

DASPO

DATE

DCS Volume 4
Issue 4

ROLL #

Jun 2007

Les Bon Vivants

2007 Reunion Savannah Georgia

April 11th - 15th, 2007



The DASPO Combat Photographers Association, Ninth Reunion was a great success in Savannah.

We had perfect weather, getting in between the middle of two storms. The Marriott gave us a hospitality room, courtesy of the hotel for the entire reunion which was used often by everyone. Jimmy and Toni brought goodies from Hawaii for one and all. Paul Moulton did a great job on the DASPO hats which many people were wearing. A great big thanks to Bob Lafoon, for supplying the wine, beer, soft drinks and water for the hospitality room for the entire week. Carl Hansen brought hard cover books with him called *Reflections On The Wall*, which he gave to all of us that visited the hospitality suite.

Continued on page 4

Mail Call

A
Harry Breedlove
stamp



Attaboy

Ted:

Just wanted to THANK YOU on the job you did in organizing the reunion. My wife and I really enjoyed it, and seeing old friends again. We are both happy that you will remain our president for another term.

- Don Jellema

Mail Call continued on page 3



Army Chow
The gut wrenching truth

Bon Appetite My mother-in-law adopted a cat for outside mousing. She asked me to feed the cat some canned cat food the other day and a flood of olfactory smells/odors and memo-

Continued on page 2



ries suddenly flooded my brain. C-Rations..... suddenly came to my mind. The following is from an article from the 17th Div... which I have liberally edited...

Here is a quick and dirty look at the classic meal-on-the-go of GI Joe, the C-Ration.

Here's the key to it all...

Yes, the key to understanding the generation of the C-Ration munching GIs, you have to understand the tool of their trade—The P-38 can opener. Developed during WW2 for the newly introduced “Combat” ration, it is supposedly named for the pact that it goes 38 times around a C-ration tin. One thing is for sure. If you run into a GI from the age of C-rations (1940s-1980s), there is better than even odds that they still tote around a P-38 to this day. Check the key rings and hunting gear of those guys, and you are sure to find one.

Well, before we get too deeply into describing C-Rations, why don't we have a look at the official US QM description...

“The Meal, Combat, Individual, is designed for issue as the tactical situation dictates, either in individual units as a meal or in multiples of three as a complete ration. Its characteristics emphasize utility, flexibility of use, and more variety of food components than were included in the Ration, Combat, Individual (C Ration) which it replaces. Twelve different menus are included in the specification.



Each menu contains: one canned meat item; one canned fruit, bread or dessert item;

one B unit; an accessory packet containing cigarettes, matches, chewing gum, toilet paper, coffee, cream, sugar, and salt; and a spoon. Four can openers are provided in each case of 12 meals. Although the meat item can be eaten

cold, it is more palatable when heated.

Each complete meal contains approximately 1200 calories. The daily ration of 3 meals provides approximately 3600 calories.”

C-Rations were the quintessential food of the grunts in the jungles of Vietnam. We received them in cases of 24 boxed meals. Indi-

vidual olive-drab cans had labels such as ‘Spaghetti and Meatballs’, ‘Ham and Eggs’, and ‘Ham and Lima Beans’; Pork Chop Hill and Hamburger Hill, infamous ground battles, had more appetizing-sounding names to me. The preparation processes needed to give the food long can life altered the flavor: the spaghetti and meatballs had a strange metallic taste, while the ham and eggs reminded me of dried pus. The ham and lima beans just left a bitter taste in my mouth.

The heavy nature of C-Rations convinced me that the bastards who created them intended them for consumption in regions with harsh winters, such as Korea and Europe. Having learned about C-Ration fruitcake in basic training, I never ate one in Vietnam. It seemed to lie forever like a rock in the bottom of my stomach. I threw more than one can of it off the side of a jungle mountain, hoping to hit an enemy soldier in the head and kill him with the sheer weight of it

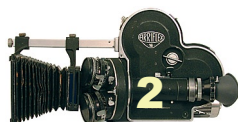


‘C ration Memories’ by Roger Hawkins while photographing the 101st in Quang Tri province.

Inventive GIs would use C-Ration cans as stoves, we used C-4 plastic explosive, sometimes gutting Claymore mines for the stuff that we burned. It burned hot and fast, and gave off toxic fumes, but the inconveniences were minor considering that cold C-Rations were virtually inedible.

Cookie meets Julia Child

Several DASPO assignments were to provide stories of the Long Range Reconnaissance Patrols [LRRP's]. First of all, these were some of the toughest individuals that I ever was with in Vietnam. These guys would go out



and be inserted into enemy territory for six weeks and just watch and report. They were not to engage the enemy unless discovered or ordered to do so. The LRRP's would however leave some booby traps along the way as they were extracted from the area.

LRRPs



LRRP rations



When covering the LRRP's, DASPO cameramen did find out they had some great new Army chow they were utilizing which no one else had. It tasted more like something that could actually be tolerated you could almost savor it. This new food was flavorful, light weight and compact... We quickly found out who was in charge of LRRP supplies at the various LRRP units we worked with. After determining they could use film and we seem to have an abundant supply of it we began bartering for

their food which was called LRRP rations.

A cup of boiling hot water that was heated on a C4 stove mixed with the various meals and presto....we had chili or roast beef, chicken stew or turkey and gravy to name a few. We really did appreciate them when we were out in the boonies.



Do you have recollections of the Army chow we ate from basic to the field in Vietnam? Or some of the great Villa cuisine! Let's hear your stories?



**P-38
low tech
high function**



Mail Call *continued*

Mr. Meticulous

Hi Ted & Cindy:

Hope you had a good trip home. What a great reunion! As usual, you have provided us a beautifully choreographed experience, where we had many opportunities to renew friendships, start new ones, have memorable meals and experience the civilian and military history of the area. The banquet gave us a chance to recognize those who have fallen and to learn more about our beloved DASPO through the experiences of our brothers. Of course, there was great food and an update of the major accomplishments of the DASPO Reunion Group. You and all of DASPO are to be congratulated for the fully funded Yoho/Rein Scholarship Fund, for our work being archived in the Texas Tech Vietnam Archives and for the great reunions that you have planned, which have broadened the friendships among the DASPO men and women. And as is your tradition, it was great value, everything first class, and even perfect weather (although one of your trips, Bangkok & RVN, was a little tepid).

