

Who Am I?

"Name: David Allin"

"Arrived RVN: April 1969"

"Left RVN: March 1970"

"Company: A Company, HHC"

"Platoon: 3rd Platoon"

"Squad: 4th Squad"



David Allin

Chi I was assigned to A company, 3rd platoon, 4th squad, based out

of Dau Tieng at that time. Captain David Crocker was my company commander, Lt Dick Nash was my platoon leader, SFC Wade ("The Rock") was my platoon sergeant, and SGT Lon Oakley was my squad leader. Our squad included Al Bridge, Larry Gallagher, Joe Esser, Dan "Doc" Michalec, Jim Walker, Kenneth "Pine" Heath, and Dave Nielsen.

On May 14 I was wounded by a bullet that ricocheted off the 50-cal turret and was medevacked to Cu Chi hospital. The next day I returned to Dau Tieng on "light duty", which the first sergeant believed included filling sand bags and building bunkers. I tore out my stitches three times, which delayed my return to the field for several weeks. When I did rejoin the squad, I volunteered to be the platoon RTO. By this time our platoon leader was Lt Guterrez, and the CO was Cpt Lightfoot.

In August I was called in to battalion HQ and "volunteered" to be the 2/22 intelligence liaison to the local South Vietnamese forces. I served in that position until the end of my tour, writing reports and keeping out of sight. I ETSed in late March, 1970, and returned home to Norman, OK. Then I got married, moved to Denver, had a daughter, and worked for 7-Eleven. In 1973 I rejoined the Army, choosing Intelligence, and was trained as a Russian linguist. I served three tours in Germany, two tours at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, CA, and one tour at NSA. I also worked as an Arms Control Inspector, flying in and out of the Soviet Union to inspect missile bases. In 1991 I retired from the Army as a First Sergeant.

I got divorced around the same time I retired from the Army (her idea, not mine), so my daughter and I returned to Norman, where I went to work for the State Health Department, and where I met my current wife. In 1999 we moved to San Diego so I could take a job with United Healthcare. We moved here to Albuquerque in 2010, and in 2013 I retired from UHC. Since then I write Viet Nam war novels (available on Amazon), build model cars, go hiking in the mountains, and work on a hot-air balloon crew.

You can contact me:

6116 Thicket St. NW
Albuquerque, NM 87120
(505) 312-7228 (home)

(505) 410-9668 (cell)

dnjallin@comcast.net



Star Trak.jpg | Preparing a fighting position for a night laager. That looks like Dave Nielsen in the position. I can't identify the other guys, but I assume they were assigned to Star Trak (3494x3400)



LOH landing.jpg (3431x3337)



Road Sweep.jpg | Looks like we were sweeping the road, providing security for the engineers with the mine detectors. (3431x3368)



Zippo in the woods.jpg | The track on the left is a flamethrower track, and the one on the right was memorable because of the oval hole in the trim vane. An RPG had been fired at the track, and it stuck in the trim vane without exploding. As I remember, removing the RPG was a very delicate operation. I don't remember whose track it was. (3400x3400)



Air Support.jpg | An Air Force plane provides cover before a sweep (3431x3368)



Dust Storm.jpg | A bad dust storm at one of our hard spots. (3400x3337)



Bridge Layer.jpg | This bridge layer went out with us to get us over a small river into an area we had not previously swept, but the vehicle bogged down in the mud before we reached the stream. (3494x3431)



Meeting the LOH.jpg | Someone, possibly Captain Crocker, goes to meet the LOH which probably has the Battalion Commander on board. (3400x3400)



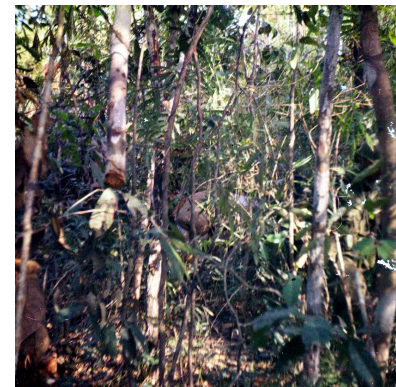
Popping smoke.jpg (3463x3400)



Bunker in the Michelin.jpg | We were sweeping through an area previously fought over. That's Larry Gallagher driving the track.
(3463x3337)



Three quarter cav.jpg | A couple Sheridan tanks doing a road sweep.
(3431x3337)



Rice cache.jpg | It's hard to see, but there are about forty sacks of rice hidden in the woods. All of them were donated by the US government, according to the markings on the bags. So we were shipping rice from Arkansas or somewhere to Viet Nam, a major rice-producing country, and somehow it ended up in the hands of the NVA. Go figure.
(3368x3305)



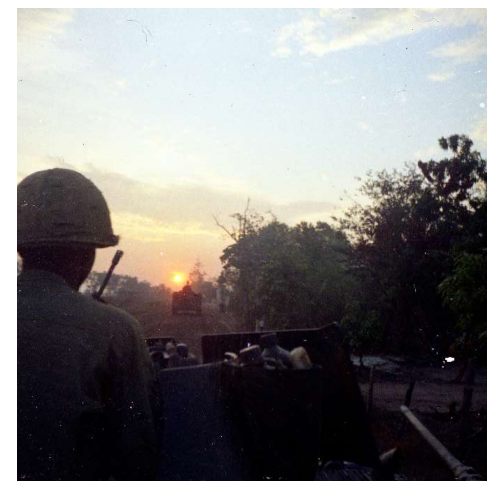
Dust off and Birth Control.jpg | A dust off has just landed in the background. In the foreground is, I believe, the CO's track, nick-named Birth Control.
(3400x3400)



