

THIS VETERANS DAY 2022. (14 pages, 1300 words)

SOME MEMORIES I NEED TO SHARE. BECAUSE I WAS THERE!

SERVICE DATES: 06/05/1965...06/07/1967. (Early on for sure)!



This is the shoulder patch I wore.

U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) was a joint-service command of the United States Department of Defense.

I was attached to the 36th medivac hospital. A MASH type helicopter hospital. The following note from an Army nurse who served there. (LA Times)

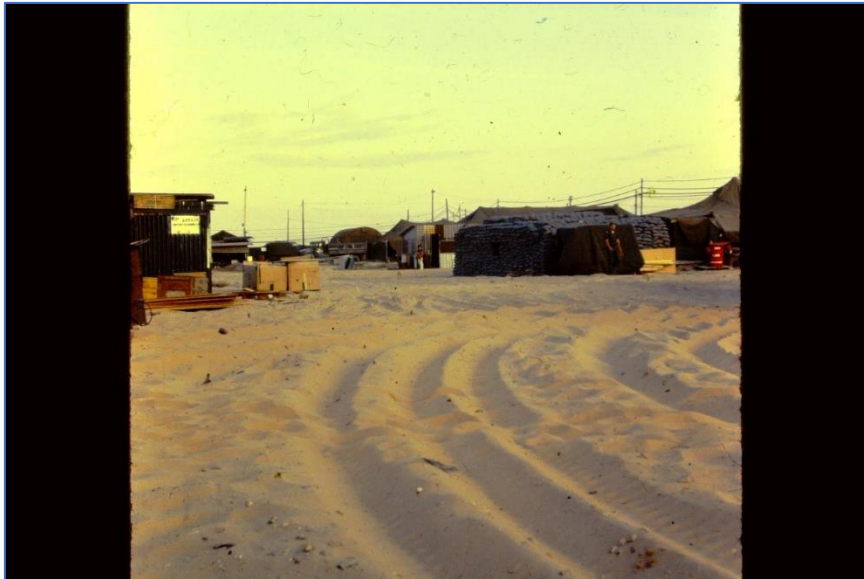
36TH EVAC. HOSPITAL, VUNG TAU, SOUTH VIETNAM

I was an Army nurse from 1967 to 1970. I arrived in Vietnam during the Tet Offensive in 1968. I had watched the first week or so of Tet on television, and then I was there in the midst of it. I was assigned to the 36th Evacuation Hospital in Vung Tau, considered a cushy assignment, the "in-country rest and relaxation center." Vung Tau was nice - a beautiful little village on the South China Sea. We rarely got "incoming" mortars. I'm told both sides - the Viet Cong as well as Americans - came there to rest.

The hospital wasn't quite so nice. My first assignment was a 50-bed civilian burn unit. We took care of the women and children who got in the way of napalm and white phosphorus. I found out that "friendly fire" hurt and maimed just as much as "enemy fire."



My recollection of downtown was very 3rd world. Morning market, their A&P.



Home for the year was sand, lots of sand., beach was great.

beach was great and close.



My job was Health inspection and entomology surveys, field trips. To artillery fire base and Provincial Capital's in IV Corps. Traveled by helicopter or Caribou. A small STOL (short takeoff and landing) open back jump seat aircraft built by Canada.





Fire Base camp required spray missions. Mostly Malathion for insect but sometimes agent orange because the 20th Med had the equipment to do so.



Someone threw a rag on the tail cowling. This is a RAAF chopper. Did a lot of work for Aussies operating IV Corps.

Note the kangaroo icon to left of RAAF insignia.





Mission
done,
heading
home. Rice
paddies
below, truly
agrarian
people.

Some farm
equipment.





Go to market trucks.

Provincial security outpost. Went here often, my Sergeant knew the NCO in the doorway.



Note gas cans, Gas stations were not prolific. US military traveled for gas to run vehicles, generators, refrigeration..

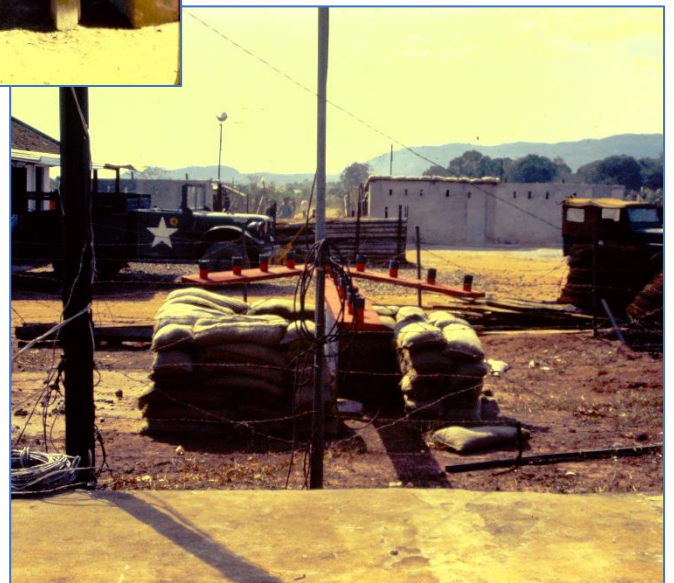
The housekeeper has the Vietnamese squat. Knees bent, sitting on

haunches, feet flat on ground, comfort for them!



