

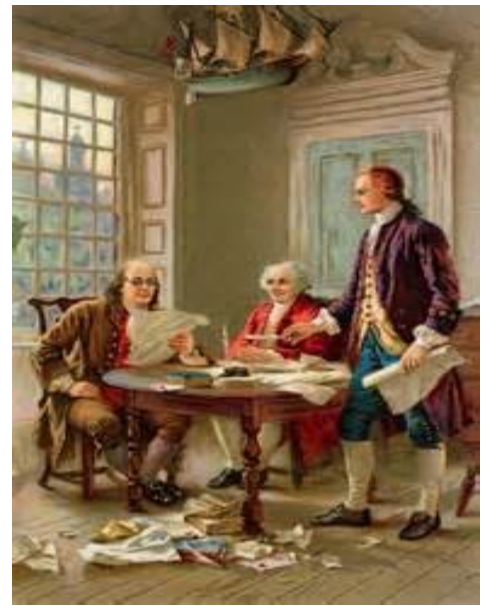


1st. Battalion, 92nd Artillery NEWSLETTER

Fall –Winter 2014



REUNION 2015: Tony Piccari and Veto Torregiano are hosting our next reunion in the historic city of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania also known as the birthplace of America. It is being planned for the first or second week of October, 2015. More details will be forthcoming as plans are finalized. Fall is a beautiful time of the year in the North East and as most of you know, Tony and Veto know how to have a great time. Plan ahead and reserve the early part of next October for our get-together.



Tony Piccari is a Bravo Battery cannon crewman who served from October 1968 to October 1969. He left the Army in 1970 to work in the construction field. He is now the owner of a construction firm in Philadelphia, PA

He says, “I came to the 1/92 as a boy and when I left, I was a man. It had a positive mental impact on me. Rufus Conley showed me the ropes. He had a can-do attitude. ‘Lets get R done’ is a work ethic he passed on to me. The things I learned in Vietnam helped me greatly in my professional life.”

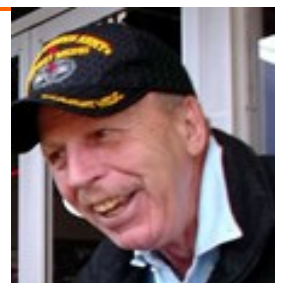
“We were quite a team in Bravo Battery. When I attend a reunion, it is like being with family. We were close knit group and though we were together for only a year, the time we spent together was intense. That experience bonded us and it created lasting friendships. It means a lot to be together with your battle buddies.”

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Vito Torregiano was a medic who served in Alpha Battery from January 1968 to January 1969. He left the Army that same month and began a career in the trucking industry driving eighteen wheelers in New York .



When asked what impact his time in the unit had on him, he replied, “It made me a better man. It changed my life. I gained respect for my brothers and became much more compassionate towards others. As a medic, you realize that life can be short and that every second is precious. For that reason, my outlook on life is that you need to make the best out of every moment.”

“Our reunions are like seeing family again. I cannot forget my brothers and what we endured together. We share stories that bring back memories like it was only yesterday. They mean a lot to me.”

M114 -1941

M198 -1979

M777-2005



THE M114 TOWED HOWITZER-THEN AND NOW

Specifications	M114	M198	M777
Service Date	1941 - present	1979 - present	2005 - present
Weight	12,800 lbs.	15,772 lbs.	7,540 lbs.*
Range	14,600 meters	22.400/30,000 meters	24,000/30,000/40,000 meters
Rate of Fire			
• Sustained	1 rpm	2 rpm	2 rpm
• Maximum	4 rpm	4 rpm	5 rpm
Crew	11	9	8
Munitions	HE, Illumination, Chemical Smoke, ICM	HE, Illumination, Chemical, Smoke, DPCIM, RAAMS, ADAMS, SADAM, RAP, Copperhead	HE, Illumination, Chemical, DPCIM, ADAMS, SADAM, RAP, ER-DPCIM Excalibur

ICM-Improved Conventional Munitions; DPCIM-Dual Purpose Improved Conventional Improved Munitions; RAAMS-Remote Anti Armor Mine Systems; ADAMS-Area Denial Artillery Munitions; SADAM-Sense and Destroy Armor; RAP-Rocket Assisted Projectile; Copperhead-launch guided high-explosive munitions using a laser to acquire target; ER-DPICM-Extended Range Dual Purpose Conventional Improved Munitions SOURCE: www.military.com/www.militaryfactory.com

*Literature shows variations in weight from 7,540 lbs. to 8,256 lbs.



