

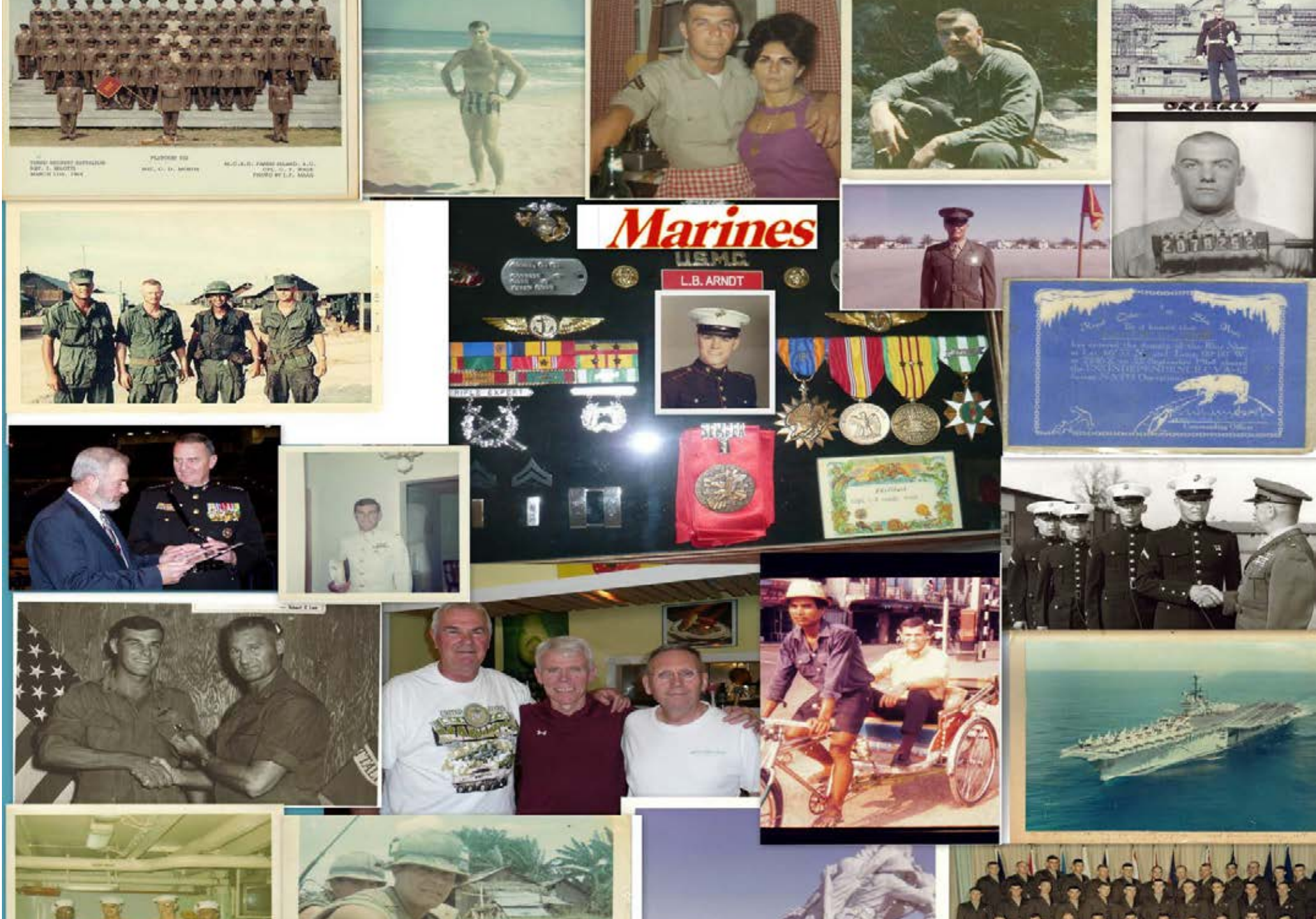
LaVerne B. Arndt

United States Marine Corps



Dec. 27, 1963-Oct 15, 1969

Marine Collage



The beginning.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

WASHINGTON

Notification of Birth Registration

This certifies that the following Record of Birth is registered and preserved in the office of the State Registrar of Vital Statistics at HARRISBURG, PENNA.

Name La Verne Barry Arndt Sex Male No. 32
Date of Birth Oct. 2, 1941 Place of Birth Emmans R, Lehigh Co., Pa
Name of Father Clarence Arndt
Maiden Name of Mother Joyce Wenner

Vera Cruz

- Born in the rental apartment above the Post Office across from Vera Cruz School operated by Eva Hallman.
- These are my parents, picture taken in 1985.



*Arrive on the scene,
Oct. 2, 1941.*

- This pic is about a year later taken at the Vera Cruz post office. V.C. School in background, 1942.



1 year old?

It appears I was walking
looking at the shoe
bottoms.



Grandfather,
Walter B. Arndt,
Foundry worker.

WW1 vet, USMC
Marine Barracks,
Wash, DC.
1914-1915

Picture - Circa 1943

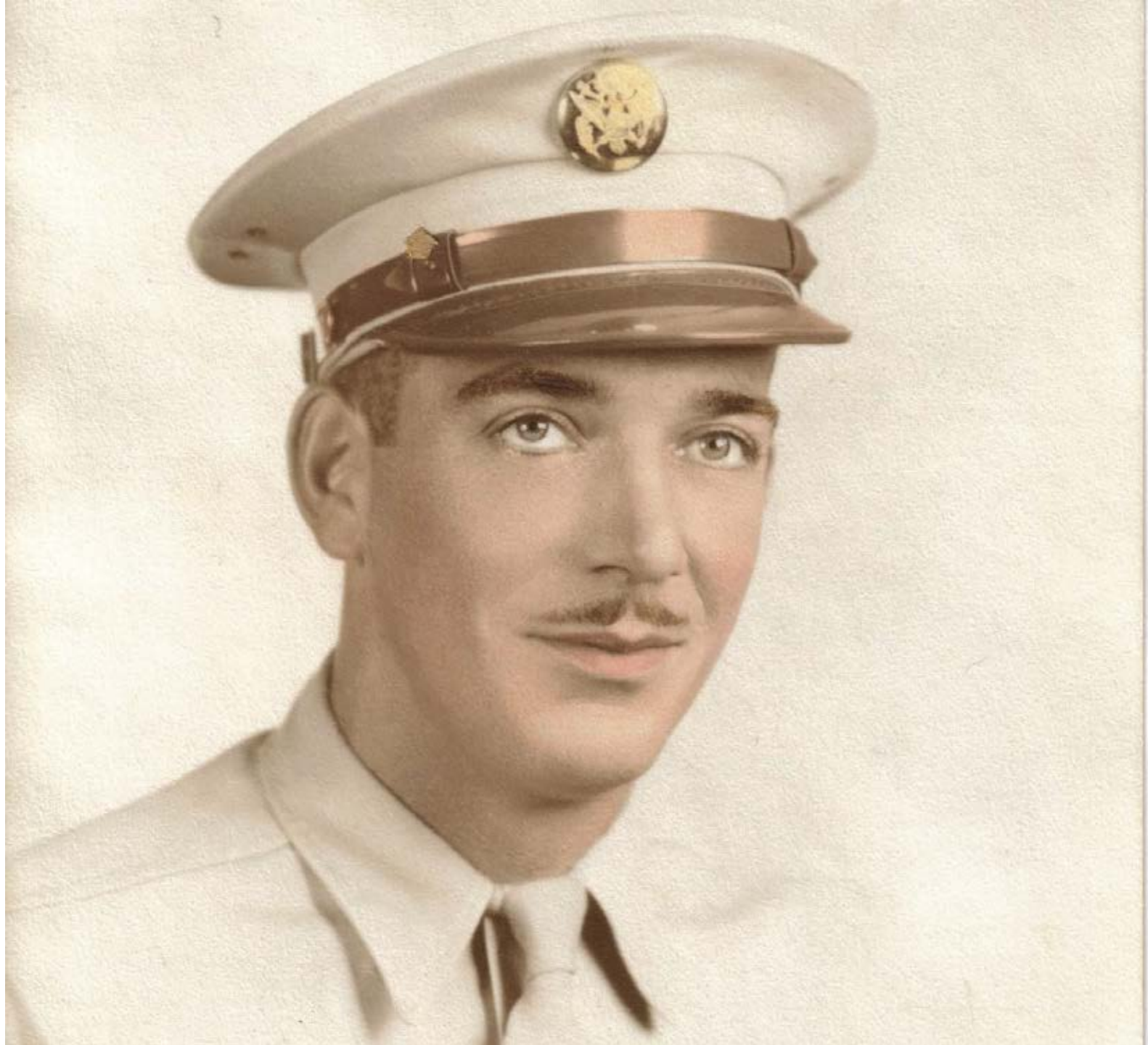


Clarence E. Arndt

Staff Sergeant- E6
Cook.

Served US Army
Feb 1945 – Aug 1946.

Charles, Albert, Douglas,
and Walter Arndt also
served in WW2. 5
brothers.



Seem Seed Farm

-rental. 1945-46

Dad in the Army.

Vern, Mom, Phyllis



Seem Seed Farm

-rental. 1945-46

Dad in the Army.
Mom was a Rosie the
riveter type working at Air
Products.

Joyce, Phyllis, Vern





Seem Seed Farm

- Phyllis and Vern

Seem Seed Farm

Vern

Actually fell out of this car from the back seat. No injury.



