

A JAMES CAMERON FILM
DASPO

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David Mohr, Mr. and Mrs. Stan Pratt, Mr. and Mrs. Leo Reigel, Ms. Elaine Saint Clair, Ms. Nancy Richards and Robert Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Swain, Ms. Beverly (Sue) Tyner

Don't Worry! Be Happy!
There are no icebergs
in the Caribbean

* Seriously, we promise the only ice
will be found in the mojitos.



Ready for a Titanic Reunion?

Tuesday October 28th, 2008
our next reunion starts

The final payment date for our cruise will be due on August 14th, 2008. Contact Steve Dorcee directly. 1 800 819 3902 EXT 82600. All final payments are to be made to him.

- The deposit will be fully refundable at the final payment date
- If you are going to buy trip insurance you must pay for it before the final payment date. I was quoted \$129.00 per person to insure a balcony reservation.
- Remember we will be at sea during the election so make sure you vote by absentee ballot
- Logan McMinn needs a roommate
- We will all be transported from the hotel to the port by bus, this price is \$17.00 per person plus tax. You are on your own to get taxi service to the airport when we leave the ship.

I have contacted Towne Place Suites in Ft. Lauderdale to get us a group rate for the evening of October 27, 2008. The Towne Place Suites have given us a room rate of \$119.00 per room plus

Continued page 7



Mail Call



Bob LaFoon replies to Patti Maxwell-Masotti

Patti;
I am attaching the photo I took along with a copy of the front page of the Washington Star/VFW Magazine and others.

I have always hoped I could find him and let him know his Catholic Mass and photo were sent over the wire service and printed in newspapers and magazines all over the country. I never got to know him and would love to see/read what you have about him and his life.

How did you finally find/see my request for information about him? I've been trying to find him for years. I'm sorry to hear he has passed and hope you, your children and grand children can use these as keepsakes/memories.

The photo was used on several occasions. I believe the actual date I shot it was in Feb or Mar 1966. Our unit has lots of sad stories, funny stories and crazy stories. Bruno brought me luck with that photograph. I was a mediocre photographer who was in the right place at the right time. I was accompanied on that shoot with a motion picture photographer, Dick Welsh. I will share the story with him also. My best to you and your family.

— Bob LaFoon

Bob;
Bruno died in 1999, of cancer. It was his second cancer, both could be contributed to smoking and possibly agent orange [although that was never checked]. We met after

he left Viet Nam and was returning to the monastery. We married in 1968. Three children, 5 grandchildren.

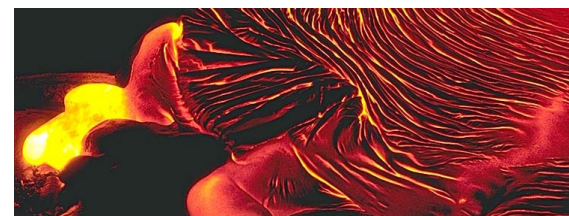
I think I know the picture you mentioned. I would love to see it. There was an article written about him in PEOPLE magazine, 1985... I am thinking April, but that may not be correct. He was contacted because of a photo taken while he was in Viet Nam. It ran under the series *Where Are They Now?*

Bruno was found by many folks who knew him in his various walks of life. He enjoyed meeting with them. I think they liked seeing that he was the same man they knew as priest, chaplain, coach, teacher, friend, confidant, etc.

I wrote a booklet about him after his death. I would love to hear your stories and would not mind sharing mine with you. I can send it as a email attachment or make a CD .

Thank you for looking for him.
—Patti Maxwell-Masotti

Moulton stories from Hawaii

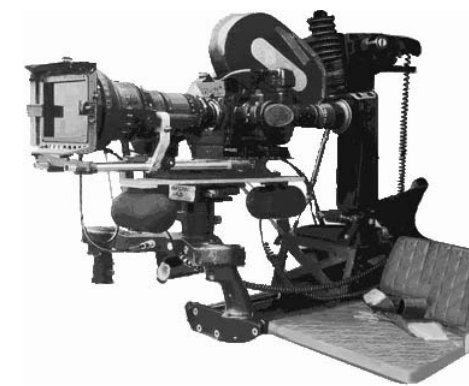


I reported to The Hawaiian Detachment in February of 1966 along with some other senior NCO's and Capt's Duane Austin and Pleas Penny. Soon after reporting in and getting squared away we were called in to the CO's office (I

believe it was Major Allen). He gave us a briefing on the mission of the detachment and then stated that our first TDY's would be to Vietnam to learn how the teams operate in the field. The next thing he said was "Sgt. Moulton, we are short of officers, so I am sending you to Thailand to take charge of the team there." When we got outside of the office Capt. (Duke) Austin said two words to me—"gravy train. He told me last year when he was down here on a golf trip that he did not remember saying that. But it was etched in my mind, I never forgot it. Ergo, my e-mail address pgravytrain.

