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SOG MIA of 48 Years Laid to Rest at Arlington

Book Review: Many Beaucoup Magics

Book Review: The Ghosts of the Green Grass

Letter to the Editor



Lonny Holmes
Sentinel Editor

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

“SFC Alan Lee Boyer is buried in Arlington National Cemetery next to fellow SOG SF soldier 1LT Loren D. Hagen, a Medal of Honor recipient who was one of three Green Berets killed in action in Laos on August 7, 1971 as a member of RT Kansas. The other Americans killed with Hagen were SSG Oran L. Bingham and SGT Bruce A. Berg. SFC Boyer and 1LT Hagen had attended high school together in Chicago.” The feature story written by Chapter

member John “Tilt” Stryker Meyer, the former MACV-SOG Team Leader of 1-0 of RT, brings closure to the saga of RT Asp and SFC Boyer following years of effort to locate and recover his remains.

I thank Terry Cagnolatti, whose timely letter to the Editor appear in this edition of the Sentinel, for bringing to our attention the tragic loss of San Diego Police Officer Jonathan DeGuzman and the serious wounding of fellow Officer Wade Irwin. Terry is also instrumental in formulating the effort to garner funds to help support the families of the officers. Chapter 78 should consider the development of a major fund raising event to enhance our support.

Remember, the San Diego Police Department volunteered two SWAT Teams for Chapter 78’s Green Beret Shooters Cup Competition for three years and helped obtain a team from the San Diego FBI. All Americans need to support the officers of their community who keep us from harms way! ❖

Lonny Holmes
Sentinel Editor



San Diego Police Officer Jonathan DeGuzman

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COVER: Judith B. Bouchard, sister of U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Alan Le Boyer, and sole living member of the Boyer family, places a flower on his casket following his graveside service in Section 28 of Arlington National Cemetery, June 22, 2016, in Arlington, VA. Boyer, a Green Beret, was listed missing in action during the Vietnam War and his remains were recently identified. (U.S. Army photo by Rachel Larue/Arlington National Cemetery/released)

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THE PRESIDENTS PAGE

PRESIDENTS COLUMN AUGUST 2016



Bruce Long
President SFA 78

Our July Chapter meeting was held again at the Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club and I had the pleasure of meeting with Bob Mitton the NEW Food & Beverage Manager and verified that we are booked through the year to include the upcoming Christmas party.

Our breakfast/business meeting started at approximately 0830 hrs. I did something different this time, rather than waiting for someone to bring something

up, I had everyone who was present discuss what's going on in their lives for five minutes. I think this was well received as most don't really get a chance to talk with everyone present. One thing is for sure, we all live active lives.

Our General Chapter meeting started at approximately 1010 hrs. with the Flag salute followed by the invocation. Reading of the minutes was waived, however a copy of the minutes was provided.

We also had two guests, MAJ Salley Hammond and Rick DeSpain, A-3645 Life Member at Large. SF MAJ (Ret) Hammond is going to be our guest speaker and slide presentation covering SOG activities at our October meeting. Rick has been a close and personal friend for nearly sixty years!!! Rick lives in Idaho and recently lost his wife Terry to cancer.



Jim Duffy with team members from at the June 2016 Special Forces Association International Conference

Which also reminds me of the passing of SF COL (Ret) Vladimir Sobichevsky. I had the pleasure of dealing with COL Sobichevsky as a new SGM when he was the 6th Army advisor, which included the 3rd Battalion of 12th SF Group.

Our website specialforces78.com, currently being updated, now contains the video of the dedication ceremony for the ROTC Military Obstacle Course — check it out.

I discussed the 2016 SFA Conference in Jacksonville, FL and the upcoming SFA convention scheduled in Fayetteville, NC on June 12 – 17, 2017. I passed out an Early Warning Order that was provided by SFA Chapter 1-18. Chapters 100 & 62 will also be hosting this event. The theme will be **Unconventional Warriors, The Mission Continues**. The conference will be held at the DoubleTree Hotel. I highly suggest that you make early reservations if you want to stay at the DoubleTree even if you decide not to go. You can always cancel 24 hours before arrival. The DoubleTree's phone number is (910) 323 8282.

