

2nd Battalion, 1st Marines Photos

Books I & II, American Heroes: Grunts, Pilots & "Docs"

By Michael Dan Kellum

www.michaeldankellum.com



2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment Officers, July 1970, RVN

2/1 officers pose for a group photo in July 1970 in Camp Lauer's Officers Club. Kneeling L-R, 1stLt. Alan V. MacDonald, S-2; Unk.; Capt. H.P. Martello, H&S CO.; Capt. M.T. Hopgood Jr., Echo CO; 1stLt. M.J. "Matt" Heck, Fox CO; 1stLt. Jack Klimp, Golf CO; Capt. J.M. "Duffy/Yosemite Sam" Dufriend, Hotel CO; Capt. Vincent "Vince" O'Neill, former Echo CO, S-3A, later Hotel CO; 1stLt. Michael D. Kellum, Echo XO, later briefly CO; 1stLt. Michael J. Beagler, 106 Plt. Standing, L-R, 1stLt. McCormick, Legal; 1stLt. Kaufmann, FO attached to Hotel; Capt. Donald D. "Don" Johnson, S-1; Unk.; 1stLt. Thomas H. "Tom" Marino, CIT; Unk; 1stLt. John P. Connolly Jr., Engineers; Unk.; Maj. N.E. Henry, 2/1 XO; 1stLt. G.W. "George" Serviss, S-5; 1stLt. Splan, Motor Transport; Col. E.A. Wilcox, 1st Marines CO; 1stLt. Galligan, H&S XO; Unk.; Capt. H.W. Stambaugh, S-4; Lt.Col. William G. "Bill" Leftwich Jr., 2/1 CO; 1stLt. J.W. Bates, S-4A; Lt. King, USN dentist; 1stLt. J.M. Brame, Supply; 1stLt. R.D. Marlow, Golf XO; Unk.-ALO; Lt. F.A. Nardella, USN surgeon; 1stLt. G.F. Davis, Officers Club; Unk.; Unk.; 1stLt. Macaluso, S-3A; and 1stLt. Jones, Communications. Not pictured, Maj. J.S. Grinalds, S-3. (USMC Photo)



Lt.Col. Bill Leftwich Jr., CO, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, gives a briefing to the brass in Vietnam. (USMC Photo) For stories on Lt.Col. Leftwich see Chapters 21, 37 and Epilogue, *Book I. American Heroes: Grunts, Pilots & "Docs."* Also, see *Book II, American Heroes: Grunts, Pilots & "Docs"* front cover photo and Perspectives on the Vietnam War--Part I, Chapters--10-16 and Postscript. (USMC Photo)



HM3 "Doc Mike" Shuck, 20 of Hanover, Indiana in 1970, was attached to Echo Co., 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment. He is looking through binoculars at a distant activity from a sandbagged machine gun position. This photo is the image on the back cover of *Book I, American Heroes: Grunts, Pilots & "Docs."* (Photo courtesy of Mike Shuck) For stories on Mike Shuck see Perspectives of the Vietnam War--Part I, Chapters 1, 16 and 21, *Book I, American Heroes: Grunts, Pilots & "Docs."*



2ndLt. Bob Fawcett, platoon commander, Echo 1, 2/1, kneeling, poses with his three squad leaders, l-r, Cpl. Don Youmans, Echo 1-1; Sgt. Boyd Householder, Echo 1-3; and Cpl. Mickey McGrady, Echo 1-3, kidding around with apparently the ring of the cotter pin to a smoke grenade in his mouth. (Photo courtesy of Col. Bob Fawcett, USMC, Ret.)