When I returned to Hawaii from the TDY to Thailand, 1st Sgt. Don Julius and his wife Irene met me at the airport at two o'clock in the morning to take me to my billet. (That was the tradition then. No matter what time of the day any one returned from a trip, you were met at the airport.) Don and Irene then invited me to dinner. That night Don asked me if I would like to make a trip to Los Angeles and of course I said yes. Then he threw in the hooker. I was to go to the Tyler Mount Company, get briefed on the setting up and operation of Tyler Mount image stabilization system and then take it to Vietnam and deliver it to a unit called The Army Concept Team, instruct their photographer in the fine art balancing the different cameras on the mount and then return to Hawaii. So a few days later I went to Hollywood, got briefed on the equipment, hauled it up to Travis AFB in a van to get booked on a flight to Vietnam. While in the terminal, I ran into our new 1st Sgt. Ken Bridgeham and family. I had not seen him since we were in the 301st Signal Pho-

tographic Company at Fort Monmouth in 1954. Ken and I first met when I was on TDY to Korea in the summer of 1951.



Rule two: Attach the camera firmly to the Tyler mount—it is expensive.

Rule one: Attach the Tyler mount firmly to the helicopter—you will be sitting in it.

Well I made it to Vietnam on a Seaboard World Airways cargo flight, reported to a Col. Burke at The Army Concept Team, He asked we how long it would take to get the equipment ready for flight. I told him it would take two days to brief his photographer on the proper setting up of the mount. He then told me, "Sgt. I do not have a photographer, you are it." I set up the mount and we spent two days making test flights down in The Mekong Delta and up country. After getting the bugs worked out we headed up north to the DMZ. The Marines were conducting Operation Hastings at that time

There were two Nikon cameras on the mount, one with the normal 50mm lens and one with a Questar Telescope adapted for the camera and I think a fifty shot motor driven magazine on it. Our mission was to photograph North Vietnam weapons emplaced in the DMZ in viola-

tion of the protocols in effect at the time. I was a very nervous person at that time hanging half way out of the helicopter with all the artillery fire and fighter aircraft flying around giving air support fire.

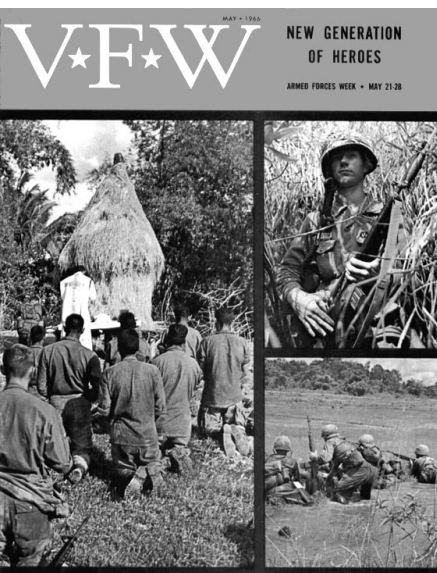
We would be up about three thousand feet, Col Burke would pick out targets in with his binoculars, point them out to me and the he would swoop down to about five hundred feet, I would pick up the targets, fire a burst of exposures and then up we would go again, pick out new targets and do it all over again. Then we would land and take the film to a mobile photo van and get it processed., check the images and then go out find new emplacements and do it all over again. We did that for about four days until the Colonel was satisfied with the results, then we headed back to Saigon.

The film was forwarded to The Pentagon and then to the State Department. Then, as I understand it, the Secretary of State presented them to The UN.

A few months later back in Hawaii 1st Sgt Bridgham called me into The CO's office. (I thought, now what the hell did I do.) To my surprise, I was presented with the Air Medal with V device.

I am not sure when the detachment got the Tyler mount, but I do know it was much smaller than the original model.