Our next Chapter meeting: 08/20/16 at the Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club, 1601 Bayside Drive Corona Del Mar, CA 92625. Breakfast business meeting at 0830 hrs. Chapter meeting at 1000 hrs.

As usual, please feel free to contact me. ❖

Bruce D Long
President
SGM, SF (Ret)
SFA Chapter 78



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SOG MIA OF 48 YEARS LAID TO REST AT ARLINGTON



John Stryker Meyer

By John Stryker Meyer

At 1 p.m. Wednesday, June 22, 2016, one of 30 burials scheduled at the Arlington National Cemetery would be Green Beret Sgt. Alan Lee Boyer who disappeared during the deadly eight-year secret war fought during the Vietnam War – a war hidden from Congress, the public and families. He, along with two fellow Green Berets, disappeared on March 28, 1968 in Laos

following an encounter with communist forces from North Vietnam – facts his family didn't learn until decades after the war.

They were members of a Special Forces Recon Team, code-named Spike Team Asp, which launched from Thailand into Laos on a "Circus Act" mission – a mission to insert Air Force sensors to monitor traffic along a trail enemy soldiers used to move supplies, troops and military equipment south, including anti-aircraft weapons. The eight-year secret war was fought from 1964 – 1972 under the aegis of the Military Assistance Group Vietnam – Studies and Observations Group, or simply SOG. In 1968, the secret war had become increasingly deadly. By the time ST Asp was flown into the target in Laos, more than 25 Green Berets, dozens of indigenous soldiers and airmen had been killed in action in the first three months of 1968 in Laos alone. Because it was a secret war, in most cases, the soldiers' bodies could not be retrieved due to intense enemy activity on the ground, thus they were listed as MIA. And, the families of those soldiers entered an informational void where they were simply told their loved ones were missing in action in Southeast Asia and were never told about the deadly secret war where they fought valiantly against incredible odds.

Retired Green Beret MSG Patrick Watkins, who served three tours of duty running SOG recon missions, spoke to the three members of ST Asp on March 27, 1968 one day before the team was inserted into the deadly Laos target. ST Asp team leader was George R. "Ron" Brown, he said. The Assistant Team Leader was Charles G. Huston and Alan L. Boyer was the radio operator for that mission. Watkins had run an in-country mission with Boyer earlier in March 1968. "When we were on the ground he started telling me about all of the trees in the area," he said. "He told me he was a forestry student. Some day he wanted to go back to Montana to be a smoke jumper, to fight forest fires. He had attended the University of Montana, but said he wanted to serve in the Army first. He, along with his teammates, were outstanding, fearless Green Berets."

What haunts Watkins to this day is the fact that his recon team had run an identical mission into Laos a few days earlier. "We made heavy contact with enemy forces. Because we had launched into the target from Thailand, as ST Asp would do, we were in contact



Sgt. Alan Lee Boyer

with the enemy for seven hours before they could pull us out. I warned Ron about increased enemy activity and the increased anti-aircraft weapons the communists were moving into Laos. Ron told me he'd be careful but would run the mission."

Watkins had first met Ron Brown in 1966 during Green Beret HALO (High Altitude Low Opening) parachute training.

Watkins and his team flew back to Da Nang after he had spoken to Brown and Boyer. "The next day, I was told ST Asp went MIA. I was stunned. It was a typical (SOG) mission impossible. We had minimal intel on enemy activities on the ground in the target area, we knew the enemy was gearing up to attack our recon teams to keep us out of Laos. Remember, in March 1968, the U.S. could have no conventional military troops in Laos, hence the secret war. We carried no identification papers or dog tags. We had to see what they were up to. The NVA (communist North Vietnamese Army) had 40,000 to 50,000 troops in Laos moving supplies south, building the Ho Chi Minh Trail and hunting our recon teams. After (ST) Asp disappeared, I spoke to the (Green Beret) chase medic David Mayberry, who flew the mission that went in to pull out ST Asp on March 28. Because the terrain was so rugged and the enemy activity in the area so intense, he said, the helicopter lowered a ladder for the team to climb up into the chopper. The SF men had the indigenous troops go up the ladder first. Al was the first SF soldier on the ladder when heavy enemy ground fire erupted. Mayberry said the helicopter had to pull out due to the gunfire. As it pulled out, the ladder, with Al on it, was separated from the chopper and fell to the ground...We never heard from them again. It was another tragic loss to SOG."

