do or get bored.

Pam Adams is diligently working on plans for our reunion in Kansas City. She will be giving us an update as soon as she has something firm.

An interesting place to visit in Kansas City is the Hallmark Museum. Displays of greeting cards from the 1900's to present will bring back memories. Learn how cards are made and make your own bow to take home.

Shooters, cobbles, jumbos and toe breakers are all marbles you will find at the Moon Marble Company Store. They also have a wide variety of old time toys and games to purchase. A great place to visit with or without kids. There is a marble making demonstration on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

Wishing you a much cooler fall season. It is very hot in Illinois as I write this letter.

*Carl*



# Association Business

Ted Silbereis  
 Treasurer  
 (408) 674-2799  
 juditrain@gmail.com

<b>Financial Report Income and Expenses</b>		
<b>June 1, 2023 Balance</b>		<b>\$10,382.56</b>
<b><u>Income</u></b>		
<b>Dues</b>		
<b>Donations</b>	<b>\$ 50.00</b>	
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>\$ 50.00</b>
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>		
<b>Bank Service Charge</b>	<b>\$ 15.00</b>	
<b>Newsletter</b>	<b>387.28</b>	
<b>Domain Monthly Fee</b>	<b>66.63</b>	
<b>Website Update</b>	<b>120.00</b>	
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$ 588.91</b>
<b>August 31, 2023 Balance</b>		<b>\$ 9,843.65</b>

Ted



## Editor's Notes

David W. Lowell  
 Secretary, Newsletter  
 Editor and Publisher  
 (520) 762-8609  
 davidwlowell@aol.com

Welcome Back Bravo Brothers, I hope this finds all of you well.

We received word from Joe Franz (Platoon Leader—68/69) that he has entered hospice care. He fell in his yard and developed a brain tumor. Despite radiation and chemotherapy, its progress could not be stopped. His cell phone number is (870) 245-6188.

We received an email from Bill Ervin (2nd Platoon Leader—7/68-12/68), a former Platoon Leader with Companies B and A. He provided a story relative to FSB Crook. It is on the Bulletin Board.

We received an email from Ron Meyer (2nd Platoon Company Clerk—3-67/68) with a tribute to John Otte. It is on the Bulletin Board.

Larry Robinson (1st Platoon—10-67/68) sent me a video of the St. Rose Reunion. Unfortunately, most of the faces are in shadow due to the poor lighting. He also has added in some archival footage of FSB Burt, just after the battle. Scenes of enemy burial preparations may not be suitable for sensitive viewers. Finally, he added a little footage of a reunion sponsored by Oliver Stone for those he served with. The DVD may be accessed at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MORqquK8H9AUdbJKxDvZHa-KRmH3IUtid/view?usp=sharing>. (The hyphen after Ha above is not part of the internet address.) You may need a gmail address to access. To those not connected, you may also purchase a DVD direct from Larry. Send \$10.00 to Larry Robinson, 4833 Gilhern Court, Columbus, Ohio 43228 and he will mail you a DVD of the reunion. I also received a DVD from Ron Warmly (4th Platoon—9-66/67 Orig.) of the 2006 Reunion in San Pedro. Contact me if you would want a copy of that.

Sadly I must report the passing of two more Bravo Brothers.—L.C. Vickers (69/70) and Fran McRickard (3rd Platoon Leader—3-67/68) Available information is on the Bulletin Board.

Thanks to all who contributed to this issue. Our next issue will be out in December and we will be accepting submissions through the end of November. Until then, may peace be with you.

*Dave out*

**BULLETIN BOARD**

**Submitted by Bill Ervin (3rd Platoon Leader—7/68-12/68— billervin@comcast.net)**

Dave, thank you for the newsletter. I am saddened to hear of the loss of Robert Closter reported by Matt Flickema. Both Bob and Matt were in my 3rd Platoon until the Battalion Commander had me take over Company A in early December, 1968. Here is some insight on FSB Crook that you will probably not get from another source.

In late April, 1969 Company A helped construct FSB Crook and occupied it for most of May, 1969 until we turned the fire base over to Company B. During May, 1969 Company A conducted numerous scouting operations north of FSB Crook on the most likely enemy approaches to the fire base. The trail that the Viet Cong ultimately used to advance on FSB Crook for the attacks on the night of June 5th and 6th was a trail four feet wide, covered in leaves, and showed no signs of enemy activity when we checked it out early in May, 1969.

