

Our unit (11th Pathfinder Company, HHC 11th Aviation Group, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) is in the process of creating a new website. As such, we would like your website's permission to post a copy of an article concerning LZ Bird written by a Robert D. Middleton, CPT, Arty commanding Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 30th Artillery. The attached pdf is the content we wish to share on our site since it references some members of our unit who were at LZ Bird during the attack of 27 December 1966.

Of course our site would acknowledge that this article was copyrighted by identifying it as follows: " Author: Robert D. Middleton, CPT, Arty - Copyright @ 2019 [www.Hardchargers.com]. All Rights Reserved and provide a link on site to your website.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert G. Wolaver  
Webmaster  
11th Pathfinder Company  
RVN. 1967 - 1969

(Unedited)

This is intended to be the member's history of C/6/16 FA from 65 through the end of its service in VN. It can be carried beyond that for anyone who has an interest in extending it. While a unit designation is the focus of Army historical documents, the reality is that the most important things are the personal and organizational relationships that formed our experience. I hope that we can focus on the people, the places, and the events that we experienced. There is the strong possibility of confusion of unit identification during the period of reflagging and the new identities that developed over the following years. Do not worry about that. Hopefully, we can sort it out as we go along.

To refresh your memories, in the unlikely event you have forgotten a few things, you can check the C Battery History on the Hard Charger's web site:

<http://www.hardchargers.com/SixSixteenHistory.html>

In order to get this started we will provide a location and time based outline and one or two short pieces. We invite anyone who was assigned to the battery, associated with the battery but in other units including the Headquarters of the 1/30th Battalion. So, please join in and contribute some of your memories.

Oh, and some ground-rules might be helpful:

- Keep it simple and relatively short
- Limit profanity
- Don't worry about writing the perfect entry, the end result will be edited for grammar, spelling, and content
- Name names where possible and then invite them to join the project
- Invite others you know from the battery to participate
- Make your entries first person reports, e.g., what you saw, did, experienced as much as possible
- If you disagree with what someone has written, do not delete their input. Add to it with your opinion or memory of the event. We'll sort it out later
- Remember, this is a draft. Enter what you can even if you think you need more information. You can always come back and edit what you have already contributed plus add information. Maybe someone else could provide information you do not remember.

Prior to Vietnam deployment

Deployment to Vietnam

Support of the 1st Cav

### LZ Bird

Quoted from the C/6/16 on the 1/30 th FA Regiment Association website:

"The attack commenced at 0100 hours 27 December 1966. The attack was made by two battalions of the 22nd NVA Regt, controlled by the Regt Hq. Approximate strength of the attacking force was 1000 men. Units occupying LZ Bird at the time of the attack were Btry C, Btry B, 2/19th Arty, two platoons of Company C, 1/12th Cavalry (infantry), and a three man Path-finder team for LZ control. Total friendly strength at the LZ was 170 men.

The NVA attacked from two directions. One from the north end of the LZ into Battery C position area, and one from the east that turned south into Battery B's position area. It was a typical, well organized NVA attack. Automatic weapons and mortars were zeroed in on the penetration points with further suppressive mortar fire on the length of the LZ. Their infantry attacked into their own fire immediately upon its initiation. The infantry perimeter was immediately overrun due to the NVA ability to creep to within 20 meters of the perimeter prior to the attack and poor defensive characteristics of the terrain. The attack carried into and thru our No. #1 section before the section chief could look up from the prone position he assumed upon receipt of incoming rounds. The chief and two other men did escape to alert the FDC and other sections and continued the fight with the fourth section. The battery's volume of fire steadily increased in tempo to blunt the attack after it had overrun three of the five howitzers. The attack into Battery B proceeded simultaneously with equal success overrunning half of that battery prior to being blunted. It is interesting to note that although the enemy overran half of the battery area, it was unsuccessful in destroying our bunkers around the first three. The personnel that were not KIA or WIA continued to place effective fire on the enemy around them. Many incidents of heroism took place during this time. A "quiet" period of approximately twenty to thirty minutes followed the first ten minutes of the attack. During this period individuals on both sides had run low or out of ammunition and were scrambling around obtaining additional ammo. Friendly illumination was obtained and artillery adjusted into the position by the FO with C, 1/12 at

