

# The BOBCAT Bulletin

September 1997

Volume III

## WHAT'S UP DOC ???

This had to be the question that Joe "Doc" Franklin was repeatedly asking himself at the fragging. It is probably also true that Doc won't forget those words anytime soon.



At our annual "fragging" that took place on Friday evening at this years reunion Joe Franklin was selected to be honored (if that is what you want to call it). Joe who was a medic in the Army and has always been known as "Doc" will have many gifts to remember this evening for a long time. Being a medic and an avid Un. of Alabama fan made for some interesting gifts.

He received some really extremely sophisticated stethoscopes made from only the finest of funnels and plastic tubing. These should be very useful for helping Doc hear when he talks on the phone or listens to TV. In addition he received a complete doctor's surgical outfit. In fact with all the medic supplies he received he will be ready to start his own clinic.

Doc also received many Un. of Alabama flags, pennants and related memorabilia. If he chooses to display all these Alabama gifts at one time there won't be any doubt in anyone's mind as to who he is for.

## Dinner Enjoyed ?



Many people told me how much they enjoyed our Friday evening dinner at the Gatehouse Inn. They seemed to particularly like the food, service and privacy. If you have feelings about this occasion please let me know. If you don't say anything then I will think everyone enjoyed it and plan something similar next year. One suggestion for next year is to try and have the dinner at an American Legion or VFW. The dinner most likely would be not as fancy but less expensive. If you like this idea better, please, let me know, so I can plan.

## 1/5th Chapter

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## 1998 REUNION

Next year's reunion will be held at the famous "Chattanooga Choo - Choo Holiday Inn" in Chattanooga, TN. One major change for next year will be the dates. It will be held starting on Saturday Sept. 26 through Tuesday Sept. 30. This will be different - plan on joining us!



# Sports News



## *The PGA has its Tiger(Woods) But the 1/5th has a “mean” BOBCAT named Jerry !*

As you all probably know the golfing world has a new sensation, Tiger Woods. Well the 1/5th can now brag about their own golfing sensation - Jerry “the mean golfing BOBCAT” Myers. For the 1st time in the history of the 1/5th Chapter a golf tournament (if that's what you want to call it) was held. At this year's reunion 5 Bobcats along with 3 of their mates got together to play golf. The competition was as fierce as you would expect from any bunch of wild Bobcats fighting over a piece of meat. The 8 players “clawed” their way over two different golf courses in the Covington, KY area over a two day period.

At this first-ever two day golf outing there was one Bobcat that stood out among the rest. It was Jerry Myers who both days had scores that left the others only dreaming. So, until someone comes forward in the future to prove otherwise, Jerry is crowned the “best” Bobcat golfer.

All you Vietnam veterans should have been

there to witness the occasions. At times the swinging of the golf clubs resembled “hand to hand” combat. And when the golf matches were over each day the golf courses had so many divots (holes) that you would have thought the US Air Force had carpet bombed the area.



Vic & Suzanne Vickery, Jerry Myers, Carolyn Deverse, Gil Lewis and Fred Deverse



Suzanne, Sheilah Lewis and Carolyn



Covington KY Honoring veterans. Found on the golf course



Our best dressed golfer-Doc Franklin

## *Meeting Held* **Everyone Gets Additional Six Months Membership Free !**

At this year's annual membership meeting held at the reunion in Covington KY it was decided to change the membership year. Whether you were aware or not, the membership year started and ended July 1 of each year. In order to make it easier for everyone to remember when their membership expired and their dues was due it was decided to change the year. The members voted to make the membership year correspond with the calendar year. In order to do this everyone's membership had to be extended six months at no additional charge. So now the years listed on the Membership roster are calendar years. This means that all members received an additional six months of membership at no extra cost. Now, when you see the years of membership on the roster it is the same as the calendar year and runs to December 31 of the last year listed.

Another item discussed was changing our name. This was discussed, in order to make our chapter to appear more open to members of the newly activated 2nd Battalion 5th Infantry attached to the 25th Infantry division at Schofield Barracks Hawaii. After some discussion it was decided that very few people join an organization like ours unless they served with that unit in combat or combat like conditions, etc. Therefore, there was no need to

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## **Renner Elected 25th IDA 2nd VP**

One of our members was elected second vice president at this year's 25th Infantry Division Association's meeting at Covington, KY. Major General (Ret) John Renner was elected to be the Association's 2nd VP for the coming year. "Congratulations, John". We know you will do a great job.

change our name to the 5th Infantry Chapter. The name of our Chapter shall remain "1/5th Chapter of the 25th Infantry Division Association".