LCpl. Don Youmans, 19 in 1969 of Columbia, South Carolina, was the 1st Squad leader, 1st Platoon, Echo Co., 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment. He displays an enemy flag his squad captured. Photo dated September 26, 1969. Youmans makes a comment for the Perspective Part I section as well is in Chapters 14, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 27, 33, 34, 35 and Epilogue in *Book I, American Heroes: Grunts, Pilots & "Docs."* (Photo courtesy of Don Youmans)



1st Platoon, Echo Co., 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, July 1970, RVN
1st Platoon, Echo Co., 2/1, (understrength at one officer, 40 Marines and 2 Navy Corpsmen) as of July 16, 1970 under the command of 2ndLt. Bob Fawcett (Marines who had been or would be WIA are so noted): 1st row, kneeling or squatting, L-R, Cpl. Donald "Don" Youmans (Echo 1-1 squad leader), Sgt. Steward, LCpl. Carmelo Mercado, Cpl. Karl J. Dunich (WIA), HM3 "Doc" Massingill, HM3 James E. "Jim" Tyldsley; 2nd row, L-R, LCpl. Roger "Mickey" McGrady (WIA) (Echo 1-2 squad leader), Cpl. Bailey Newman "Atom Ant" Eames, PFC Steve Parsons (WIA), LCpl. Willie Williams, LCpl. Lester Hall, LCpl. Sheaves, LCpl. James J. Roth, PFC Olen "Yogi" Ruddell, LCpl. David H. Ridder, Cpl. Coy J. Passmore (WIA); 3rd row, rest of Marines, L-R, Sgt. Boyd C. Householder (Echo 1-3 squad leader), PFC Gary Jones (WIA), LCpl. Rick A. Mills, Cpl. Gary R. Davidson (WIA), LCpl. Stanley "Bear" McMeeken, LCpl. Earl Young, LCpl. Benjamin, PFC Elvin L. Chandler, Corbiss, LCpl. Thaddeus J. "Ted" Kling (WIA), LCpl. Brown, Spencer, PFC Paul A. Dennis and Sgt. Laventure. Not pictured, 2ndLt. Robert "Bob" Fawcett, SSgt. Joseph E. "Joe" Strausbaugh, LCpl. Gary T. "Tank" Hunter (rotated stateside) LCpl. Dick E. "Dakota Slim" Johnson, LCpl. Marshall Templeton, Cpl. Robert Lankford, LCpl. Joseph P. Manley (WIA), PFC Jay Ingram, PFC Lincoln Baldwin, Hicks, LCpl. Richard E. Allen, LCpl. Dan Zarbo (WIA), Cpl. Steven A. "Steve" Livermore (WIA), Teafattiller, Cpl. Lawler, LCpl. Clifford "Cliff" Green (WIA medevacked stateside) and LCpl. Lee Ernest "Crazy" Marsh Jr. (KIA July 8). Six other Marines arriving as replacement troops soon after this photo was taken included PFC House, PFC Falcon, Matthews, Edward Mazzeo, Messer and Blakemore. (Photo and identifications courtesy of Col. Bob Fawcett, USMC, Ret.).