Vera Cruz Elementary School

School years 1st through 8th grades.
1948 – 1955

Mrs. Jolan Klan- 1st and 2nd

Mrs. Edna Kline- 3rd and 4th

Miss Ester Evans- 5th

Mrs. Helen Buss- 6th

Mr. Howard Diefenderfer- 7th

Mr. Alfred Kistler- 8th and Principal.

1st grade

- Mrs. Otto Klan was our 1st and 2nd grade teacher.



1st and 2nd grade

Mrs. Otto Klan



ANTHONY'S PHOTO SERVICE

BETHLEHEM, PA.

5183 Spruce Road

1947 house construction.
I am 6 years old.

My father and Paul
Engelman built the house.

Dad added the garage by
himself in 1952. Garage
walls are 20 inches thick
of field stone gathered
from various farms
through out the Vera Cruz
area.

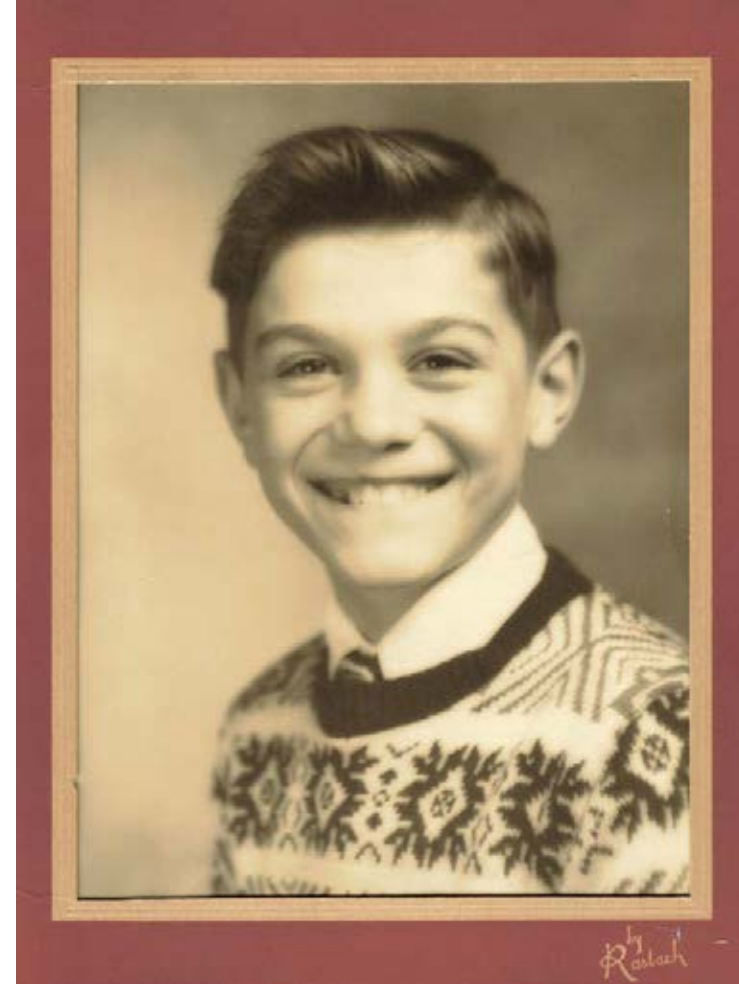


Vera Cruz Elementary School

3rd grade



4th grade



Vera Cruz Elementary School

5th grade



6th grade



*Childhood fun with
Benner family.*

Ida Benner in background.
Benner kids and me.

Left bottom.

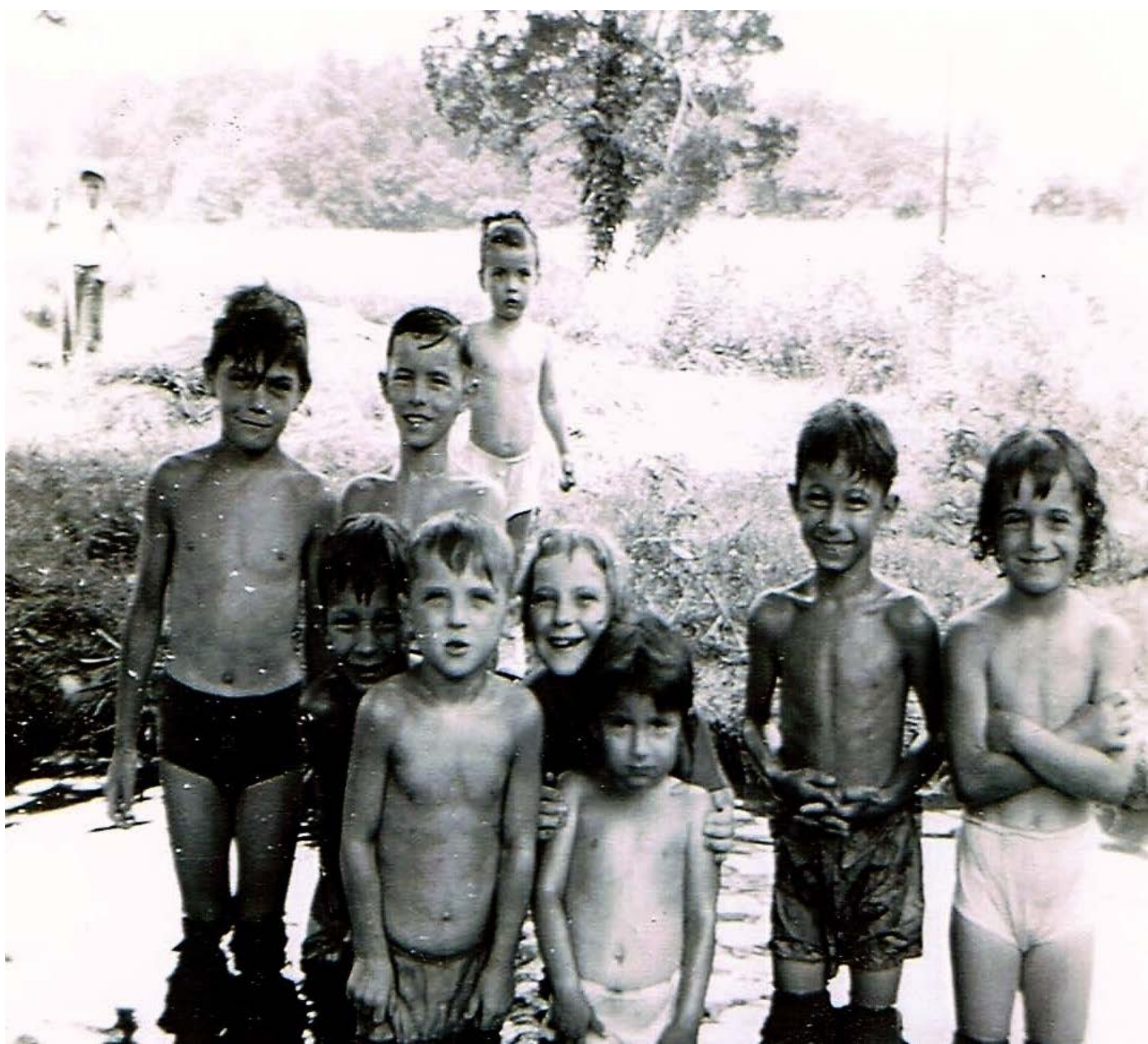
Vern and Elwood, or
Butchie, as we called him.
Second row-
Robert/Bobbie and
Cornelius/Neil. Top is
Diane/Sissy.



Vera Cruz kids

circa 1950

- Picture taken at the creek behind Benner house in Vera Cruz. Lone tree in Bartholomew farm field. Jasper park across field in rear.
- Jacqueline Schoenly rear on bank.
- Rear left- Vern Arndt and Bobby Doney, .
- Front left to right- Robert Benner, Warren Benner, Billy Ruth, Diane Benner, Elwood Benner, Phyllis Arndt.
- Unknown on left in field in background. Ronald Hamscher?



Vera Cruz kids,
circa 1950

Left to right-
Billy Ruth, Bobby Doney,
Warren Benner, Phyllis
Arndt, Jacqueline
Schoenly, Diane Benner
behind Jacqueline,
Elwood Benner, Bobby
Benner, Vern Arndt rear
behind Bobby.





7th grade

- Pompadours are in!

*Vera Cruz Elem.
8th grade -1955*

- Alfred E. Kistler, teacher and Principal of the school.



Graduation

- Heading to Emmaus High
- 1955



Lehigh County, Pennsylvania

This Certifies that

LA VERNE B. ARNDT

has satisfactorily completed the Course of Study as prescribed for the Elementary Schools of Lehigh County, Pennsylvania, and is therefore promoted to the 9th Grade of an approved High School.