—Paul Moulton



Mail Call cont.

Life behind the lens.

By Liane Nakahara
Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard
Public Affairs

PEARL HARBOR - After saying he never wanted to go there again, Pacific Palisades resident Michael Laley returned to Vietnam during the war four more times after his first orders in 1968.

A combat photographer assigned to the Army’s 9th Infantry Division, 9th Signal Battalion, Laley was issued a gun but shot more with his cameras.

“You’re out there trying to get those award-winning photos,” he said, “and trying not to get killed in the process, you know?”

Laley enlisted in the Army in 1967, a day after his 19th birthday, and volunteered to serve in Vietnam because he thought it was the right thing to do for his country. Fresh out of training, Laley landed at the Bien Hoa air base just north of Saigon, now called Ho Chi Minh City.

While he was stationed there, the Viet Cong attacked with rockets. Welcome to Vietnam.

He spent his first six months processing photos at the division headquarters base camp about 40 miles south of Saigon. Laley recalled the camp was hit by mortar and rocket attacks every night like clockwork.

One evening, a rocket-propelled grenade blasted through the corner

of Laley’s barracks but failed to explode. “That was lucky because none of us bothered to get up and go to the bomb shelter when the air raid siren went off,” he said.

Laley spent the first few months in the photo lab at the base camp. After one of the combat photographers was killed, Laley told the first sergeant that he was ready to go out in the field.

He said the big difference between regular infantrymen and combat photographers was that they carried cameras instead of extra weapons and ammunition.

“We were more foolish than everybody else,” said Laley about the combat photographers. “We had to stand up to get a good picture when everybody was on the ground.” The soldiers stayed out in the field for two to three days at a time. Laley strived to capture human emotion as the soldiers battled the elements and fought the enemy. On a day full of combat, Laley shot five to six rolls of film - taking nearly 200 pictures amidst the heavy gunfire.

After his first year in Vietnam, Laley was assigned to the Army’s Special Photographic Office (DASPO) in Washington D.C. While with DASPO, he returned to Vietnam four more times, the last being in 1972.

Laley now manages the visual information studio at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, where he shoots photos and video. “It takes a certain type of person to go out and risk your life just for the sake of a good photograph,” said Laley. “We took chances and did some crazy

things just to get that award-winning shot.”



Michael Laley photo

Michael Laley recalls being on the battlefield and turning around to see the pilot, at left, who had his helicopter taken down. The emotive photo was shot “on instinct.”

Remember the fund!

I think a lot of us, including myself, have forgotten about funding the Rein Yoho scholarship fund. Remember it’s a tax deductible donation. The Rein Yoho balance of the endowment is \$12,906.65. Make your check out to TTU/ Rein Yoho. Send to: Steve Maxner, PhD
Director Vietnam Center
Texas Tech University
PO Box 41041,
Lubbock, Texas 79409-1081

Thanks to these donors - Sept. 2007 to May 12, 2008:

Nancy Richards Foundation
Paul Moulton
Theodore & Cynthia Acheson
Howard C. Breedlove
Peter Ruplenas
James Dung
Anonymous Memorial Donor

—Ted

Changing of the Guard



Keep in mind I will be stepping down as President of our group at the next reunion. Now is a good time to start considering if you would be willing to be our next president. I think it’s agreeable to have someone who hasn’t served to bring new ideas and help the organization step it up a notch or two. If you are interested please let me know before our next reunion so that we will have a chance to nominate and vote on you. Again I am definitely stepping down. It has been a pleasure to serve such a great group of friends.





Sixth Triennial Vietnam Symposium March 13 14 & 15, 2008 Texas Tech University Vietnam Center

A key Vietnam-related anniversary in 2008 is the 40th anniversary of the Tet Offensive and all of the remarkable events that unfolded in 1968. This included a shift to more critical media coverage of the war, a progressive shift in American public opinion, the political fallout and President Johnson's decision not to seek reelection, the Presidential election of 1968 and emergence of Richard Nixon, etc...I am sorry that I was the only DASPO attendee, this is with out a doubt the best program put on by TTU. The rancor between the military and the press was most interesting with both sides holding there own. The Vietnamese and the press was also a rancours event with the press finally putting to bed some myths. The symposium will be on line shortly and you will be able to watch the inresteing remarks. The following is some of the seminars and speakers we had.