The idea of having "mini reunions" was discussed at some length. Most everyone liked the idea of having mini reunions. We defined a mini reunion as "a small informal group of our members getting together". There seemed to be a lot of interest in at least a couple of the mini reunion ideas and sites that were discussed. One was a pheasant hunting mini reunion in North Dakota. Another mini reunion that stirred a lot of interest was a winter mini reunion in Florida.

All we need now is for some one to make one of these ideas work. Pick a date, find a motel and get some information on it. When the information has been gathered, send it to me and I can publish it in the next newsletter. And, who knows we may just start something that I think has a lot of potential for enjoyment for a lot of our members and their families.

Finally it was decided to design and purchase an official 1/5 Chapter hat. This hat when designed and produced would be made available to members.

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## **Gaining Weight or Getting Taller ?**

If when you see yourself in a picture in this Newsletter you think you are looking a little heavy, thin, too tall or too short, it could be that as you get older, your body is changing. Or it could be my publishing skills. I have learned how to resize pictures to fit a space, but when I do that sometimes it also changes the shape or size of people and objects. Sorry about that but I'm doing my best.

## 1/5th Infantry Chapter 1997 reunion at Covington KY



(Standing) Ray Lewis, Michael Fletcher, Tony Beckler, John Royer, Gil Lewis, Ron Losey, Doc Franklin, Vic Vickery, Dwayne Davis, Steve Murphy, Jim Murphy, Doc Dillion & Jim Caudle.  
(Kneeling/seated) Charles Kennedy, Doug Bishop, Mike Koehs, Jerry Myers, Fred Deverse, & George Maxwell

## *Is This Someone I Could Share A Foxhole With ?*

*Billy Smith, one of our members, sent this article to one of our members ( who sent it to me) over the Internet . I thought you would enjoy it.*

This article came from Don R Catherall, who has a PHD in psychology and is co-founder and executive director of the Phoenix Institute in Chicago, which specializes in treating trauma survivors of all ages. He has counseled Vietnam Veterans suffering from PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) and has been an advisor to the Department of Veterans Affairs. He was a combat soldier with the Marine Corps in '67-'68 and authored "Back from the Brink", a family guide to overcoming traumatic stress.

### **Catherall believes:**

**Vietnam Veterans are less likely to blindly accept the orders and perceptions of others. They are perhaps more likely to measure others by reliability, i.e., "Is this someone with whom I could share a foxhole?" They are less hung up on appearances, less easily fooled, and have had enough bullshit thrown at them that they may see through it a little better than others. "I think we share a sadness and a brotherhood that is rare," says Catherall. "It may not be an active part of our lives most of the time, but Vietnam Vets are able to connect in a way that goes very deep. Think about the guys hugging each other at the wall. This is the same thing that the current men's movement is trying to achieve, and it's no accident that the foremost group has chosen the name "Warriors". I think those of us who were real Warriors have found [Iron John] 'wild men' in ourselves." "We know how to take orders and give orders. We have shared our canteens with all classes of people. We've seen death real close up. We've experienced big time loss. We've faced our fears and found our own courage. As a result, we are different in a way that the Indians understood and prized, but which our society does not well understand and so often fears. We have had the experience of being judge, jury, and executioner." "Many of us were free to take life without having to account for our reasons. We were all affected by having that incredible power of living through an experience in which there was no law. We were the law."**



**Ladies of the 1/5th Chapter at the 1997 reunion Covington KY**

**Standing: Carolyn Deverse, Sue Caudle, Cheryl Koehs, Norma Murphy, Suzanne Vickery, Wanda Maxwell and Roberta Jafpko  
Seated: Cheryl Davis, Marilyn Franklin, Judy Bishop and Sheila Lewis**



## ***ILLNESSES and DEATHS***

**Dick Stewart** has recently had to endure a lot. As you may remember from the last newsletter, he recently had his legs operated on. After registering to attend this year's reunion, he was unable to attend. This time it was due to his heart. And finally, last month his 22 year old son died. Dick, it is apparent that you are not a weak person with all you have had to endure in life. I know I speak for the entire Chapter when I say hang in there, we are thinking about you and feeling for you !