**1stLt. Robert J. "Bob" Fawcett, 1st
Platoon commander, Echo Co., 2/1,
Vietnam, 1970-71**



**2ndLt. Michael "Mike" Greene, 3rd
Platoon commander, Golf Co., 2/1,
Vietnam, 1970-71**

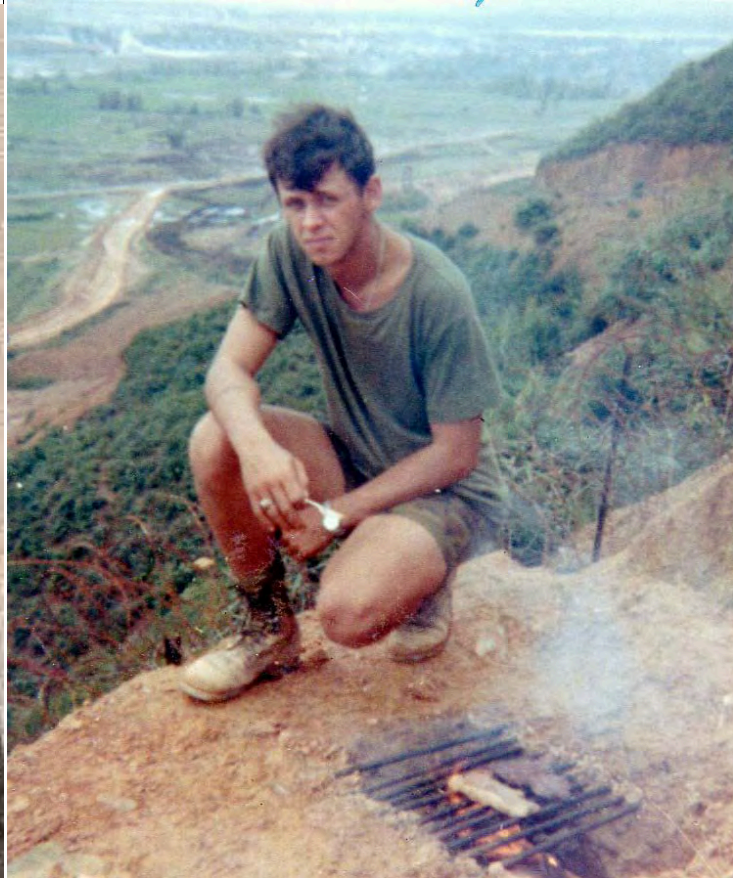


Echo 2, 2/1 Marines on a daily patrol to an ARVN compound to pick up mail and chow in 1970 across a flooded plain around Thach Bo in the western part of the battalion's area of operation. Closest to the camera is Cpl. Ron Robison, LCpl. A.J. Johnson and at the top LCpl. Tim Williams. This was a routine patrol except for a snake Robison said he killed and a water buffalo that caused some momentary excitement as he wanted to trample the Marines until the Vietnamese boy with him got the 1,000 lb. animal under control. A small pool area near their platoon patrol base was where the Marines enjoyed taking a bath when they were in the area in March. By the time they returned to that same location in November that same "pool" was full of blood-sucking leeches, according to Robison. (Photo courtesy of Cpl. Ron Robison)



1stLt.s Michael D. "Dan" Kellum, Echo 2/1's Weapons Platoon commander (March 1970, left, and Michael E. "Mike" Burr, artillery Forward Observer, both Texans, are former Enlisted Commissioning Program candidates and Charlie Co., 1969 The Basic School at Quantico, Virginia officers. They pause at the Big Sand Dune near Viem Dong south of Da Nang before moving out to south of the Old Cau Ha Combat Base, March 29, 1970. The well-dressed combat officer, I have a gas mask on my right hip, full canvas pack with sundry items such as a change of socks, toothbrush, toothpaste, camouflage nylon liner, probably some C-Rations, t-shirt, small radio from home, writing material and letters from home in a plastic bag and a small chess set to fill in the boring moments in the bush. An entrenching tool is clipped onto the pack and a rolled up poncho for inclement weather is on top. Two metal canteens holding water, a 12-inch Marine K-Bar knife, a first aid pouch and a holster with .45 caliber pistol with extra magazines in pouches are attached to the web belt. My dog tags with a C-Rations provided small P-38 can opener called a "John Wayne" in honor of the Duke are on a long chain around my neck and my good luck St. Christopher's medallion is in my pocket along with an officer's most

valuable accessory next to a PRC-25 radio and a map, a Lensatic compass. We're both wearing mandated flak jackets with plastic inserts to supposedly stop shrapnel from reaching our vital torso areas. The bulge of two M-26 baseball grenades are in the right pocket of my flak jacket. The camouflage covered helmet has a cut piece of rubber tire around it that will later hold bug juice repellent and the first aid dressing snapped under it. By this point I've discovered only stupid officers continue to wear their shiny officer's collar bars in the bush...that tend to draw a sniper's attention from a long way away. I would eventually mark the front of my camouflage helmet cover with a pen drawn dark lieutenant's bar which could not be seen from long distances. I carry a laminated map--one side topographical and the other an aerial view--of our entire Area of Operation in one of my thigh cargo pockets. Jungle boots and camouflage utility uniform round out the load I'm carrying. (Photo courtesy of Michael Dan Kellum)