In 2006, the remains of Ron Brown were recovered, but the remaining two Green Berets of ST Asp remained MIA until Alan Boyer's sister Judi Boyer Bouchard received an e-mail on March 7, "the eve of what would have been Alan's 70th birthday," she told SOFREP. "Our prayers had been answered, they called to tell us that Alan's remains were identified by DNA matches that myself and my mother (Dorothy Boyer) had turned over to the government many years ago...my only regret, my parents weren't alive to hear the news that they had found Alan." Her father Charles died 21 years ago, with the loss of his son "being the saddest part of his life," Bouchard said. Her mother passed away in 2013 after spending years working with the government and the National League of POW/MIA Families. Bouchard and her mother even traveled to the U.S. Embassy in Laos once in search of answers for Alan Boyer's disappearance. And, together they had mourned the fact that Alan Boyer didn't return from Vietnam



in 1973 when U.S. POWs were returned from North Vietnamese prisons. Because Alan Boyer fought in the secret war, the family didn't learn about SOG and its missions until a few years ago.

In March, a few days after receiving news of her brother's return, Judi Boyer Bouchard received a visit from a Green Beret soldier serving with the 5th Special Forces Group today, Michael Linnington, director of the Defense Department's POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), and Michael Mee, the Army's chief of casualty operations center. They presented Bouchard with her brother's medals, including a Silver Star, the third-highest military decoration for valor, and a Purple Heart. They also delivered the Army's official report on Boyer's case. The key to the Boyer case was a piece of leg bone recovered from Laos, that linked it to the DNA that Bouchard and her mother had provided to the government years ago, as the field of DNA research emerged as a valuable tool in recognizing the remains of missing service members.

"The forensic anthropologists said it was the most specific matched set they'd seen," said Ann Mills-Griffiths, CEO and Chairman of the Board of Directors for the National League of POW/MIA Families. "It wasn't a large portion of the remains, but it was enough to get that high degree of accuracy in the match... The Alan Boyer case is a good example of why the League works with DPAA and the families in an on-going effort to bring home the remains of U.S. service members still listed as Missing in Action. In this case, the years of prayers by and for the Boyer family have been answered. The family will have closure tomorrow (Wednesday)." Mills-Griffiths noted that the return of Boyer, there are still 1, 618 American service members still listed as MIA in Southeast Asia along, which includes the Green Berets and airmen who were killed in action fighting in the secret war in Laos, Cambodia and North Vietnam.

Boyer received full military honors during his service, including having his flag-draped casket transported to the gravesite on a caisson pulled by six horses of the "Old Guard" Caisson Platoon. Boyer's remains arrived quietly Friday afternoon at the Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, where an Army colonel and Special Forces soldiers from the 5th Special Forces Group, now stationed at Ft. Campbell, KY, escort saluted his arrival before transporting the remains to a funeral home in preparation for Wednesday's Arlington service. Coincidentally, Wednesday was the first day of the POW/MIA League of Families 47th annual meeting in Arlington.

Green Berets from the 5th Special Forces Group served as an honor guard. A spokesman from the 5th Special Forces Group recently told SOFREP, "Sgt. Boyer was killed in the line of duty as a member of the 5th Special Forces Group, detached to serve in SOG. We're going to treat this as a present-day casualty, one of our fallen is returning to home, after being MIA for 48 years, and we'll pay homage to his return.