Here's the recap on the generous contributions to the DASPO General Fund that I received in

Savannah:

Harry Breedlove
Ruppy Ruplenas
Clyde Delk
Joel Shanus
Lee Swain
Steve Blake
Bob Smith
Carl Hanson
John Gilroy
Anonymous

This \$726 that was collected will be used for newsletter production, printing and mailing; website hosting and updates.

I am sending some pix in case you need them for the newsletter. Please include a note that if there are any of the pix that any DASPO brother would like, have them e-mail me and I'll send them a copy of the original file so they can make prints for their scrapbook.

Thanks again for your hundreds of hours of meticulous planning on our behalf.

John Gilroy

Keeping above water
Hello to both of you,

First of all we want to thank you both for the tremendous amount of work it took to put the trip together. These trips

Having breakfast each morning as group in a large meeting room overlooking the river in the Marriott Hotel was a great experience. All were unanimous about starting our daily activities later—around 10:00 AM each morning. We toured the city the first day by trolley which left time for everyone to spend it in groups after the tour.



Paul Moulton Jimmy Dung and Toni Tsusakia

Every one went home heavier than when they came. Paula Dean's *The Lady and Sons* restaurant was good but *Mrs. Wilkes' Dining Room* culminated



John Gilroy, Donna Gilroy, Susan Shanus, Joel Shanus

of our epicurean experience. None of us could believe the quantity and variety of food set at our tables. Served family style, each dish was "lip smackin good." With Mrs. Wilkes chicken recipe, Colonel Sanders could have been a General!

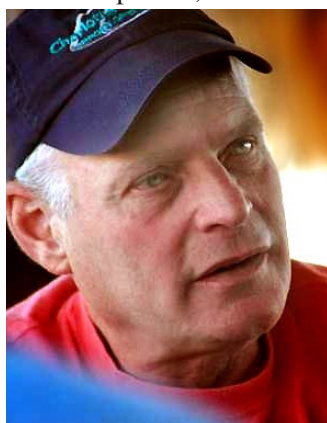
The membership re-elected the same slate of officers at the business meeting. Ted Acheson announced this would be his last term as president. A unanimous vote mandated \$25 annual dues to cover the news letter, postage, and web services. Send your money to John Gilroy ASAP along with the form on the last

page of this newsletter.

Stewart Barbee needs correct info on awards, medals, letters of commendation and letters of appreciation so he can update the DASPO web roster.

For current addresses or e-mail always check the roster at DASPO.com. We will again participate in the TTU Vietnam Archives symposium next March 13th - 16th, 2008—topic not yet determined. Thoughts on appropriate topics should be sent to me as soon as possible. The TTU Rein Yoho scholarship fund is up and running, but still needing your tax deductible donations.

Joel Shanus FedExed two boxes of photos, film and



Vietnam memorabilia and films from Vietnam taken while in DASPO and another unit. They will be most appreciated. Thanks Joel!

The last business of the day that we voted on was



John Glunt's proposal

the next reunion, which will be our tenth one. Jeri and John Glunt put together a detailed proposal to hold the reunion in Louisville, KY. We thank them for their effort. The group selected San Antonio, TX for DASPO 2008 from a field of three locations.

Aboard a paddle wheeler, with the deck to ourselves, we glided into a sentimental journey down a calm Savannah River. Good



Rupy gets frisky with the crew

food, a great venue, and a slow southern pace put everyone in the mood to socialize.

Four DASPO attendees made this their first reunion. Their views of the DASPO experience broadened everyone's perspective. Some members even brought friends and relatives.



Two generations of Swains

A number of golf addicts hinted broadly that a "golf day" in San Antonio would pump up the next reunion?



We split our last full day between Fort Pulaski and one of our country's oldest light houses. The bus driver, like any 2nd Lt. with a map, got lost on the way to lunch. We finally spotted the restaurant right across from the light house we had just visited. Lunch was good, but the *North Beach Grille* which was on the ocean took a bit of time growing, catching our food and serving it. This cut into our time visiting at a great museum, the 8th Army Air force. I think everyone would highly recommend it.

Before our concluding dinner Clyde Delk, with the help of Paul Moulton and Chuck Abbott, gave the missing man program reading the names of the DASPO members that are deceased. Clyde then blessed our food. The DASPO banquet is always a special event with everyone having an opportunity to give further details about what DASPO had meant to them and what they have been doing the past 30+ years. When it was Duke Smith's turn, a new attendee this year.... he mentioned that it was certainly a different Stewart Barbee than the one he left in Vietnam, than the one he had met at the reunion, he wasn't sure if it was really the same guy.

Major O'Connor and 1st Sergeant Bridgham were recognized by all of us as the best team any of us had ever worked with including



Jack and Nancy O'Connor Et Bridgham and Ken Bridgham



civilian life. They received a standing ovation from all of us. The McQuiston's were recognized as well as the Gilroys for collecting our money. Chuck Abbott was recognized for his early effort in putting the first reunions together. Stewart Barbee was also recognized for keeping track of all the DASPO members. When Carl Conn took his turn to speak he talked about his personalized NY state license plates with DASPO on them. Carl announced he would donate \$25.00 to Rein Yoho scholarship, up to total of \$1,000.00, for everyone that also got a state plate with DASPO on it. You must submit a photo of your plate that wasn't run through photo shop. Everyone at the banquet was given a metal OD lapel pin with a DASPO logo.

After the banquet was over everyone went to the foyer for more drinks and photos.

It seemed that our entire group joined at the final breakfast on Sunday to say farewells until the next DASPO reunion.

