

Two more enemy assaults were made on A Company's CP before C Company would hook up with them. The NVA's 24th Regiment was well dug in and prevented C Company from linking up with the lost platoon. That night, while anticipating an all-out attack, the men heard shots punctuated by screams as the NVA executed the wounded. 43 out of 76 slain Sky Soldiers had fatal wounds in the back of their heads. (See Issue 29, June 2011 for a detailed report on *The Battle of the Slopes*).



*The enemy had blown-up the ammo dump and three C-130 aircraft on the airstrip."*

(Photo by Earle "Doc" Jackson, B Med)

**20<sup>th</sup>:** Muhammad Ali convicted of refusing induction into armed services.

**20<sup>th</sup>:** Nicole Kidman, Honolulu, Hawaii, actress (*Dead Calm*, *Far & Away*), born.

**25<sup>th</sup>:** Mohammed Ali (Cassius Clay) sentenced to 5 years.

**27<sup>th</sup>:** Race riot in Buffalo, NY (200 arrested).

**27<sup>th</sup>:** The world's first ATM is installed in Enfield, London.

**29<sup>th</sup>:** Jayne Mansfield, actress (*Female Jungle*), dies in a car crash at 34.

**June '67:** Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara commissioned a top-secret study of US involvement in Southeast Asia. This study was to be written by a team of analysts who had access to classified documents.

The results of that study, which was not completed until January 1969, took 47 volumes and later gained fame, or infamy, as *The Pentagon Papers*.



## June 1968

The year 1968 saw major developments in the Vietnam War. The military operations started with an attack on a US base by the Vietnam People's Army (NVA) and the Viet Cong on January 1, ending a truce declared by the Pope and agreed upon by all sides. At the end of January, the North Vietnamese and the Viet Cong launched the Tet Offensive.



June 1968

Although militarily the operation was a failure for the Vietnamese communists, for them it was a propaganda victory, as on the home front the American public were shocked by the images they were seeing on their televisions. Reflecting this public outrage the media made a number of iconic news stories including Peter Arnett quoting an unnamed US major as saying, *"It became necessary to destroy the town to save it."* Eddie Adams' iconic image of South Vietnamese General Nguyen Ngoc Loan's live execution of a Viet Cong operative was taken in 1968 as was Walter Cronkite's call to honorably exit Vietnam because he thought the war was lost. This negative impression forced the Americans into the Paris peace talks with North Vietnam. US troop numbers peaked in 1968 with President Johnson approving the raising of the maximum number of Americans in Vietnam to 549,500. The year was the most expensive in the Vietnam War with the American spending US\$77.4 billion (US\$517 billion in 2012 dollars) on the war. The year also became the deadliest of the Vietnam War for America and its allies with 27,915 South Vietnamese (ARVN) soldiers killed and the Americans suffering 16,592 killed compared to around two hundred thousand of the communist forces killed.

(continued....)



**1<sup>st</sup>:** Helen Keller, blind & deaf/author (Let us Have Faith), dies at 87.

**1<sup>st</sup>:** Simon & Garfunkel's "Mrs. Robinson" hits #1. Years later *Digger, Dog*.....oh, never mind.

**1<sup>st</sup>:** The 1/50 (M) Infantry officially constitutes the Scout/Recon Plt. under HHC June 1, 1968.

**3<sup>rd</sup>:** Poor Peoples March on Washington.

**5<sup>th</sup>:** Robert F. Kennedy is shot and mortally wounded by Sirhan Sirhan in Los Angeles just after winning the California Democratic presidential primary election. He dies the following day.



Helen Keller

**26<sup>th</sup>:** Shannon Sharpe, NFL tight end (Denver Broncos-Super Bowl 32), born.

**28<sup>th</sup>:** Daniel Ellsberg indicted for leaking Pentagon Papers.

**29<sup>th</sup>:** "Tip-Toe Thru' The Tulips With Me" by Tiny Tim peaks at #17. Years later Capt. Gary Prisk would be ever so proud of his Silver medal for *Digger*.

**June '68:** With strong, highly mobile American forces now in the area, and the base no longer needed for defense, General Westmoreland approves the abandonment and demolition of Khe Sanh.

## June 1969



**June:** From 15 April 1969 thru 1 January 1971, the 173d

Airborne Brigade conducts Operation Washington Green in the Binh Dinh Province.

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** Australian aircraft carrier "Melbourne" slices US destroyer "Frank E. Evans" in half, killing 74 (South Vietnam).

**3<sup>rd</sup>:** Last episode of Star Trek airs on NBC (Turnabout Intruder).

**5<sup>th</sup>:** Race riot in Hartford Connecticut.

**5<sup>th</sup> -** The International communist conference begins in Moscow.

**6<sup>th</sup>:** Joe Namath resigns from NFL after Pete Rozelle, football commissioner, said he must sell his stake in a bar.

**6<sup>th</sup>:** The Battle of Binh Ba, also known as *Operation Hammer*, was a hard fought, but one-sided, battle. The action occurred on 6-8 June 1969 when Australian Army troops from the 5th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (5RAR) fought a combined communist force of North Vietnamese Army and Viet Cong in the village of Binh Ba, 5 kilometers (3.1 mi) north of Nui Dat in Phuoc Tuy Province.



(continued....)