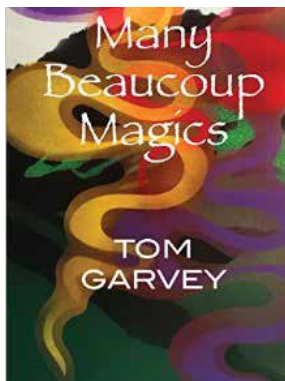
In addition, several SOG veterans were in attendance Wednesday, including SOG Recon Team Leader Rick Estes, who served one tour of duty in SOG from April 1968 – April 1969. Today he is president of the Special Operations Association, a group founded by SOG recon men. Today, in addition to the Green Berets, its members include U.S. and South Vietnamese aviators who supported SOG missions, as well as Navy SEALs, Marine Corps Force Recon men, and Air Force special operations members. Estes arrived in SOG two months after ST Asp went MIA. "The secret war was deadly when we arrived in Nam," said Estes. "I remember ST Asp and many other teams that went missing in action... Through the SOA, we now have programs where we bring family members to our reunions to meet the Green Berets who served with their siblings or husbands. Due to the secret nature of the war, the relatives of the MIAs seldom knew the truth about the secret war and of the heroic efforts that our soldiers, our indigenous troops and the aviators who supported SOG put forth under a veil of governmental secrecy."

Judi Boyer Bouchard added, "We're so grateful for this closure, to have the opportunity to finally know that Alan will be at rest among fellow warriors at Arlington. And, I'll be eternally grateful to the SOA for welcoming me into that family of warriors. I'm the only surviving family member, now. In the last few years, thanks to attending the SOA reunion, I've met Pat Watkins, retired Green Beret Command Sgt. Major Robert J. "Spider" Parks and other SOG recon men who knew Alan, his fellow teammates. Through them we learned about just how deadly SOG missions were across the fence deep into enemy territory without conventional military support...and, we'll also remember the remaining 1,618 men listed as MIA, including approximately 50 Green Berets listed as MIA from the secret war in Laos and the hundred-plus airmen who died supporting them. This is why I'll support the League and the DPAA efforts to bring home our remaining MIAs."

"The importance of ending uncertainty surrounding the loss of a missing loved one cannot be overstated," said Mills-Griffiths. "Knowing Boyer's sister Judi for so many years, I know how much it means to her and others who have been blessed with concrete answers to see her loved one back home. The ability to inter SFC Boyer at Arlington National Cemetery, especially in the presence of so many of his fellow Special Forces friends 'makes this even more special.' Such loyalty and caring from the SF community is not only commendable, but truly beyond measure, and all of the families are grateful."

Today there is an Alan Lee Boyer Scholarship that is awarded to two students annually for \$1,000 at the University of Montana, Boyer's alumna mater. ❖

BOOK REVIEWS



Many Beaucoup Magics

By Tom Garvey

ISBN: 9781514228159

Publisher: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform

(Available on Amazon.com — and worth whatever they're asking for it!)

Two Readers – Two Reviews

Review by Kenn Miller

Here's a new Vietnam War novel that Jim Morris, author of *War Story*, *The Devil's Secret Name*, *Fighting Men*, and other books, enthusiastically recommended to me, and that I am enthusiastically recommending to readers of *The Sentinel*, Vietnam veterans, and the general population. Tom Garvey's *Many Beaucoup Magics* really is one of those books that it is difficult to put down. Fortunately, it is not a long novel. But it is so good a reader is likely to wish it was twice as long. That is not to say that *Many Beaucoup Magics* is incomplete. It is a complete and satisfying novel — and one helluva good one.

