C.W. Bowman Collection

2. Color slides, 21 boxes.
8. Newspaper article about Gary Heeter mounted on two pieces of cardboard.

OVERSIZE MATERIALS:
8. Army Reporter, June 1, 1968.
12. Pages 7-10, Fort Jackson Leader, August 8, 1969.
13. news clipping of children fleeing Saigon fighting
14. Stars and Stripes map of war area
C.W. Bowman Photo Collection
Photo Descriptions

1. Co. B 4/9th 2nd Platoon Sergeant setting up a C-4 charge to destroy a V.C. booby trap, two 82 mm Mortar Rounds.
2. Sergeant finishing setting C-4 charge which was a 2 ½ pound stick of C-4 explosive.
3. Sergeant finished and leaving area to detonate charge.
4. Stick of C-4 seen laying on top of mortar shells.
5. Destruction of booby trap.
6. Area of jungle hit by 8 inch artillery and napalm somewhere around Nui Ba Den known as the Black Virgin Mountain.
7. Photo of napalm damage in same areas as #6; this was dense jungle.
8. Poss. Garry Heeter in photo somewhere in the Iron Triangle, very likely the HoBo woods.
9. Squad leader 1st squad; 2nd Platoon Co. B, 4/9; we called him (Cisco Kid) in the HoBo woods.
10. Medical supplies pulled from tunnels by C.W. Bowman and Garry Heeter on display at the 25th Infantry Museum in Chu Chi.
13. Captured 82 mm, 61 mm mortar rounds, 57 mm recoilless rifle rounds, and RPG rounds on display at the 25th Inf. Museum at Chu Chi.
14. Medics attend wounded GI (forgot name). Pvt. unscrewed blasting cap from a hand grenade and pulled the pin and released spoon; you can see the effects when the blasting cap exploded.
15. Pvt. was sent back to Chu Chi, we never saw him again (million dollar wound, or LBJ Long Bien Jail?)
16. Same as #14 and #15.
17. Same as #14, 15, 16.
18. Bunker located at Trang Bang, occupied by C.W. Bowman, Garry Heeter, Paul Frisbee, Mike Walstede, John Guys; hit by a mortar round during a night attack.
19. Same as #18; repairs being made on bunker, notice PSP steel used in construction material. May have kept the entire bunker from collapsing when struck by mortar. Co.B 4/9.
22. Monsoon moving closer to base camp.
23. Monsoon hitting base camp.
24. Bunkers at Trang Bang Forward Base Camp; this was the south perimeter, tent in picture was Mess Hall. Co. B, 4/9th 25th Inf.
25. Bunkers at Trang Bang facing east toward storm; when we first arrived the road was cut in several places and the bridge was blown out. During the time the bunkers were being built, engineers filled the cuts in the road and put culvert in stream to replace the steel reinforcing rods. Two nights later, the V.C. blew Claymore on US, wounded several people, all the shrapnel was reinforcement rods cut into 1½ to 2 inch pieces.
26. Northeast corner of Base Camp at Trang Bang still under construction; note aiming stake for the mortar platoon.
27. Bunkers facing east toward stream at Trang Bang. Note: Racks to hang gear and clothing to dry, table to clean weapons on, ponchos on top of bunkers to keep rain out.
28. Mike Walstede (unsure of spelling of last name) sleeping in bunk after returning from night ambush patrol.
29. Inside bunker at Trang Bang; weapon M-16 with Bayonet, steel pot, and soft hat for night ambush. Note: jungle boots in very good condition.
30. Inside C.W. Bowman’s bunker at Trang Bang. Two M-16’s, canteens, web gear, bag held extra magazine for M-16. Note: PSP steel for reinforcement.
31. Old Papason in Village of Trang Bang. This was one of the better houses in the village, probably built by the French.

32. Same as #31; shed held cows and cart.

33. Pen behind Papason house in #31. This was the biggest hog I had ever seen. Must have weighed over 600 lb.

34. Flying out of Trang Bang Base Camp to do a daylight observation for a night ambush patrol.

35. Returning from a daylight flyover preparing for a night ambush patrol.

36. Flying out on a “search and destroy” mission. Note: this was during the dry season; all the rice paddies during the monsoon were under water.