Fast forward to June 5, 1969 and the first night attack on FSB Crook. The next morning (June 6, 1969) the battalion commander sent my company from FSB Washington located east of FSB Crook to recon an area north of FSB Crook...a total of nine helicopters and 54 Company A soldiers. Within a few minutes of touching down, we encountered the trail the enemy used to approach FSB Crook for their ground attack. It was now a middy four foot wide trail covered with thousands of Ho Chi Minh sandal tracks plus three WD-1 communication wires running south towards FSB Crook and north towards the enemy headquarters and reserve forces.

I immediately reported my observation to Battalion HQs and turned north to quietly (VERY QUIETLY) follow the three WD-1 communication wires into the jungle. After a couple of hundred meters, we detected the presence of an enemy bunker complex including enemy voices. We silently and quickly deployed and overran the bunker complex before the enemy could even fire their weapons, capturing three enemy soldiers in the process. The remnants of the shocked enemy fled northeast further into the jungle. No shots were fired. We gathered up all the enemy documents and plans and the three captured enemy soldiers and sent them back to Tay Ninh for intelligence value. It was apparent to me at that point that FSB Crook would be attacked the evening of June 6, 1969.

Next I cautiously continued my northward probe of the three WD-1 communication wires on the muddy sandal mired trail. After another 100 meters, the three communication wires split into different directions; two wires continued northward and one went eastward on a smaller trail. I was in a precarious position with my much smaller force. A large enemy force was to my north. An unknown enemy presence was to my east. And remnants of the enemy that had fled the bunker complex we had just overrun to my south could reoccupy it and threaten me from the south. My only protection was the nearby stream to my west that prevented the enemy from attacking from that direction. It was the same stream that ran by FSB Crook.

## BULLETIN BOARD

**Continuation of Bill Ervin Story**

Bottom Line: The enemy knew I was in their midst so I had to be very careful. I sent a four man probe to the east from my Second Platoon. Within a very short distance, all four were killed by machine gunfire from hidden enemy positions. We fought for almost three hours to recover our fallen comrades. We recovered three but the enemy machine gunfire was so intense we could not recover the body of our fourth comrade but we got close enough to confirm he was not alive. I had to make a very painful decision to withdraw, leaving one fallen soldier behind (now listed as a MIA).

That night (June 6, 1969) FSB Crook was heavily attacked where the enemy sustained heavy casualties. At FSB Washington, I planned an operation to go back and recover my fallen soldier. Battalion and Brigade gave me a single lift of 17 helicopters airlifting 102 of my Company A soldiers. Battalion and Brigade expected that I would be going into a bloodbath. No 25th Division Infantry company had been given 17 helicopters for a single lift in my eleven months as platoon leader and company commander.

We slashed our way through the jungle and came in behind the enemy fortifications from the east without incident. We recovered the body of our fallen comrade without incident. Strewn all round the ground were papers in English urging American soldiers to surrender. The scattered papers extended as far as the eye could see northward on the trail where the enemy had withdrawn after the unsuccessful attack on FSB Crook on the night of June 6—early morning of June 7, 1969. These were the only soldiers I lost from July 12, 1969 starting as a platoon leader in Company B until June 10, 1969 when I gave up command of Company A. To this day I am still saddened by their loss and the impact on their family and friends.

**Submitted by Ron Meyer (2nd Platoon Company Clerk—3-67/68)**

What a tribute to the stand-up guy that John Otte was. To learn that there was a \$105.00 error in the transfer to the next Treasurer tells me that John was everything we all thought of him to be. After all the years that John was our Association Treasurer, \$105.00 could have been looked at as a rounding error. Long live the memory of John Otte and the tremendous person he was.

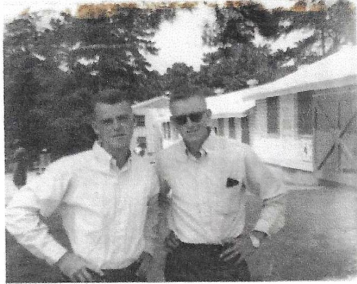
**Submitted by Editor—Obituaries**

**L.C. Vickers (69/70)** We received a returned newsletter informing us of the passing of L.C. Vickers on April 26, 2023. No additional information was available.