Fresh poultry and sandbags. Home for that NCO for a year.

nighttime pointer toward bad guys for air support



The children suffer. This picture, unfortunately, is no different than previous theaters of war. Look how this little girl holds her brother's shirt. It reeks the apprehension children must feel in theaters of war.

Some 55 years ago, wonder how they fared?



Home. Famous refridge in background. Enlisted man on base with refridge! Kept important stuff (beer) at bottom.

Required bi-weekly survey of rat population living perimeter of hospital.

Capture, chloroform, and freeze (top-side). Sent to Saigon next day for plague analytic control.



Not often you get to tour a country armed and ready. With God's grace, I never fired the weapon since basic.



relaxed, outta' sand and getting ready to go home.

March '67 and Tet the new year is also happening.



Outdoor grill.



Its time to go, some picture of Tet 1967, a year before the '68 offensive.



The poster behind this lady must be war related. They lived it day and night.

Our 'trusted flag' behind her. We citizen soldiers did not fail these people, it was DC, with deadly stumbling and bungling as usual.



A word about the draft and military service. Its rolling the dice. Matts' last name is D.... No room on his plane home for me, Garron. I left next day.

Matt arrived in US with 90 days of service, I arrived a day latter with 89 and discharge.

Seems Government needed save money and those with less than 90 days required service were released.

Saw Matt June July '67 for last time at his home in Philly.

CHRISTMAS 1970.



Home. Today I think about all the people, both sides, who never had the chance of their own family and good fortune to find love of a woman.

There were allies, sacrificed to this ending I wish to remember. I spent several nights with remarkable soldiers of the

Australian Army.

THAILAND: By 1969, the Thais had a total of nearly 12,000 combat troops in Vietnam, including the elite Queen's Cobras and the Black Panther Division of the Royal Thai Army Volunteer Force. The United States 46th Special Forces Company assisted Thai forces in resisting Communist guerrilla activity along the Laotian border and in the south on the Malay Peninsula. The last of the Thai troops left Vietnam in April 1972.

New Zealand

A charter member of the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization, New Zealand was hesitant to become too deeply involved in the Vietnam War, basically on the grounds of limited resources and limited political support at home, and because the war was more than two thousand miles away. Nonetheless, New Zealand did make a troop commitment to the conflict.

Korea

During the Vietnam War, the Republic of Korea sent more combat troops to South Vietnam than any other American ally. A South Korean liaison unit came to Vietnam in the summer of 1964, and between 1965 and late 1966 their Capital Division, Ninth Infantry Division, and Second Marine Brigade arrived.

ROK forces established themselves as well-trained, well-disciplined soldiers with high morale. They tolerated no opposition and were ruthless with both enemy forces and the civilian population. They usually dealt harshly with prisoners and with civilians who were suspected of sympathizing with the Vietcong or who violated the laws or regulations established by ROK commanders.

Australia

Because of its charter membership in the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization, Australia found herself drawn into the American sphere of influence in the Pacific. And it was a role she did not dislike. After the French defeat at Dien Bien Phu in 1954, the Australians progressively warned the United States that the fall of South Vietnam would threaten democracies throughout Asia. Australian officials believed the domino theory.

Australia had sent thirty military advisers to work with the ARVN on jungle and guerrilla tactics as early as 1962. After the Gulf of Tonkin

Resolution in 1964, Australia increased its troop contingent in South Vietnam to 1,300 people, with a large combat battalion at Bien Hoa. Under pressure from Washington in 1965 and 1966, Australia increased that commitment, eventually to more than 8,000 troops at its peak in October 1967.

Next to the South Koreans, Australia provided the most military support to the United States in the conflict.

Not mentioned so I will! (From Wikipedia)

The Montagnard were valued allies with their resolve, skills in tracking, and knowledge of the region; roughly 40,000 fought alongside American soldiers and became a major part of the U.S. military effort in the Highlands and I Corps, the northernmost region of South Vietnam.

The central highlands were greatly affected by bombings and herbicides from the United States during the war to stop transportation on the Ho Chi Minh trail. It is estimated that over 200,000 Montagnards died and 85% of their villages were destroyed during the Vietnam war

This Veterans Day I also remember our adversaries with respect. We dished out a very hard time to them. And as true warriors will, they persevered.

Lots of us, from all the world, were there by fate, not choice.

This is how I remember my Veterans Day.

ALEXANDER; CEO SAND BOX GEOMETRY LLC