37. Huey landing at Trang Bang, getting ready to go on a search and destroy or blocking force.

38. Flying out on an Eagle Flight, what this was: we would fly around until we spotted V.C. on the ground and land on top of them.

39. M-60 machine gun mounted on a Huey Slick which carried troops. Note: C-ration mounted on side of gun. This kept the ammo belt from twisting and causing the gun to jam.


41. Same as #40. Note grass hut in background.

42. Sp/4 Eubanks outside a hamlet in the Iron Triangle on a blocking force. Troops would enter village from other side and we would capture anyone trying to leave the hamlet or at times end up in a fire fight.

43. Troop from 4/9th sweeping through a hamlet. Note: village in background and dense bamboo.

44. Troop setting up a blocking force outside hamlet in the Iron Triangle. Note: troops are also standing in tree line.

45. Rice paddies during the dry season somewhere outside of Trang Bang Pass, along the Cambodia, along Rt. 1 going into the Angel Wing.

46. Troop from the 4/9 on a S&D along the Cambodian border. John Guys on left, man on right from Ohio, man in back never spoke but a very few words in the time he was with us.

47. Dau, a South Vietnamese National Guardsman; we referred to him as Ruff Puffs, he was attached to our squad Co. B, 2nd squad, 1st platoon.

48. Dau and two squad members somewhere along Cambodian border; note: Dau has an old M-1 rifle issued by the U.S. It was almost bigger than him.

49. A 40 mm round from a M-79 grenade launcher alongside of a .30 cal. carbine round. The 40 mm round would not arm itself until it made 30 revolutions after it was fired; it had a killing radius of 15 meters. This was fired from a shoulder type weapon.

50. C.W. Bowman returning to Chu Chi after a 30 day mission in field. Spent 1 day resupplying them and cleaning up, then returned to field.


52. Stacked sand bags used to build bunkers along the Chu Chi perimeter in front of the 4/9th Battalions area. Squad in background is from Co. B, 2nd Platoon.

53. Hired Vietnamese to help fill sand bags, these were females, who outworked a lot of male GI’s.

54. More sandbags for bunkers. Note: (Curley) didn’t know real name; he was from Ohio squatting in center. Note: part of Chu Chi in background with comm wire stretched from poles.

55. [missing]

56. Sp/4 Eubanks sitting in bunker outside perimeter in front to 1st of the 27th Wolfhounds. Note: Early M-16 A1 notorious for jamming, ruck sack usually bought in village or taken off dead V.C., note connection of comm line hanging in photo. Sp/4 Eubanks was later killed, he was damn fine troop from Tenn.

57. Inside bunker poss. Chu Chi or Trang Bang. Note: Claymore bags in window along with detonators, M-16 leaning against wall.

58. Doc, our medic, outside Chu Chi in rubber tree plantation. Doc was a conscientious objector and never carried a weapon. We had a lot of respect for the man. He never hesitated in a fire fight and went to any wounded man no matter how bad it was.