More photos on page 6 . .

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*Could San Antonio
top Savannah?
DASPO logistics
are already in motion.
Armchair generals talk
strategy and tactics.
Real generals talk
logistics.*



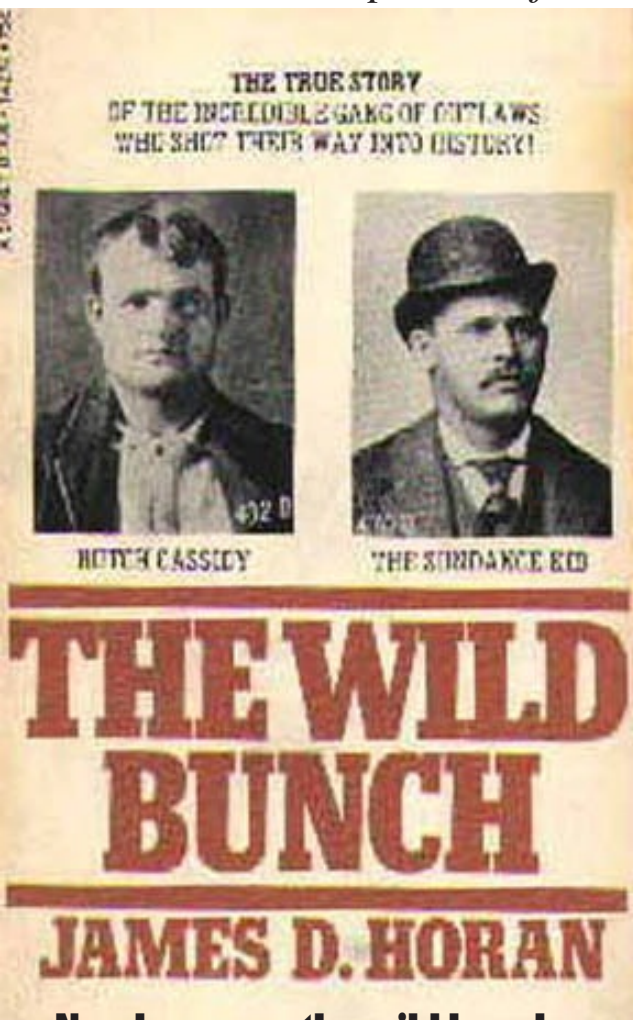
Three wars and long out of warranty, but Rupy still has a way with the ladies. Seen here with Dinah Maklin.



Toni Tsusakia and Jim Dung.



More pictures from:



Now known as the mild bunch



Earl and Karen Dawson yearn for the simplicity of C-rations..



"Well first he moves to Texas and then the next convention is in San Antone," the Coltons's explain to Duke Smith.



Don Jellema, right, explains to, Blake, Gilroy and Smith how we could have won the war if we had gone digital sooner.



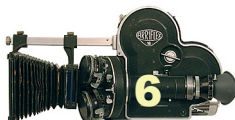
Carl Conn asks Lois if he can have her dessert if she is not going to finish it.

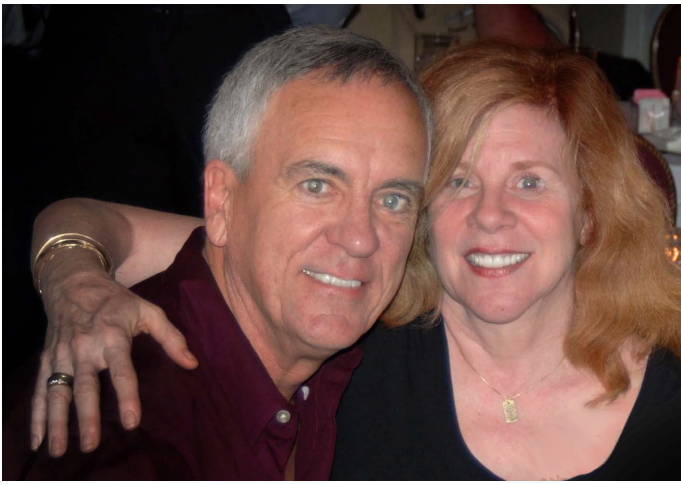


Ed McQuiston, Iz McQuiston, Cheryl Hein, Jackie Bell and Bill Bell watch Lou Hein down a fourth mint julip.



Ken Bridgham, runner up, and Lee Swain, winner of the patriotic tie contest.





Stewart and Melinda Barbee or as they are now known, in the singular, "Stewinda."



Don Jellema thinks his wife, Louella looks like Carmen Miranda with the flowers on her head..



Llewellyn and Lois Rein listen as Nancy and Clyde Delk explain that side effects are headaches and changes in vision.



"Frenchy" DeLarier doesn't know that Chuck Abbott, Karen Dawson, Earl Dawson, Duke Smith, and Carl Conn have all charged their drinks to his room.



Dottie and Chuck Abbott having fun on the cruise.



Paul Moulton, Marilyn Walsh, John Gilroy, Ed Walsh, Duke Smith, and Nancy Richards.



Band of Brothers, Acheson, Duke Smith, Swain and Hansen pledge undying love over endless refills.



Ed McQuiston notices we have passed the same lighthouse for the third time.



Mail Call *continued*

are put together so that none of the fifty to sixty people that attend can come away and not have enjoyed every minute of every day. It takes a special talent to put something like this together, and you are one of the few. Thanks again. We made it home with just a little trouble but now it's the rain and flooding all over the state. We are just fine though.

Steve and Dot Blake

Earl and his girl

Hi Ted:

We just attended our first DASPO reunion. The welcome was as warm as the weather in Savannah. We met great people and had a great time. It was a very nice vacation for us. Speaking to those who have yet to attend, get to the next reunion for you are truly missing out on a fun time. We missed out in the past, we know that now. That will not happen again. We are looking forward to San Antonio 2008!

Best Regards,
Earl and Karen Dawson

Hitches? R U kiddin?