Photo Credit: Dean Northcutt B Company, 3/12

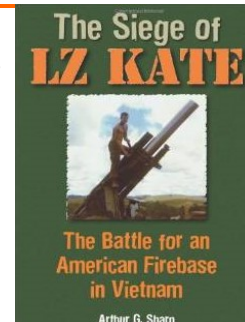
Infantry, Hill 1001 (Firebase 6) November 1968

FAREWELL : Nelson Thompson, COL (Retired) passed away March 7, 2014. He was the battalion commander of the 1/92 from November 1968 to June 1969. He was wounded twice and survived a helicopter crash shot down by enemy fire. Some describe him as a strong task master while others said he was always looking out for the soldier. I had the pleasure of meeting him last year while he was battling a viral disease that was ravaging his central nervous system. We chatted about our days in Vietnam and, in particular, our time together during the Siege of Dak To in 1969. He said that throughout his military career the thing he prized most was his time as the commander of the Brave Cannons. He is interned in the Post Cemetery at the West Point Military Academy in New York.

Bo Prehar



BOOK REVIEW-Bo Prehar: Arthur Sharp has written an account of what happened at a besieged firebase that was occupied by two howitzers sections from Charlie Battery along with two 105mm howitzers from the 5th Battalion, 22nd artillery. There were 28 US artillerymen and a company of Montagnards with two Special Forces advisors on the firebase when it was overrun in late 1969. Ultimately, the decision was made to abandon LZ Kate and escape to a Special Forces camp some seven miles away. How the firebase was defended, its adverse conditions, and the escape & evasion are documented with quotes and photographs. A weakness in the book is that there is no explanation why artillery fire support from interlocking firebases was not utilized. It would also have been helpful if schematics were included of the firebase layout, enemy dispositions, and the route of escape. An attempt is made to link the events at LZ Kate to those earlier in the year at Dak To/Ben Het. The comparison is a stretch that gives undue credit to air support and omits the roles of artillery, armor, and indigenous ground forces. Sharp is correct in pointing out that the loss of LZ Kate foreshadowed the failure of Vietnamization. Overall, the book is informative about an important part of our unit's history.



NOTE: Bill Albracht, the SF ground commander at LZ Kate, has written a memoir, Abandoned in Hell, which will be available early next year. A movie is also in the making that will focus on historical documentation and the human element. The movie is set for release on the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. Check the sources below for additional information:

SOURCE: <http://www.amazon.com/Abandoned-in-Hell-Fight-Vietnams-Firebase/dp/0451468082>
<http://escapefromfirebasekate.com/2013/11/19/historicdocumentary/>

DISCHARGE UPGRADES FOR VETERANS: Veterans who suffered PTSD like symptoms and received a less than honorable discharge may now petition boards for the correction of military records to have their discharges upgraded. Secretary of Defense Hagle has instructed boards to apply "liberal consideration" to language found in medical records describing one or more symptoms that meet diagnostic criteria for PTSD or related conditions.

SOURCE: Army Times, September 15, 2014

ELECTRONIC CLAIMS EXPIRATION: If you filed a claim online through eBenefits, the claim will expire if it is not completed and submitted within 365 days. The VA's electronic claim submission process, started in 2013, gives veterans the ability to start a claim online while providing 365 days to collect data, treatment records, and other related information. If the claim is not complete after one year it becomes inaccessible and the initiated claim date is removed from the system. Contact the DAV if you need assistance or additional information: 877-426-2838.