59. Sp/4 ? outside Chu Chi in rubber tree plantation.
60. Picture of rice fields somewhere outside Chu Chi
61. Beginnings of Trang Bang base camp. Note: no bunkers, stakes driven around perimeter rolls of concertine wire to be placed.
62. Berms and wire being built for new base camp at Trang Bang. Iron stakes have been placed.
63. Bunker still under construction—men in field placing barb wire: chopper was bringing resupply c- rations, ammo, etc.
64. Light observation chopper outside Trang Bang. Note: every time this type of chopper landed, we ended up going on a mission. Usually brought by the Battalion Commander.
65. Road block in village of Trang Bang checking ID cards of villagers. All South Vietnamese had to carry an ID card. GI in middle (don’t know name) is the same man pulling Bowman from tunnel in #68
66. GI with a boy from the village of Trang Bang. Note: has protective vest with no shirt, commonplace during dry season. His smoke grenade hanging from vest, early type M-16.
67. House in Trang Bang village. Note: made out of rice straw, dirt floor, Mamma San standing to right. Dinner is set at a table. Sometime when searching these huts we wouldn’t find any weapons but you might find 50 or 60 sets of chop sticks, which usually meant they were feeding the V.C.
68. Bowman being pulled from tunnel in the Iron Triangle, found rice, documents, weapons. This was during operation Cedar Falls.
69. Buying cokes from Mamma San at Trang Bang. These cokes were made and processed by the Coca Cola Company in Saigon. John Guys is drinking from bottle. Note: You had to be very careful, and at times trusting buying these cokes. Sometimes they had ground glass, or other items in them to kill or wound GIs—a V.C. trick
70. Children from the village of Trang Bang. They would always come for candy, gum, etc.
71. Outside of Tay Ninh. Note Nui Ba Den in background (also called the Black Virgin Mountain). This was a holy mountain; we controlled the top and the bottom, the NVA controlled the rest, and since it was a religious mountain, we couldn’t bomb or fire artillery onto the mountain.
72. Bowman with web gear, and t-shirt with John Guys getting ready to go out on patrol. This was at Chu Chi base camp.
73. Bowman’s pet monkey bought for $10 from a village kid. Note: he did get into Capt.’s hut one day and tear it to pieces. C.W. got into trouble for that, and had to get rid of the monkey.
74. Reception center at Chu Chi. All troops come through here and were assigned to different units.
75. C.W. Bowman at Chu Chi base camp playing with a praying mantis. Note: canvas cots, stateside boots, shoes, air mattresses cots. Out of the year, we maybe spent two weeks at Chu Chi, so this was a luxury.
76. Platoon Sgt. (no name) flying out on a shonook chopper; note: we were going out, not coming in; we were clean
77. Member of Co. B, 4/9 (no name)
78. Convoy getting ready to leave Chu Chi, going to Saigon or Long Binh
79. Somewhere outside Saigon or Cholon area just prior to Tet Offensive
80. Young Vietnamese ladies outside of Saigon, note wearing traditional dress.
81. Air strip, probably Bien Hoa, or Ton Sinnrt.
82. Villagers moving west along the road outside of Trang Bang base camp. Note: Young girl herding cows, and concertina wire in corner of photo
83. Building in Chu Chi, probably squad barracks, note clouds—monsoon coming. Ponchos were also placed over screens to keep rain out. But everything still got wet and rotted.
84. N.C.O. Club for Co. B, 4/9; note shovels stuck in ground, still filling sand bags.
85. Part of the rubber tree plantation outside of Chu Chi. Note very overgrown, not worked for years. Filled with booby traps. In center of photo is a ruck sack and a M-16 rifle.
86. GI from the Co. B, 4/9 (no name) posing in front of tracked vehicle, believe 5th Mech. Shortly after fire fight. He is holding a Thompson 45 Ca. Machine gun used during WWII.
87. GI posing with Thompson 45 Cal. machine gun. Note: impact marks on side of tracked vehicle from large caliber weapons; this was just after a fire fight, GI is pointing to them
88. Sgt. Rodriguez posing with Thompson 45 cal. machine gun. This is just after a fire fight. Note 50 cal. mounted on top of track.
89. Same as #87
90. Same as #87
91. Troops from 5th Mech. And the 4/9 seek shade under the Free Board of a APC. Note they are using an aiming stake to support board and sitting on canvas cot that folded up. Probably carried on track vehicle. Somewhere outside of Chu Chi or Tay Ninh.
92. Troops receiving a hot meal, which at times were rare. Members of Co. B, 4/9.
93. Field full of termite hills where Co. B, 4/9 dug in positions. Note: Black Virgin Mountain in background. This was outside of Tay Ninh.
94. Gathering canteens to be filled with water. Note: dusty ground, dry season, also the helmet to right of photo
95. M-48 tank along road from Chu Chi to Trang Bang, probably guarding a bridge, browning 50 cal. machine gun mounted on cupola
96. M-48 tank and 5 ton trucks probably 5th Mech. or 3/4 Cav. The usually guarded bridges or road in key sections. The tanks were too heavy to go off road and would sink into the rice paddies.
97. Air strike behind Chu Chi, photo taken in Co. B, 4/9th Company area. This was a arc light dropped from B-52 bombers into the HoBo woods. Even though this was miles away, it shook our building causing weapons and gear to fall from the walls.
98. Same as #97
99. Same as #97
100. Same as #97
101. Same as #97 Note: planes were so high we didn’t even see them.
102. and 103. Fifty gallon drum used as a burn barrel. C.W. Bowman and squad came in from night ambush patrol and were sleeping in their huts about 100 feet from barrel. New troops were cleaning up huts and threw two Frag. Grenades and a C5 gas grenade into barrel along with other trash to be burned. When everything exploded, C.W. and the rest of the squad jumped up and ran out of the hooch just in time to run into a cloud of tear gas; everyone thought the V.C. were firing gas rounds on us. We ran back into our hooch to find our protective masks, only to learn they didn’t work because the filters were stopped up from carrying them in the rice paddies. So we just ran away from the area with our eyes burning and noses running. Needless to say, these new troops suffered because of this.