You did it again. Organized a wonderful reunion. We both had such a wonderful time. My daughter called tonight and is still talking about how much she enjoyed herself. There were probably a few

hitches that I don't know about; But, I thought it was wonderful. You did a great job!

Ann Swain

Ate ourselves blind

Hi Ted:

We returned from the East Coast just last night. Got the DASPO CD. Thanks a million for it and another wonderful DASPO Reunion. You be the da best! What fun, we ate ourselves blind. If I can help you with anything, let me know. I'm up to my ears in mail and unpacking. I'll call you soon for a chat.

Again, great job, Ted!

Peace, Stewart

Eh what?

Ted:

Nancy and I would like to thank you and Cindy for another wonderful reunion. There are not word to express our gratitude to you both for all the hard work that you put into putting the reunions together. The food was great and all the events were just wonderful. I especially enjoyed the river boat ride and dinner.

Nancy and I went on to Florida for vacation after we left there on Sunday and have just arrived back home. Please find the minutes for the business meeting attached. I will bring a copy next year so they can be read at the

business meeting. Make any correction you need to. Sometimes, I don't hear everything clearly, especially when several people are talking at one time.

Have a wonderful summer.

Clyde Delk

Old faces? Well really!

I just wanted to drop you quick note and let you know that I really enjoyed the DASPO reunion. You and Cindy did an outstanding job. I am so glad I came. Seeing some old faces and meeting some new ones. Everyone was great. The food was great the tours were great and breakfast was outstanding. Thanks so much for the single room. There was no problem with Rupy, but having a single room made a great reunion just that much better. Really seeing you guys again was just great and I can not remember when I have had such a good time.

I also wanted to let you know that if anyone needs a DD Form 214 they can write to:

National Personnel
Records Center
Military Personnel
Records
9700 Page Ave
St Louis, Missouri
63132-5100

314-801-0800

<http://vetrecs.archives.gov>

Cindy and I appreciate your letters; we find it gratifying that you all are so delighted in the quality of the reunions. We enjoy the shared friendships.

Failaise Malaise

Its Faillace

Hi Ted:

I just received the latest DASPO Newsletter and found the text of Roger Hawkins story on Guy Falaise very interesting.

I mentioned SSG Falaise on page #5 paragraph #1 of the Mac Intosh story. I indeed remember him. In 1964 at the Pic Center's Field Photo I thought it haunting that this thin frail sergeant had once been an officer, Mac Arthur's personal photographer and had held a national title of either Mr. America or body building champ of 1928 or 1929, such at Charles Atlas of that year.

I recall the NCO's would huddle amongst themselves to discuss their WWII Pacific or European and Korean War exploits, while SSG Falaise actively sought out us younger privates and PFC's to culture us in Army protocol. On one occasion he told us to always follow the last order given. He stressed that many times you will get conflicting orders from NCO's and officers within a short period of time, but always follow the last order you

Duke





Gen. Douglas MacArthur with Australian Prime Minister Chifley. Photo by Faillace.

receive. He told us you will never go wrong. He said if something went wrong; let the higher up rank get the reprimand, not you.

A classic example of just such a screw up happened during Mac Arthur's Funeral in New York. It was planned that Field Photo would cover the VIPs arriving and entering the armory, I while Camera Branch's Mitchell filmed the people passing the casket. The day of the ceremony the weather was foggy and dreary, the supply sergeant told everyone to switch from color film to Black and White.

All hell broke loose when it was learned that Field Photo's 20 or more cameras had the VIPs arriving in B&W, while Camera Branch had the VIPs passing the casket in color~ SSG Falaise living off post, was the only person in Field Photo that hadn't gotten the word to switch film, but he was stationed elsewhere I suppose getting the VIPs getting back into their limos around the block.

I remember SSG Falaise's retirement was all

strange and confusing to hear a sergeant was retiring as an officer. There was a lot of conversation of him retiring as a major. I was out TOY when he retired, probably in the spring of 1965, and undoubtedly held at First Army HQS on Governor's Island, but I can't say for sure.

In Roger Hawkin's story, he states Falaise had lots of photos of Vietnam from the 1950's. Even though the Vietnam War was heating up SSG Falaise never mentioned he had been to the region years ago.

William Foulke

Slated for next reunion
Ted;

My name is Hal Slate, retired from DASPO 1st of June 1966, I am hoping I will be able to attend a DASPO Reunion next year. This year myself and wife will be in Tokyo for a wedding, Other years in the pass the reunion falls on same dates as the Pacific Stars and Stripes Reunion which I am a member also. I enjoy reading your newsletters etc. God Bless

Hal Slate

Green Zone beautiful this time of year

Hi Ted:

Although we are sure we are not interested in the trip to Iraq, John thinks the picture is of Mike Laley. Please give the trip to someone who deserves it more than we do.



'Bummer' Laley

John and Jeri Glunt
SP5 Laley

Thanks for the Newsletter. Just wanted to let you know that the mysteryphoto was of, one each, Mike Laley. I try to impress with my limited knowledge. However, the photo in question was not taken when Mike was with DASPO. Wrong camera. I think that photo was taken when he was with the 9th infantry. He was with the 9th until they left country and then he came to work with us. Mike was a great guy to work with. We did not always agree, but I always respected him and his work. He had

real light skin and always had to keep his body protected from the sun. Yet, he was right in the middle of the action in Vietnam. As a matter of fact, I believe there was a time when US Forces were not in Cambodia and Mike was right with them.

Duke Smith

Bummer

Ted:

Got the newsletter ok, and you did your usual good job. The Photog in the chopper on the last page I do believe is Mike (Bummer) Laley.

When he was with the 25th Inf., VN, there was a good write up on him on their web-site.

Don Jeleva

Ed leaves us hanging

Ted, been busy and more. I need to get back in touch and I will. I will be in touch with you soon. Miss the group but lots to tell you.