The Media and the Tet Offensive

Moderator:
Mr. Richard Pyle,
Associated Press

Panelists:
Mr. Barry Zorthian,
USIA, JUSPAO,
Saigon

Mr. Don North,
War Correspondent,
ABC and NBC News

Dr. William Hammond,
Historian,
US Army Center for
Military History

The Media and the Vietnam War

Moderator:
Dr. William Hammond,
US Army Center of
Military History

Panelists:
Mr. Peter Arnett,
War Correspondent,

Associated Press,
Pulitzer Prize 1966

Mr. Richard Pyle,
War Correspondent,
Saigon Bureau Chief,
Associated Press

Mr. George Esper,
War Correspondent,
Associated Press

Sects, Diem, and the Early Opposition Press

Moderator:
Edward Miller,
Associate Professor,
Dartmouth College

The French Connection, Part Deux:
Sects and Drugs?
Carmen K. Steigman, M.D.,
M.P.H.,
Independent Researcher
"Turning

Pham Xuan An: Unraveling the Mystery of a Perfect Spy

As a reporter for Reuters and then for Time magazine, Mr. An covered American and South Vietnamese military and diplomatic events and was one of a handful of reporters admitted to off-the-record briefings by American authorities. Time made him a full staff correspondent, the only Vietnamese to be given that distinction by a major American news organization. At the same time, however, Mr. An was delivering a steady stream of military documents and reports to North Vietnamese authorities, writing in invisible ink and leaving the material in containers at designated spots around Saigon, now Ho Chi Minh City.

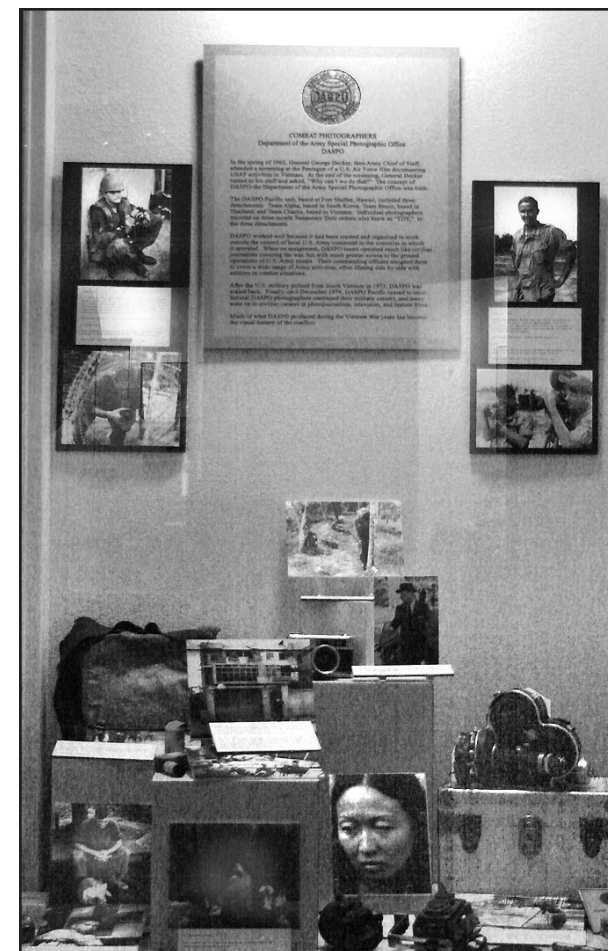
It was only after the war that correspondents like Frank McCulloch of Time, David Halberstam of The New York Times and Morley Safer of CBS News learned that their colleague had been a colonel in the North Vietnamese Army.

Moderator:
Mr. Richard Pyle,
War Correspondent,
Saigon Bureau Chief,
Associated Press

"Imagining Viet Nam:
Misunderstanding Pham Xuan An"
Kyle Horst,
Independent Researcher

"Will We Ever know The Real
Pham Xuan An?"
Larry Berman, Ph.D.,
Professor, UC Davis

*DASPO display at
TTU Vietnam Center
features pictures
of DASPO
photographers and
pictures taken by
DASPO. The display
also features items
that have been
donated by DASPO
members:
Various medals, film,
rucksack used by
Brian Grigsby, 35mm
camera carried by
Paul Moulton, Yashica
carried by
Ted Acheson and an
Arri S 16mm camera.
DASPO's Mission
statement is promi-
nently displayed
as well.*