104. Filling more sand bags for bunkers at Chu Chi
105. Part of a 105 Howitzer Batt. In Chu Chi
106. Mike Walstader getting his weapon ready to go out on ambush patrol, Chu Chi 1967.
107. GI cleaning weapon after coming in off of night patrol. Note M-60 machine gun on end of wall.
108. GIs cleaning weapons getting ready to go back to the field
109. Bowman feeding peanuts to his monkey at Chu Chi base camp.
110. Same as #109, not 81 mm mortar box used as foot locker, mess hall tray stuck behind board in wall.
111. Squad hooch in Chu Chi base camp, took picture because out of the year, we spent maybe 2 weeks at this location.
112. Mess hall for battalion, trash cans had sumergable heaters to boil water to clean mess kits.
113. Co. B, 4/9th Hooches main base camp at Chu Chi
114. Beer hall for battalion, Chu Chi 4/9th
115. Co. A, 4/9th Jeep was parked in middle of company perimeter when A Company was overrun in March of 1967. Note: bullet holes in windshield, headlight, and fender, action was noted in the Tropic Lightning News March 6, 1967. This paper is on file.
117. David Cox, leaning on rifle, patrol in HoBo woods, patrol stopped to call in artillery see smoke in distance. Co. B, 2nd platoon, 1st squad. Note web gear holds two canteens, smoke grenade, hand grenade, his rifle has two magazines taped together, and has two loaded magazines on each side of his helmet.
118. Sp4 McQuin talking on radio, RTO standing to right has a PRC-25 on his back, spare batteries in pocketed of pants. This was during the dry season in the HoBo Woods.
119. Cisco poses for photo in HoBo Woods while patrol was stopped for break. Note GI in foreground lighting a smoke.
120. 1,000 lb. Bomb crater in HoBo Woods, 1967.
121. Co. B, 4/9th on patrol around Binh Chang. This was below Saigon during Jan 1967. We also operated around Ben Luck, Tan An, and Ben Tre, until we went back to Chu Chi in Feb 1967.
122. Same as #121. This was during dry season, no water in rice paddies.
123. Same as #122 on patrol.
124. Same as #122. These were search and destroy patrols.
125. Same as #122.
126. American Red Cross workers also known as doughnut dollsies entertain troops in mess hall at Chu Chi. Co. B 4/9th. Note: these were the first American girls we had seen in three months.
127. same as #126.
128. same as #126.
129. Platoon medic known only as Doc, ready to go on night ambush patrol. Note: blackened face, rope for crossing river, two medical bags, cans on shoulder strap held Blood Expander. Also not pant legs tied down to keep leeches out.
130. Doc writing home before going on patrol.
131. Our medic known only as Doc.
132. Same as #131.
133. PFC ward to left, 1st sergeant to right just got in country (don’t know name) Main base camp Chu Chi Co. B 4/9th.
134. M-60 machine gun carried by C.W. Bowman; bag on side held 100 rounds for gun.
135. Laderite Pits at Chu Chi, bad place to pull guard.
136. Entering the soccer field at Trang Bang; tracked vehicle at right had twin 40 mm guns. This vehicle was called a Duster.
137. APC tracks and tanks at the Trang Bang soccer field, grandstand in background.
138. GI with a mine detector checking field before tracks moved onto it. Goal post to right of photo.
139. Photo of C.W. Bowman (hole in pants) and Paul Frisbee returning from a week patrolling outside of Trang Bang along Cambodian border. Note hole in pants was caused by a piece of shrapnel. Both had black eyes from lack of sleep. Gear on ground, ruck sacks, Claymore bags, ammo cans. Note: volleyball net in background.
140. Photo of Gary Heeter in Texas V.A. Hospital after he stepped on a bouncing Betty mine
141. Photo of dead V.C. This is the V.C. that shot Bowman’s helmet off his head. The bunker he was in took a direct hit from a 105 Howitzer round. This was in the pineapple plantation. Jan 1967. He also wounded our medic, blew his thumb off, and put a round through his shoulder. His weapon was a WWII BAR rifle.
142. V.C. body found after a fire fight in the HoBo Woods.
143. through 147. Bodies of NVA and V.C. troops killed during the Tet Offensive around Saigon 1968.
144. through 151. Photos taken from a V.C.’s body showing that he was at one time in the Army of South Vietnam.
152. C.W. Bowman somewhere in the Iron Triangle; weapon was an M-14-E2.
153. C.W. Bowman in Iron Triangle, weapon M-79 grenade launcher. Just ate hot meal paper plates on ground, ponchos snapped together for tents. Sitting on 5 gal. water can. Dirt piled up from digging fox holes; mound in center of photo is a termite hill.
154. Photo of Sp4 C.W. Bowman sometime around August 1967; taking a break while on patrol in Iron Triangle. Note: Has lost weight, had to wear watch halfway up arm to keep it from falling off.
155. Photo of Bowman with a sniper rifle somewhere outside Trang Bang 1967. Note: carried 5 round clip of ammo in band on helmet, said if he ever got down to those rounds he knew it would be over with.
156. Photo of left to right: John Guys (Guise?), C.W. Bowman, and Cisco. Sitting on ground is Mike Walsteader. Note: mid-afternoon meal, we were given one beer and one coke each. Beer was Fallstaff, we call it Falls Flat. Two nights later we had a fire fight at this location.
157. Photo of C.W. Bowman getting ready to fly out of Tay Ninh on new mission. In background is Nvi Ba Den (Black Virgin Mountain). Red marker was for choppers to guide in on.
158. Photo of Bowman taken just outside of the hamlet named Ben Sue. This village was under V.C. control. All the people were removed and placed in refugee camps and the village was completely
destroyed, burned then pushed under with Rome plows. C.W. was 19 years old in photo. Notice watch on arm—weight loss.