Like many or most of the men who volunteered for combat duty in Vietnam, John McManus, the protagonist of *Many Beaucoup Magics*, grew up in the shadow of WWII, listening to the grown men talk about their war. But at the outbreak of war, John's father, Big Jim, already had two small sons and a job that the government deemed essential to the war effort, and while his peers went into uniform and off to war, Big Jim was kept at his civilian job. Growing up listening to his father and his uncles and their friends talk about the military experience, young John was aware that his father felt guilty for not having served in combat, and that he agonized over having

missed out on the defining experience of his generation. From an early age he was determined to do his part in uniform. At 21, he sells his motorcycle and enrolls as a slightly overage freshman in a small military college. Perhaps showing a bit of premature Airborne spirit, since his was an all male college McManus soon begins an affair with the wife of his English professor and faculty adviser, and when the love affair eventually turns into a platonic friendship, and school begins to bore him, he heads down to the recruiting office and enlists in the Army — Airborne Unassigned.

The next two and a half years is consumed with training — Basic, AIT, OCS, Jump School, Ranger School, then Special Forces. All the while, he maintains a long distance friendship with his former lover, and on his leave before deploying to Vietnam, he accompanies her to the drug store, and browses the book racks while she picks up a prescription. One book he looks at is a fortune telling astrology book he probably wouldn't have noticed if his former lover hadn't been interested in such things. Randomly thumbing through the book he notices a dire prediction that August 17 will be a day of extreme testing for him — and with the superstition of a young man heading off to war, he takes the prediction a bit more seriously than he should have...

And then, still brooding over the predicted day of testing, he ships off to Vietnam on orders to the 5th Special Forces Group, and novel becomes a spare but authentic war story that just might make you want to buy a couple of copies to pass around with friends. I can assure you that there are American characters like the people you served with, there are wonderful Montagnards (and on the back cover of the book, Tom Garvey is shown proudly wearing a "YARDS" cap), wise observations, and combat. I will also tell you that *Many Beaucoup Magics* is "...dedicated to all the Mothers who suffered the loss of their children in the many wars in Viet Nam. In any war, Mothers are the ultimate victims."

No need for me to say any more. This is one you'll want to read, and maybe read again from time to time. This short, fast-



Many Beaucoup Magics Author, Tom Garvey

An Airborne, Ranger and Special Forces qualified officer, Tom Garvey served as an A-Team Leader in Viet Nam in 1968 and returned home in late January, 1969, to mixed reviews about his stability and state of mind. Like many other Viet Nam Veterans there were few who cared to hear about his time overseas. Within one week of his homecoming he was a full time college student during the day and working from midnight to eight a.m. six days a week in a factory. In 1971 he graduated with honors from Widener University in Chester, Pennsylvania. After college the kindest way to put it is that "the wheels came off" and he managed with menial jobs until he met his future wife, Peggy in Wildwood, New Jersey. She is the best thing that ever happened to him. From the day they met in July, 1983 he felt he had finally come home. He married for the first time at the age of fifty and is blessed with a wonderful family of five step children and their mates and one world class grandchild. Life is Good. Life is very good indeed. He has come home.

"And in my dream of war I dream of home." ♦

paced, evocative, sparsely worded but splendidly detailed and observed, apparently semi-autobiographical novel, *Many Beaucoup Magics*, deserves to be known as one of the classic novels of the Vietnam War.

Once again, SF writers show their quality!

Readers of The Sentinel who have Amazon Prime video might also be interested in watching *The Man Left Behind*, which is a documentary about Paul Longgear's return to Lang Vei, and how a religious epiphany in the midst of combat at Lang Vei changed his life. It is excellent. ❖

Review by Jim Morris

It's not often that one gets a chance to review a book the subject of which he had a hand in the making. In the fall of 1967 I was duty officer in the headquarters of "C" Company, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) in Pleiku, RVN. Bored, I wandered in the Ops shop and started playing with maps. I placed a transparent overlay of our camp operational areas over the 1/250,000 map of our territory, then placed the overlay of enemy infiltration routes over that. Most camps were located cheek by jowl along the border, but one of the older camps had been left in place further inland, and there was no camp along the border in that area. The infiltration routes ran along the border, avoiding the camps along it, and poured into Vietnam in that notch, flowing around the set back camp.

Just then LTC Ludwig Faistenhammer, Jr., our commander, came in and asked, "What the hell are you doing?" I pointed to the map and the overlays, and said, "Sir, the next camp you put in, that's where it should go."