**5<sup>th</sup>:** Hanoi to Release 3 Downed Pilots.

**7<sup>th</sup>:** Dan Duryea, actor (Pride of the Yankees), dies of cancer at 60.

**8<sup>th</sup>:** Don Drysdale pitches a record 58th consecutive scoreless innings for the Dodgers.

**8<sup>th</sup>:** James Earl Ray, alleged assassin of Martin Luther King, Jr., captured.

**16<sup>th</sup>:** Lee Trevino is 1st to play all 4 rounds of golf's US Open under par.

**19<sup>th</sup>:** Night Assault – Last VC holdouts routed from Saigon.

**19<sup>th</sup>:** It's reported North Viets may be using Copters.

**24<sup>th</sup>:** Joe Frazier TKOs Manuel Ramos in 2 for heavyweight boxing title.

**26<sup>th</sup>:** Iwo Jima & Bonin Islands returned to Japan by US.





7<sup>th</sup>: "Johnny Cash Show," debuts on ABC-TV.

7<sup>th</sup>: Leo Gorcey, actor (Bowery Boys), dies at 53



8<sup>th</sup>: President Nixon meets South Vietnam's President Nguyen Van Thieu at Midway Island and informs him U.S. troop levels are going to be sharply reduced. During a press briefing with Thieu, Nixon announces "Vietnamization" of the war and a U.S. troop withdrawal of 25,000 men by the end of August.

8<sup>th</sup>: "Smothers Brothers comedy Hour," last airs on CBS-TV.

8<sup>th</sup>: Mickey Mantle Day, 60,096 saw #7 retired.

15<sup>th</sup>: "Hee Haw" with Roy Clark & Buck Owens premieres on CBS TV.

19<sup>th</sup>: State troopers ordered to Cairo, IL, to quell racial disturbances.

22<sup>nd</sup>: Judy Garland, actress (Wizard of Oz, Easter Parade), dies at 47 of an overdose.

23<sup>rd</sup>: Joe Frazier TKOs Jerry Quarry in 8 for heavyweight boxing title.

27<sup>th</sup>: *Life* magazine displays portrait photos of all 242 Americans killed in Vietnam during the previous week, including the 46 killed at 'Hamburger Hill.' The photos have a stunning impact on Americans nationwide as they view the once smiling young faces of the dead.

## June 1970

**U.S. ARMY CENTER OF MILITARY HISTORY**  
1<sup>st</sup> May '70 – 30 June '70:  
Sanctuary Counter-offensive:

This campaign was mainly concerned with the Allied incursion into Cambodia, codenamed Operation ROCK CRUSHER. As American withdrawal from South Vietnam proceeded, increasing concern arose over the enemy's strength in the sanctuaries inside Cambodia.

With the emergence in Cambodia of an anti-Communist government under Lon Nol, President Nixon relaxed the restrictions on moving against the bases inside Cambodia. Meanwhile, the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong began to move on the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh. At this juncture Lon Nol appealed to the United States for help. American and allied Vietnamese forces began large-scale offensives in Cambodia on 1 May. Eight major US Army and South Vietnamese operations took place in Cambodia in May and June with the object of cutting enemy communication lines, seizing the sanctuary areas and capturing the shadowy Central Office for South Vietnam (COSVN) described as the control center for enemy military operations against III CTZ.

1<sup>st</sup>: "Everything Is Beautiful" by Ray Stevens hits #1. Capt. Prisk is back from the war and thinking about writing a book based on war or turtles.

3<sup>rd</sup>: NVA begin a new offensive toward Phnom Penh in Cambodia. The U.S. provides air strikes to prevent the defeat of Lon Nol's inexperienced young troops.

7<sup>th</sup>: Jockey Willie Shoemaker passes Johnny Longden with his 6,033 win.

11<sup>th</sup>: US leaves Wheelus AFB Libya.

(continued...)



**13<sup>th</sup>:** After the events at Kent State and Jackson State, there was a wave of demonstrations on hundreds of college campuses. There was an average of 100 demonstrations or student strikes per day in the United States. More than 500 colleges had to temporarily close their doors. On 13, June, 1970, President Nixon established 'The President's Commission on Campus Unrest'. The Commission held 13 days of public hearings in Jackson, Mississippi; Kent State, Ohio; Washington DC and Los Angeles, California. No convictions or arrests of any military or law enforcement officer resulted from these hearings. The anti-war movement was not without its own advocates of violence. According to the FBI, in 1970 alone, an estimated 3000 bombings and 50,000 bomb threats occurred in the United States. A large percentage of these were carried out by self-styled revolutionaries within the anti-war movement.

**16<sup>th</sup>:** Race riots in Miami, Florida.

**16<sup>th</sup>:** Brian Piccolo, American football player (b. 1943), dies.

**22<sup>nd</sup>:** American usage of jungle defoliants in Vietnam is halted.

**22<sup>nd</sup>:** President Nixon signs 26th amendment (voting age lowered to 18).

**24<sup>th</sup> -** "Catch 22" opens in movie theaters.

**24<sup>th</sup>:** Senate votes overwhelmingly to repeal the 1964 Gulf of Tonkin Resolution.

### **The Tonkin Gulf Resolution**

Officially, the Asia Resolution (Public Law 88-408) was a joint resolution which the United States Congress passed on August 7, 1964 in response to a sea battle between the North Vietnamese Navy's Torpedo Squadron 10135 and the destroyer USS Maddox on August 2 and an alleged second naval engagement between North Vietnamese boats and the US destroyers USS Maddox and USS Turner Joy on August 4 in the Tonkin Gulf; both naval actions are known collectively as the *Gulf of Tonkin Incident*. The Tonkin Gulf Resolution is of historical significance because it gave U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson authorization, without a formal declaration of war by Congress, for the use of "conventional" military force in Southeast Asia. Specifically, the resolution authorized the President to