159. U.S. Embassy during the Tet Offensive. Holes in building were made by RPG (rocket propelled grenade) Nits, fired by the V.C. and N.V.A. soldiers.


162. Newport bridge about one mile outside of Saigon going toward Long Bien and the 90th Replacement. The N.V.A. blew out two spans of this bridge on the left for side. Several fire fights were fought at this location. To the right of bridge were docks. Military equipment was unloaded here. Tanks, weapons, ammo, etc. One night the NVA fired over 36 122 mm rockets into this location. During Tet there were bodies on both sides of the road from Saigon to the bridge for about a week.

163. Cholon: area of Saigon. Much of the fighting took place in this area. This is where most of the NVA infiltrated into Saigon. Feb. 1968

165. Cholon, district of Saigon, after Tet Offensive.
166. Damage caused by the Tet Offensive. This is on the northwest side of Saigon 1968.
167. To the left of Hwy 316 going NE toward Long Bien before the Newport Bridge.


169. I think this is part of the 74 Cav. set up alongside of Tan Son Nhui air base during Tet. The 74 Cav. raced down from Chu Chi and saved the air base from being overrun. They killed over 300 NVA at this location but lost many men themselves.

170. Hwy 316 going from Saigon to Long Bien.
171. Canal crossing below Saigon on hwy 15
172. There were two NVA soldiers around this statue the night the Tet Offensive started. One was on top. Note all the bullet holes by the feet of the statue and in the statue itself. This was across from a Vietnamese police station. It took American troops to eliminate these NVA. Bowman was with the squad when this happened. Tet 1968 by the Saigon docks.

173. Part of the area where the NVA penetrated Tan Son Nhui air base. Tet 1968 Saigon.
174. Northeast going out of Saigon; houses destroyed by heavy fighting during Tet.
175. Damaged building on the NE side of Saigon Tet 1968
176. Tet 1968 NE part of Saigon.