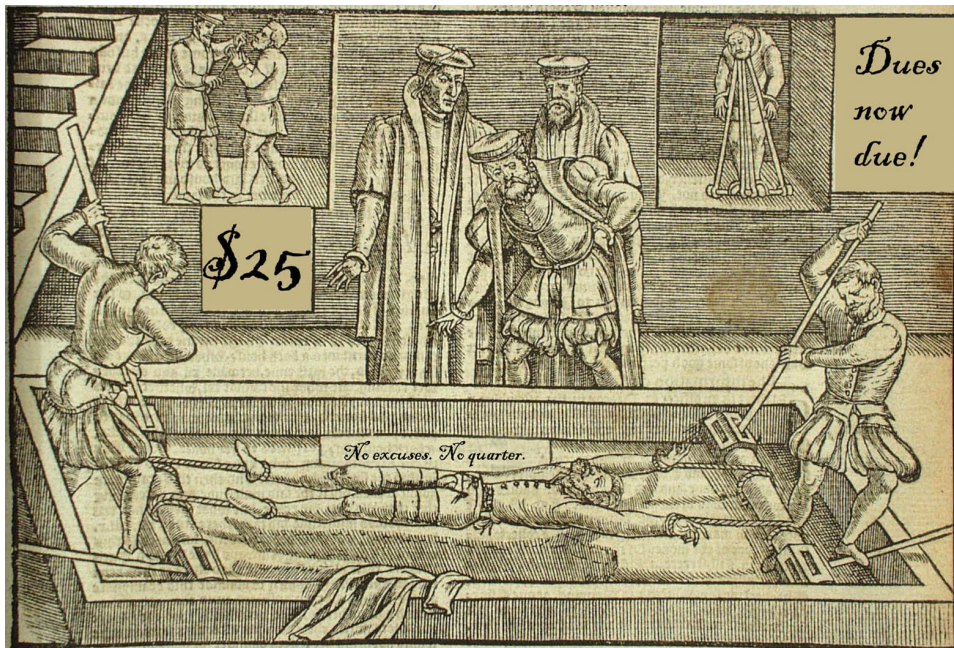


If you want to donate your DASPO collection to the TTU Vietnam center make sure you request a DVD of the material you send in and use the above address. DASPO has almost 6,000 items in the Vietnam archives at TTU. The DASPO exhibit a TTU wowed the commercial press that covered the war.

Send your collection to: Steve Maxner, PhD, Director Vietnam Center
Texas Tech University, PO Box 41041, Lubbock, Texas 79409-1081

Reunion continued from cover

tax. We will all be transported from the hotel to the port by bus and then on our leaving the ship back to the airport, this price is \$17.00 per person RT plus tax. I really need to know who will be staying at the hotel and using the bus service please contact as soon as possible, if I don't hear from you I will assume that you don't want to use this service.



Time to pay the piper. Your dues are due.

Believe it or not it's time for annual \$25.00 dues. Some of us have paid their dues for three to four years. To those individuals we thank you but for most of us we need to get our \$25.00 in again for 2008. Our dues cover mailings, hosting costs and computer updates. Please send your donations made out to:

John Gilroy/DASPO
474 N. 2nd. St.
Kalamazoo, MI 49009

Stump the Chumps



Who, what, where? A stereo shot? Redundancy (If one photographer gets hit the other survives)? Testing lenses or film stock? You tell us.

Perhaps these are the only Siamese twins in the DASPO Table of Organization and Equipment. The correct answer will win a summer on Vize Island at the northern extreme of the Kara Sea. No substitutions please.



Haute (Hat Sale) Couture

Attention photo/military fashionistas, the hat at left does attract attention, but unfortunately offers little protection from UV rays, wind, rain, mosquitos or bullets.

On the other hand, The handsome photographers' cap (above) modeled by a guide at the Cu Chi tunnels looks good and is totally functional.

If it doesn't make you into an instant chick magnet we guarantee your money back*

Paul Moulton has graciously worked out a deal with our hat supplier and wants to know who might be interested in buying one. If he can get 25 orders he can buy them and send you one \$17.00 each. Paul must receive orders no later than July 20, 2008.

*Applies only to Pulitzer prize winners over age 75.