do whatever necessary in order to assist "*any member or protocol state of the Southeast Asia Collective Defense Treaty*." This included involving armed forces. The unanimous affirmative vote in the House of Representatives was 416-0. However, Congressman Eugene Siler of Kentucky, who was not present but opposed the measure, was "paired" with another member who favored the resolution — i.e., his opposition was not counted, but the vote in favor was one less than it would have been. It was opposed in the Senate only by Senators Wayne Morse (D-OR) and Ernest Gruening (D-AK). Senator Gruening objected to "*sending our American boys into combat in a war in which we have no business, which is not our war, into which we have been misguidedly drawn, which is steadily being escalated*." The Johnson administration subsequently relied upon the resolution to begin its rapid escalation of U.S. military involvement in South Vietnam and open warfare between North Vietnam and the United States. Of some potential relevance, a few weeks earlier, on July 16, 1964, in his acceptance speech at the Republican convention, the Republican nominee Barry Goldwater had put forth as a theme of his campaign the charge that Johnson was "soft on communism", a charge which became more difficult to sustain after the resolution.



**USS Maddox entering Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, 15 August 1966**

*(continued....)*





**29th:** US ends 2 month military offensive into Cambodia. In June, President Nixon announced that the action in Cambodia had been successful, and that the withdrawal of American soldiers from South Vietnam would resume. US intelligence operatives were of the opinion that entering Cambodia had helped to unite communists in Indochina and had resulted in closer ties to China. Towards the end of June 1970, the United States Senate adopted a bill to limit Presidential action in Cambodia without Congressional approval.

**30th:** U.S. troops withdraw from Cambodia. Over 350 Americans died during the incursion.

## June 1971

**June '71:** During a college commencement speech, Senator Mike Mansfield labels the Vietnam war "*a tragic mistake*."

**6th:** "Ed Sullivan Show" last broadcast on CBS-TV.

**6th:** Air West flight 706 collides with Navy Phantom jet over LA, 50 die.

**8th:** North Vietnam demands US end aid to South Vietnam.

**10th:** Bobby Jindal, American politician; Louisiana Congressman, Governor, born.

**11th:** US & Japan sign accord to return Okinawa to Japan.

**11th:** US ends ban on China trade.

**12th:** Tricia Nixon & Edward F. Cox marry at White House.

**13th:** The *New York Times* begins publication of the 'Pentagon Papers,' a secret Defense Department archive of the paperwork involved in decisions made by previous White House administrations concerning Vietnam. Publication of the classified documents infuriates President Nixon.



June 1971



Edward Cox & Tricia Nixon

# The Pentagon Papers (excerpt)



TOP SECRET - SENSITIVE  
(declassified)

## E. Eleventh Hour Change

"One final obstacle to the Marine deployment (to Da Nang) was raised when Assistant Secretary of Defense McNaughton cabled the Ambassador in Saigon on 2 March stating that the 173rd Airborne Brigade, then stationed on Okinawa, would be substituted for the Marines. Other than exchange of cables, there is no documentary evidence in the files to indicate what might have been the rationale behind the belated attempt to deploy the 173rd Airborne to Da Nang in place of the Marines. One can only surmise the reasons behind such a move, but certain characteristics of the two forces may provide a clue. The Marines present *prima facie* a more formidable appearance upon arrival on the scene. They have organic complement of heavy weapons, including tanks, in contrast to the smaller and lighter airborne. Together with their accompanying armada of ships, the Marines might be seen as a more permanent force than the airborne. This, coupled with the common knowledge that the Marines have a long history of interventions in foreign countries for purposes of peacekeeping and stability, might have influenced someone in the decision apparatus to consider using the airborne in their stead as a positive signal that the Da Nang deployment was to be of short duration. If this was indeed the case, it suggests that there were still high-ranking people in Washington who were hoping to make the deployment of U.S. troops temporary and limited."

**15th:** Nixon attempts to stop further publication of the Pentagon Papers through legal action against the *Times* in the U.S. District Court.

**16th:** Racial disturbance in Jacksonville, Florida.

**18th:** The *Washington Post* begins its publication of the Pentagon Papers. The *Times* and *Post* now become involved in legal wrangling with the Nixon administration which soon winds up before the U.S. Supreme Court.

(continued....)



**22<sup>nd</sup>:** A non-binding resolution passed in the U.S. Senate urges the removal of all American troops from Vietnam by year's end.

**22<sup>nd</sup>:** Kurt Warner, American football player, Super Bowl MVP, St. Louis Rams, born.

**27<sup>th</sup>:** Kenneth Washington, actor (Sgt. Baker-Hogan's Heroes), dies at 53.



*Go Rams!*



**Kenneth Washington  
Hogan's Heroes**

**28<sup>th</sup>:** The source of the Pentagon Papers leaks, Daniel Ellsberg surrenders to police.

**Summer of '71:** While herbicides containing Dioxin were banned for use by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 1968, spraying of Agent Orange continues in Vietnam until 1971. Operation Ranchhand has sprayed 11 million gallons of Agent Orange -- containing the lethal chemical Dioxin -- on South Vietnam. More than one seventh of the country's total area has been laid waste.