177. We stopped at this location just outside at Tan Son Nhui air base to get something to eat. It was a MP (military police) compound. Most of these guys were killed during the first night of Tet. They only carried a 45 cal. pistol with two spare magazines: total of 21 bullets. The NVA and VC knew this and when they counted to 21 walked over and killed the MP. We listened on the radio that night and heard MPs crying and begging for help, but we couldn’t get to them. This MP is holding a M-79 grenade launcher.

178. I think this was the South Vietnamese OCS (Officer Candidate School). It also came under attack during Tet.
179. Part of the South Vietnamese OCS. To the right of building to RPG holes, along the upper and lower windows AK47 bullet holes. Tet 1968
180. South Vietnamese bunker on the southeast side of Saigon.
181. South Vietnamese bunker guarding one of their training areas. Saigon 1968
182. I think this was south of Saigon on hwy 15. We used this area to store gas and other petrol products.
183. South Vietnamese woman doing wash just after the Tet Offensive started.
184. I think these were living quarters for South Vietnamese going to OCS.
185. Crossing a canal on a bailey bridge, hwy 15 south of Saigon.
186. Rice paddies south of Saigon on hwy 15, 1968
187. Mamma Son and children in rice paddy south of Saigon hwy15, 1968
188. River crossing south of Saigon near Nha Be hwy 15.
189. Vietnamese villa off of hwy 15 south of Saigon.
190. Vietnamese working fields off hwy 15 south of Saigon. 1968
191. same as #190
192. Vietnamese hooch off hwy 15, note 50 gal. drums in yard. This was a short distance from Nha Be where all the petrol gas, etc. was stored. Probably where the drums came from.
194. Village along hwy 15 south of Saigon.
195. This was a local stop off for beer and whatever along hwy 15 south.
196. Village just outside of Saigon on Hwy 15 south.
197. Part of village destroyed by fighting during the Tet Offensive Hwy 15 south of Saigon.
198. Village below Saigon hwy 15 south.
199. This picture was taken at the Saigon docks. It was a 1/4 ton truck with a M-60 machine mounted in the back. Skull was mounted on end of gun. At night the skull looked like it was spitting fire. During Tet 1968.
200. Track vehicle passing by the Saigon docks Tet 1968 March.
201. Female Vietnamese police, males in back. We called them the White Mice because they all wore white shirts and gray pants.
202. Male Vietnamese police, holding an American M-2 Carbine. This was taken at the Saigon docks.
203. Police guarding Saigon docks. They sat around all day doing nothing. When the fighting started they all disappeared. Tet 1968.
204. Lambro—this vehicle was used as a taxi for civilians. You wouldn’t believe all the material and people they could fit in one of those. Vietnam 1968.
205. I picked this boy up off the streets of Saigon 1968 and took care of him for several months. His family was killed in a rocket attack and his back was a mass of scars. I bought him the uniform he has on. Notice his name tag, “Civilian.” We thought this was funny at the time. I fed and took care of him until I left Vietnam. I never knew what happened to him; I guess I never will.
206. same as #205
207. Eagle flight out of Trang Bang 1967. We would fly around until we saw enemy troops and land on top of them. Not a lot of fun.
208. Building new base camp at Trang Bang 1967. The top of Sgt. Rodrigo at bottom of photo. I don’t know how many sand bags we filled, by all bunkers were 4 sand bags thick walls and roof. On the roof we would layer the sand bags with PSP (Runway matting).
211. same as #210
212. Vehicle traffic in Saigon, this is light traffic. It really gets a lot worse. 1968.
213. Cholon, area of Saigon. Notice how buildings were built over water. The water was used for everything and I mean everything. These are probably some houses of ill repute. Note the walkway. You would not want to fall off into this water.
215. Downtown Saigon. We were passing by and took this photo. They looked real good from a distance. I think the building in the background was built by the French.
216. GI, name unknown, downtown Saigon or Cholon area in a bar 1968.
217. GI, name unknown, in bar with Tea Girl. They would order small glasses of tea and you would be charged as if it were a regular drink. Usually you didn’t get to go upstairs with them; they just sat and talked and ordered drinks and ran up your bill.
218. Same bar as 217. Names unknown.
219. Engineer unit outside of Saigon drinking their beer ration. Names unknown. There were times we would get cases of beer off the Saigon docks and trade them to engineers or whomever for material or whatever.
220. Co. B, 4/9th forward base camp, located at Bien Chang, Jan 1967. The main road ran through the base which was closed off every evening. Burned-out schoolhouse on the right. Bunkers for the mortar platoon on the left. Village to the west in the photo. We had to sweep the road every morning for mines.
221. Mortar platoon bunkers at Bien Chang, Jan 1967. 81 mm mortar set up and ready to fire.
222. Papasan and middle age man at Bien Chang, Jan 1967. Usually you saw very old men or young children. All the middle aged men were in the South Vietnamese Army or the VC. Note the field—this was during dry season.