BTW ... your unsolved is Mike Laley

Ed Lewin

Did time together

Ted, Great job on the newsletter! The unsolved mystery photo is of DASPO photographer Mike Laylie (spelling?) in the helicopter. We spent some time together in VietNam. He did a wonderful job shooting stills and running sound. Did I hear that he is in

Continued on next page



Mail Call *continued*

Honolulu now at Pearl Harbor? Civilian?

Thank you,

Ron Widman
Columbus, Ohio

Yeah, a real bummer!

Hey Ted:

Another great newsletter! The mystery guy is "Bummer" Mike Laley. When I first got to DASPO, I used to say "Out of site" all the time, Grigsby tagged me with that name. When Mike came to the unit he said "Bummer" one to many times, so I tagged him.

Stewart Barbee

Hey Guy!

Mr. Acheson:

Hello, my name is Guy Nasuti and I am the

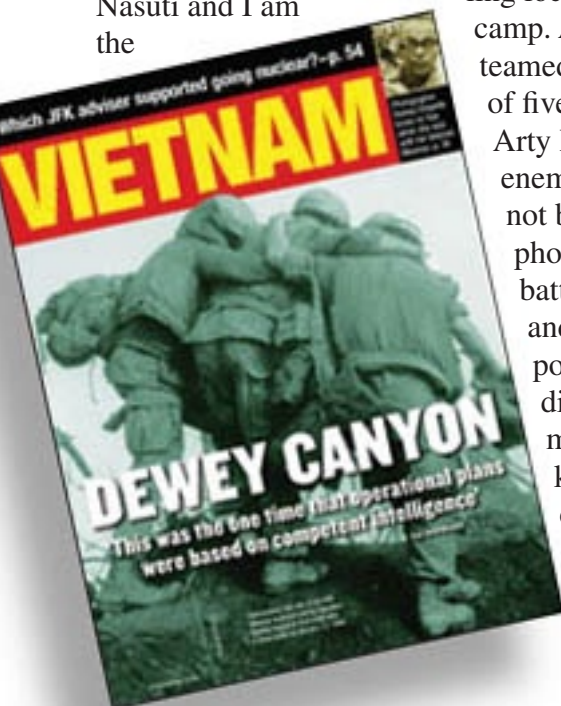


Photo Researcher for Vietnam Magazine. I currently just started in this position, and am trying to reach out to as many

groups as I can regarding the Vietnam War and photography itself.

I suspect that many of the photographs taken by combat cameramen in Vietnam are already at Texas Tech's archives. I have done some searching online there and at various other photo agencies/archives.

I admit to being stuck on one item, and that is the Battle of Bong Trang, which took place in August of 1966.

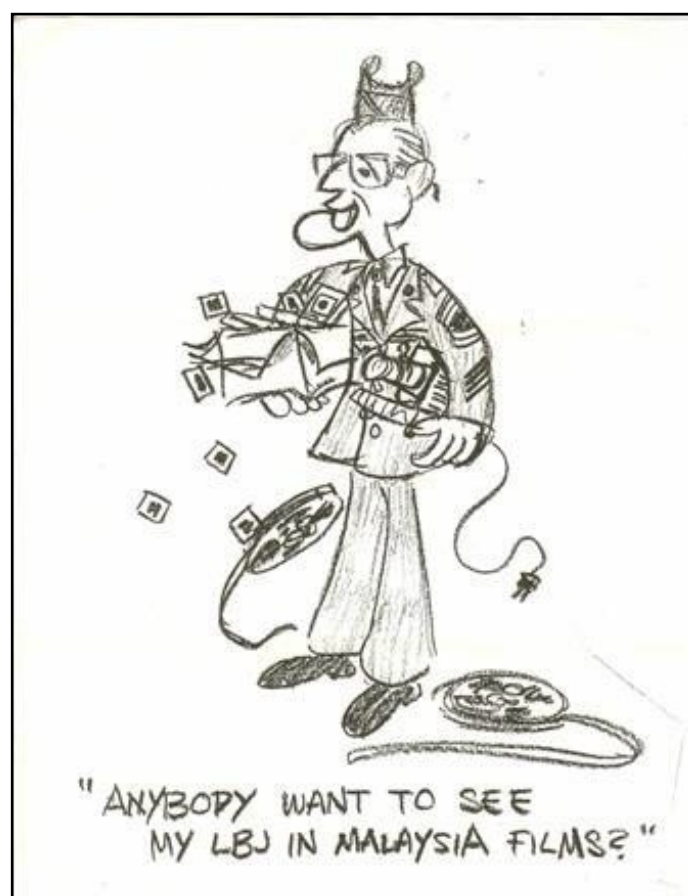
Description: The 1st Brigade, 1st Inf Div conducted search and clear operations during Operation AMARILLO along sections of Highway 16. Their aggressive patrolling located a VC base camp. A & C/1/4 Cav teamed with elements of five Inf and four Arty Bns to kill 171 enemy. I have so far not been able to find photographs of this battle

and could use a point in the right direction if you may happen to know where I could find some images from this battle or time period.

Thank you very much for your help and I hope the men of DASPO are able to read our magazine and enjoy it.

Guy Nasuti
Photo Researcher

Vietnam Magazine
Weider History Group
703-779-8329
741 Miller Dr., SE,
Suite D-2
Leesburg, Va. 20175
guy.nasuti@weiderhistorygroup.com



Did you know we had 5,261 items now at the Vietnam Archives with half of those of them donated by the all time pack rat Bill Foulke?

Harry Breedlove
photo of
Operation
Yellowstone



stump the chumps

Your chance to dazzle us by demonstrating knowledge of issues of absolutely no importance to those on the outside who are actually trusted to handle sharp objects.

No where else can you win prizes that no one else wants and FedEx absolutely refuses to deliver.

Who else would reward you with trips to places where the women are strong and the mules are ugly? One way tickets, because there is no use wasting our hard earned cash on return fares that may not be needed.

Here it is, this edition's chump stumper. Where is this, what is this, and what is the significance? The world is waiting to know what you already know?