### Agent Orange Sprayed from Huey's



*"This photo shows me in our chopper spraying Agent Orange. Hated to do this job, we had to fly slow for some reason. The pipe was right under my ass."*

**John Cavinee, Cowboys**

## June 1972

**3<sup>rd</sup>:** "Hot Rod Lincoln," by Commander Cody & His Lost Planet Airmen hits #9.

**6<sup>th</sup>:** Gold hits record \$60 an ounce in London.

**6<sup>th</sup>:** US bombs Haiphong, North Vietnam; 1000s reported killed.

**9<sup>th</sup>:** Bruce Springsteen signs a record deal with Columbia.



**June 1972**

**17<sup>th</sup>:** Five burglars are arrested inside the Watergate building in Washington while attempting to plant hidden microphones in the Democratic National Committee HQ offices. Subsequent investigations will reveal they have ties to the Nixon White House.

**18<sup>th</sup>:** 72nd US Golf Open: Jack Nicklaus shoots a 290 at Pebble Beach California.

**18<sup>th</sup>:** West Germany wins soccer world championship (and no one gives a damn. Ed).

**20<sup>th</sup>:** Howard Johnson, US restaurateur, dies at 75.

**23<sup>rd</sup>:** Nixon & Haldeman agree to use CIA to cover up Watergate.

**23<sup>rd</sup>:** President Nixon signs act barring sex discrimination in college sports.

**24<sup>th</sup>:** Wake Island becomes unincorporated territory of US (US Air Force).

**28<sup>th</sup>:** South Vietnamese troops begin a counter-offensive to retake Quang Tri Province, aided by U.S. Navy gunfire and B-52 bombardments.

**29<sup>th</sup>:** Supreme Court rules (5-4) that Death Penalty is cruel & unusual.

*"On Jan. 14, 2000, following the barrage of controversy created by the execution photos posted by Justice Shaw, Florida barred any further executions by electrocution, opting for lethal injection. On Dec. 16, 2006, then Gov. Jeb Bush suspended all executions in Florida after it took two doses and 34 minutes for Angel Diaz to die by lethal injection."*



*(continued....)*





**30<sup>th</sup>:** General Frederick C. Weyand replaces Gen. Abrams as MACV commander in Vietnam.

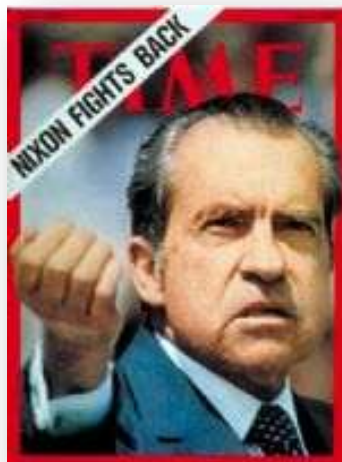
## June 1973

**1<sup>st</sup>:** Paul McCartney & Wings release "Live & Let Die".

**9<sup>th</sup>:** Secretariat becomes 1st Triple Crown winner in 25 years by winning horse racing's Belmont Stakes.

**16<sup>th</sup>:** Leonid I Brezhnev visit US.

**19<sup>th</sup>:** The U.S. Congress passes the Case-Church Amendment which forbids any further U.S. military involvement in Southeast Asia, effective August 15, 1973. The veto-proof vote is 278-124 in the House and 64-26 in the Senate. The Amendment paves the way for North Vietnam to wage yet another invasion of the South, this time without fear of U.S. bombing.



June 1973



### The Ho Chi Minh Trail

**24<sup>th</sup>:** Graham Martin becomes the new U.S. ambassador to South Vietnam.

**27<sup>th</sup>:** John W. Dean tells Senate Watergate Committee about Nixon's "enemies list".

## June 1974

**1<sup>st</sup>:** The Heimlich Maneuver for rescuing choking victims is published in the *Journal of Emergency Medicine*.

## How to Do the Heimlich Maneuver

### The Heimlich Maneuver for CHOKING ADULTS:

A choking victim can't speak or breathe and needs your help immediately. Follow these steps to help a choking victim:

From behind, wrap your arms around the victim's waist. Make a fist and place the thumb side of your fist against the victim's upper abdomen, below the ribcage and above the navel. Grasp your fist with your other hand and press into their upper abdomen with a quick upward thrust. Do not squeeze the ribcage; confine the force of the thrust to your hands. Repeat until object is expelled.

### UNCONSCIOUS VICTIM, OR WHEN RESCUER CAN'T REACH AROUND VICTIM:

Place the victim on back. Facing the victim, kneel astride the victim's hips. With one of your hands on top of the other, place the heel of your bottom hand on the upper abdomen below the rib cage and above the navel. Use your body weight to press into the victim's upper abdomen with a quick upward thrust. Repeat until object is expelled. If the Victim has not recovered, proceed with CPR. The Victim should see a physician immediately after rescue. Don't slap the victim's back. (This could make matters worse.)



June 1974

(continued....)



## The Heimlich Maneuver for CHOKING INFANTS

A choking victim can't speak or breathe and needs your help immediately.



*Follow these steps to help a choking infant:*

Lay the child down, face up, on a firm surface and kneel or stand at the victim's feet, or hold infant on your lap facing away from you. Place the middle and index fingers of both your hands below his rib cage and above his navel. Press into the victim's upper abdomen with a quick upward thrust; do not squeeze the rib cage. Be very gentle. Repeat until object is expelled. If the Victim has not recovered, proceed with CPR. The Victim should see a physician immediately after rescue. Don't slap the victim's back. (This could make matters worse.

## The Heimlich Maneuver for CHOKING (ONESELF)

When you choke, you can't speak or breathe and you need help immediately. Follow these steps to save yourself from choking:

Make a fist and place the thumb side of your fist against your upper abdomen, below the ribcage and above the navel. Grasp your fist with your other hand and press into your upper abdomen with a quick upward thrust. Repeat until object is expelled. Alternatively, you can lean over a fixed horizontal object (table edge, chair, railing) and press your upper abdomen against the edge to produce a quick upward thrust. Repeat until object is expelled. See a physician immediately after rescue.