SOURCE: DAV Magazine, September-October 2014

WEBSITE-bravecannons.org:

The posting page of our website is out of order. Intruders were posting spam messages on a daily basis that made it difficult to purge the malicious content.

Our website is open to the public. It is unfortunate that there are those who abuse this privilege for personal gain. The webmaster is looking at ways we can bring back this popular and valuable feature.

EDITOR:

As the new editor of our newsletter, my intent for the publication is to focus on unit history, our members, and current activities/events of interest to those who served in the 1/92. Feel free to contact me, Bo Prehar, with questions, suggestions, or input for future newsletters:

1/92 NEWSLETTER
203 Liz Lane
Georgetown, TX 78633

MEMBER ROSTER:

Please update your roster information if there are address, phone, or e-mail changes. Contact David or Lisa at:

E-mail:
david@bravecannons.org
lisa@bravecannons.org

Mailing Address:
130 Stanley Court
Vacaville, CA 95687-6425

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

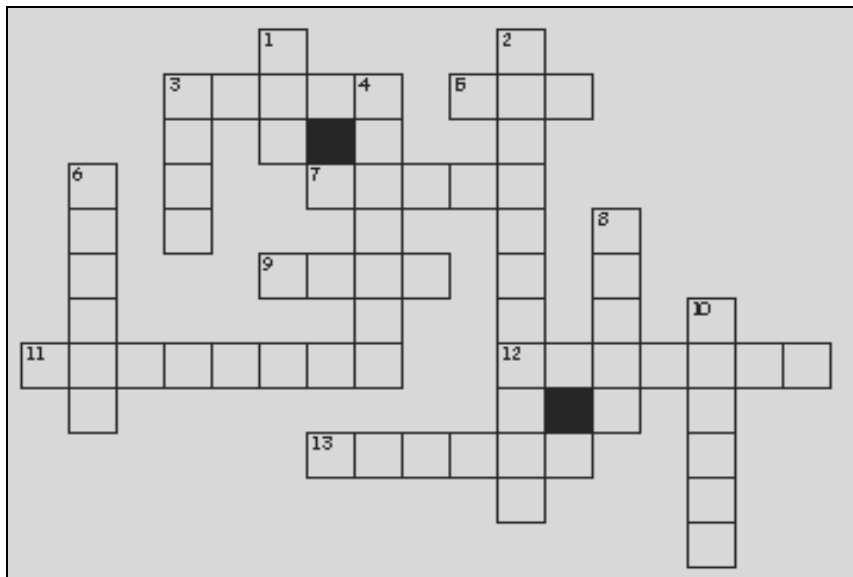
A few thoughts I would like to share with you. First, the VA is letting its veterans down by not accepting responsibility for the long delays in providing access to medical services and in processing claims. The mismanagement is a leadership failure at all levels of the organization. Second, use the 1/92 Operational Reports: Lessons Learned in the history section of our website. It contains valuable unit data from 1967 to 1971. Use the information to support a claim or an appeal. Third, write down and submit your stories. These narratives fill gaps left in unit records. Fourth, check out the reunion photos posted on our website. They are the next best thing to being there in person. Fifth, we now have an editor onboard and we will strive to have the newsletter delivered twice a year. Finally, I am overwhelmed at the number of brothers who have volunteered to host future reunions past 2015:

2017 San Antonio, TX Alex & Dolly Morales
 2019 Cannon City, CO Gunn & Toni Haydon
 2021 Branson, MO Dwayne & Teddi McLeskey

Reunions are the heart and soul of our association. My best to you all - David Powell

David

BRAVE CANNONS CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 3. tour almost over
- 5. nickname for our howitzer
- 7. heavy lift helicopter
- 9. sugar reports
- 11. pieces of metal
- 12. Viet Cong
- 13. metal cargo container

DOWN

- 1. first sergeant
- 2. special ammunition
- 3. after each round
- 4. only MIA/POW
- 6. wet weather gear
- 8. artillery computer
- 10. Artillery Hill

Answers- next newsletter