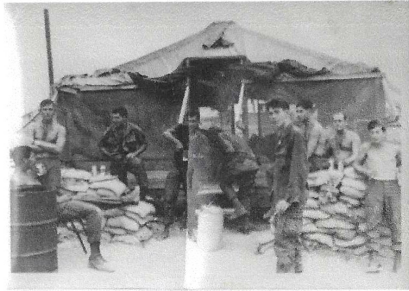
**Francis Joseph McRickard (3rd Platoon Leader—3-67/68)** We received a card from Kathleen McRickard, wife of Fran McRickard, that he passed away on May 4, 2023. Kathleen can be contacted at 36 Ensigne Spence, Williamsburg, VA 23185-561 (757) 229-5687. No additional information was available.



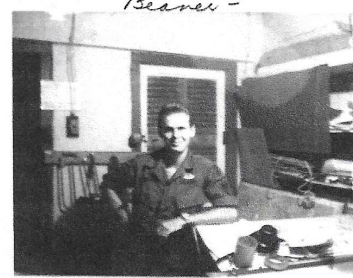
Larry Robinson Photos



2 OF THE 3 MUSKETEERS - JOE OSTIFIN AND LARRY ROBINSON AT FORT POLK, AIT



AFTER A NIGHT OF DRINKING , AND BEFORE WE GO OUT ON PATROL. LARRY IS SLITHERING G BACK INTO THE HOOTCH.



13 years -  
MY BUDDY, TO THIS DAY, IN MY DRAFTING ROOM AT DAU TIENG BASECAMP



ROBINSON BEFORE HE WENT TO NAM AND WHILE ON LEAVE



ROBINSON BEING AWARDED THE BRONZE START WITH V DEVICE



OLIVER STONE AT MORTARED HOOTCH OF 2ND PLATOON



CHARLES WALKER, KILLED ON JAN 15, 1968, IN AN AMBUSH



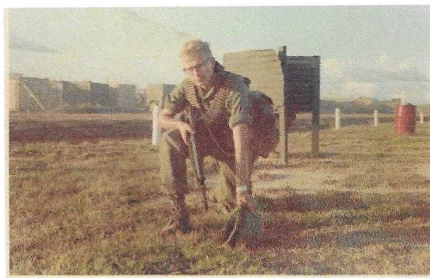
PT DAU-TIENG - SHOW  
GO- GO GIRLS FOR HE REMF'S BACK IN DAU TIENG BASECAMP



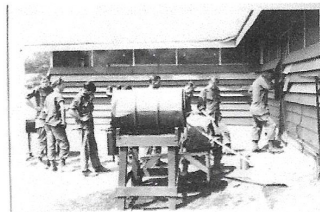
ROBINSON



ROBINSON ON THE LEFT AND LOUIE PHILLIPS, THE 3RD OF THE 3 MUSKETEERS



ROBINSON READY TO GO OUT ON PATROL



LINING UP FOR THE MESS HALL BACK IN DAU TIENG BASECAMP



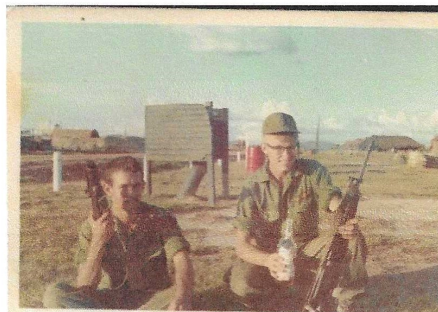
INCOMING MORTAR ROUND IN DAU TIENG

# Bravo Regulars

## Larry Robinson Photos



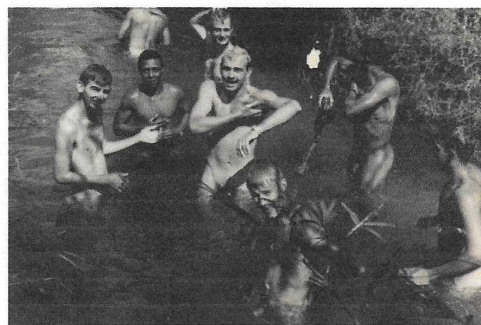
TOSSING G DEAD GOOKS INTO A HOLE. WE DID THIS TO ABOUT 500 GOOKS AT FSB BURT.



ONE OF MY BST BUDDIES, TOBY SANDERS, AND MY TRUSTY BOURBON.



L TO R: TOM WATTS (WHO WAS KILLED THE LAST DAY IN THE FIELD); JOHN OTTE (WHO JUST RECENTLY PASSED AWAY); AND MIKE NIVENS.