that time. Additional aerial rocket artillery arrived on the scene and commenced firing around the LZ most effectively. Approximately 40 minutes after the attack friendly small arms fire increased and the BC of B, 2/19 with a crew managed to fire a "Beehive" round thru half of his battery directly into the entire length of Battery C. This had a very settling affect combined with increased tempo of fire support and small arms within the battery. At this time, the NVA started to withdraw. "A" Company 1/15th Cav arrived by lift shortly and met no resistance in linking up with the batteries and clearing the Landing Zone. It was shortly after "A" 1/5th had swept the area that I arrived to assume command. The battery had not fired direct fire due to the fact it would have been ineffective due to minus elevation and the closeness of the enemy.

The various acts of valor are too numerous to mention. Hand to hand combat was common and many troops engaged in pitch and catch with enemy hand grenades. Sixteen men have been recommended for awards at this writing. SSG Gregario Nieto has already been awarded the Silver Star for his actions and Sp/4 Caldwell and PFC bouchard were decorated immediately after the fight by General norton with the Bronze Star with "V". The battery suffered four KIA and twenty one WIA, (a third of its Landing Zone strength). All wounded will recover completetly.

The lessons learned during this battle are so numerous I will save them for later correspondence. I'm sure you will share with me this great pride I have of Battery C. Thier action reflects great upon not only themselves and the 1st Cavalry Division but also its parent battalion. Due to the extremely poor U.S. press coverage of great Vietnamese Battles, I request that as much publicity as possible be given to our unit thru the Cannoneer so that all Artillery men everywhere may know that the spirit of "Defend the Gun" is still so very much alive.

We hope to commission an artist soon to paint a picture on one of the battle scenes which will be forwarded to you upon completion. It will also serve as the basis for a mural to be painted on the mess hall when completed.

If we can be of assistance in any way please write. We will be looking forward to further correspondence.

ROBERT D MIDDLETON

CPT, Arty

Commanding

**Battle for LZ BIRD  
Information for**

# 1st CAVALRY DIVISION

## December 12, 1966

1 CAV was a US Army unit

Primary service involved, US Army

Binh Dinh Province, II Corps, South Vietnam

Location, LZ Bird

Description: At 0105H three NVA battalions from the 22d Regt used the two-day Christmas truce to move into position for a surprise attack on LZ Bird in the Kim Son Valley which was well away from their usual haunts in the Hoai Nhon Delta area. The LZ was defended by only part of the C/1/12th Cav plus B/2/19th (105mm) and C/6/16th (155mm) artillery. All were understrength. It was within the artillery fan of two other FSBs. Initially the weather restricted air support operations. The NVA broke through the perimeter and occupied a few gun positions. The 1st Cav soldiers fought back hand-to-hand and with everything they had. Finally, some of the 105s were cranked down to pointblank range and "beehive" rounds sliced through the attackers like scythes. For the next two days, the 1st Cav pursued the fleeing NVA and made contact several times. At least 266 NVA died in this battle. Delbert Jennings won the Medal of Honor and would later become the CSM of the Division. Many ARA and armed CH-47 sorties were flown in support of this battle. Not only after this battle, the site at the bend in the river was deemed highly vulnerable and a new LZ BIRD was built on a hogback several miles farther to the east

The source for this information was The First Team P 153; Bird by SLA Marshall

Two undermanned US Army artillery batteries and a rifle company of the First Cavalry Division (Airmobile) guarded Landing Zone Bird located in Binh Dinh Province on South Vietnam's eastern coast. Shortly after midnight, three entire battalions of North Vietnamese regulars burst out of the darkened jungle and began to swarm over the landing zone. The struggle for control lasted only about an hour."