If you are our winner, you have won three days and two nights in the most luxurious accommodations in Waziristan. If you are already there, we will pay for your ticket out via DC-3.*

** If the DC-3 is not running or has crashed, we reserve the right to substitute a 2 month mule ride and a 2 month supply of Boudreaux's Butt Paste (Google it. It is a real product).*

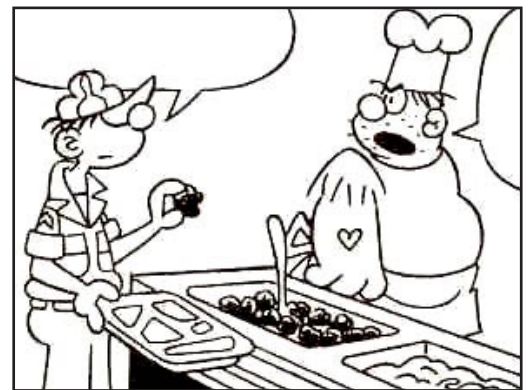


Does anyone know these guys or go to Fort Monmouth with them?
L-R: Albert Contraros, Terry McCauley and SSG Ron Bowman

Terry McCauley was a combat photographer with the 101st PIO during 1968 and 69. One of only a handful of non LRPs to ever go out with a team, and more importantly, be accepted by the members as a LRP.



Combat Photographer Ben Croxton



Send us some DASPO dialog for the speech balloons in this Beetle Bailey cartoon.



William Garvey

In Memory Of Bill Garvey

William Garvey, 75, died Feb. 8, 2007, at Valley Hospital in Las Vegas. Services were held at Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Boulder City.

Born Sept. 17, 1931, in Chicago, Ill, he was a 70-year resident of southern Nevada.

He served with the U.S. Army and in Korean War and Vietnam. Mr. Garvey later worked as a corrections officer and retired from civil service. He was a member of the VFW and Airborne Special Forces.



By Bob Lafoon

I'm not sure of the actual date Bill arrived at DASPO. I came back from my first trip to Nam in April 1966. His arrival was shortly there after or while I was in Nam. We immediately became friends. His girlfriend (Madelyn) later joined him and they got an apartment right next to mine on Ena Road just across from Fort Derussey. According to a newspaper article about our unit printed in 1966, Bill was 34. You can do the math.

A paratrooper prior to DASPO, I know he had several hundred jumps both military and civilian. My wife, Ro, along with Madelyn, would go somewhere on Oahu and watch him jump free style. I was always amazed at how fast he could repack his chute and go right back up for another jump. He was a kid in a candy store.

We did make one trip together to Nam before he was transferred to the 221st. From what I remember work wise, Bill worked mostly as a soundman. We did our fair share of partying when together in the Saigon villa. Although there was a huge age difference, he always treated me as a peer, a good friend and fellow enlisted man. He also covered my back on a couple of occasions downtown during my drinking episodes. I believe he returned to Special Forces after the 221st and Vietnam. I'm just not sure of dates and events.

Bill stayed with me for a few days after the 1998 Atlanta reunion. I took him to our local VFW and by the time we left you would have thought he was a long time friend of everyone. A bunch of us got together and played trivia at one of my local watering holes. A great time was had by all, and everyone immediately took to Bill.

I last saw Bill was when I went TDY in July of 2003 to Vegas for my current Civil Service job. I asked Bill to come to Vegas and visit with me. One of my fellow TDY travelers was a retired Master Sergeant from the XVIII Airborne Corps. I also had another friend who just happened to be gambling in Vegas at the time. Bill came into town from Pahrump to meet up with me for dinner and do massive fluids. He took a bus because he was having eye problems, but that did not stop him! I asked if he would mind if my two friends joined up with us. I also told him that one of them was a retired MSG from the XVIII ABC. That's all I needed to say, he was elated. After talking a few minutes, you would have thought they had been buddies for years. He knew the other friend (also a friend of Frenchy's) when he came to Atlanta.

He will certainly be missed and remembered by me. I believe it broke his heart when he was sent from DASPO to the 221st.



Gerald LePage



In Memory Of Gerald LePage

Gerald Joseph LePage, known to all who loved him as Jerry, was born November 7, 1927, in Providence, Rhode Island, passed away February 27, 2007 after a courageous battle with prostate cancer. Jerry was preceded in death by his wife, Dona Rae of 53 years and is survived by his sisters Marie and Rosalie, and brother Robert; son Christopher LePage and wife, Marjorie of Fort Worth, Texas; daughter, Tammis Lewis and husband, Russell of Allen, Texas; grandsons, Gerald II and Thomas both of Fort Worth, and Nicholas and Nathan of Allen; and two great grandchildren, Leah and Lucas.

Jerry served his country for 22 years in the U.S. Army, traveling abroad in support of WWII and the Korean War. His last tour of duty was in the Panama Canal Zone, where he retired in 1968 and stayed on to teach history at Balboa High School, Canal Zone, Panama. Jerry and Dona lived there for several more years before retiring to Austin, Texas. He will be remembered for his generous spirit, love of life and animals of all kind. He was an accomplished cinematographer and photographer and very knowledgeable of the movie industry.

Jerry will be laid to rest along side his wife in Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas at 11:00 a.m., Friday, March 2, 2007. To convey condolences or to sign an online registry, please visit www.tjmfuneral.com. In lieu

of flowers, donations may be made to the SPCA of Allen, Texas or to a SPCA of your choice.

Hi Ted;

I was so sorry to hear about Jerry passing. I don't know if you know about Jerry's service in the Army prior to DASPO. Jerry was a young cameraman in Germany at the end of WW-2. He was cameraman at The Nuremburg Trails. After, that he got out of the Army. He reenlisted in the Army and was assigned to the Army Signal Corps Photo Center, [SCPC], in New York city.. You youngsters know SCPC as The Army Pictorial Center or APC.