Certificate of Promotion

Given this thirteenth day of June 19 55

School District of Upper Milford Township



Alfred L. Kistler
Teacher

Ellis N. Miller
President of Board

Paul H. Berger
Secretary of Board

Robert A. Garber
County Superintendent



Emmaus High School , 1955-56

9th grade

- *EHS- Emmaus Green Hornets*

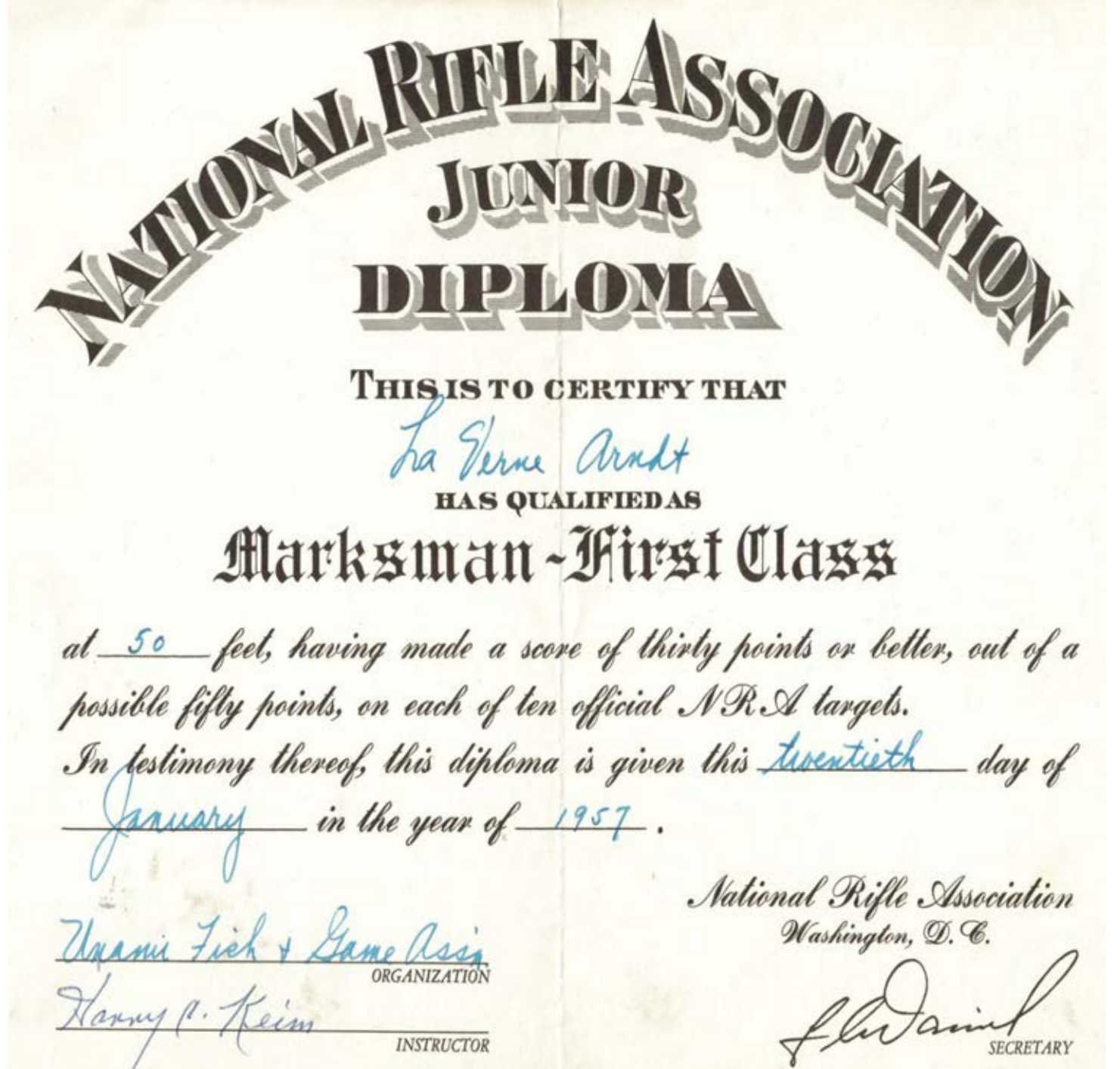
First deer, a doe

Age 13 , Pike County.



1957 NRA Class

- Held by Harry and son, Butch, Keim in the former Jefferson High School, on Ridge St. in Emmaus.



16th birthday

- Mom had a party at Vera Cruz Fire Co. Oct. 2, 1957.



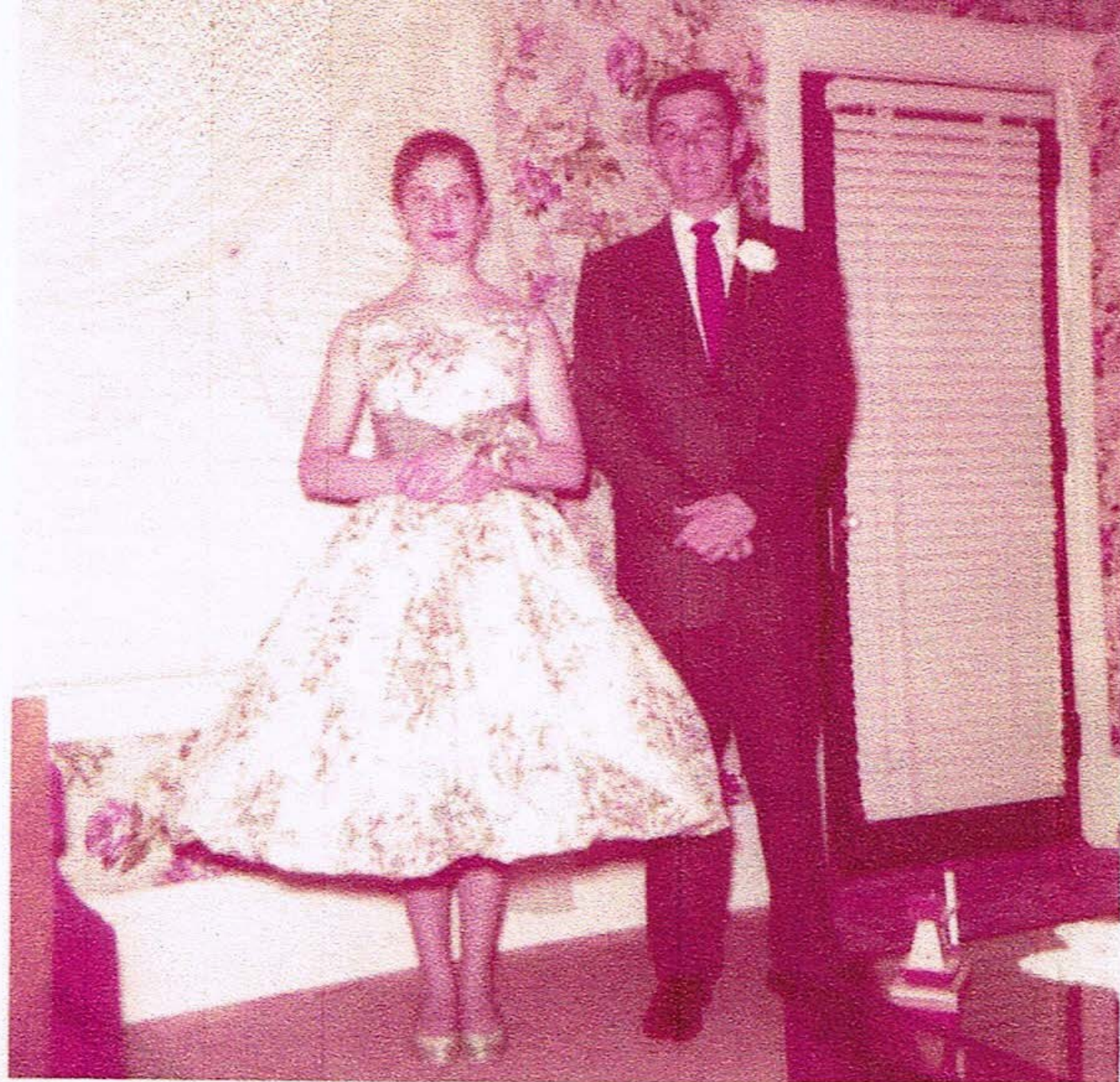
*Emmaus
Community Pool
Aquacade 1958*

- Lifeguard at the pool for 3 years during summer, 9, 10, 11 grades.
- EHS teacher, Ken Moyer, was our boss during the summer at the pool.