### **The aftermath of LZ Bird**

Upon arriving in VN, I was quickly shuttled from Camp Alpha (before I could even sit down) and was flown to An Khe (Camp Radcliffe), driven to what I later found out to be The C/6th/16th's patch of real estate.



**Camp Radcliffe (An Khe)  
C/6th/16th FA base camp  
Jan 1967**

At the supply tent was given my new attire, web gear, and a M-14 and a few rounds and was told that I could get the rest of what I needed when I got out to the LZ. Was quickly shuttled off to the Golf Course, and put on a Huey that was hell bent on skimming just above the river, twisting and turning, and hopping over ridges, while I tried to balance on a Merimack can and not crap my britches.

A few minutes later, the crew chief got out of his seat and yelled something to the door gunner. The door gunner then yelled at me and made it real clear that when we landed, he wanted to see nothing but asshole and elbow because we were headed to place that had just got overrun.

A few minutes later, we made a pass over Bird, and I think at that time the cheeks of my hind-end were so tight that it squeaked. We flaired down, and don't know if I got off that

chopper or was tossed out, but the Merimack can and me were feeling pretty small as the chopper departed.

*INSERT Photo's: once I receive permission from those that I obtained photo's and duly assign the proper copyright to the respective person I will post them here.....Be warned they are graphic and I don't know them to have been published anywhere.*

"Holy Shit" is about all I could mutter as I looked around. There's no movie that could describe the smells, sounds, and horrific carnage that surrounded me in every direction. A Sgt. came up and told me drop my gear and help line up some dead NVA. I don't remember much immediately following, other than that same Sgt standing over me barking some orders as I was coming too. When someone finally realized that I wasn't with the infantry unit or the engineers but with the artillery, they pointed eastward and told me they had just moved up there pointing to an outcropping high on a ridge.

Another log ship then picked me up and deposited me on a little sandy beach along the Soui Ca river at the base of a hill because some choppers were dropping off ammo up on LZ Abbey (wrongly referred to in Marshall's book as Bird II). I believe it was also about the time that SFC J.C Jones was seriously wounded from a booby trap grenade that was tripped when some ammo was lowered accidentally on a trip wire. A few grunts from Captain Roy Benson's B/1/12th emerged from the bush, and after huffin and puffin up that slippery grade, one step forward and sliding two back, they guided me up and through the perimeter. Thank God I was a Redleg, or brown and muddy as the case seemed.

Sgt Neito greeted me, another SGT who I believe was SGT Leo Dozier were arguing as to where I'd be assigned, when thankfully Ronnie Savell from FDC came along. Ronnie and I were both buddies at Ft. Sill together and both had gone through FDC training. When he saw what was going on he quickly went to the FDC tent and got acting section chief SP5 Ronnie Davis; Davis then quickly snatched me up for FDC.

We spent about a week up on Abbey, and I was still reeling from my first day in VN. Everyone on Abbey was, especially those that had survived the attack. I believe it was either that same day of arrival on Abbey or the following day that one of the grunts had spotted several Vietnamese men enter a small hooch down in the village that lay just to our North. I remember the gunners bore sighted the hooch and direct fired a round right

through the door. Other than some really mad "mad minutes" and a suspected VC being shot down along the Soui Ca? river, nothing eventful happened.

We then were craned out of Abbey and went back to Camp Radcliffe to regroup, several of the guns and some their crew were sent to LZ Hammond to be refitted; if not with new tubes, certainly tires as they all pretty much had been flattened taking shrapnel at Bird.

Throughout the rest of January and well into February, and possibly even into the first part of March 67 we stayed in Radcliffe and got back up to operational strength. The guns all returned along with their crews and were ready to move out.

### **Sin City**

During this period of so called "stand down" there were occasions where we allowed to venture out. Before this happened, Capt Middleton had called a formation and gave us strict instructions and warned us about Sin City... and to stay away. I remember Savell and I, just looked at each other and muttered "Sin City" we need to check that out, and that we did.

Funny thing is, sure saw a lot of familiar faces that also weren't supposed to be there. Guess we weren't the only ones that didn't follow orders to a tee.