The first time I met Jerry was at X Corp HQ in Korea. He was with a team from APC attached to X Corp for support. I was the liaison between the two units. Jerry and I worked together on the film for a couple of months and became good friends. I rotated out of Korea and was assigned to APC. Jerry and I worked many projects together. Projects like the Army's TV series, *The Big Picture*, The



film *Face to Face with Communism* and the *Railroad Hour*. I was sent to Germany and did not see Jerry for 3 years. We met again when we were both assigned the Pentagon as cameramen. Jerry wrote and was Director of Photography for the film about the Women's Army Corps, called with *Pride and Dignity*. He also was a cameraman on a film about Arlington Cemetery Called *So Rest the Brave*. I could go on for hours telling about his accomplishments while he was at the Pentagon. The end of this story is, when DASPO was formed, Jerry went to Panama and I went to Hawaii. He and I have stayed in touch

all these years and I will miss him. He was truly a very nice person and one of the best cameramen the Army ever had.

Regards to You and Cindy;
See you in GA'
Ken and Et

Ted;

My forward should have had an attachment with his obit. There is not much I can add to it except he was my NCOIC for my entire stay in the Panama detachment, and I really liked working with him. I first met Gerald on the plane from the US to Panama. I had some social contact with him and his family in Panama, and have had recent email contact with him and his daughter. We had also visited he and his wife in Manchaca, TX while on a trip to a car club meet nearby. Dona passed away about a year or so ago. She had lost her sight by then. I always accused Jerry of marrying above his station. She was an LT, and he, a mere Sergeant! They are buried together at Ft. Sam Houston, TX. He emailed regularly to update me with his situation. Gerald had recently moved to an apartment in Allen, TX and suddenly the email was written by Tammis. Sorry to be a bit short on stories. I am just sad.

Hans Nohr

Michael,

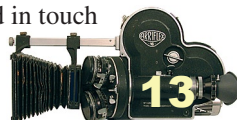
Thank you for your information regarding Jerry. Your follow-up letter, attached, has come just as I was preparing to write an obituary for a person I considered not only one of the best soldiers I have ever met, but a good friend. The last time I spoke to Jerry, was right after JD passed away. We all share a great legacy in knowing Jerry and in being ex-DASPO people. There are not many military units that allow us to take the pride that we do in our military service with them. The DASPO family has lost one of its senior citizens.

I met Jerry LePage when I

assumed command of DASPO (Panama) in 1966. I was replacing Captain Ballenger and Jerry was replacing Ken Whippermen as NCOIC. His military bearing, expert photographic skills and motion picture background stood him in good stead as the senior enlisted man of my detachment. Jerry and I traveled through both Central and South America, meeting and working with senior military personnel and ministry officials in countries in which we had an interest in placing DASPO photo teams. His excellent negotiating skills and his professionalism were a major factor in our relationship with these countries and the accomplishment of our mission. As I write it occurs to me that this is beginning to sound like a military retirement letter of commendation, which it is not. It is my humble testament to a person who I knew and respected and have always thought of as a dedicated military professional, an excellent professional still and motion picture photographer and last but not least, a friend. Jerry, wherever you are remember the four F's---frame, focus, f-stop and fps. Rest in peace!

I have taken the liberty of notifying the people who run the Army Pictorial Center website---the long gone motion picture facility in Queens, New York, where Jerry was one of the backbones of the special effects department for many years. The day I received the news of Jerry's demise I also had to deal with the news of two New York City police officers killed in Greenwich Village by a deranged gunman on a post that I had walked on numerous occasions. My thinking was there but for the grace of God, go I. That evening in a local watering hole I rounded up all the ex-military and ex-police officer's who live in the area and we toasted not only the fallen police officers but my sergeant, Jerry LePage as well. God bless them!

Paul Katz





Dispatches from a Dinner party



Twenty two February, I was in LA having dinner at my client's girlfriend's home in Hollywood Hills. Before dinner people were dropping in to say hello and chat with the hostess. Just the day before on my flight out to LA, I was reading a book that Brian Grigsby suggested to me called *Dispatches* by Michael Herr. It mentioned a free lance cameraman that I had met on two or three occasions in Vietnam, his name was Sean Flynn.

Sean was Errol Flynn's son who was a clone of his father. Sean and another cameraman Dana Stone had been captured by the NVA in Cambodia in 1970 just as Nixon had given his OK to invade. Sean and Dana were turned over to the Khmer Rouge some say they think they found their graves in the 90's but DNA was inconclusive.

The reason I mentioned the dinner party is that one of the women Cindy and I had been talking to was Rory Flynn, Sean Flynn's sister. We found that out after she had just left the party. I thought, "my God, what a small world we all live in." I wished I could have told her that I thought her brother was a real nice guy who loved what he was doing. We met a few

*Tim Page's
iconic portrait
of Sean Flynn
created before
Sean and fellow
journalist Dana
Stone hopped
on their
motorcycles
and disappeared
forever into
Cambodia.*



times in the field and only chatted about our gear and what we were working on. Sean was very interested in our group, he couldn't believe we weren't attached to MACV and could roam the country like civilian correspondents.

Thanks again to Michael Herr. The one-legged bull fighter was mentioned in his book *Dispatches* (page 213), "or the Korean cameraman who had spent four years in Spain as a matador, who spoke exquisite limpid Castilian and whom we called *El Tai-kwando*". I want you to know I wasn't on drugs when I asked the group if they knew this man? I would suggest this book and one other book *Lost Over Laos* by Richard

Pyle and Horst Fass. *Lost Over Laos* is about four famous photographers that were killed over Laos; Henri Huet, Larry Burows, Kent Potter and Keisaburo Shimamoto. They touch on the 1968 to 1970 time frame and it's reminiscent of what DASPO did.

Many of you saw the autographed book, *The Barron of Mulholland* which Rory had sent me in the hospitality room. The book was mainly about Rory's father Errol Flynn, but one third was dedicated to her brother Sean.