**Gil & Ray Lewis's** father recently died after a short stay in a nursing home. Losing a parent is always difficult.



**Joe Barlow** and his wife **Linda** are still struggling with very serious health concerns. Joe is still waiting for a kidney transplant and undergoing dialysis on a regular basis. Linda is still dealing with cancer. She has recently had some negative news. Joe and Linda our prayers are with you !



**NOTE:** Whenever I have information about one of our members or his family's health, I will report it in the Newsletter. I hope when I do this that I do not offend the person(s) that I am giving information on. I further hope that what I say is accurate. Therefore, when passing information on to me, please let me know if it is not to be reported in the Newsletter.

## **Stewart Attends Ranger Ceremony**

As anyone who knows Dick Stewart, one of his loves in life is the US Army Rangers. Dick was a Ranger when he served in the Army and was wounded in Vietnam. Therefore it would surprise no one that he recently attended the 5th annual induction of new members into the Ranger Hall of Fame, held every year at Ft. Benning GA.



**By Joe Maher**/The Benning Leader  
Dick Stewart, a former Ranger, snaps pictures of his Ranger buddies as they march to the Ranger Memorial.

## ***THANK YOU !***

The Chapter wishes to thank many individuals for their generosity at this year's reunion! Again this year, **Sue Caudle** made and donated to the Chapter, to be raffled, two afghans. Both were successfully raffled, resulting in money for the treasury. *(See Story & Pictures on Page 8)*

**"Doc" Franklin** donated to be auctioned a Bolo Tie with the 25th Div. Crest on it. "Doc" Dillion outbid everyone resulting in money for the treasury. *(See Story & Pictures on Page 9)*

**Charles Kennedy** made a video recording of the whole fragging. The Chapter presented a copy to "Doc" Franklin.

The **Davises** and **Bishops** donated refreshments to the hospitality room and helped set it up.

There are probably others that made donations to the chapter that I either wasn't aware of or never knew about - to you, I apologize for not giving you credit !

**NOTE: This Email message was sent to me by Billy Smith. I thought you would be interested in it. You might want to encourage your Senators to vote yes on these bills. "Keep up the good work Billy."**

This may be of interest to each of you. I sent an e-mail to all the reps and senators and the president about the VA benefits. And, get a reply every now-and-then.

Date: Mon, 22 Sep 1997 18:17:17 -0400  
From: John Ashcroft <John\_Ashcroft@ashcroft.senate.gov>  
Subject: Re:Military Retirees  
To: Billy Smith <smithbl@erols.com>

Dear On-Line Friend:

Since the last time we communicated, there have been several developments in the Congress on the issue of veterans' benefits. Several bills have passed the House of Representatives, and additional legislation is progressing through committees.

"The Veterans' Cost of Living Adjustment Act," HR 3458, was approved by the House of Representatives. This bill would authorize an annual adjustment for veterans' disability and survivor payments, at the same level as for Social Security recipients, currently estimated to be about 2.8 percent. The bill is now under review by the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs.

New health benefits provisions, in HR 3673, have also passed in the House. These provisions would revise certain veterans' compensation programs, expand the types of educational programs eligible for veterans education benefits, and change VA regulations to provide a presumption of permanent and total disability for veterans over the age of 65 who are in nursing homes. The House has also passed a bill, HR 3674, providing vocational rehabilitation from the VA for veterans who have service-connected disabilities that also constitute an employment handicap.

H.R. 3586 would enhance veterans' employment preferences and extend employment opportunities to non-political jobs in the legislative branch, the judicial branch, the White House, and the General Accounting Office. The House passed this bill July 1996.

Authorization to the VA, which provides for the treatment of service members who were exposed to Agent Orange or who served in the Persian Gulf War, would be extended through 1998 under HR 3643. This authorization is due to expire at the end of 1996. In mid-July, this bill was passed in the House.

Some of these initiatives will now be considered by the Senate. We need to continue to make decisions that ensure that the great sacrifices that were made by our veterans are reflected in the benefits they receive. I assure you I will continue to support measures that protect our veterans and military personnel. If you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,



**1st Picture on left:** Billy and Karin Smith

**2nd Picture:** Billy Smith, Vic Vickery and Gil Lewis

Pictures were taken this past summer when they all got together.