Footnote:

Relieving LT Strickland (whom I believe was wounded) at Bird was Capt. Robert Middleton who went by "Denny" or "Sir" (depending upon your pecking order), he quickly took charge as the new the Battery Commander at Bird and got the battery operational. Lt. Richard McLendon a survivor from Bird became either his XO or Fire Direction Officer, but since he spent most of his time in FDC I will opt for the later.

*As another small footnote and historical correction for the record: SLA Marshall's book incorrectly stated that there were six 155 howitzer positions at Bird, there were five as was correctly stated above in Capt Middleton's letter. On December 17th, ten days prior to the attack on Bird, one of the guns blew a breech. I was told that the guns had been firing constantly (most likely to the Southwest where intelligence had reported NVA sightings) when they received a cease fire with a live round in the tube. The gun was so hot, that it is*



*believed that the stabilizing ring had welded to the sides of the tube and when they were finally given the all clear to resume firing, it blew the breech. At that time the following men on Gun #1 were casualties:*

*PFC Fox*

*Gunner E5 Noveski*

*Section Chief SSgt Adair*

*Asst. Gunner Wright*

*SP4 Matthews*

I lost my notes regarding the status of the above as to whom was KIA or WIA.

*In that same incident, Major Joseph Ecoppi, the Battery Commander sustained a serious shrapenal wound to the leg and was soon to find himself in Japan.*

*It was at this time, 1st LT Strickland assumed command of the battery after MAJ Ecoppi was medivaced.*

*For the record, Captain Middleton was at DIVARTY, and was scheduled to take over command soon after Christmas, but as the situation dictated he was awoken back at An Khe shortly after the intitial attack, again it is stated in Marshall's book that all the radio contact with Bird was via Capt Shlenker B/2/19th to Cpl Abbott with the 1/9th and relayed to Pony. But from my interviews, DIVARTY was contacted by SP5 Ronnie Davis (FDC) before the mic was blown out of his hand by a AK-47 round. The radio contact with DIVARTY would also be validated by the timeframe in which Capt Middleton was awakened.*

*From speaking with Capt Middleton.....ahhhhhh I mean Colonel Middleton (Ret) he said...somewhere between 0120 and 0130 he was awakend and told to head for Colonel Brand's helicopter that was warmed up and waiting for him. He was instructed to report back immediately the situation at Bird as they had lost contact with the battery. He went on to tell me that when they lifted off from Radcliffe, it was raining, as they gained altitude after clearing the cloud shear, off to the Northeast it looked like a massive lightening storm under the clouds, the pilot just homed in on that and it guided them right to LZ Bird. When they arrived on station, they were forced to circle the LZ awating the 1/9th's choppers along with medivac to depart, and praying not to get hit by any of the illumination or HE rounds coming from LZ Pony's artillery batteries, 6 to 7 clicks east.*

March 1967 timeframe:

Still C/6th/16th at that time we departed base camp at AN Khe (never to return) and headed east up through An Khe Pass on a road march



**SP5 Covin Pennington (Chief of FDC) as we were preparing to leave base camp approx Mar 1, 1967**

and I believe we

went to straight to LZ Crystal.

On April 7th, I don't remember any ceremony as far as the changing of colors with B/1/30th, only thing I remember is our call sign on the radio changed I believe to Lightning Bolt, it may have been something else originally, but I remember most of the time during the second half of my tour it was Lightning Bolt. (RB)

My recollection and story continue but the rest is under B/1/30th -Yankster 2/22/07 1:29 PM

AT THIS POINT MOVE TO B/1/30th HEADING TO CONTINUE

Discussion of moving the battery to the south in support of the 1st BDE, 101 Airborne to switch places with B/1/30.

- Decision to reflag the two units rather than move them.