LCpl. Lee Ernest "Crazy" Marsh Jr., 18 of Baltimore, Maryland, was killed July 8, 1970 outside Thon Khue Dong in Quang Nam Province of Vietnam. The Echo 1-3, 2/1 acting squad leader and his point man, LCpl. Dan Zarbo, were shot in a nighttime ambush by two unknown assailants thought to be RFs but as far as we knew never proven. Official records show it to be an "Accidental Homicide" due to M-16 rifles being thought to have been used in the attack by friendly RFs. It was never proven to be friendlies and could just as well have been enemy troops using M-16s. A Purple Heart was withheld from Marsh's Service Record Book as a result of the investigation guessing it was RFs and,

thus, a friendly on friendly incident. See story in Chapter 24, *Book I, American Heroes: Grunts, Pilots & "Docs."* (USMC Photo on left and photo on right courtesy of Don Youmans)



LCpl. Jackie Lynn "Jack" Lundell, 19, of Norwalk, Ohio, 2/1's Echo 1, CP radioman, was mortally wounded in a 2-man Viet Cong grenade attack the night of Easter Sunday, March 29, 1970 near Viem Dong. Lundell died at 1st Medical Battalion's Hospital in Da Nang the next day. (Photo courtesy of Don Youmans) See Chapter 17 for Lundell's story.

HM3 Doc Sam Lyles, 22, of Mobile, Alabama in 1970, proved his mettle in two situations with Echo 1 and 3, 2/1 in Chapters 23, 24 and Perspectives on the Vietnam War--Part II, in *Book I, American Heroes: Grunts, Pilots & "Docs."* (Photo courtesy of Sam Lyles)



Echo 2, 2/1 sets off an impressive explosion near its platoon patrol base in the Thach Bo area. The Marines were blowing their trash dump to keep the kids from pilfering it. PFC Sal Abate had a hand in rigging the charges, according to Cpl. Ron Robison. (Photo by Cpl. Ron Robison)



Several typhoons and tropical storms swept through South Vietnam in October 1970 during the monsoon season with the hardest hit being in the Quang Nam Province. Typhoon Kate dumped so much torrential rain sometime later that Echo 2 had to be evacuated by Sea Knights from Thach Bo. When Typhoon Kate hit, it pretty much shut down combat operations as it rained and rained and the water rose and rose until the little two-hill position Echo 2 shared with the ARVNs was basically an island. PFC Sal Abate poses with one of the Vietnamese troops above. Cpl. Ron Robison indicated they all ran out of film otherwise they would've documented how much higher the flooding water had risen on their hill. He noted that Marine Sea Knights couldn't land but managed to put their back wheels on the

sloping hill while the front wheel was in the air. Marines climbed aboard with the crew chief pulling the Marines by their packs on their backs to help them. Echo 2 was flown to nearby Yen Ne which was on higher ground. A large tent was located there where Echo Co.'s CO Capt. D.G. Pound's CP was located. (See Chapter 29, *Book I, American Heroes: Grunts, Pilots & "Docs,"* The Monsoon Tent Story, pages 220-221). Robison said a nearby Army base was flooded out and their men wearing just shorts, boots, t-shirts and boonie hats were dropped in the same field as Echo 2. They hiked through the Yen Ne ville to the road where they were picked up by trucks. Robison said he heard they left most if not all their weapons back at their base which was underwater. He noted the Marine pilots and their crews did some mighty good flying to bring them all to dry land. (Photos by Cpl. Ron Robison) See Chapter 3, *Book II, American Heroes: Grunts, Pilots & "Docs"* for the stories on typhoons around Da Nang in 1970.



PFC Sal Abate, left, and Cpl. Ron Robison, 60mm squad leader, pose with the Echo 2, 2/1's 60mm mortar tube. 2/1's Armorer Sgt. Roland Cote indicated that the Marine Corps had been using these platoon-level mortar tubes since the Korean War and were pretty much worn out from overuse back then. (Photo by Cpl. Ron Robison)



From left to right, Echo 2, 2/1 Marines are LCpl. Robert Lynn Beaver, 19, of Ashtabula, Ohio; LCpl. Nick Phillips, 21, from Bristol, Florida; and PFC Ed Diaz, 20, from Corpus Christi, Texas, in 1970. Beaver would lose his life due to a friendly on friendly artillery fire called by mistake near their nighttime patrol to their ambush site Friday, May 22, 1970. LCpl. Beaver was hit in the throat by a piece of jagged shrapnel and although a strong effort was made by HM3 Doc Mike Shuck, 20, of Hanover, Indiana, to save his life, the mortal damage wrought on him was too extensive. (Photo by Cpl. Ron Robison) See Chapter 1, *Book I, American Heroes: Grunts, Pilots & "Docs"* for Beaver's story.