Source:

<http://heimlichinstitute.com/page.php?id=34>

8<sup>th</sup>: US & Saudi Arabia sign military-economic contract.

20<sup>th</sup>: Jami Ferrell, Muncie, Indiana, *Playboy* Playmate for January, born.

23<sup>rd</sup>: 1st extraterrestrial message sent from Earth into space.

26<sup>th</sup>: The Universal Product Code is scanned for the first time to sell a package of Wrigley's chewing gum at the Marsh Supermarket in Troy, Ohio.



June 1974

26<sup>th</sup>: Derek Jeter, Pequanock NJ, shortstop (NY Yankees, Rookie of Year 1996), born.

27<sup>th</sup>: "Flip Wilson Show," last airs on NBC-TV.

27<sup>th</sup>: US president Nixon visits USSR.

28<sup>th</sup>: Frank Sutton, actor (Sgt. Vince Carter-Gomer Pyle USMC), dies at 50.



June 1975

3<sup>rd</sup>: Ozzie Nelson, actor (*Adventures of Ozzie & Harriet*), dies at 69. **Note:** The widow of Col. Bob Sigholtz, 2/503 Bn Cmdr '66/'67, is Sara O'Meara (formerly Buckner), the actress who played the role of girlfriend on that t.v. series. During the reception following the Colonel's funeral service at Arlington Cemetery, men of the 2/503d presented Mrs. O'Meara with a memorial plaque in honor of her husband's service in Vietnam.



June 1975

(continued....)



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**SARA O'MEARA, CO-FOUNDER,  
CHAIRMAN AND CEO**

Since 1959, Sara O'Meara has provided leadership in humanitarian service to children throughout the world as Childhelp® Co-Founder. Mrs. O'Meara is actively involved in the development and oversight of the leading national nonprofit organization dedicated to helping victims of child abuse and neglect. Childhelp's approach focuses on prevention, intervention and treatment. The organization has put a national spotlight on the problem of child abuse in America and developed cutting-edge solutions.



**Bob's lovely bride**

Sara, along with co-founder Yvonne Feddersen, has been nominated for the fifth time for the Nobel Peace Prize. Endorsements for the prestigious nomination include letters from U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and former first lady Barbara Bush, along with numerous politicians, educators, and corporate executives.

Mrs. O'Meara lost her beloved husband Colonel Robert (Bob) Sigholtz in 2005. Bob was a highly decorated Colonel who fought in three wars – World War II, Korea and Vietnam. He was also the Athletic Director of Georgetown University.



**Col. Bob Sigholtz**  
**"We Try Harder!"**

**Above excerpt from:**

<http://www.childhelp.org/pages/founders/>

**Note:** Having served as one of the RTOs in the Colonel's battalion command group in 1966, just wanted to mention Bob was responsible for my *best day* at war, and he would often call *just to speak to one of his boys*. I'm sure he did that with many of us. Ed

**4<sup>th</sup>:** Angelina Jolie, Los Angeles, California, American actress (Girl, Interrupted, Lara Croft: Tomb Raider), born.

**6<sup>th</sup>:** Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam established.

**7<sup>th</sup>:** "Thank God I'm a Country Boy," by John Denver hits #1.

**7<sup>th</sup>:** Sony introduces the Betamax videocassette recorder for sale to the public.

**10<sup>th</sup>:** Rockefeller panel reports on 300,000 illegal CIA files on Americans.

**10<sup>th</sup>:** New York Yankees sponsor "Army Day" at temporary home, Shea Stadium. During 21-gun salute, part of fence is blown away and another part is set afire.

**16<sup>th</sup>:** Bucks trade Kareem Abdul-Jabbar & Walt Wesley to LA for 4 players (what were they thinking?!).



**21<sup>st</sup>:** "Jaws" by Steven Spielberg opens in theatres.

**28<sup>th</sup>:** Rod Serling, writer/host (Twilight Zone, Night Gallery), dies at 50.

**30<sup>th</sup>:** University of California reports galaxy 3C123 at 8 billion light years distance.



# ~ Reunions of the Airborne Kind ~



**Southwest Memorial Day Airborne Reunion**, June 2-3, 2012, Granbury, TX.

**Contacts:**

**John Taber**

**Eml:** [pittsace@windstream.com](mailto:pittsace@windstream.com)

**Mike Edwards**

**Phn:** 972-567-9593

**Eml:** [moeward@msn.com](mailto:moeward@msn.com)



**101st Airborne Division Association 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion**, August 14-17, 2012, Marriott Nashville Airport, Nashville, TN.

**Contact:**

**Phn:** 931-431-0199



**56th Annual Reunion of the 503<sup>rd</sup> Parachute Regimental Combat Team**, September 23 – 26, 2012, Holiday Inn, Richmond Intl. Airport, Sandston, VA.

**Contact:**

**Nancy Young, Secretary**

**Eml:** [youngncy@comcast.net](mailto:youngncy@comcast.net)



**173d Airborne Brigade Association Annual Reunion**, June 6 - 10, 2012, Lexington, Kentucky hosted by Chapter 17. See details on Pages 26-41.

**Contact:**

**Dave Carmon**

**Eml:** [dcarmon@roadrunner.com](mailto:dcarmon@roadrunner.com)

**Web:** [www.skysoldier17.com](http://www.skysoldier17.com)



**Recon, HHC, 2/503 '66-'67** is having a reunion in Lexington, Kentucky the same days as the 173d Association annual reunion this month.