SWIM IN A SANDY BOTTOM CREEK ON CHRISTMAS DAY



BRONZE STAR

PURPLE HEART

ARMY COMMENDATION  
MEDAL FOR  
MERITORIOUS SERVICE



CHILLING OUT BEFORE A BIG S&D



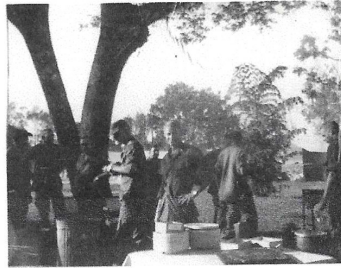
JUST A FEW OF THE WEAPONS THAT WERE CAPTURED AFTER THE BATTLE AT FSB BURT, THE BATTLE OF SUI CUT. THE CONDITION OF THE WEAPONS SHOWS THAT THE GOOKS WERE WELL EQUIPPED.



Larry Robinson Photos



ROBINSON'S SANDBAGGING CREW BACK IN BASECAMP, BUILDING A TOC BUNKER

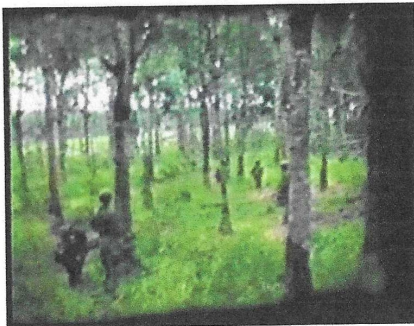


NIGHTLY STEAK COOKOUTS BACK IN DAU TIENG BASECAMP



Wayne Temple, Willard Martineau, Charlie Morgan, Larry Robinson, Dan Person

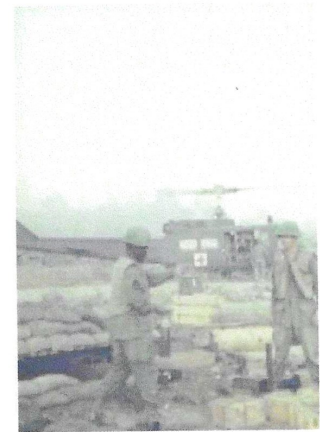
ROBINSON IN THE TOP MIDDLE, GUYS DRUNK AS MONKEYS DURING A SHORT RESPITE IN DAU TIENG BASECAMP



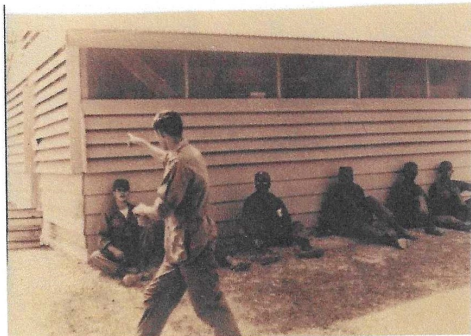
S&D THRU THE MICHELIN RUBBER PLANTATION



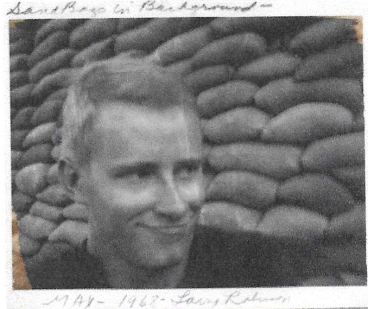
AP CHO VILLAGE 1968 DURING THE BATTLE



MED EVAC CHOPPER AFTER BATTLE AT FSB BURT JAN 2, 1968



THE SHAMMERS, THOSE WHO FAKED ILLNESS TO GET OUT OF THE FIELD



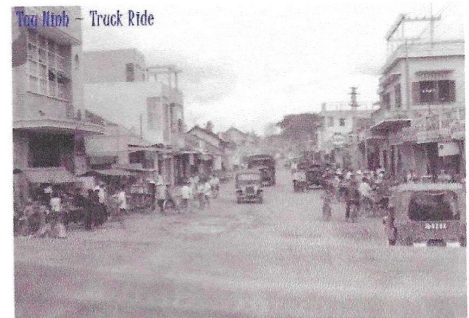
ROBINSON AT THE TOC BUNKER HE BUILT



SOME OF THE DEAD GOOKS AT SUI TRE



LOOKING OUT AT THE FIELD OF FIRE FROM FSB BURT PERIMETER



TAY NINH CITY 1968