223. Inside village at Bien Chang, part of a Hooch on left and pond in photo. This was during a search and destroy. We had to check ponds closely because VC would hide in them using a piece of bamboo to breathe through, or hide weapons under the water.

224. Rice fields around Bien Chang, Jan 1967. Note the tree line in the background. These usually had bunkers hidden in them, built by the VC.

225. Young girl from Bien Chang. This was taken in Jan 1967 during a search and destroy mission. The camouflage poncho liner on the bush was one of the most prized possessions of the GIs. It was very lightweight and most of all it kept you warm at night and during the monsoons.

226. Pond alongside of the schoolhouse at Bien Chang. ARVN's used to take baths in it. The stake in the photo held barbed wire and was part of the perimeter. The rice harvest was over and the rice stalks are stacked. In the left of the photo is a graveyard and a hooch in far left and center.

227. On patrol around Bien Chang, 1967. It was during the dry season and the rice has been harvested.

228. On patrol around Bien Chang, 1967. With the VC activity in this area the fields haven't been kept up. When on patrol, we would pick bananas and coconuts to bring back to the base camp to supplement our meals.

229. Co. B 4/9th base camp at Bien Chang off Hwy 4, looking north. This was the Heavy Weapons Platoon area, mortars, etc. Note the church towers in the right of the photo.

230. Road leading west from Bien Chang base camp. We had to check the road every morning for mines placed by the VC. Note Hooch's on the left and children in the foreground.

231. Sp/4 John Guys from Bear Mountain NY. He was our machine gunner. He was trying to get a mammasan to look at the camera when the picture was taken. This was outside at Bien Chang base camp. The villagers would come and sell Coca Cola and trinkets to the GIs. We were always warned about buying cokes because the VC would put ground glass or explosives in the bottles.

232. Villagers selling trinkets, watches, wallets, etc. outside the base camp at Bien Chang. Note the old metal canteen by the cooler and the ammo can behind the girl.

233. House in village of Bien Chang. This picture was taken during a daylight patrol.

234. Inside chopper on Hwy 4 at Bien Chang. Co. B 4/9th getting ready to leave Bien Chang and fly into the pineapple plantation. We were told we would be the first troops in there since the French. The 199th came and replaced us at Bien Chang. The first night they were there the VC fired AK47 rounds into our perimeter. We told the troops from the 199th that was their welcoming committee. We left the next day, Bowman's first chopper ride.

235. same as #234.

236. Co. B 4/9th on their way to the pineapple plantation about 2000 feet up. The chopper was known to us as a "slick," it carried troops, resupply, etc.

237. Vietnam landscape at about 2000 feet. We usually flew this high because small arms fire couldn't reach us. Later in the war the NVA would fire at us with 32mm radar controlled AA guns. This was bad news.

238. Heading down toward the pineapple plantation, note the water in the paddies. Bottom of photo is the magazine of M-16 rifles. It was loaded so we were going in. When we first got on the choppers they wanted us to have our weapons cleared and pointing down toward the floor so an accidental discharge wouldn't go up through the engine. Just before we got to the LZ we would lock and load.

239. Photo of S/P 4 Johnson in front and Curley in back getting ready to go to airstrip for new mission. Johnson has from left to right: Claymore bag with Claymore, First Aid Pouch, smoke grenade, hand grenade, pouch with M-16 magazine, and bag with a 100-round belt of M-60 ammo. Everyone carried one of those for the M-60 gunner. Note Curley has a stateside knife on his gear.