The events of this novel are set in that camp.

Later Colonel Faistenhammer told me it had been put there for the reasons I cited, but I'm pretty sure that the decision to do so preceded my recommendation.

Nonetheless, I am thrilled to discover what a fine novel tells its story.

Tom Garvey, the author, commanded that camp. He came in country about two months before I left, and I know that country, and those Montagnard people, and love both. So does he, and it shows.

A couple of weeks before he shipped out for Vietnam John McManus, the protagonist of the novel, obviously based on Garvey, was in a bookstore with a girlfriend, idly thumbing through Sidney Omarr's predictions for 1968. Opening a page at random he found a prediction of momentous and dangerous events on November 17th. He quickly put the book up and tried to put the prediction out of his mind.

A few months later he found himself commanding the camp at the intersection of every bleeding infiltration route on the Ho Chi Minh trail. A captured NVA colonel revealed that the North Vietnamese intended to wipe out a border camp and kill every American in it, as a propaganda coup to cement the effect of their supposed "victory" in the Tet Offensive of 1968. Parenthetically I note that I fought in that battle and was all over the northern part of South Vietnam in its wake, talking to others who had done so. I tell you

definitively that the Tet Offensive of 1968 was one of the most lopsided victories in American military history. When our "free" press reported the opposite to be true I realized we had lost the war, that we had no stomach for victory.

That camp, Tieu Atar, was the leading contender for that attack. And it was woefully defended, as the area was so hot that the engineers who had done the heavy work on its construction bailed before it was done.

McManus had no faith in astrology or dreams, but the Montagnards were heavy into dreams, and if a precog dream said not to do something, they didn't do it. One of them dreamed that going on patrol at that time, the 16th of November, would be a hazardous venture. But McManus had a dream of his own, which he revealed at that time in the pidgin in which we spoke to the Montagnards, that this would be a glorious undertaking, that "many beaucoup magics" protected them.

I'm not going to spoil the ending by telling you what happened. But I will tell you that this is one of the finest novels of the Vietnam War, that its author has every right to be proud, and every reader should prepare himself for a transcendent experience. ❖



The Ghosts of the Green Grass

By J. L. "Bud" Alley

ISBN: 9780986231209

Publisher: Codi Publishing LLC

By Mike Keele

In 1965, Bud Alley was a Second Lieutenant in the U. S. Army, serving his two year active duty obligation following his college graduation. It was

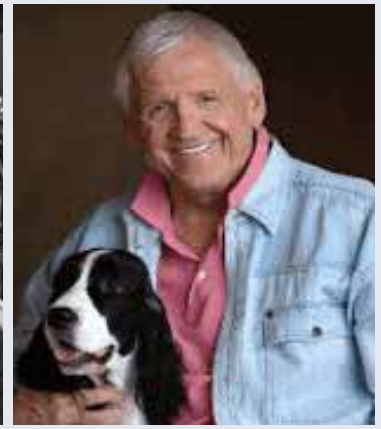
fortuitous that the Army had come up with a program it called U2, which allowed Alley to avoid the Officers Basic Course and go directly to a combat unit. Alley could not believe his good luck, especially since he was tired of school and looking for a little excitement. That was the good part.

The bad part was that Alley really didn't want to be a blood and guts soldier. His hope was to spend his two years on active duty at Ft. Banning, where he could be close to his fiancé, Caroline, who was then a college sophomore. But the really big ax didn't fall until June, 1965, when Alley and a lot of other young Lieutenants learned that there was a place called Vietnam, and they were going to get to see that place.