EHS Junior Prom
May 7, 1958

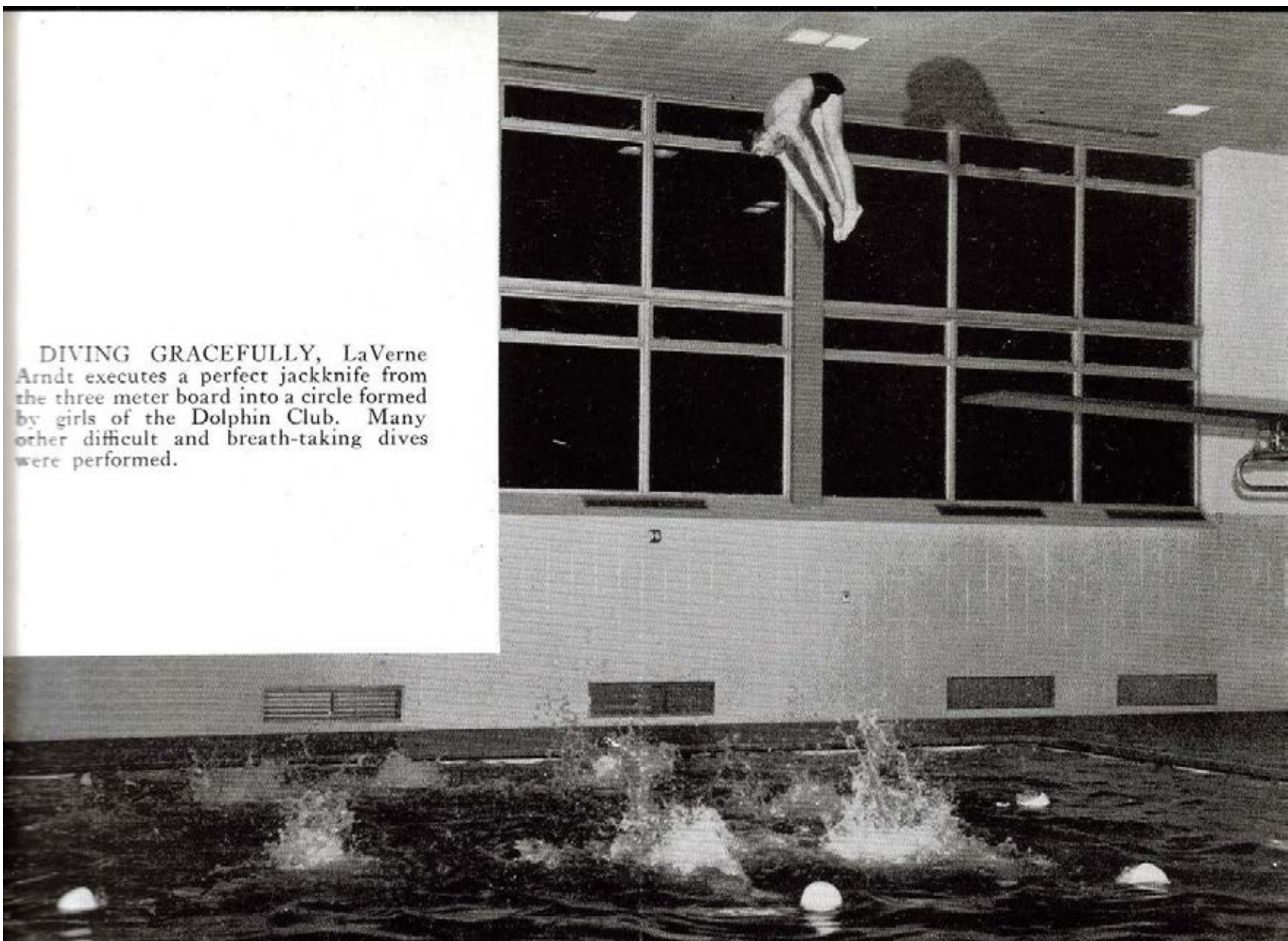
- Attended the prom with Barbara Frankenfield.
- We went with Gail Graner and Cary Conrad.



Emmaus High Aquacade

Tattler picture

- ***Vern Arndt performing a jackknife dive off the 3 meter board.***



EHS Gym Exhibition

Tattler picture

Left side parallel bars.

Students Demonstrate Gymnastic Ability

"The Development of a Gymnast," was the theme of the annual Gym Exhibition presented April 30. The girls, supervised by Miss Rira Fisher, displayed their skills in the square dance, and performed unusual feats on the rings, mats, trampoline, horse, and springboard. Under the coaching of Mr. Richard Keim and Mr. Leon Tuttle, the boys added zest to the exhibition by performing difficult feats on the parallel bars, ropes, rings, horse, and springboard. The rhythmic calisthenic drill, and wand and club drills, directed by Mrs. Adele Gerhart, gave color and sparkle to the show.



A PYRAMID was formed upon the parallel bars with LaVerne Arndt and Robert Hallman supporting Ronald Brey who executed a shoulder stand. Ann Keller and Nancy Shollenberger performed shoulder balances.



HAND STANDS on the ropes were the climax of the rope exhibition by William Yandle and Ronald Brey.



DIVING over nine boys, Thomas Johnson demonstrated a thrilling example of skill in a specialty routine.

DISPLAYING UNIQUE FORMATIONS are Francis Schleifer, Eleanor Moser, Chlorina Reith, and Kathryn Kaldy with Carol Decker doing a back bend.



THE BIRD'S NEST was formed on the rings by Janis Gower, as Janet Guldin and Andrea Beltz spotted for her.



EHS Track

Tattler picture

High jump, Broad jump, 440 yard dash.

4th highest scorer for the team my senior year.

Track Team Garners Double Championship

Sweeping through all league opposition, the Green and Gold cindermen attained undisputed claim to the Seasonal Championship of the Lehigh Valley Track League. In doing so, they handed defending champion Northampton its first league defeat since 1954. The Hornets, not willing to rest on their laurels, captured team honors in the annual League Meet, held for the third consecutive year on the local track.

Coach Richard Keim had an array of nine returning letter-winners, effectively placed among the various track and field events, to spark the 1959 team. Leading the team through the seven dual contests were Robert Roeder, unbeaten in the 220 yard dash, and Larry Herald, who won all seven of the half-mile races. In addition, William Schantzenbach took six firsts in the 440 yard dash, and LaVerne Arndt had five wins and a tie in the high jump and broad jump.

In winning the League Meet, the Hornets amassed 34½ points to 32 for runner-up Lehigh-ton. Individual Emmaus triumphs were posted by Roeder in the 100 and 220 yard dashes, Herald in the mile, Steve Kozy in the discus, and Arndt, who tied in the high jump.

TRACK SQUAD, *first row:* Robert Hallman, LaVerne Arndt, William Schantzenbach, Joel Trexler, Robert Willis, T. hoodore Knauis, Melvyn Bruder, Paul Brooke, Donald Graef, Jerald Terwilliger, George Moritz, Stephen Kozy, Larry Herald. *Second row:* Robert Roeder, Thomas Johnson, William Fetterman, Walker Schantz, Edward Saddler, David Hoprock, Dennis Reckmack, Thomas Kusbinka, Thomas Conway, Thomas McHugh, James Long, Charles Campbell, John Kratzer, Richard Meyer. *Third row:* Robert Lichtenwalner,



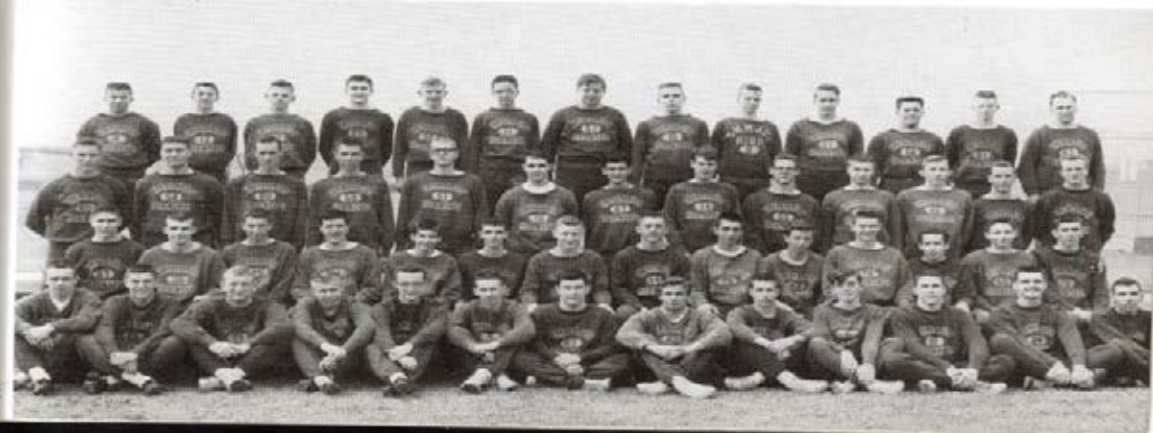
LAVERNE ARNDT twists his body over the bar and into the sawdust pit in practicing for high jump competition. Awaiting the outcome of LaVerne's effort are four Green Hornet high jumping specialists.

1959 SCHEDULE

	<i>E.H.S.</i>	<i>Opp.</i>
*Palmerton.....	59.....	36
Nazareth.....	39.....	51
*Lehigh-ton.....	51.....	44
Bethlehem.....	29.....	61
*Slatington.....	53½.....	41½
*Whitehall.....	56.....	39
*Northampton.....	51½.....	43½

*League meets

Kyle White, Robert Benner, Walter Banks, William Lobb, John Brown, Timothy Kiriposki, Brooke Young, Peter Nelson, John Burtz, Ronald Wessner, Daniel Marsteller, Jerry Claus (*Student Manager*), *Fourth row:* William DeEsch, Bruce Yaeck, Scott Stoneback, Eugene Schantzenbach, William Kennedy, Terry Harzoll, Terry Vogel, Richard Ratcliffe, Alexander Hendry, Brook March, Gerald Eske, Benjamin Martin, Mr. Richard Keim (*Coach*). *Not pictured:* Robert Flower, Robert Martin.



Lettered in Track



EHS Senior Prom

- Vern and Joe Trexler 1959.
- My house before date pickup.
- Joe drove his Dad's 1958 Pontiac convertible with continental kit.



EHS
Graduation
1959

Emmaus High School



This Certifies That
LaVerne Barry Arndt

has satisfactorily completed a Course of Study for Graduation from
this School and is therefore awarded this

Diploma

Given at Emmaus, in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,
June 9, 1959.

Henry C. Stouduow
Superintendent

Howard K. Weischer
Principal

Ralph H. Schoppell
President, Board of Education

Wm. A. Shoemaker
Secretary, Board of Education



EHS Graduation

- June 1959.