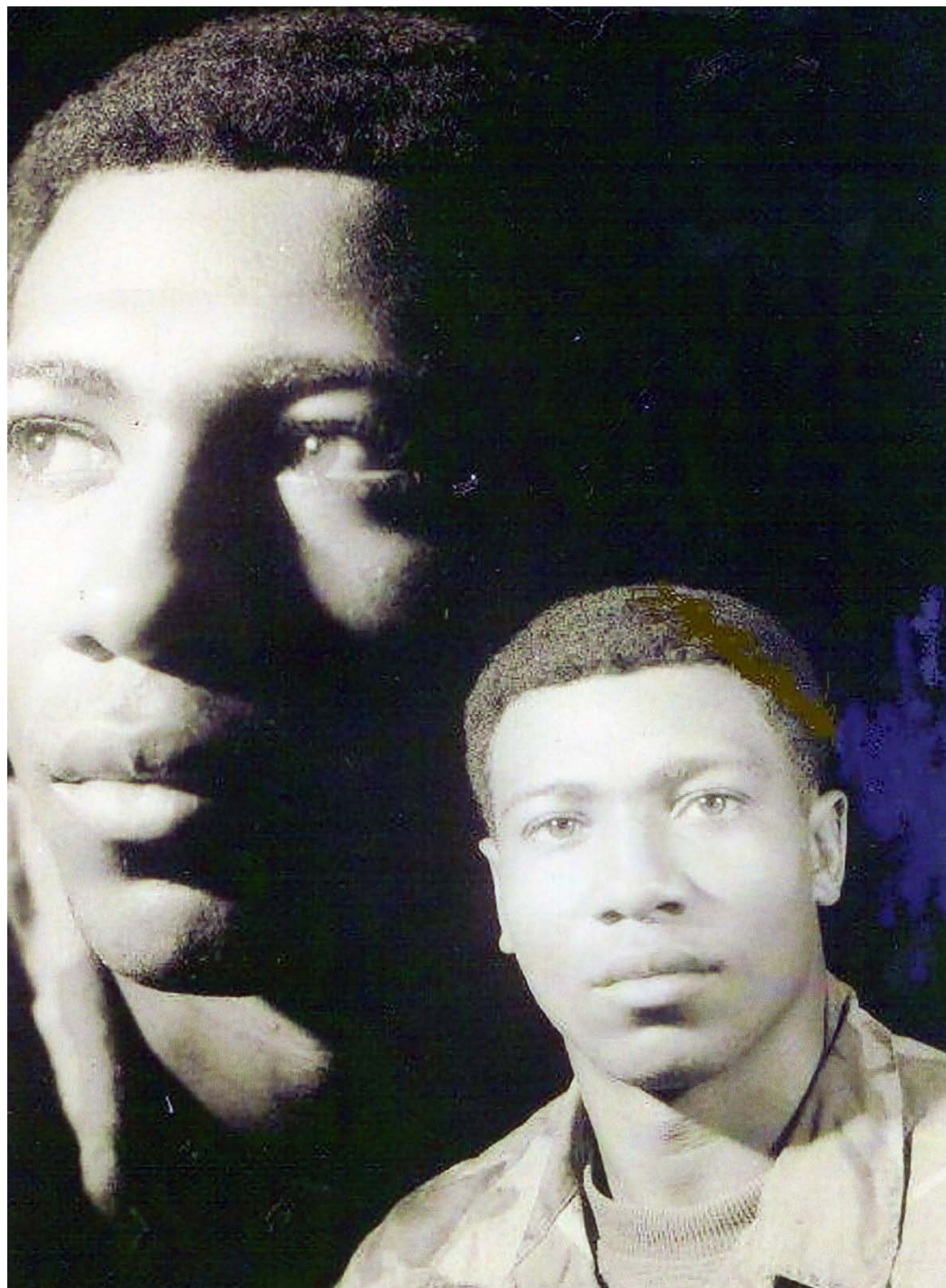


2ndLt. Jim Kyle, 2nd Platoon, Echo Co., 2/1, center, holds the staff of a captured Viet Cong flag as he poses with his Echo 2 Marines. The Marines are, L-R, PFC "Big Man" Williams, LCpl. Lewis Newkirk, Lt. Kyle, LCpl. Earl Foxworth and LCpl. Richard Lyle. Five Elements granite mountains, Chinstrap dominates, is in the upper right hand corner of the photo. (Photo courtesy of Jim Kyle) See Kyle's comments and story in Perspectives on the Vietnam War--Part I, Chapters 13, 21 and Epilogue, *Book I: American Heroes: Grunts, Pilots & "Docs."*