**Contact:** Jerry Hassler

**Eml:** [hassler173@juno.com](mailto:hassler173@juno.com)



**29th Annual Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Reunion**, July 30 - August 5, 2012, Hilton Hotel, New Orleans, LA.

**Contact:**

**Phn:** 800-505-8472



**4/503d Reunion**, Friday, June 8, 2012. We're going to do it during the annual 173d Association reunion in Lexington, KY. Jerry Downard, Donnie Farmer and Joe Flesch are taking the lead. Mark your Calendar.

**Battle of the Bulge Veterans**, September 26-30, 2012, New Orleans, LA.

**Contact:** Doris Davis

**Phn:** 650-654-0101

**Eml:** [doris@battleofthebulge.org](mailto:doris@battleofthebulge.org)

**Web:** <http://www.battleofthebulge.org/>



**Casper Platoon Reunion 2012**, June 28 - July 1, 2012, Hilton San Francisco Financial District, San Francisco, CA

**Contact:**

**Steve Greene, Reunion Chairman**

**Web:** [greenaire@mac.com](mailto:greenaire@mac.com)



**2012 Combat Infantryman's Reunion**, October 18-21, 2012, Nashville, TN.

**Contact:**

**Web:** <http://cibassoc.com>



**Sun City "Fiesta VI", 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division**, July 4-July 8, 2012, El Paso, TX.

**Contact:**

**Eml:** [bp82cmdctr@bpaac.org](mailto:bp82cmdctr@bpaac.org)

**Web:** [www.bpaac.org](http://www.bpaac.org)

**Send notices of upcoming Airborne Reunions to:**

[rto173d@cfl.rr.com](mailto:rto173d@cfl.rr.com)



**"Parachutes Over Pittsburgh", 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Association 68<sup>th</sup> National Convention**, August 8-11-2012, Monroeville/ Pittsburgh, PA.

**Contact:**

**Tommy Thompson**

**Phn:** 724-206-0290

**Eml:** [82paratrooper@comcast.net](mailto:82paratrooper@comcast.net)



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# *Sky Soldiers.....Fall In!*

Dear Sky Soldiers & Friends of Sky Soldiers:



On behalf of all members of Chapter 17 and our 2012 Reunion Committee, I hope you'll make plans now to attend this year's 173d Airborne Brigade Association Reunion in beautiful Lexington, KY this month. A registration form is

included on Page 28 of this newsletter along with complete details about our reunion.

Reunion Central will be the Hyatt Regency Hotel, where old friends, comrades and their families will be gathering.

The centerpiece of this year's reunion includes *Operation Corregidor II*, an interactive presentation by paratroopers of the 503<sup>rd</sup> PRCT who fought in the Pacific during WWII. The unique venue selected for this historic event will be the Kentucky Theatre, a short walk from the hotel. Following their remarks and a brief video presentation of the 503<sup>rd</sup> from WWII, we'll open the floor for some Q&A. We hope you will be sure to attend this once-in-a-lifetime event and personally meet these men of the *Greatest Generation* during the reunion. The 173d will further honor these troopers at the closing banquet.



**The Hyatt....Reunion Central**

We look forward to welcoming you to Lexington, Kentucky for some *History, Horses & Hooch*; but most of all, in *Airborne Brotherhood*!

*All the Way!*

Roy Scott  
President  
173d Airborne Brigade Association

**Please visit our reunion website at:**  
<http://www.skysoldier17.com/Reunion.htm>



**The Kentucky Theatre, site for *Operation Corregidor II***



(continued....)

We're still looking for Sky Soldiers to sign-up for our golf outing, so be sure to register early for that.





# The 2012 173d Reunion

Lexington, KY

June 6 -10, 2012

Hosted By Chapter 17

Room rate 115.00 plus tax per night with Free Parking

## New Registration fees:

Sky Soldiers 99.00

Spouses & Guests 75.00

Gold Star 75.00

Children free - unless attending Reunion dinner

The Hyatt is taking reservations now.

Call 800.233.1234

Ask for the 173 Airborne guestroom block or code G-173A.

Also use this code when making reservations on-line  
at the Lexington-Hyatt website - [www.lexington.hyatt.com](http://www.lexington.hyatt.com)

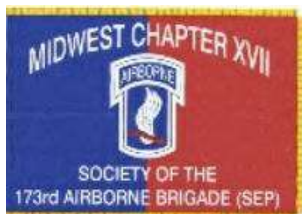
Information and Forms will be posted soon at [www.skysoldier.org](http://www.skysoldier.org) and [www.Skysoldier17.com](http://www.Skysoldier17.com)





# ~ REUNION PROGRAM ~

Hosted by Midwest Chapter 17



## June 6 - Wednesday

0900 – 1700 Registration @ Lobby  
0900 – 2230 Hospitality @ Hyttops Sports Bar  
0900 – 2300 Vendors @ Kentucky Room  
1800 – 2000 President's Reception @ Jasmine-Franklin

## June 7 - Thursday

0700 – 1230 Golf Outing TBA GC  
0900 – 1700 Registration @ Lobby  
0900 – 2300 Vendors @ Kentucky Room  
0900 – 2330 Hospitality @ Hyttops Sports Bar  
1300 – 1600 Operation Corregidor II, Kentucky Theatre

## June 8 - Friday

0830 – 1030 Gold Star Reception & Breakfast @ Regency 1  
0900 – 1100 Board of Directors Meeting @ Regency 3  
0900 – 1700 Registration @ Lobby  
0900 – 2200 Vendors @ Kentucky Room  
1000 – 2330 Hospitality @ Hyttops Sports Bar  
1100 – 1500 Kentucky Veterans Memorial – Frankfort – VFW Lunch