Register with Selective Service

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SELECTIVE SERVICE LAW

LaVerne B. Arndt
(REGISTRANT MUST SIGN HERE)

LaVerne **Barry** **Arndt**
(FIRST NAME) (MIDDLE NAME) (LAST NAME)

SELECTIVE SERVICE NO. **36 | 89 | 41 | 470**

RESIDENCE AT REGISTRATION **Box 36**
(NUMBER AND STREET OR R. F. D. NUMBER)

Vera Cruz, **Lehigh** **Pa.**
(CITY, TOWN, OR VILLAGE) (ZONE) (COUNTY) (STATE)

October 2, 1941 **Vera Cruz, Pa.**
(DATE OF BIRTH) (PLACE OF BIRTH)

WAS DULY REGISTERED ON THE **6** DAY OF **Oct.**, 19 **59**

Normie C. Bramwell
(SIGNATURE OF LOCAL BOARD CLERK) *acting clerk*

Muhlenberg College - 1959-1961



LBA dark years

- *Attended Muhlenberg College 1959-1961.*
 - *Head not in college. Dropped out.*
- *Went to work at Caloric Corp. in Topton.*
 - *Assistant Supvr./Scheduler*
- *Draft status 1A.*
- *Fall 1963- Draft notice. Wilkes-Barre for physical.*

*Ron and Pat Montz
wedding Nov. 1963*

- Bill Schantzenbach,
Harold Serfass, Vern
Arndt, Richard Kozy,
David Aldrich.

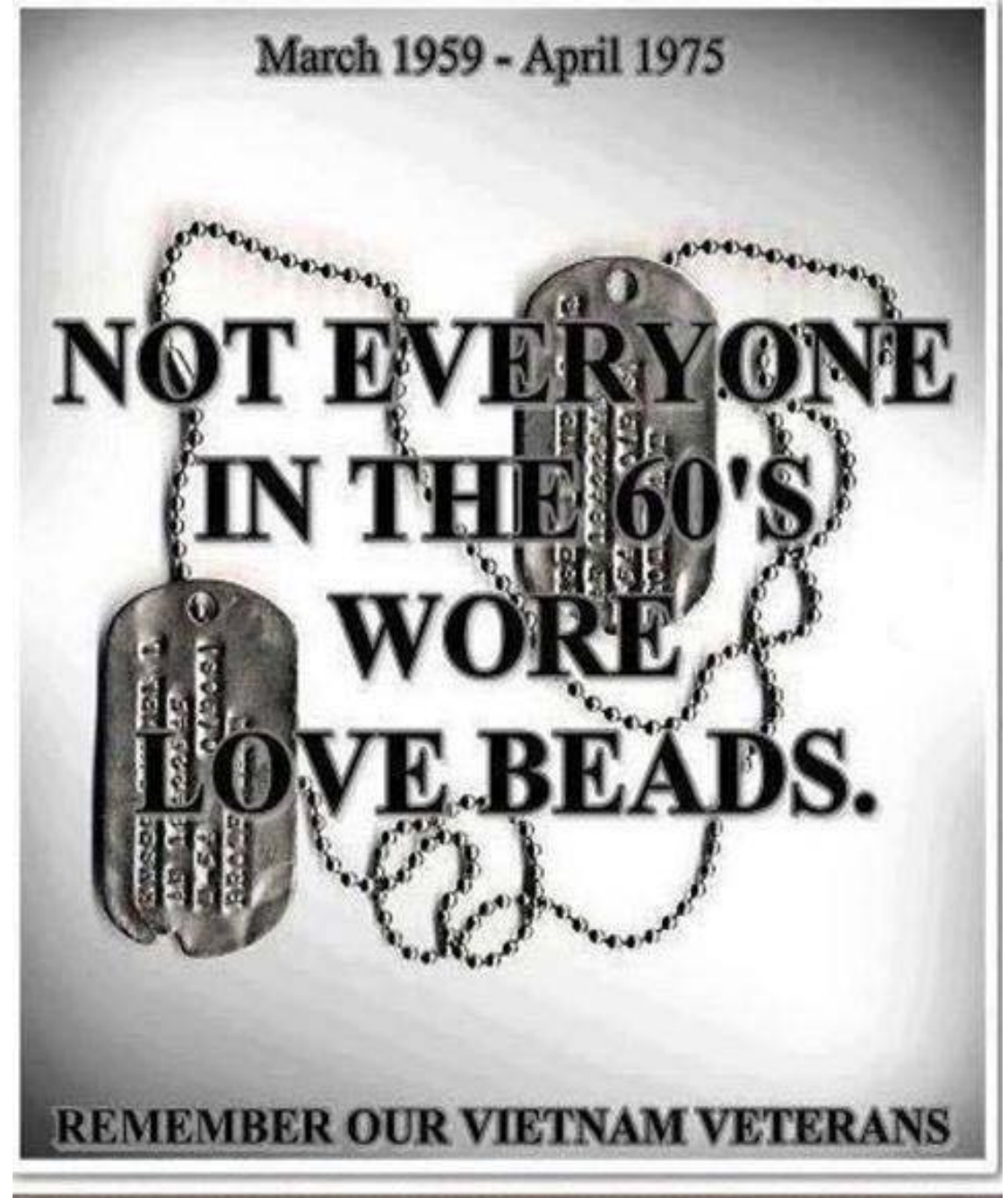




First buck, 10 pts.

- Age 22, Dec. 1963.
- Vera Cruz house.

Draft inevitable in my era.





Admitted

Marines

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
RECRUITING STATION
BLDG. 501, MAIN GATE, U.S. NAVAL BASE
PHILADELPHIA 12, PENNSYLVANIA

27Dec63

MEMORANDUM

From: Officer in Charge

To: **Private LaVerne Barry ARNDT 2078252 USMC**

Subj: Instructions for Marine in Charge of Recruits enroute to Marine Corps
Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina

Encl: (1) Group Travel Orders

1. You are hereby designated as the Marine in Charge of the men listed on enclosure (1) and will proceed to the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina.

2. You will be guided by the instructions contained in paragraph 3 below in the performance of your assigned duties.

3. Instructions.

a. All Marines traveling by public conveyance, shall conduct themselves so that there can be no complaint as to their behavior. Conduct which brings discredit upon the Marine Corps or violation of Marine Corps regulations, will make them subject to trial by court-martial. The conductors of trains, drivers of buses are responsible to their employers for the safety and comfort of their passengers in their charge, and that the public carrier representatives have the authority to take such steps as are necessary and legal to restrain disorderly persons traveling on these carriers.

b. When boarding any carrier, you will insure that all personnel in your charge listed on enclosure (1) are accounted for. This will be accomplished by a "Roll Call" if necessary.

c. If any of the personnel listed on enclosure (1) are absent and after a thorough search has been made they cannot be located, you will report this finding to:

(1) Train Conductor, requesting that this be reported at the nearest military authority, Navy Shore Patrol or civilian police.

d. At no time will the personnel in your charge leave their assigned areas without first requesting permission from the Marine in Charge. The whereabouts of all personnel will be known at all times.

e. Personnel will be marched in formation when:

- (1) Boarding carriers (Bus, Train)
- (2) Presenting the detail upon arrival at Parris Island, South Carolina.
- (3) Whenever it is deemed necessary.

Original
orders from
Phila.

In charge of
the group to
SC.





300 Series Platoon Honor Men

Promotion to Private First Class for the 4 of us.

I also won Series Honor Man, American Spirit of Honor Medal, Outstanding Man In the Platoon, the Leatherneck Award.

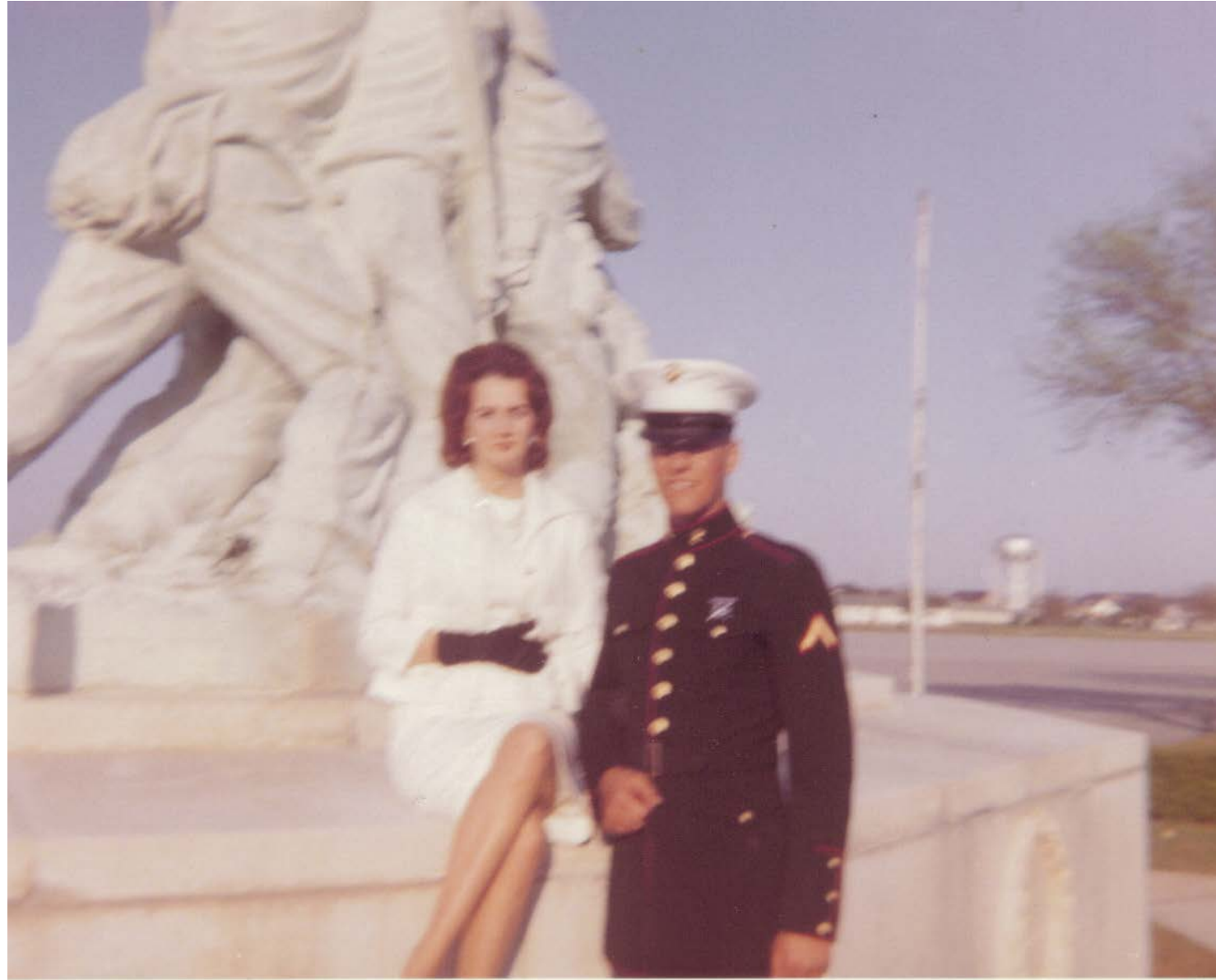
I shot expert on the rifle range with a 222 score out of 250 possible. Our Platoon high man was 232, and he happened to be from Reading area.