### 1/5th Chapter Remembers One Of Its Own

On behalf of the 1st BN (M) 5th Infantry Chapter of the 25th Infantry Division Association, a plaque was sent to Pat Hardin, the wife of Marvin (Rusty) Hardin who passed away on August 28, 1996. The plaque depicted the Combat Medic Badge (CMB) with Star (2nd Award) and the following inscription written by Vic Vickery:



In Memory of  
Marvin L. (Rusty) Hardin  
February 2, 1932 - August 28, 1996  
Given in grateful appreciation  
for his devoted service and compassion  
to his fellow soldier and his nation  
1st BN (M) 5th Infantry Chapter  
25th Infantry Division Association



Although we knew Rusty only a short time, it was a great honor to know him and he will be missed, but not forgotten.

## AFGHAN WINNERS

1/5 Chapter had two raffle drawings at this year's reunion held in conjunction with the 25th Inf.Div. Assoc. reunion held in Ft. Mitchell, Ky. at the Drawbridge Estates, August 6-10, 1997. The drawings were held Saturday night, August 9, 1997.



Tom "Doc" Dillon won the afghan with the 1/5 crest and tab "I'll Try Sir". This afghan was made and donated by Sue Caudle. It took her two years to make the afghan, working on it in her spare time. She said she put a lot of love into it but would have to think really hard about making another. Maybe I can talk her into making another. Keep your fingers crossed! (Doc Dillon is displaying his winnings by hiding behind it.)

*By Jim Caudle*



Ray Lewis and Roberta Jafpko

Ray Lewis, Gil Lewis' brother, won the afghan with the 25th patch on it. Boy, was he excited about winning. He really wanted that afghan. Congrats to Ray. Thai afghan was also made and donated by Sue Caudle. Maybe if I am really good this next year, Sue (my wife) might make me one. It doesn't seem as if I'll be able to win one. *By Jim Caudle*



### FOR SALE

|   |  |
|---|--|
| 1/5th Patch & Tab ..... \$7.00                      | 1/5th T-Shirt (With Crest & Tab) [Wht] ..... \$12.00 |
| (Tab only) ..... \$1.50                             | (Large & Extra Large only)                           |
| POW / MIA Bracelet ..... \$1.00                     | 1/5thCrest ..... \$6.00                              |
| 1/5th T-Shirt (with Skull & CIB) [Med] ..... \$5.00 | Stickers   |
| 1/5th T-Shirt (with Skull) [Med] ..... \$5.00       | Infantry ..... \$3.00                                |
| 1/5th Challenge Coin ..... \$8.50                   | American Flag ..... \$3.00                           |
| 1/5th Sweat Shirt - Ash (XLarge) ..... \$20.00      | 1/5 Coffee Mugs (black) [each].....\$12.00           |
| 1/5th T-Shirt [Ash] (Med & XX Lg) ..... \$12.00     | 1/5 Coasters (set of 4).....\$12.00                  |

*To Purchase any of these items contact Jim Caudle, 1501 Baychester Drive, Norfolk VA 23503 (757) 588-0056*



# “RIDE’EM COWBOY/GIRL ?”



I guess if you live in Texas (Jerry Myers), or you were born in Oklahoma (Carolyn Deverse), you just think you can ride anything. Is this a bull or a horse they are riding?



**Gil & Sheilah Presented With Plaque in Appreciation of their Efforts on Behalf of the 1/5 Chapter !**



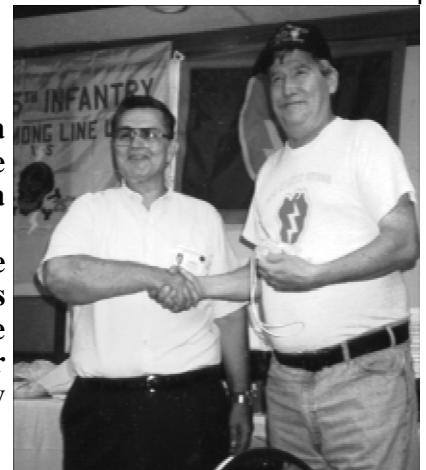
Gil & Sheilah Lewis were presented a plaque by President Fred Deverse in appreciation for all their recent efforts. They were responsible for the creation of the Chapter’s Web Page. As Membership Chairperson Gil substantially increased the Chapter’s numbers. He also kept pressure on the Chapter’s President and others to insure that they fulfilled their obligation to keep the Chapter moving forward.