—Ted Acheson



April 12, 2007, Savannah, Georgia

Minutes

The business meeting of the DASPO Combat Photographers' Association was called to order by President Ted Acheson. Ed McQuiston made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the last meeting. Motion was seconded by Bob Smith. Without further discuss the motion passed.

Treasurer John Gilroy handed out the treasurer's report and went over the complete financial report that covered the period form 9/1/05 to 3/03/07.

Beginning balance 9/05/05 \$1566.44

Checks written for Web hosting, newsletter formatting, newsletter printing and postage, and DASPO pins (1482.06)

Sub Total **\$ 84.38**

Contributions received from DASPO members \$ 607.49
Sub Totals **\$ 691. 87**

**Current Balance
\$706.67**

Excess Funds Total **\$14.80***

Interest on savings account

Motion was made by Stewart Barbee to accept the financial report as read. Seconded by Lee Swain. Motion passed without further discussion.

Ted opened the floor for nomination of officer for the ensuing year. The general consensus was that we should keep the officers as previously elected. Ted agreed that he would serve for one more year as President of the organization, but after that someone else would need to be elected. All other officers agreed to remain in their present positions.

Discussion was held to start collecting dues for membership in the DASPO Combat Photographers' Association. It was suggested that dues in the amount of \$25.00 per year be collected to help with expenses. Bob Smith moved we collect \$25.00 per year for dues in the organization. Seconded by Stewart Barbee. The motion passed without any further discussion. Dues are to be sent to:

John Gilroy, 474 N. 2nd Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49009

The scholarship at Texas Tech. is now being used to fund students in their studies. The agreement as presently written funds students who are studying film as it pertains to combat and the documentation of combat. It was ask that we change the agreement to include students that are studying film restoration and other areas of film. After a brief discussion, Chuck Abbott moved that we make to necessary changes to the agree so that more students could receive benefit from the Yoho/Rein Scholarship. Motion was seconded by Ed McQuiston. Motion passed without further discussion.

With the changes to the agreement with Texas Tech., there is the possibility that more funds can come available through private donations. The Rein sisters know of persons that may be willing to help with the scholarship. Stewart Barbee and Carl Hansen volunteered to assist with this process.

There will be another symposium held at Texas Tech. in March 2008. DASPO has been invited to participate once again. If you have any ideas as to what should be presented, please contact Ted with your ideas.

It was reported that there are over 5400 objected in the archives at Texas Tech. You are encouraged to donate any items that you might have.

The last order of business was to decide where to go for the 10th reunion. The following suggestions were made:
Louisville, Kentucky Presented by Jeri Glunt
Hawaii Presented By Paul Molton
San Antonio, Texas Presented by Ted Acheson

After discussion and several rounds of voting, it was decided that we would go to San Antonia, Texas for the 10th DASPO Reunion to be held in October of 2008. Exact dates are not yet determined.

Motion was made for ADJOURNMENT.

Respectfully submitted,
Clyde Delk, Jr.

This years DASPO attendees:

Chuck Abbott and Dottie
Ted Acheson and Cindy
Stewart Barbee and Melinda
Bill Bell and Jackie
Harry Breedlove
Steve Blake and Dottie
Ken Bridgham and Et
Doug Colton and Joan
Carl Conn and Lois
Earl Dawson and Karen
Ron DeLaurier and Joann
Clyde Delk and Nancy
James Dung
Toni Tsusakia
John Gilroy and Donna
John Glunt and Jeri
Carl Hansen
Lou Hein and Sheryl
Donald Jellema and Louella
Bob Lafoon
Dinah Macklin
Ed McQuiston and Isobel
Paul Moulton
John O'Connor and Nancy
Lewllynn Locke
Lois Rein
Ruppy Replen
Duke Smith
Joel Shanus and Susan
Robert Smith
Nancy Richards
Denise Swain
Lee Swain and Ann
Ed Walsh and Marilyn
Doreen Wilson



This Old Villa

Recently Cindy and I returned to Vietnam to film an episode of *This Old Villa*. Our first stop was Hanoi; it looked like Bangkok 50 years ago. "Quaint and charming" according to our tour books, I think it lost its quaintness some time ago. It was very dirty and disappointing. Outside the city, there are plenty of factories turning out everything from cars to garbage bags. The ex pat workers live in clusters of tall buildings away from the city—not very desirable. You wonder what the war was about, when you observe the state of North.

From Hanoi, Cindy and I landed at the old air strip at Phu Bai. Much evidence was there from our involvement in the war. The old Phu Bai base still had the old bunkers and guard shacks around the perimeter which is now a Vietnamese army base.

Hue was charming and some of the Citadel was being rebuilt by UNESCO. They hope to have the entire citadel restored in ten years. Cindy and I say twenty years plus.

In DaNang, the bunkers that protected US aircraft are still prominent, but now it is a Vietnamese airbase.

Last was Saigon. Since our visit in 2000 this city exploded economically. They



are building sky scrapers everywhere now—such a contrast with Hanoi!

Unfortunately progress is catching up with our old villa. Just so you remember this is what it used to look like. It's been divided, the yard is gone and 14 families live there now.

This Old Villa

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June 21, 2007

This Old House

Outdoor rooms

June 2007

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It's hard to believe it's the same old villa, but it is.

The place was harder to find this time, even with the correct address. Small stores block the view from the front and the side. I couldn't believe it was really the villa until we walked inside.

Keep sending your photos and anything else to the Vietnam Archives at Texas Tech. If you have any thoughts or ideas regarding DASPO especially our TTU presentation please send them to me.

Please send your \$25 dues to:
John Gillroy
474 N. 2nd St.
Kalamazoo, MI 49009

Best regards,
Ted Acheson



The resident of the villa since 1976 remembers DASPO from our Vietnam reunion. His wife was visiting their daughter in Hanoi, but he loved the tea and candy we brought.



Stairs from second to third floor



Oh across the street, this is what it looks like now.



The alley where Rick would chat up the girls. See how they built into the drive way and basketball area.



The first floor, it's divided up a little from when we lived there—motor bikes in place of our dining room table.