*Graduation
Parris Island
March 17, 1964*

Dress Blues award.

Linda Crisp and Vern at
Iron Mike.



Parris Island

Graduation Day

Linda Crisp and Vern Arndt at Iron Mike.

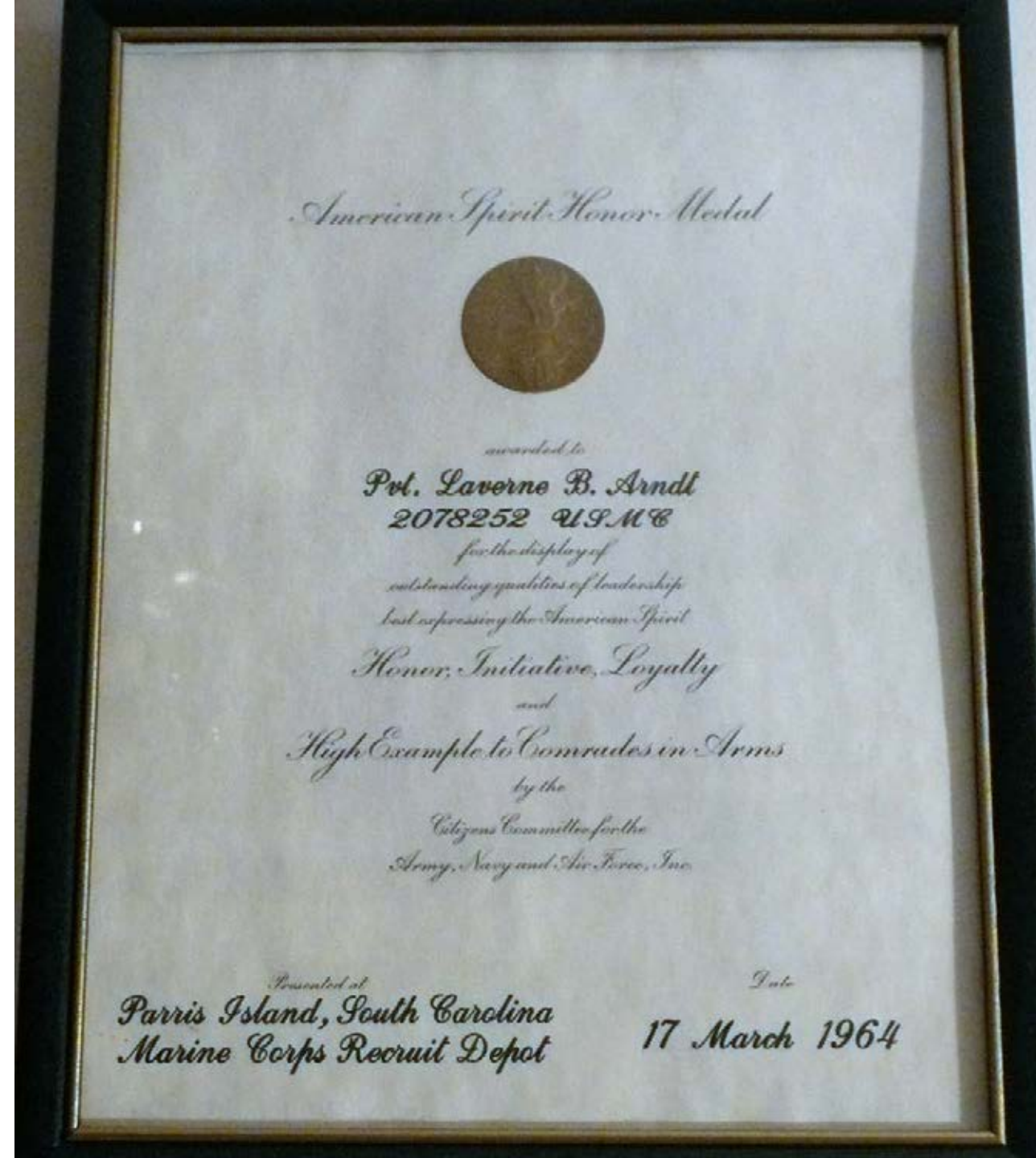
Linda was my girlfriend.

Linda won Miss Platoon 302 voted by the recruits, from our submitted pictures.



American Spirit of Honor Medal

- Awarded by the Citizen's Committee for the Army, Navy and Air Force.
- One or two medals a year awarded at Parris island.





Parris Island Graduation

- March 17, 1964
- Checkout the book on the table.

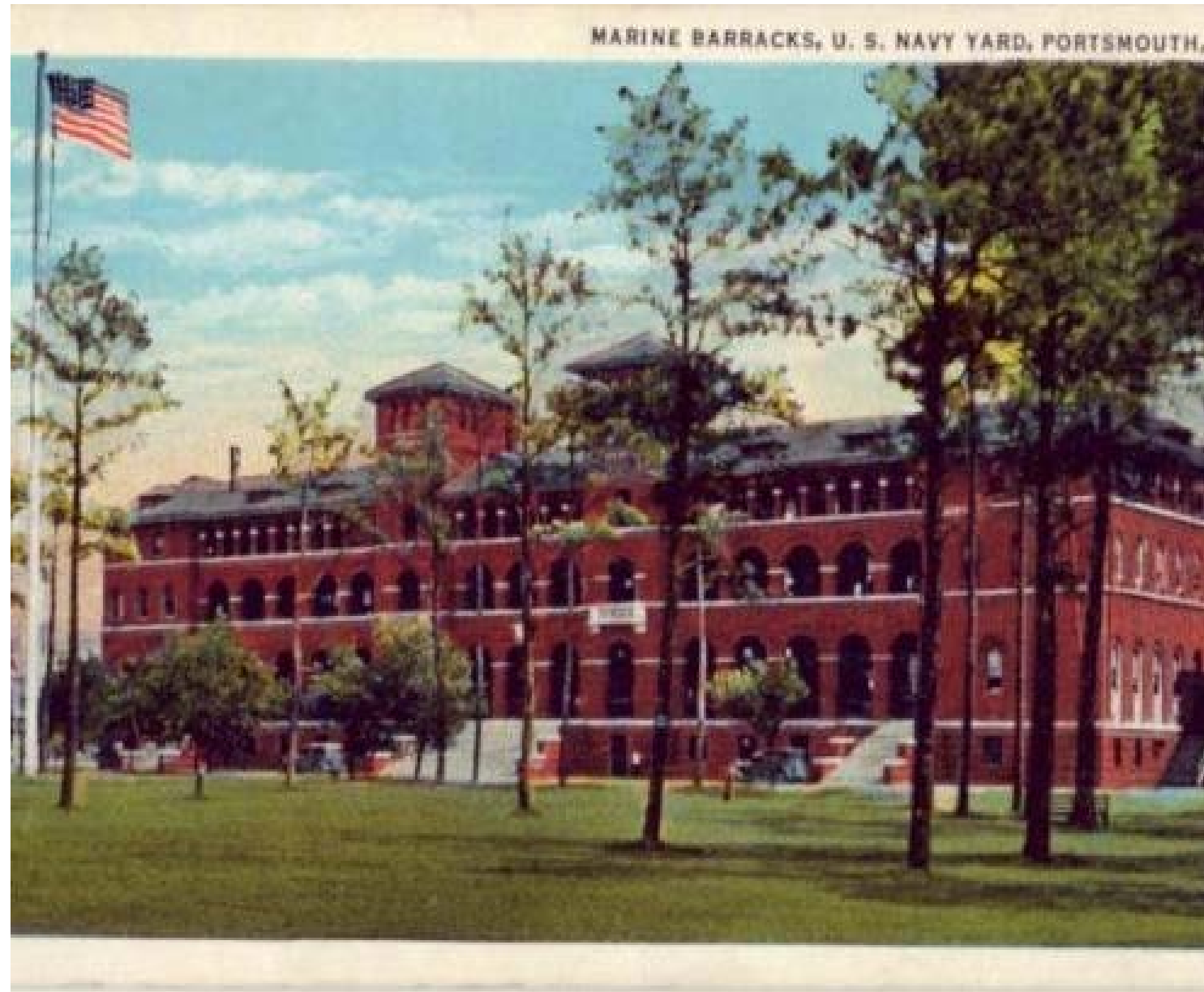
MARINE CORPS
RECRUIT DEPOT
PARRIS ISLAND
SOUTH CAROLINA

PLATOON 302

Had choice of duty-

Sea Duty

2 month school at
Portsmouth, VA.