## Going Once, Going Twice - Sold To The Highest Bidder !

George Maxwell (our chaplain and a minister) has had a lot of practice “selling the Lord”, but who ever said he couldn’t sell a tie.

In the picture on the left George starts the bidding. And a short time later the Chapter’s treasury is a lot richer. In the picture on the right George congratulates the highest bidder “Doc” Dillion. The bolo tie was donated by “Doc” Franklin.



## Membership Information

The following have joined our chapter since the publication of the last Newsletter.

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Wife: Lorie

**Kavanaugh, Jack**  
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**Losey, Ronald L.**  
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B Company 67-68

**Scattergood, John A. (Jack)**  
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1/8 FA -Attached HHC 1/5  
Wife: Blodwen  
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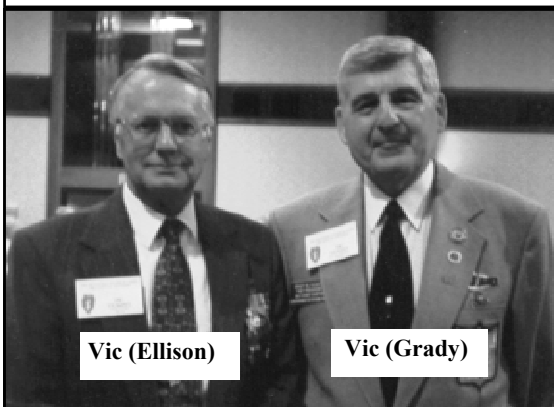
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**Tripp, William D.**  
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Wife: Helena

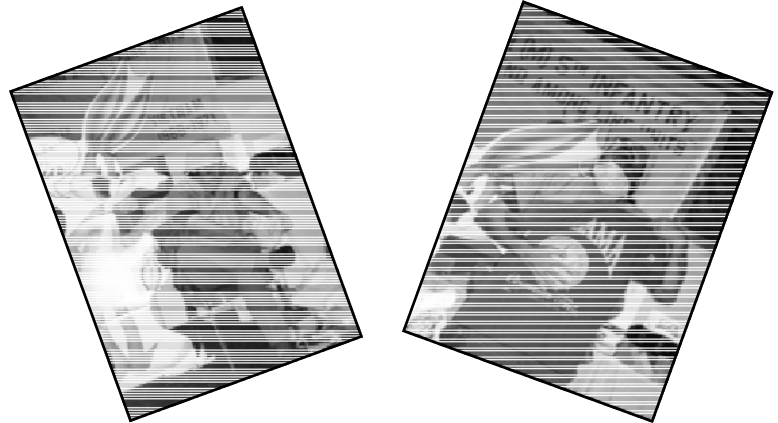
**Williams, Nevin R. COL (Ret)**  
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Hq 1/5th 1967  
Wife: Alicia  
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Since Gil Lewis either has already or will soon mail a new roster I will not list changes of address or phone #'s etc.

## Who is the Imposter ?



The rumors spread fast - there is an imposter running around! Should we call the police? If you could read the name tags you would discover that there are two members of the 25th Inf. Div. Ass. with the same nickname - "Vic" and the same last name Vickery.



When "Doc" put all this surgical clothing on, we were wary of his next move. But, thank goodness he got distracted by his Crimson Tide Pride.

### Editor's Note !

I apologize for not getting the Newsletter out in September. Learning how to use the new Software was challenging and time consuming. Next Newsletter will be out in December.

**Help!** Please send me pictures and articles for use in our newsletter. If you send them I will try to use them.

*Fred Deverse*

# Friday Night's Dinner



## B Company 1966



What's going on here? It looks like Leroy and Jerry are doing something, with their hand, to make Gil have a look like that. Or are they carrying him on their shoulders.