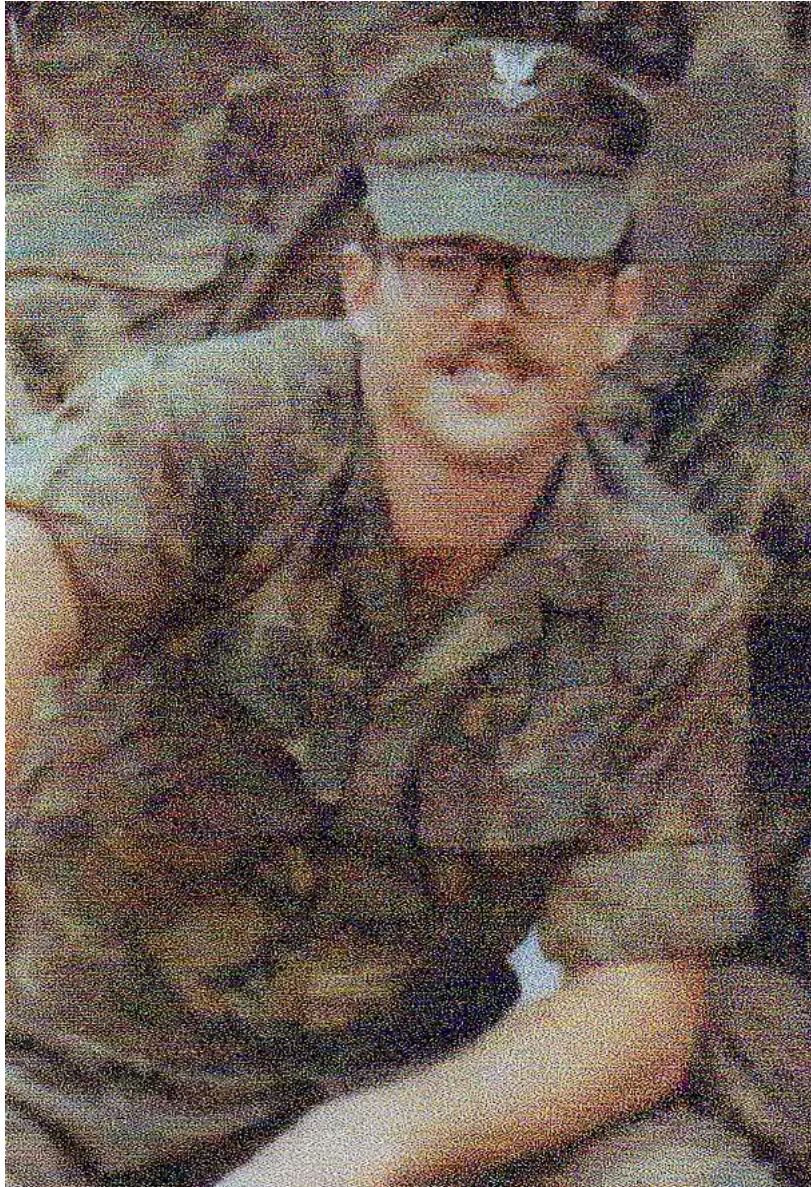


2ndLt. Jim Kyle, platoon commander, Echo 2, 2/1, 23 in 1970 from outside

Uniontown, Pennsylvania. Note the green towel around his neck to wipe the sweat constantly dripping from his face and appears to be ready to go out on patrol. (Photo courtesy of Jim Kyle) See Kyle's comments and story in *Perspectives on the Vietnam War--Part I, Chapters 13, 21 and Epilogue, Book I: American Heroes: Grunts, Pilots & "Docs."*



PFC Charles Albert "Charlie" Fraley, 21, of Milledgeville, Georgia was "The Guardian Angel" of 2nd Platoon, Echo Co., 2/1, according to his platoon commander, 2ndLt. Jim Kyle. He walked point for roughly 8 months without a scratch. On April 7, 1970 his luck ran out as he slid down a creek embankment onto a boobytrap that ended up mortally wounding him. HM3 Doc Mike Shuck stabilized him before putting him on a medevac helicopter. Fraley would die of shock the next day at 1st Medical Hospital in Da Nang. His death greatly impacted his platoon as it did the author who had come to know him. He cared about all his fellow Marines he was charged with keeping safe by walking point. Charlie didn't see a person's color but rather looked into his fellow Marine's heart which made him special. (Photo courtesy of Ron Robison) See his story in Perspectives on the Vietnam War--Part I, and Chapters 16, 21, 26 and 33, *Book I, American Heroes: Grunts, Pilots & "Docs."*



HM3 Doc Mike Shuck, 20, of Hanover, Indiana in 1970 was one of many Navy Corpsmen who were assigned to Echo Co., 2/1. He performed some amazing field stopgap medical procedures in the bush to stabilize wounded Marines, some catastrophically, before loading them on medevac helicopters and sending them on to 1st Med in Da Nang. He would receive a Bronze Star with "V" for his actions serving with Echo Co. (Photo courtesy of Mike Shuck) See his stories in Perspectives on the Vietnam War, Chapter 1, 16 and 21, *Book I, American Heroes: Grunts, Pilots & "Docs."*