Early in the book, Alley does a credible job of comparing George A. Custer's 7th Cavalry to the Ia Drang Valley battles of November, 1965. Custer, not knowing the strength of his enemy, made a headlong charge into a numerically superior enemy in the Little Big Horn Valley with a very small force. Just an hour into the assault

The Ghosts of the Green Grass Author, J.L. “Bud” Alley

Originally from Greenville, South Carolina, J.L. “Bud” Alley was educated in public schools there. He graduated in 1964 from Furman University with a degree in biology and a commission in the Infantry. His combat decorations include the Combat Infantryman’s Badge, the Silver Star, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Air Medal and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry along with the Presidential Unit Citation. During a career in the packaging industry he continued pursuing education, earning an MBA in 1974, and an MA in History in 2011. ❖



J.L. “Bud” Alley, then and now

into the Ia Drang Valley by the First Bn. of the Seventh Cavalry, Lt. Col. Hal Moore found himself engaged with the overwhelming force of a North Vietnamese Army Division. By the end of the three day fight, Moore, augmented by two additional Battalions, artillery and air support, had won a decisive battle. Custer of course, had deemed the artillery a liability to his cavalry, and thereby left it with his boss, Crook. The air support is a moot point.

What happened next in the Ia Drang Valley speaks volumes about history repeating itself. And the Army in 1965, flush with one huge victory, sent the Second of the Seventh Cavalry on a march to a new LZ 2½ miles away, thinking the enemy had quit the fight and retreated into Cambodia. Since the Seventh Cavalry had been successful in all its campaigns during the Indian Wars up to the little Big Horn campaign, the miscalculation in 1876 seemed like an invalid comparison to the Ia Drang campaign.

Alley paints a painful picture of the Second of the Seventh in the Ia Drang’s next battle. Relatively untrained, largely inexperienced in the lower officer and enlisted ranks, with upper level leadership being largely unfamiliar with modern combat tactics, the Battalion relied on its senior NCO’s to stay the course.

Lt. Col. Bob McDade had done a good job as the Division G-1, staffing the new Division with personnel, so MG Harry Kinnard

gave him command of the Second of the seventh as a reward. To help McDade, Kinnard assigned a former pilot, Frank Henry, as the Executive Officer. Then the campaign ramped up in the Ia Drang and the blind were now following the unseeing, just a few weeks after being put in charge, and with no combat experience at the start of the operation.

And when the Brigade Commander told McDade to take his Battalion on a mid-day hike to LZ Albany, he did it. No rest after the battle at X-Ray, inadequate food, too little water, and the intense heat. No in-depth questions about the enemy and why Brigade thought there was no enemy activity, what plan B was, and so on. They just went. And after several grueling hours on the trail, with the troops nearing their objective, they captured one trail watcher, while another got away.

To get the rest of the story you have to read Alley’s haunting book. He writes well and tells his story with sensitivity, and he describes what is was to be lost in the green grass, unable to see more than a few feet and just knowing those shooting at you were your own men.

Alley will autograph your copy upon request. Contact him through Codi Publishing, PO Box 726, Signal Mountain, TN, 37377. Phone: 423-551-8476. ❖

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

On July 28, 2016, two San Diego police officers were gunned down in an ambush type shooting, according to the news. One officer, Officer Jonathan DeGuzman, a 16 year vet, two kids, died of his wounds. The other officer, Wade Irwin, was wounded and is expected to survive. Both were assigned to the San Diego Gang Unit. This is getting close to home. Both Mac and I worked Gang Units and are members in the Cal Gang Assoc. However, more closely related to Chapter 78, the San Diego Police Department sent two SWAT Teams to each of our Shooters Cup events, and were very enthusiastic and supportive of the Shooters Cup. One team leader, Mike Alberts, an Iraq/Afghanistan war vet, (there is a video

showing Alberts taking a round in a fire fight, knocking him down) called me each week before the event, excited about the Green Beret Shoot Out. He got San Diego PD to form another SWAT team to participate, lead by Officer Wayne Doeden. Why am I contacting the Chapter members? It is my opinion (just a thought!!!!), perhaps the Chapter, represented by the Chapter’s President, contact San Diego’s Police Chief, Shelley Zimmerman and convey the chapters condolences for the two officers. As former soldiers, we know the fight as mostly overseas, however for our police officers the fight is here in our neighborhoods every day. They keep us apart from the thugs, **The Thin Blue Line**. Thanks, Terry Cagnolatti ❖