

Hill 4-11

Vietnam Veterans Association

Founded 1984

March 2003 Newsletter

3rd Battalion 1st Infantry Action Depicted by Combat Artist

A chance encounter between Hill 4-11 member Skip Fahel and combat artist Jim Nelson has resulted in a painting of a Bravo 3/1 combat action which took place on January 13, 1970. Skip relates how he came to know Jim Nelson and how the painting "THE HORSESHOE" came to be.

Jim Nelson served as a rifleman with C Company, 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry, 25th Infantry Division in 1967-68. Jim is a nationally renowned Vietnam Combat Artist. Jim has exhibited works in the Vietnam Memorial Art Gallery, New York and has shown his works at exhibits all across America. His last showing was in Branson, Missouri at the national reunion of the 25th Infantry Division.

I met Jim at my first reunion I attended for the 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry in 2000 (my first tour was with the 22nd Infantry).

During November 21-28, 1967 Bravo and Charlie Companies 2/22 were in constant contact with a large enemy force in the area known as "The Trapezoid." On November 21-23, Bravo Company bore the blunt of the contact. On November 24, (Thanksgiving Day) there was a lull in contact as both companies cleared a large tunnel and bunker complex that was the center of the contact area. On November 25, both companies went back into the base camp area to destroy additional bunkers. As the 1st platoon of Charlie Company entered the area it came under heavy fire, took casualties and was pinned down by intense AK47, machine-gun and RPG-7 fire. The initial efforts of Charlie Company to relieve the platoon met with concentrated enemy resistance. The 3rd Platoon Bravo Company was then attached to Charlie Company. The 3rd Platoon, Charlie company and the 3rd Platoon Bravo Company then moved back into the contact area to relieve the 1st platoon. The two platoons were on line with the 3rd Platoon Bravo Company on the left. The 3rd Platoon, Charlie, was pinned down by heavy fire and was not able to maneuver. The 3rd Platoon, Bravo Company, under heavy fire maneuvered to provide covering fire, which enable the 1st and 3rd Platoon to break contact and begin withdrawing from their positions. The 3rd Platoon, Bravo company continued maneuvering to provide covering fire for C Company, and then assisted with the evacuation of the wounded. The time from the initial contact until the troops cleared the contact area was over four and a half hours. The 1st and 3rd Platoons of C Company suffered four Killed in Action and twenty -eight wounded. The 3rd Platoon, B Company had two lightly wounded. The actions of the 3rd Platoon Bravo Company are credited with preventing additional casualties to the 1st and 3rd Platoons of Charlie Company.

Jim Nelson was one of the wounded troops that the 3rd Platoon, B Company assisted in evacuating. One of the paintings that Jim as painted is called "Iron Triangle, Trapezoid" which depicts the elements of C Company engaging the enemy during the initial efforts to relieve the lead elements in contact.

At the reunion in 2000, it was announced that I was the Platoon Leader of the 3rd Platoon, Bravo Company during that battle. Jim told me that he was gong to do another painting on the Trapezoid, which he did. It is called "Trapezoid". His second painting on the action of November 25, 1967 depicts the 3rd Platoon Leader, B Company maneuvering the platoon to the flank of Charlie Company.

At the 2002 reunion of the 2/22, we were talking and I was telling him some war stories, one of them about the night attack in the Horseshoe. After I returned home, I got a letter from Jim asking for more information about that attack, stating that he would like to do a painting of that night. I sent Jim what I wrote about that night, and from that account, he painted "The Horseshoe".

"The Horseshoe"

In the first weeks of January 1970, Company B, 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry, 11th Light Infantry Brigade, Americal Division was conducting search and destroy operations west of Quang Nigh City, south of the Son Tra Krock river in the area known as the "Horseshoe". On the afternoon of January 12, the Company accepted resupply by air and then sent the 1st Platoon to the north and the 3rd Platoon to the west of the position for the night. The Company Command Group, 2nd Platoon and Weapons Platoon remained in the resupply position. At approximately 0115 hours, the Company Command Group position came under heavy small arms, machine gun and grenade attack. The enemy fire concentrated on the southern sector of the position. The initial assault lasted for five to ten minutes after which the company gained fire superiority with the help of the preplanned artillery support. Helicopter gunships came on station and provided additional suppression fire to the south. The company sustained eight wounded in the initial attack, of which five required dust-off. At first light, the 1st and 3rd Platoons rejoined the Company, resupply was received and the Company continued with its mission. A sweep of the area accounted for five VC/NVA KIA, with one within three feet of the Weapons Platoon position, and ten additional blood trails were found.

"The Horseshoe" will be available for viewing at the '04 Atlanta reunion. Prints of the painting can be purchased for \$30.00 by contacting Skip Fahel at: 6513 Deer Lake Court Sarasota, FL 34240
email:Eqf15@aol.com

Leslie J. Stottle Memorial Scholarship Fund

The scholarship committee is now accepting application for the 2003/04 academic year. Interested high school seniors and college students should request application materials form committee chairman: Jerry Dinkel 3013 26th Street Great Bend, KS 67503
Deadline for returning completed applications is **JUNE 1ST**.

REUNIONS

Americal Division Field Artillery

May 13, 14, & 15, 2003 Pigeon Forge, Tennessee

For further info IMMEDIATELY contact:

Robert Miller

67 Gannett Road

Farmington, NY 14425-8912

Americal Division Veterans Association

June 26 thru June 28, 2003

Double Tree Hotel

Little Rock, Arkansas

For further info visit the Americal Division Veterans Association web site at www.americal.org/

Americal Division Veterans Association

June 2004

Reno, Nevada

For further info visit the Americal Division Veterans Association web site at www.americal.org/

Delta 3rd Battalion 1st Infantry 11th Infantry Brigade

D 3/1 veterans will gather for a standdown during the Americal Reunion in Little Rock, Arkansas, June 26 thru 28, 2003. Delta veterans planning to attend are:

Bill & Debbie Abernathie

Don & Sandy Baldwin

Dan Briggs

Johnny Caldwell

Dan Hinkley

Bill & Teresa Rawlings

Albert Skowronski

Glen & Nina Suttles & Corey

John & Brenda Walker

Jeff Baden

Dan & Pam Barrett

Marty & Pat Buys

Roger & Barb Faust

Ed Newton & Nancy

Ernie Rojas

Eric Sykes

Vaughn Vander Meer

Buck Werner

For further info contact Johnny Caldwell at 3550 Timberglen Rd. #147 Dallas, TX 75287 or email at junglew@ticnet.com

Hill 4-11 Association

July 15 thru 18, 2004, Atlanta, Georgia

Hosts Gene and Debbie Brown are busy making plans to welcome us to the peach state

Hill 4-11 History and Dues Payment Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ + _____

Vietnam Unit _____ Dates of Vietnam Service _____

Hill 4-11 Dues.....\$25.00

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Total.....\$ _____

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Mail to: **Dick Hill**

630 Woodside Drive

Kent, Ohio 44240-2664



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Dick Hill
Treasurer
630 Woodside Drive
Kent, Ohio 44240-2664

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