Reflagging

- B Battery 1st Battalion 30th FA was re-flagged in early April '67 to C Battery, 6th Battalion, 16th Artillery at Khanh Duong on along Highway 21 inland from Phan Rang. The battery was concurrently attached to the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Brigade under the control of 2nd Battalion, 320th Artillery. Unit members were authorized to wear the shoulder patch of the 101st by the Brigade Commander, BG Matheson. The Brigade developed a 101st shoulder patch with the banner over the shield changed from Airborne to "NAP" an acronym for Non-Airborne Personnel. Battery members wore the patch proudly and all members of the battery were pleased to part of the Airborne. Reportedly, the battery members were authorized to wear the 101 patch as a combat patch after rotation from VN. Documentation of that authorization was apparently confirmed by a battery member through the IG system but no known written authorization has been found. Anyone with knowledge of such a document, please let us know.
- Battery members competed for a prize to develop a new battery motto. Cpl Hoover won the prize with the motto, "Legs of the Eagle."
- Separation from the Airborne. After the euphoria of being able to stay with the Airborne, it was only a few weeks until the Airborne was ordered to the First Military Region. The Brigade CG asked for the newly designated C/6/16 FA to accompany the Brigade. After some deliberation, IFFV Artillery declined to allow the battery to move with the Airborne. Not long after the decision we were ordered to road march to a position north of Phu Cat in Binh Dinh Province and be attached to the 1/30th FA Bn, an attachment we did not look forward to.

#### Road March to LZ Ollie --May '67 (?)

- We moved the battery up Highway 1 without support or additional security assistance without incident. We were to have radio contact with US units along the way but that did not work well, or at all. The consequence is that we just did it on our own. The trip took two or three days and covered a significant distance. (I'll try to figure that out and include it. RZ)

#### On LZ Ollie

- SSG Erasmo Pagan, our Supply Sergeant, talks an engineer unit out of bridge materials to help us build our fortifications.

- A series of unfortunate incidents.
- Commo Sergeant injured while giving directions to his soldier backing a truck in the battery position. Medevaced. Who was he? How is he now? Where is he?
- Friendly fire incident. On one morning in June or July after we had one gun firing H&I through the night, we received a call near sunrise for fire from a LNO for "Battery Three Rounds, Fire for Effect." When the FDC received the call for fire, they passed it to the battery and advised the CO of the request. They were concerned about the fact that two or three of the guns had fired during the night and at least one was hot and one or two were still warm. The FDC was concerned about the possibility that when the battery fired, the effect of the heated barrels would cause differences among the six guns in their range. The FDC attempted to discuss the issue with the LNO and was told that we should just go ahead and fire as requested because an infantry company was ready to attack the target. In the end we shot the battery three. The LNO reported that with each volley one gun seemed to fire short of the others. The one round fell shorter while the others remained consistent. On the third volley, the short round burst within 100 meters of a US soldier and he was hit with a piece of shrapnel that killed him immediately. When the LNO called check fire and advised us what had happened, the executive officer called the gun crews to fall in to the rear of the piece. Each piece was checked for lay and firing settings. The settings were also verified by the battery commander. No piece was either out of alignment nor were the the deflection and elevation enough to cause the short rounds. The calculations by the FDC were also checked and found accurate. The incident was reported to battalion and an officer from HQ was sent out to investigate.
- Change of command -- an unpleasant surprise! Within a day or two the battalion commander flew into LZ Ollie to conduct a battery change of command. I, CPT Zugel, was replaced by CPT ?
- PS: Three years after this incident CPT Zugel, then Major met an Infantry Major who had been the commander of the infantry company during this incident. They were in a school being trained for service as District Senior Advisers for redeployment to Vietnam. When they discovered that they were both involved in the incident the infantry commander gave his view of what had happened. The infantry company was dug in, and prepared to attack an enemy unit some distance away. The artillery fire was called to soften up the target so that the infantry would have the advantage in

the coming attack. The soldiers were instructed to stay down and not get up until they were told to do so. Unfortunately, after the first volley one soldier got up, climbed up on a large rock to take a picture and was hit by shrapnel from one of the following volleys. Reportedly, he was killed instantly by a piece of shrapnel that went through his abdomen and out his back, severing his spine. Question? on c/6/16 home page. If the pictures could be found of the missing roll of honor can they be added?