Night laager.jpg (3431x3400)



RIF in the rubber.jpg | Third platoon, A Company, does a reconnaissance in force through the Ben Cui rubber plantation.
(3431x3400)



Sunset Drive.jpg | Headed toward wherever we would spend the night, probably FSB Wood. That isn't three-four I'm riding on, but I don't remember which track it was, or why I was there.
(3431x3400)



Taking a break.jpg | On the ground, left to right, are Jim Walker, Joe Esser, Doc Michalec, and Pine Heath. I can't tell who it is with the headphones. That looks like Dave Nielsen in the turret, and that might be Lon Oakley on the right. (3400x3368)



Photo Opportunity.jpg | During a break, we took pictures. On the left is Jim Walker, and directly in front of the camera is Lon Oakley. On the track, left to right, are Doc Michalec, Joe Esser(?), Larry Gallagher (in driver's hatch), Dave Nielsen in turret, and Pine Heath. (3400x3400)



Dave Allin on sweep.jpg (2112x2434)



Lunch break.jpg | We stopped for lunch while making a sweep. That's Jim Walker in the foreground. The next track over is Rock's Raiders. (3431x3463)



Dismount.jpg | Triple Deuce dismounts for a sweep in the woods. (3463x3368)



Dave Allin, infantryman.jpg | Taken not long after I arrived. But I had my C-rats spoon. (2535x3235)



WAITING WITH CASUALTIES FOR HELICOPTER EVACUATION—Members of the U.S. 25th Infantry Division wait to evacuate by helicopter one dead and several wounded soldiers hit in a Viet Cong ambush near Dau Tieng, 40 miles northwest of Saigon. Flares, artillery and mortar fire were in yesterday's action.

May 14 Casualties.jpg | Some AP photographers were with us that day in the Crescent. The two guys on stretchers (alive) may be Lt Nash and Joe Esser. I was behind the photographer. (2072x1744)



May 14 Firing Line (2).jpg | The AP photographers shot this photo of our line firing on the NVA ambush. Again, I was right behind the photographer. (3502x2100)



May 14 Doc Michalec.jpg | The AP photographers got this shot of Dan "Doc" Michalec and Joe Heard treating Tex Holt (2589x1819)



May 14 Unknown soldier.jpg | This photo was in the same newspaper spread as the others, but I do not recognize the soldier. (1481x1754)



A Co HQ Dau Tieng.jpg (2064x2112)



Relaxing with MACV officers.jpg | After I transferred to HHC and was assigned as intelligence liaison to the South Vietnamese, I lived in the MACV compound in Bau Donh, next to FSB Wood. It was tough duty. I could wear civilian clothes when off duty, and we had a bar and a TV. (2240x1792)



Double Exposure.jpg | Someone, I think it was Larry Gallagher, had a Polaroid camera that allowed double exposures. We covered half the lens with electrical tape, shot a picture, held the camera steady, moved the tape to the other side of the lens, and shot another picture. It worked pretty well, with me capturing myself. (1264x959)



Ammo Cache.jpg | One of the companies, I believe it was Bravo, found a huge ammo cache in August or September 1969. Examples of the ammo they found were laid out for photographs. (2520x2016)



Joe Cool in Cu Chi.jpg | While working with the MACV people, I fixed my boonie hat Australian style to look cool. "I'm not sure it helped. (1860x1735)



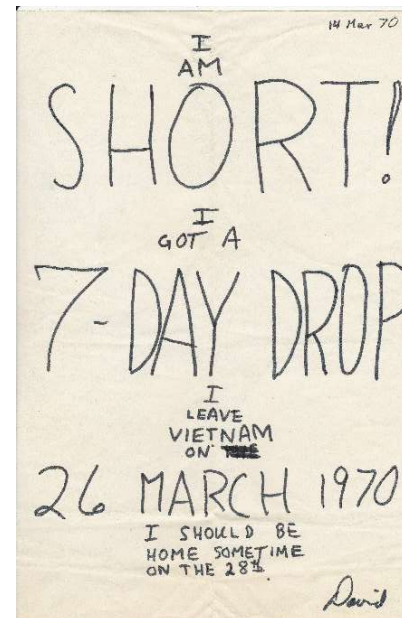
MPC 25 cents.jpg (2521x1309)



Tropic Lightning News article.jpg | This is the article that appeared in the Tropic Lightning News about the battle on May 14. It quotes Captain Crocker, but the description of the battle isn't quite like I remember it. (3951x3200)



Home Town News.jpg | After I transferred to HHC, I wrote a pretty good intelligence report, so the Brigade Commander gave me a Bronze Star. As we used to say, it don't mean nothin'. But it made my home-town newspaper, and the local funeral home, in a case of inappropriate advertising, laminated the article and sent it to my folks. (3272x4720)



Short.jpg | I sent this home when I got my drop. You don't suppose I was anxious to get home, do you (3576x5456)



Dau Tieng Recovery.jpg | Dave Allin in Dau Tieng recovering from the wound he received on May 14. (2080x2120)