*USS Independence
CVA 62*

Assigned to the USS Independence, CVA 62 out of Norfolk, VA. Naval Shipyard.

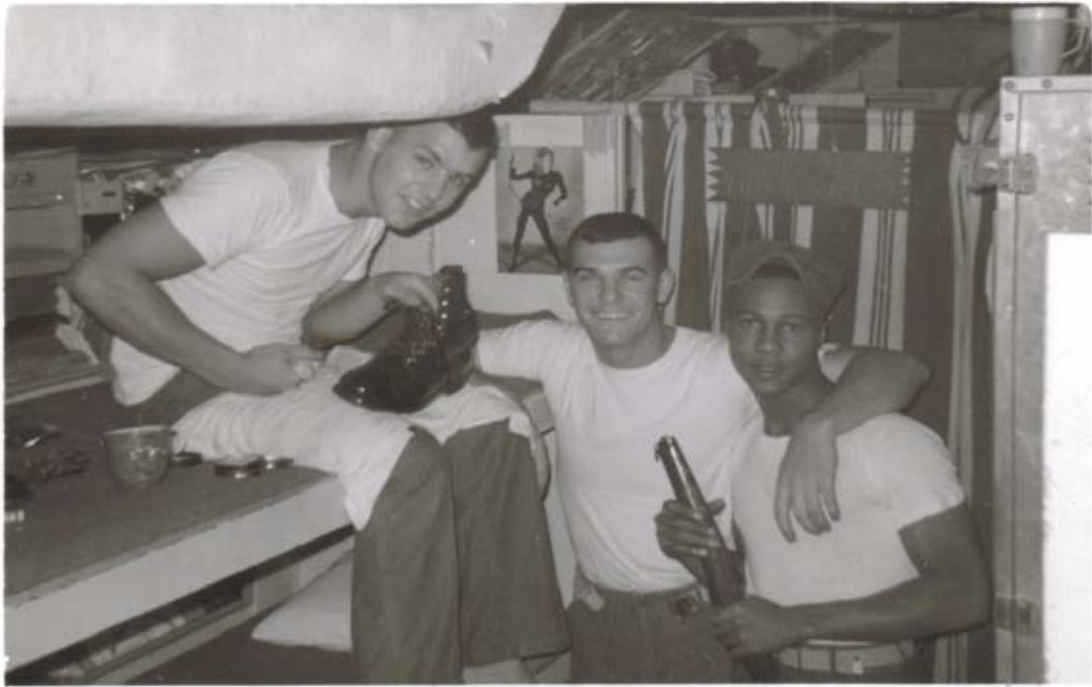
Reported on board July 14, 1964 and served for 2 years.



*Naval Base,
Norfolk, VA
Pier 12*

- Vern at gang plank to board the ship.





Shipmates

- Cramped lifestyle. We were located 3 flights down from the Hangar deck. 60 Marines to a detachment with 2 Marine Officers, a Captain and a Lieutenant.

Marine Color Guard

- Arndt, Sgt. Rimel, Singleton, Shutler



Arctic cruise North Atlantic

Video

Flight deck
60 feet off
the water.

Start video.
Click on pic.
Arrow at
bottom

NATO Operations

- Blue Noses card



Replenishment



OCT • 65 •



OCT • 65 •



OCT • 65 •



OCT • 65 •



OCT • 65 •



OCT • 65 •

- Replenishment is a very tricky deal with two or three ships tying up to each other and transferring supplies, fuel, and sometimes even personnel between the ships. Lasts a few hours.

General Quarters

Marines are assigned to stations as well as Navy personnel. In this case my Marine friends and I are assigned to man a machine gun on the 09 level.

Bob Tibbs, Bill Clasen, and Vern Arndt.



Equator initiation

- USMC Captain Hanthorn crawling through the garbage strewn deck for the equator initiation.
- Pollywogs to Shellbacks.



Crossed the Equator

- Shellback award.



Flight Operations

F4 on left. F8 and F4 on right slide.



Negrato Survival training

- Jungle training in the Philippines.
- Subic Bay Naval Base



*Subic Bay,
Philippines 1965*

- Olongapo liberty 1965.
- Nanette Gonzales.



Far East Service Gulf of Tonkin

- Hong Kong liberty with my shipmates in Susie Wong Bar.
- Flight Operations in support of the Vietnam War, June through November 1965. 5 months of combat duty.



Hong Kong 1965

- Vern in suit bought in Hong Kong 1965. Hand tailored, 1 fitting.



Yokohama 1965

Japanese bath house-
Tibbs, Arndt, Gervasio,
Aponte



Yokohama 1965

- Arndt in Japanese tub.
The morning after.



*Subic Bay,
Philippines 1965*

- Vern and Bob Tibbs in Blue Whites ready for ceremony.



*November 10,
1965*

USMC Birthday
celebration in our
detachment.

Our CO, First Sgt, Staff
Sgt, and Sgt. presided.



Shellbacks

- The “givers” versus “receivers” this trip across the equator.
- L To R- Stansbury, Arndt, Shutler, and Cook.



West Pac Cruise to Gulf of Tonkin

Vietnam

- June through November 1965.
- Marines helped fuse bombs prior to loading them on the planes.

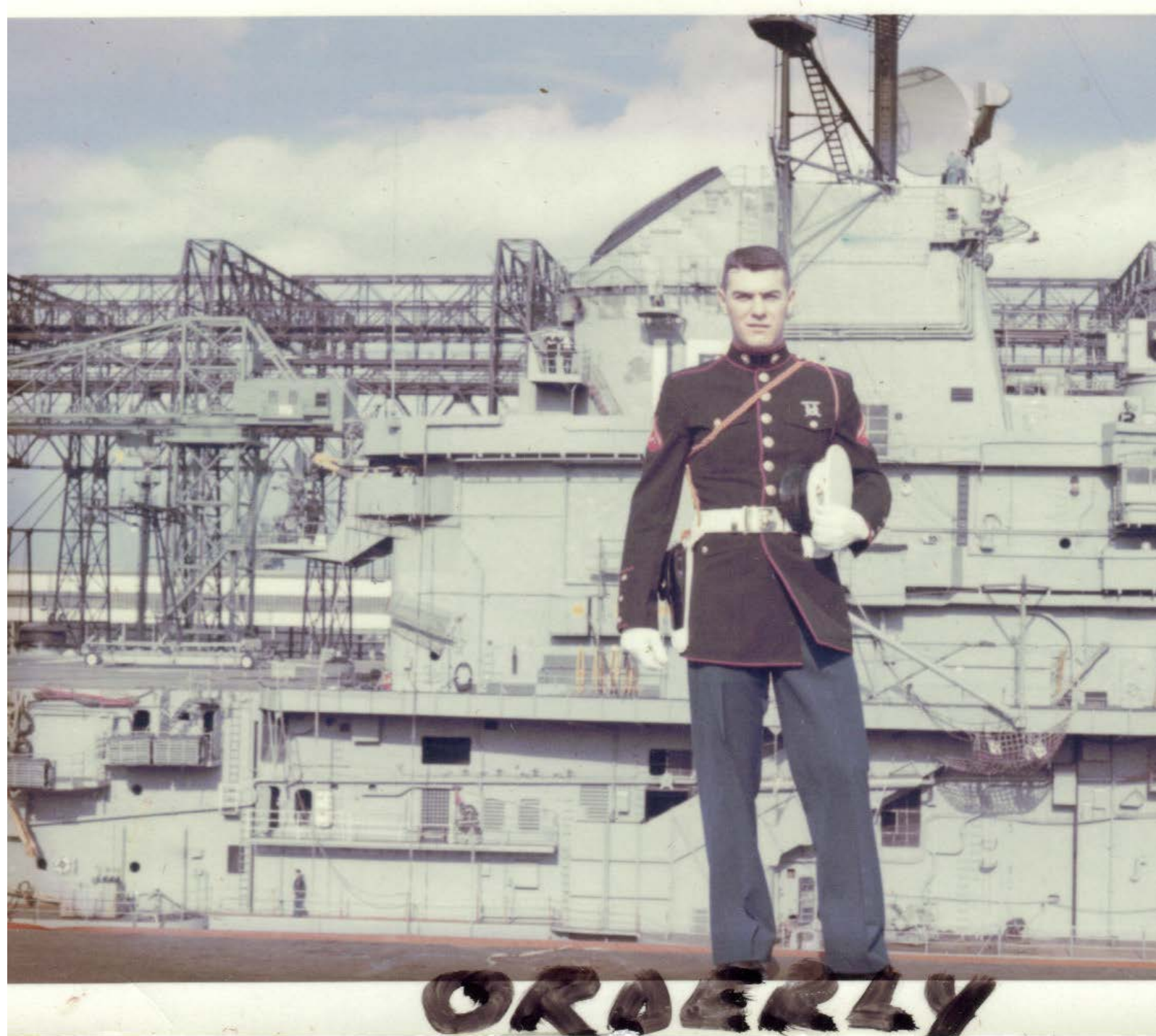


West Pac Cruise ports-1965

- Philippines, Subic Bay -2
- Hong Kong-2
- Singapore
- Yokosuka & Yokohama, Japan

Captain's Orderly

- Served for 6 months. Captain Windsor's Orderly.
- College board testing for OCS. Meritorious NCO program.