Dale Tucker remembering .

nov 67----( LZ peak ) (hill) - SSgt Sayers 24 yrs in was my chief of section , I think SGT Hardgrove was gunner and then chief of section for a short time. within 2 months most of the old timers were on the way home.( ????????) would have any of these guys been in the reflagging ???

( LZ Judy) was next (LZ Banana) This was 67 christmas One unit of the Cav came in for a few days. There was a big tent threw up in the middle of the LZ. ( LZ Riverside) ( LZ Ford)

( LZ Ollie,) small arms fire , chief of smoke yelled shift for direct fire,remember looking down the tube to a tree , but never had a order to load.

( LZ Laramie) ( july 4th,68) ,was ready to move into, if I remember right the bunker had wooden floors. At (LZ Laramie as sp-4 White,Pargmann and myself were given acting E-5 stripes along with chief of section(unit orders 27 jun 68 signed by CPT Ruben D Narvaez) NCO's were hard to find while attached to the cav. I *Somewhere around june or july 68 we load everything to make a trip on a LST to cocoa beach. C- Rations don't go well on the open seas. Spend the night on the beach , the next morning they came around to inspect all the trucks. Seem there was several cases of beer missing of the beach where it was unloaded. As they unloaded from the other 5 tons I though our guys wouldn't take what wasn't theirs. They searched our truck and found nothing. I felt good about our guys until they showed me 5 cases neatly stacked under the ammo. I wished later they had taken more. Then on to( I think) camp evans . I do remember the road march thru Hue . Alot of burn out building and not many people on the way in.*

(LZ English,) (LZ Whitehouse ) ,( Sally,) ( Joe,)(  
Bastogne) ( Pinky) ( Nimbet) ( Birmingham) ( Evans)

( LZ Eagles nest,FSB Eagle's nest had the best view. {5000ft up ) With the morning sunrise you could almost see the ocean to the east. To the west looking down into the A Shau valley (lots of bomb craters, 1 huey) then to the river to Laos .South east across the valley and down the river were a line of mountains. ( later hamburger hill ?)We watched B-52 waste those , North west were hills we shot into and up the valley. ( on Eagle's nest) were sections 1,2and 3 with a listening post) navy or marines? - lot of charge 7 and some green bag ( charge 1 with tube all the way up) lots of rain & fog up there.

------( NO BEER ON THIS LZ !!!!) said a Col with the 101 st. We had a lot of clouds and rain for it seem like a week with no supplies coming in

,  
our water cans were being filled with rain water. With the sun out one day and a hot fire mission . We poured the last of our water into the swab bucket. The mission on hold and a big thirst , one of the guys pop a top and passed it around. Sure enough this Col."s chopper was the first to arrive for a tour. Standing right behind #3 gun when the top popped . (NO BEER ON THIS LZ) Later that day we had water to come in.

2AM after shooting a few rounds into the ashau , Chief of smoke came out yelling (POLICE CALL!!) Never did like him after that. About a year ago I found out he didn't make it back. I felt bad about that. He did do a lot for the batttery.

-----( LZ Panther III) (29 aug 68 ) Panther III was like steps , lower hill was guns 4,5 and 6, second hill was 1,2 and 3, on top was a 102 or 105 btry. 29 aug 68 we were hit early morning on all three by mortars. We could see the lower hill being hit hard.On the second hill they came up on the west side. can't remember must after that .A few rounds were shot then calmed down.Gun #1 ran into our pit (center pit #3) After Gun#2 was shooting at the river down below.where they were crossing back over. Flares were up and then Puff came in and sprayed the area.On the lower hill we lost Rangel and Roy.On one of my notes I had 2 kia and 24 wia.They carried several down passed us to the chopper pad between lower hill and the second

----- We first arrived at Panther III somehow a jeep showed up. For sure nowhere to drive. Section # 1 used it to haul ammo from the chopper pad that was near the lower hill. Worked fine backing it up the that steep incline, until after unloading ,without a driver it started down . Took a left before the pad and down the hill it went ,Never to be seen again.

