

Who Am I?

"Name:

John D. (JD) Bailey "

"Arrived RVN: 31 August 1968"

"Left RVN: 30 August 1969"

"Company: B"

"Platoon: 2nd

"Squad: First"



JD Baily

Who Am I After watching the PBS Documentary on Viet Nam last fall. I felt that I wanted to “reconnect” with Bravo Company 2/22 2nd platoon if I had a chance. When I looked at the 2/22 web site, I saw Steve Irvine who I remembered. I was in the 2nd platoon on the 2-1 track for all of my tour. Many names and places come to mind after looking at some of the albums. But after this length of time it is impossible to recall a lot of the names, events and places. I joined Bravo Company on “stand-down” at Cu Chi around the first week of September 1968. Gale Hutton and I came in on the same day.

The squad leader was Tim Cox a E5 “shake & Bake”. The 2-6 was LT. Farr I believe. Another guy that really helped me was Mike Garza. Garza had been at FSB Burt on 1-1-68 when it was attacked by the NVA and was very seasoned and experienced. Also, Larry Kutchev very well liked in the platoon was

very helpful. Later on, Larry became a KIA. I was the last man to speak to Larry before he was killed. Also Larry Hayes of the 1st platoon was a good friend. Some of the men in my squad were Thomas Krekel. "Krek" was 2-1 driver when I became squad leader. Also, medic Larry "Doc" Howard, Bob Crisp, Harold Miesel, Steve "Audie" Murphy, George Van Horn. Others were Jack Henkle in 2-3 I believe. William "Pineapple" Cunningham, Henry Fugate, Womack, Jackie Laws, Steve Truax, Jon Wendelin. Cunningham would always call me "Okie" and I remember Fugate on flank security always carried an M-79. James Newell was driver of 2-1 when we hit the first of four mines when I was in Viet Nam on 2-1. Not very long after I had been with Bravo Co. I quickly realized then that someone out there is trying to kill me and wants me dead. Many days, one of the primary jobs of our unit was provide security for re-supply convoys to Dau-Tieng or Tay Ninh. Also, daily "Riffs" mostly on battalion or company level operations. Many night ambush patrols and LPs. One of the more pleasant experiences that I remember happening. We were in a laager position doing patrols in the Michelin Rubber Plantation on Christmas eve and Christmas day. The next day or two. We were pulled out and came back to Dau-Tieng. We were flown down to Cu Chi for the Bob Hope Christmas Show. Bob always started his show with jokes. Then his famous "one-liner" that he had always used since entertaining the troops since World War II. When Ann Margret came out on stage. Bob said: "I just want to show you boys what you been fighting for". Everybody went wild.

I was drafted and Inducted into the U.S. Army on 4-8-68. I did basic and AIT "Tigerland" at Fort Polk. Most of my platoon at Fort Polk was from Oklahoma. We were all "11Bravos". I was discharged at Ft. Benning, GA on 4-8-70 as SGT. E-5. I lost some very close friends as we all did in Viet Nam. The experience is not pleasant to recall. Here is my statement that I have repeated to family and close friends down thru the years when asked about my service in The Republic of South Viet Nam:

"As a Uniform Sierra (US 54669561), I did not ask for it. But, like thousands of others I served in Viet Nam and did my job".

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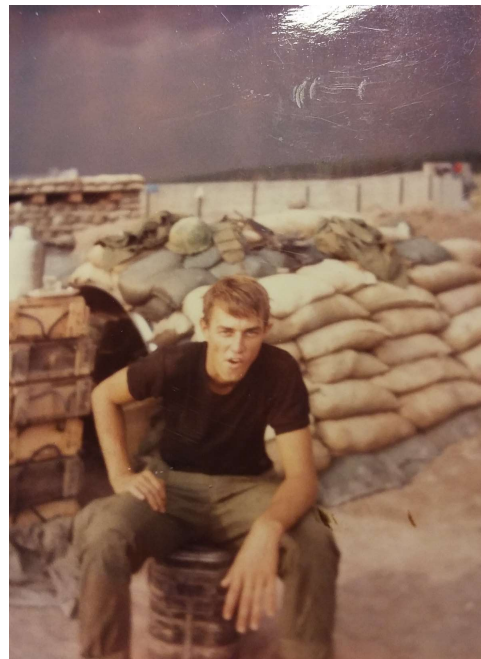
DDUS: 31 Aug 68
Deros: 30 Aug 69



photo 4.jpg | Gale Hutton, me Thomas Krekel. "Hut" looks like he just got in from a night "BUSH". (1200x930)



Photo 5.jpg | "Crescent" area on 6 June 69. On sandbag on the left is Steve "Audie" Murphy. On sandbag right, is Tom Krekel. I can't remember the names of the two guys in front. They were fairly new. We had logger out at this location and was hit by the North Vietnamese at night. I had Harold Miesel and these two new guys direct in front of us on a LP. We had to wait till we could get them in when the attack started. (1200x1600)



Me at FB Wood I believe.jpg (1200x1641)



Photo 1.jpg | With 2-1 Track. We spilled some diesel when we topped off. (1200x1423)



photo 3.jpg | Me at back door of 2-1. Must have just had lunch. I see a case of "C" open on track. (1200x1671)



Photo 6.jpg | 5 Mar 69. I pretty sure s is still at FB Wood. Me, Doc and unknown Vietnamese. The guy on my left is George Van horn. He was in my squad. On 18 Mar in the Michelin we hit a mine. This was the 3rd of 4 while I was on 2-1. Van horn and I were injured and we were dusted off. I never saw Van horn again. I was out about 10 days and then came back out. (1200x1230)



Photo 7.jpg | Just got off 2-1 in the Ben Cui when we received word over the radio the convoy was under attack. This was up at the crater on 239. When we got there, I remember seeing a truck burning with 155 & 175 rounds starting to "cook-off" (1200x1386)



Sandbag bunker FSB Wood.jpg (1200x1397)



JD Baily at Fire Base Wood 1969.jpg | Fire Support Base Wood was near the small village named Da Hang. It was less than one click from us as your going back down on the road to Go Dau Ha. We were not too far from the Dau Tieng-Tay Ninh intersection. FB Wood was very important for the 25th Div. for security for daily re-supply convoys from Cu Chi to Dau Tieng and Tay Ninh So important the 25th Div Artillery dedicated a complete battery of 155 SP's. (1200x1704)



JD Baily at Fire Base Wood 1969-1.jpg | I can remember Maj. Meader (Bat. XO) whom I got to know when I was down at Cu Chi going thru the 25th Div. LCLC school for EM's. looking at our fighting positions at Wood once we got everything set up. He told me "son you need more claymores and wire in front of the PC's. Sir, Yes Sir! (1200x1704)



JD Baily Today.jpg (1200x1561)