## June 9 - Saturday

0830 – 1000 Ladies Brunch @ Bluegrass Pre-function Area  
0900 – 1130 General Membership Meeting @ Regency 1&2  
0900 – 1700 Registration @ Regency 1 Foyer  
0900 – 2330 Hospitality @ Hyttops Sports Bar  
0900 – 2300 Vendors @ Kentucky Room

## Banquet

1800 – 1845 Cocktail Hour @ Bluegrass Ballroom  
1845 – 1900 Post Colors/Convocation @ Bluegrass Ballroom  
1900 – 2035 Dinner @ Bluegrass Ballroom  
2035 – 2115 Speakers & Awards @ Bluegrass Ballroom  
2115 Retire the Colors

## June 10 Sunday

0800 – 0900 Memorial Service @ Regency 1  
1130 Reunion Closing

**BE SURE TO ATTEND OPERATION CORREGIDOR II**



# 173d AIRBORNE BRIGADE ASSOCIATION 2012 REUNION



**JUNE 6-10, 2012, LEXINGTON, KY**

## ~ Registration Form ~

Please print. Copy form for additional guest(s)

My Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Brigade Unit Served With: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates served: \_\_\_\_\_

Please include T-shirt size for each individual, S, M, L, XL, XXL

## Registration/Event Fees

(Check boxes)

Per Sky Soldier Association Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$99.
Per Each Guest. (Number of Guest(s) _____)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75.
Children free - unless attending Reunion dinner	
Per Child or all other extra dinner only guests	<input type="checkbox"/> \$40.
Per Gold Star Family Member	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75.
Per Active duty Soldier (Not on Orders)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75.
Per Active Duty Soldier on Orders (i.e. Command, Color Guard)	<input type="checkbox"/> Free
Per Vendor Table	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75.
Ladies Brunch (Number attending _____)	<input type="checkbox"/> Includ
Per player in Golf Tournament (No: _____)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$45

Enclosed is my check for this Total Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make Check Payable and Mail to:

Midwest Chapter 17  
P.O. Box 09640, Columbus, OH 43209



## Hotel Reservations:

Hyatt Regency – Lexington, \$115.00 + tax per night.  
Reservations: 1-800-233-1234

Request group rate for 173d Airborne Assn. guestroom block or code G-173A. This is also the code to use if making reservations on-line at - [www.lexington.hyatt.com](http://www.lexington.hyatt.com)  
Information on overflow hotels at web site:

<http://www.skysoldier17.com/Reunion.htm>



**"HISTORY, HORSES & HOOCH"**



2/503d **VIETNAM** Newsletter / June 2012 – Issue 41  
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# OPERATION CORREGIDOR II

Midwest Chapter 17 is proud to announce we have invited five paratroopers of the 503rd PRCT who fought throughout the Pacific during WWII along with their companions to attend this month's 173d Association reunion in Lexington, KY as guests of the officers and men of the 173d Airborne Brigade and friends of the 173d and 503rd. This is *troopers honoring troopers* and is not sanctioned by either the 173d or 503rd Associations. *It's a paratrooper thang.*

In 2010, at the annual reunion in N. Myrtle Beach, SC hosted by South Carolina Chapter 30, five (5) troopers of the 503rd attended as guests of troopers of our Brigade and friends of the 173d and 503rd. As honest Abe said,

***“Any nation that does not honor its  
heroes will not long endure,”***

and that's just what we'll be doing in Lexington, honoring these men.

Of the over 3000 paratroopers who served with the 503rd during WWII, sadly, less than 100 men are still with us. We hope you'll attend the reunion and meet these troopers personally and also attend the WWII interactive presentations.

**Our thanks to each of you who  
contributed to this historical event and  
for keeping alive *The Airborne Spirit!***

## Honoring Our WWII 503<sup>rd</sup> Troopers

Steve Abdalla, 2/503, 3/503 Ron Amyot, 2/503  
Ed Anthony, 172d Mid John Arnold, 1RAR  
Jim Baskin, 4/503 Bob Beemer, 2/503  
Kane Benson, 1/503 Jerry Berry, 4/503  
Don Bliss, Caspers Pat Bowe, 2/503  
Wayne Bowers, 2/503 Bravo Bulls, 2/503  
Jim Brookmiller, 4/503 Bob Bruce, 1/503  
Bob Carmichael, 2/503 Leta Carruth, 2/503 Friend  
Mark Carter, 173d LRRP Chapter 24  
Chapter 27, Australia Chapter 30, 173d  
Bob Clark, 1st, 5th, 7th SF Harry Cleland, 2/503  
John Cleland, 3/503, 173d Bde Dave Colbert, 2/503  
Jim Cole, 2/503, 3/319 Art Coogler, 1/503  
Reed Cundiff, 173d LRRP Gary Davidson, 2/503  
Terry Davis, 2/503 Mike de Gyrky 2/503  
Bruce Demboski, 2/503 George Dexter, 2/503  
Roger Dick, 2/503 Tom Dooley, 2/503  
Joe Drabin, 2/503 Jim Dresser, 2/503  
Frank Dukes, 2/503 Tony Esposito, 2/503  
Scott Fairchild, 82nd Abn Pat Feely, 2/503, B Med