This is 3rd squad, 2nd Platoon, Echo Co., 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines March 4, 1970 before two in their ranks were killed-in-action. They are bottom row, l-r, Dan McKelvey, Charlie Fraley--point man (KIA), Robert "Butch" Ricca--(squad leader after Ron Schiattone rotated home), Louis Garcia--M-79 man; 2nd row, standing l-r, Robert "Beaver (KIA), Sal Abate, Unk., Gary Wharton--radio operator, and Doc Jerry Bowers. Not pictured Cpl. Schiattone--squad leader, and Nick Phillips. (Photo by Lt. Jim Kyle)



LCpl. Emilio De La Garza Jr., 20 of East Chicago, Indiana earned a posthumous Medal of Honor April 11, 1970 south of Marble Mountain in the "Riviera" area. While chasing down a VC soldier who had jumped into a pond to escape the Echo 3-1, 2/1 Marines, De La Garza leapt in the pond after him and upon seeing the man pull the pin on a grenade he pushed his platoon commander out of the way saving his life and took the full brunt of the explosion, according to the citation. The Marine left behind a wife, Rosemary and daughter, Renee. September 9, 1971 the MOH was presented to his wife, daughter and parents, Mr. & Mrs. Emilio A. De La Garza Sr. at the White House by Vice President Spiro Agnew. (USMC Photo) See Chapter 23, *Book I, American Heroes: Grunts,*

Pilots & "Docs" for De La Garza's story.



Lt.Col. William G. "Bill" Leftwich Jr., 2/1 commanding officer May-September 1970, at LZ Baldy when he was CO of 1st Recon Battalion. Photo believed to be the last one taken of Leftwich before he was killed in a helicopter crash November 18, 1970. (Photo by Col. Bob Fawcett, USMC, Ret.)