240. Co. B 4/9th flying into L.Z. I remember when we came into this LZ all the door gunners opened fire with their M-60 machine guns. We didn't know why they did since we weren't receiving any ground fire, but a boy in the chopper across from us was wounded in this fire.

241. Flying to LZ somewhere outside of Chu Chi.
242. Same as #241. The choppers would fly so close you could see the troops in the other chopper. We would holler and things to each other. One day one of the choppers was hit by a 32mm anti-aircraft gun and exploded alongside of us. We didn’t wave or holler at each other after that.

243. Flying over a canal on the way to LZ. The doors on the choppers were removed for easy access and exit. At first you felt like you were going to fall out, but once you got used to it you would sit with your legs hanging out the door.

244. same as 243.

245. Coming into LZ somewhere outside of Chu Chi. Note: dry season—no water in rice paddies.

246. Coming down into LZ somewhere outside of Chu Chi. Note barrel of M-60 machine gun in photo.

247. Chopper bringing in resupply, ammo, C-rations, etc. Note: ARVN Ruff Puff in left of photo. Two GIs holding on to tent to keep from getting blown away by chopper. Foxhole in center with over head cover. M-60 machine gun in center with extra ammo to left and three steel pots. During dry season.

248. APCs in right of photo had stampeded a herd of water buffalo. See dust cloud on left.

249. C.W. Bowman on left getting ready to go on night ambush patrol. Note: camouflage ink pen in shirt was left behind. Mike Walstede on right.

250. Left to right: Don’t know name but he was wounded through both legs with .45 caliber grease gun. Eubanks, was later KIA. Don’t know name. Paul Frisbee, waving. Curley with hand behind head. Johnson. We had a Quad 50 mounted on a 5 ton truck on the corner of this perimeter. We were attacked about two nights after this photo was taken.

251. Captain Smith Co. B 4/9th leading a patrol back to base camp. Note: ARVN’s were attached to our unit. Captain Smith was extremely capable and well-liked.

252. same as #251

253. Chopper bringing in resupply.

254. Resupply chopper leaving company area.

255. Schoolhouse and yard in Trang Bang. We were in a convoy on our way to Tay Ninh. Trang Bang soccer field was across from us. Note: object on side of soldier’s helmet is a roll of toilet paper from a box of C-rations. It was a highly-prized item.

256. Same as #255.

257. Young ladies from Trang Bang in traditional dress walking in front of a APC. No matter how much we yelled or whistled, they wouldn’t look at us.

258. Lademite pits outside Chu Chi. Dirt used for roads, etc. We had to pull guard duty there when we were in Chu Chi.

259. same as #258.

260. Same as #258.

261. Flight of choppers coming into Chu Chi. Picture taken from the lademite pits.

262. Same as #258.

263. Unknown GI with village woman who was selling Coca Cola and other things.

264. Village children and woman. They always came to any location we were at for handouts or to sell us something.

265. Same as #264.

266. Same as #264.

267. Young village girl. Photo taken outside of Chu Chi. She had been begging C-rations all day.

268. Arial photo. I believe it’s of the village of Chu Chi. If not it may be a village in the Phu Loi rubber tree plantation.

269. Name unknown—I think somewhere outside of Saigon or in Ben Hoa. Picture taken outside of local bar.

270. Name unknown area—I think it is Ben Hoa. Goof off downtown.

271. through 321. Photo taken while on R&R in Tiawan. I had a great time. Except for one night I got so drunk and had the dry heaves. The people next door wanted to take me to the hospital because they thought I was dying. I told them NO even though I thought I was going to die a couple of times, but the next day I was up and doing fine. By the way, a fifth of Canadian Club on an empty stomach caused the problem.

322. Garry Heeter with beard. We went to the dedication of the Wall in D.C. November 13, 1982.

324. C.W. Bowman with D.I. Nat and Garry Heeter on right; other names unknown, but they had all served in the 4/9th at some time during Vietnam. Washington, D.C. 1982
325. C.W. Bowman (left) and Garry Heeter (right) having photo taken with the 25th Inf. Div. Assn. Washington, D.C. 1982