Paul Fisher, 3/503 Craig Ford, 1/503  
Joe Franklin, 173d Bde Jim Frelak, Cowboys  
A.B. Garcia, 2/503 Tony Geishauser, Cowboys  
Jim Gettel, 2/503 Larry Goff, 173d  
Johnny Graham, 2/503 Jim Green, 2/503  
Bernie Griffard, 2/503 Frank Guerrero, 4/503  
Steve Haber, 2/503 Eddie Hair, 1/503  
Larry Hampton, 1/503 Tom Hanson, 3/503  
Bill Harlan, 2/503 Mike Harris, 2/503  
Matt Harrison, 2/503 Jerry Hassler, 2/503  
Hank Hatch, 2/503 Eng. Dennis Hill, 1/503, 3/503  
Vince Hoang, SVA Wayne Hoitt, 2/503  
Dick Holt, 2/503 Nick Hun, 2/503  
Johnny Jones, 2/503 Peter Kacerguls, 3/503  
Ken Kaplan, 2/503 Ed Kearney, 2/503  
Jack Kelley, 2/503, 3/503 Dave Kies, 2/503  
Bill Knapp, 2/503 Bobby Kohaya, 2/503  
Gary Kozdron, 1/503 John Kyne, 2/503  
Joe Lamb, 2/503 David Leung, 1/503  
Dave Linkenhoker, 2/503 Joe Logan, 2/503  
Roy Lombardo, 2/503 Bob Lucas, 2/503  
Richard Martinez, 2/503 Dr. Cam McLain, 503rd Friend  
Tom McGall, 101st Jackie “Mom” McIntyre, 42d IPSD  
Tom McIntyre, WWII Navy Pat McShane, 173d  
Bill Metheny, 4/503 Mark Mitchell, 2/503  
Jim Montague, 2/503 Butch Nery, 4/503, N75  
Bill Nicholls, 2/503 Joe Nigro, 101st  
Hal Nobles, 3/503 Bill Ostlund, 173d  
Jack Owens, 2/503 Larry Paladino, 2/503  
Jerry Patterson, 2/503 Alfred Paul, 2/503  
Ed Perkins, 2/503 Lou Pincock, 2/503  
Jack Price, 2/503 Gary Prisk, 2/503  
Dick Prosser, 2/503 Dan Reed, 2/503  
Bill Reynolds, 2/503 Jack Ribera, 2/503  
Jim Robinson, 2/503 Lee Robinson, 2/503  
Graham Rollings, 2/503 Charles Rolon, 2/503  
Marjorie Royer, 173d Friend Andy Russell, 2/503  
Augie Scarino, 2/503 Jack Schimpf, 2/503  
Roy Scott, 3/319 Bill Shippey, 2/503, N75  
Wayne Short, 2/503 Steve Skolochenko, D Maint  
Dave Smith, 2/503 Don Smith, 173d Friend  
John Smith, 2/503 Ken Smith, 2/503  
Lew Smith, 2/503 Tim Smith, 173d Friend  
Jerry Sopko, 4/503 Larry Speed, 1/503  
Jim Stanford, 2/503 George Stapleton, 3/503  
Jim Starrett, 2/503 Kaiser Sterbinsky, 2/503  
Mike Sturges, 2/503 Bob Sweeney, 2/503  
John Taylor, 2/503 William Terry, 3/319  
Marc Thurston, 2/503 Alt Turner, 2/503  
Steve Vargo, 2/503 VFW Kettering Mem. Post 9927  
Dave von Reyn, 2/503 Rich Whipple, 2/503  
Bill White, 173d Friend Jerry Wiles, 2/503  
Robert Will, 3/503 Ron Woodley, 2/503  
Pat Wright, 2/503, 4/503 Bill Wyatt, 2/503





# A CONDENSED HISTORY OF THE 503d PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM, WWII



By: Donald E. Abbott  
503rd PIR, July 1997

The 503d Parachute Regimental Combat Team, World War II, began with the activation of the 503d Parachute Battalion in Fort Benning, Georgia on 21 August 1941. The Battalion was the third of four Parachute Battalions formed prior to the beginning of World War II. The others were 501, 502 and 504.

On 2 March 1942 the 503rd Parachute Battalion was the nucleus around which the 503d Parachute Infantry Regiment was formed. This was the first of a number of such regiments organized over the next few years. The Regiment was transferred to Fort Bragg, North Carolina in March 1942.

On 20 October 1942 the Regiment left the POE San Francisco on the MS Poelau Laut. The first stop was the Panama Canal Zone where the 501st Parachute Battalion was picked up. This battalion was redesignated as the Second Battalion of the 503d PIR, replacing the original 503d's Second Battalion which had been sent to England and, eventually, redesignated as the 509. The Regiment landed in Cairns,



Don Abbott



Australia on 2 December 1942 after a voyage of 43 days and 42 nights. Later the Regiment was expanded into a Combat Team with the assignment of the 462d Parachute Artillery Battalion on 29 March 1944 and the 161st Parachute Engineer Company on 13 September 1944.



503<sup>rd</sup> troopers mixing with the Aussies

During its more than three years service in the Southwest Pacific Theater, the 503d served in five major combat operations. A number of other missions were planned but called off by higher headquarters.

1. The Regiment jumped in the Markham Valley, New Guinea, on 5 September 1943, in the first successful Airborne Combat Jump. The Regiment forced the Japanese evacuation of a major base at Lae to take a route which proved to be disastrous for them. The third Battalion of the 503d had a major skirmish with the rear guard of this exodus. The successful employment of Parachute troops, in the Markham Valley, has been credited with saving the concept of vertical envelopment from being abandoned following several less than successful engagements in Europe.



Church tent in New Guinea

(continued....)