L to R Jim Caudle, "Doc" Franklin, Ron Losey, Jerry Myers, Gil Lewis, Leroy Bishop and Vic Vickery

I never pass up the opportunity to talk with other Vietnam Vets who were in Vietnam at a different time than me. I find it extremely interesting to discover how their tactics and experiences differed from mine. Tony Beckler (left) and Charles Kennedy (right) were in Vietnam in 67-68 and they primarily confronted Vietnam Army Troops. Whereas my

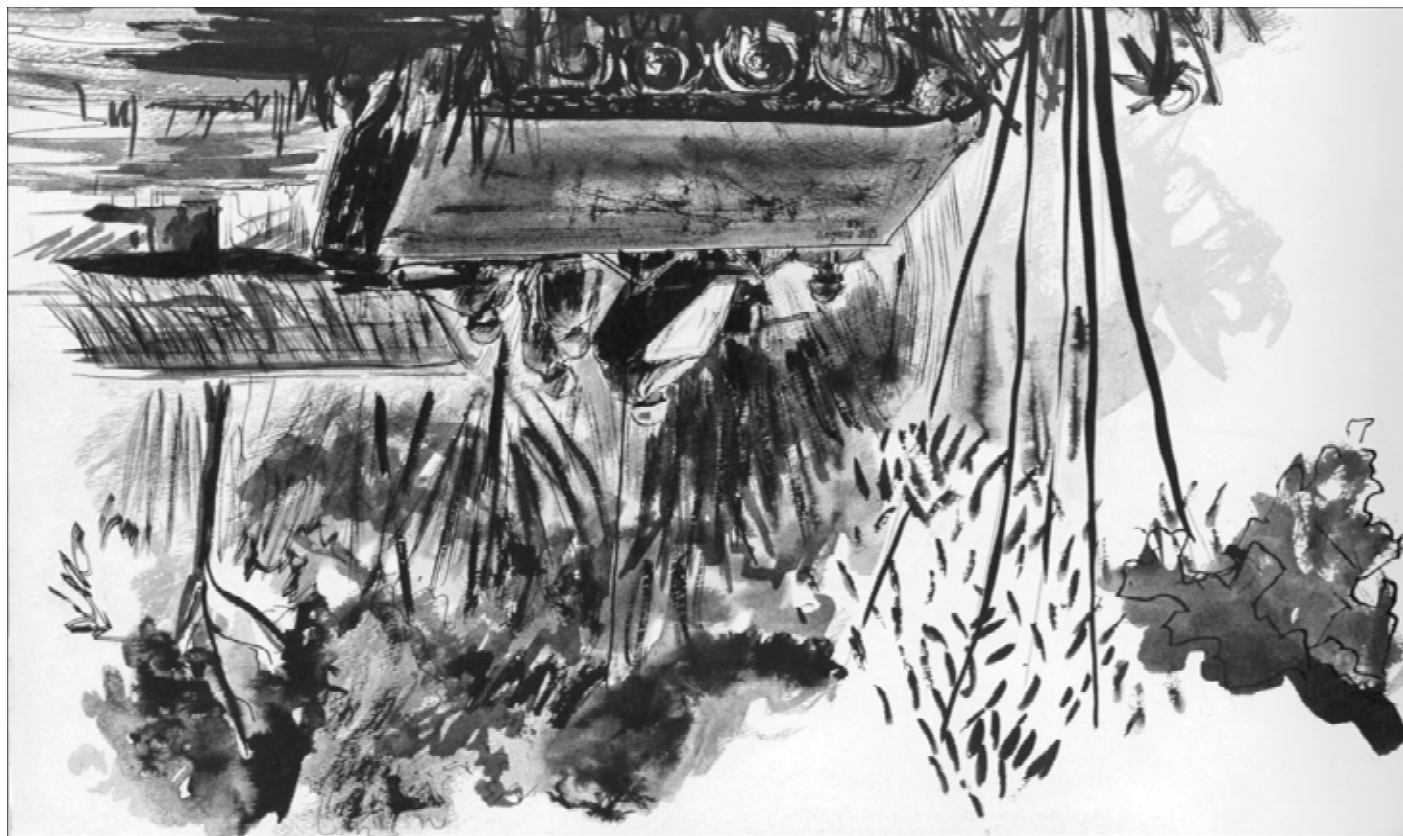


experiences (66-67) were mostly fighting Viet Cong Gorilla type units. "Tony, I hope I didn't keep you up too late that night."

Did you know that Charles provided film footage that was used in one of Oliver Stone's

**Cu Chi Vietnam**

**1st Battalion (M) 5th Infantry**



**5th Infantry Chapter of 25th Inf. Div. Assoc.  
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*Forwarding & Address Correction Requested*