*Looked up artillery in the dictionary. :weapons ( as bows ,slings, and catapults ) for discharging missiles. Didn't say anything about jeeps.*

*, FSB ROY 29 sept 68 ), Dennis Pargmann and myself went in front of 101st board for E-5 (form signed by) Rufus Hamilton,3 nov 68,co,btry F ,16 arty ( A / 2/11 arty) , we were at lz roy at that time. Again listed as F battery 16 arty .(do have copy of orders) James McClain(Lima, oh.) was co. clerk when I left. .Lacy Martin (va) ( section #2) Alfonso Lbanez was xo , LT. Fielding was xo came in at lz Roy Ron Hageft wia at panther III, ,*

*Most in 3rd section didn't have arty mos.*

*On the move with - 5 ton - chinook - crain ? -Navy LST north -- -c130 or c131 ? -  
- gun #3, I can say always gave their all. gunner sp4 Farrihgton, CA.-  
AG. Lopez , CA. -Negar ,IL - Larry Cable ,Penn - - Hufford,OK. - Silva, AZ, - Zuelick,Wash.  
-Driver , Ponder, SC. -- Gun #2 Chief of sec DENNIS Pargmann, Tx - Lacy Martin , Va,*

*-- James Hardy White ( LA) lost on LZ Roy( Panel 44- line 43 ) -----Gerald Raymond Roy(NY) lost on Panther III (Hostile )Panel 45w -line 1 ---- Florentino Rangel (OK) lost on Panfher III ( Hostile) Panel 45 Line 1 WIA , Fred Royce ,Mt. also on the lower hill of Panther III, that was hit the hardest. I don't remember.between 82th, c/6/16 and 1o5s or 102s on the top hill.*

*Only one time did we shoot out of battery. Found out how to use the pump we had carried for 11 months. That was LZ Roy. LZ Panther III one mortar hit the right wheel. ( BIG HOLE) LZ Roy we had to replace pit wall . After one misson , new guy cutting power bags and throwing down the hill. Did't take long before the fire found the trail back up. (FIRE IN THE HOLE) AND start filling sand bags. My guitar was left on the pit wall when a mission was called, charge 7 left strings and the neck. Made one (last) strange sound .*

*One lz , 1,2 and 3 guns with 102 s , 1st mission there ,and a wet rainy night , with charge 7 seem like we moved back 20 feet or more, and relayed 2 or 3 times. guns 1&2 coulded shoot any more so they came over to help #3 -----*

*I don't know where the guys came for when I join the battery in nov, 67. They could have been the old 1/30 after the reflagging or they could have been the same guys that went thru Bird. I do know they didn't talk about where they had been or been thru. I know that they were and will always be the bastard battery. In Nov. 67 all section chiefs were E-6 , then as*

time went on most were spec-4 , Not enough time in grade to be any higher. But had the know how to do the job. and not get the pay. There were a few E-6 alone the way. That was with the Cav. One COL. from the Cav. came in battery and said we were not combat troops. Took our fresh eggs away and gave us power eggs and c- rations. The fresh egg weren't that great anyway. That was the bastard battery. Now the 101st took care of us a little better. Maybe we didn't have it as bad as most, but we had our bad times too and lost some good friends. I'm still proud of being part C/6/ 16 arty ,the bastard battery. I made a note in the 101st guest book and the next entry stated you ain't shit if you're not airborne.

When we were building this house , the man who poured the concrete and I talked about nam . He was with the 173 airborne when they made a jump. Said lot of the guys didn't made it to the ground. and they didn't get jump pay. I would call him airborne. When we make the trip to Eagle's nest there were 6 of us from c/6/16 that went in with the 101st. I would said the chopper was about 15 feet off the ground when they asked us to step off. I would have to say that was air borne not air mobile. I think we spend 2 days before the dozer was dropped to make the pits. Then 3 guns. Step off was not what they really said.