NCO Leadership School

- Feb., March 1966 at Camp Lejeune Montfort Point.
- Preparation for OCS for me.



Dependents day cruise



Dependent's Day Cruise 1966

- Parents, Joyce and Clarence Arndt.
- Aunt and uncle, Violet and Kermit Cope.
- All day event, 6am to 8pm. Flight operations out at sea.



Med Cruise Ports-1966

- Gibraltar
 - Barcelona
 - Palma de Majorca
 - Cannes
-
- Plymouth, England had been scheduled but we were diverted to the Med because the FDR was having mechanical problems so we relieved her early.

Cannes, France

USS Independence CVA
62, in Cannes Harbor,
July 1-15, 1966.



Cannes- 1966
Annie and Vern

- Annie was the bar owner.
- Primarily a Marine bar.
- Tended bar for her.



Cannes, France
Liberty call

- Shipmates playing pong with Evelyn Ahrens, 16 year old German girl on vacation with her parents.



Med Cruise

- **Evelyn Ahrens.** 16 year old German girl I met in Cannes, along with her mother and father, who were vacationing there the during the Bastille Day celebration, French Independence Day, July 14.
- Anchored off the coast of Cannes for about 11 days., July 4 through July 15. I had liberty 10 days because I was headed to OCS.
- I left the ship in Cannes and flew home via Rota, Spain.



OCS at Quantico, VA

⁶Attended OCS from August 1966 through Oct 29, 1966. Approx. 541 candidates in this class. Mostly college graduates but included approx. 60 enlisted “mustang” Marines, such as myself who were meritoriously selected for the program through October 1966. Commissioned a 2nd. Lt. Oct . 29, 1966.



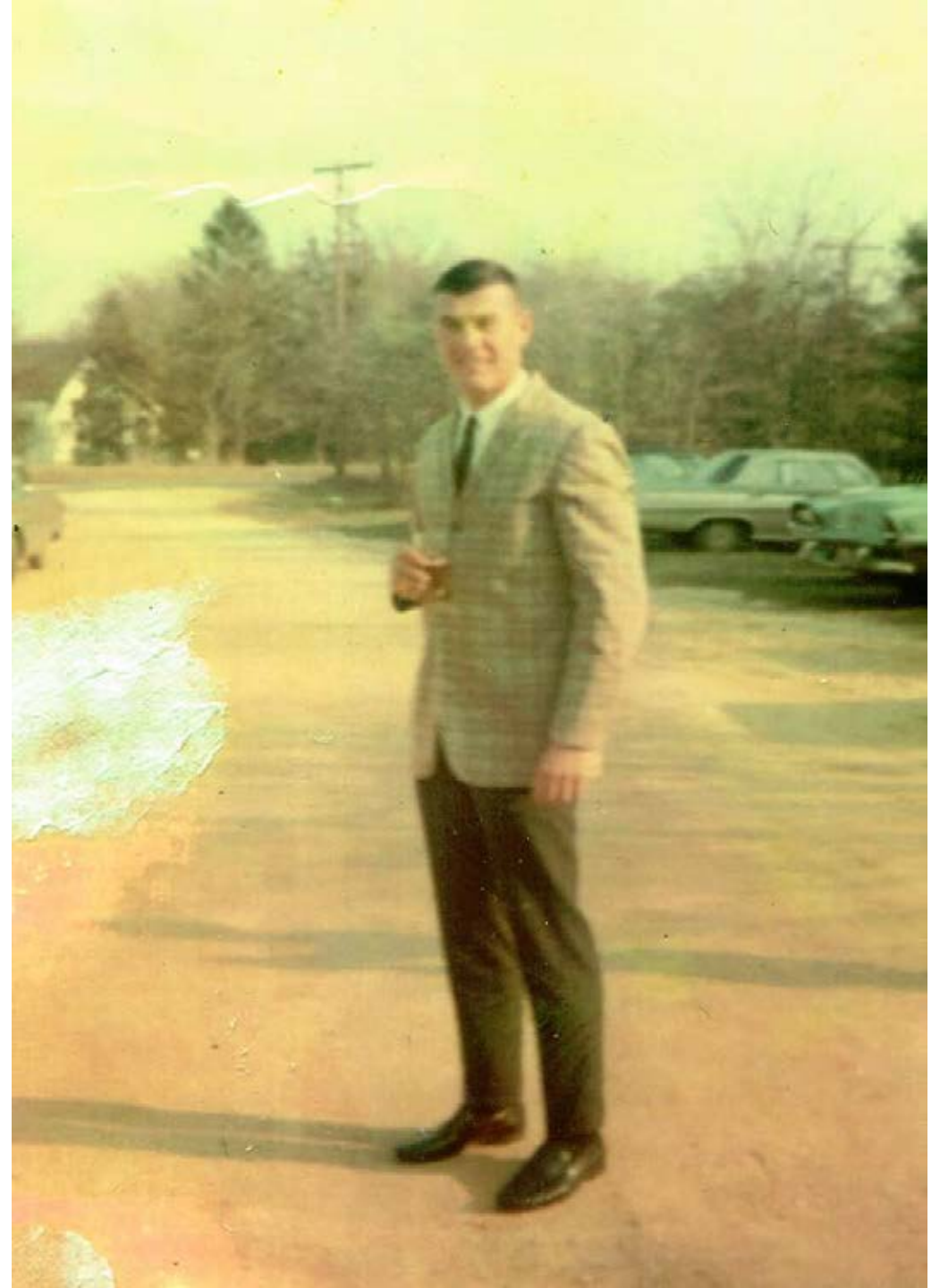
The Basic School at Quantico, VA. -TBS



- Officer training in Leadership, tactics, and weaponry. Approximately 5 months long. Oct 30, 1966 through March 29, 1967.

The Basic School

- I was heading to a JOPA party in Wash, DC. Starting early, with a drink in my hand.
- JOPA- Junior Officers and Professional Association.



TBS- F1 Platoon

Vern- 3rd row
back, 2nd from
left.
I am 6'2" tall.



Graduation from TBS at Quantico

- TBS is Basic training for Marine Officers in Leadership, Tactics, and Weaponry.
- Attended this training from Oct 30, 1966 through Mar. 29, 1967.
- Tom Bergstrom- 6'8".
- Vern Arndt- 6'2"
- Tom Domogala- 5'10".



TBS Slides

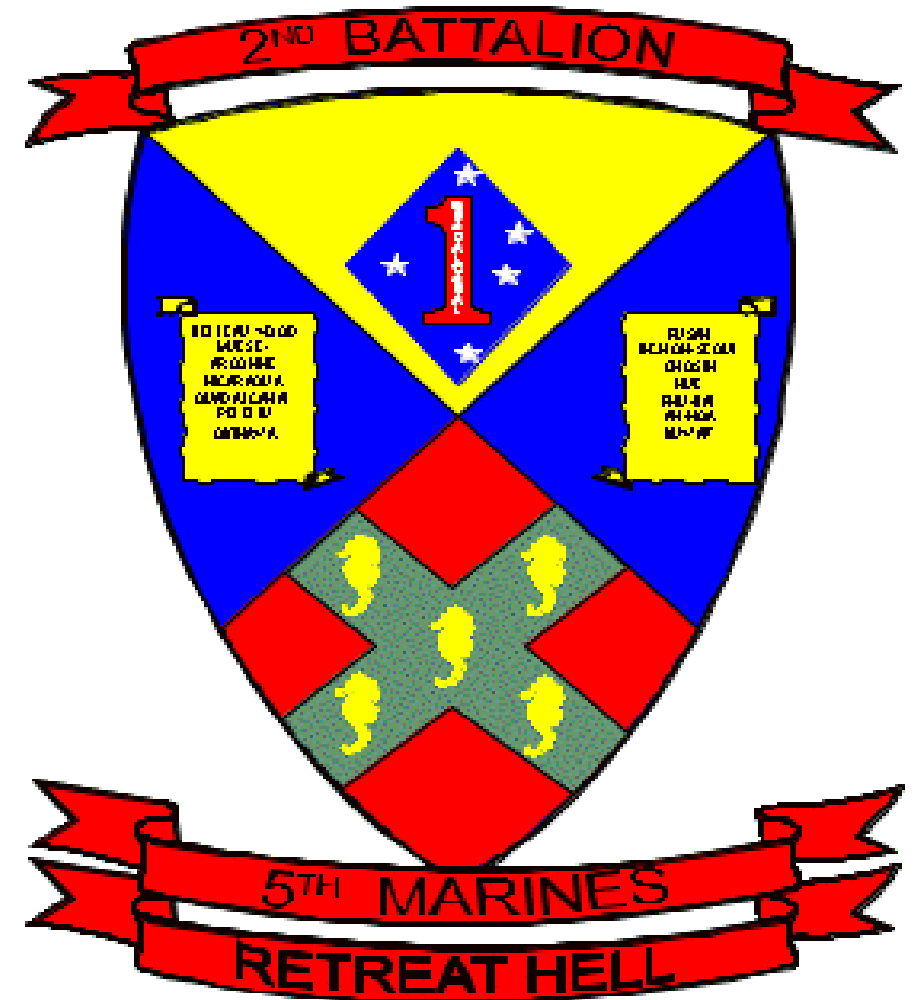
Click on
black to
start slide
show.

Arrow at
bottom.

Vietnam service

0302 - Infantry Officer

I had choice of duty.

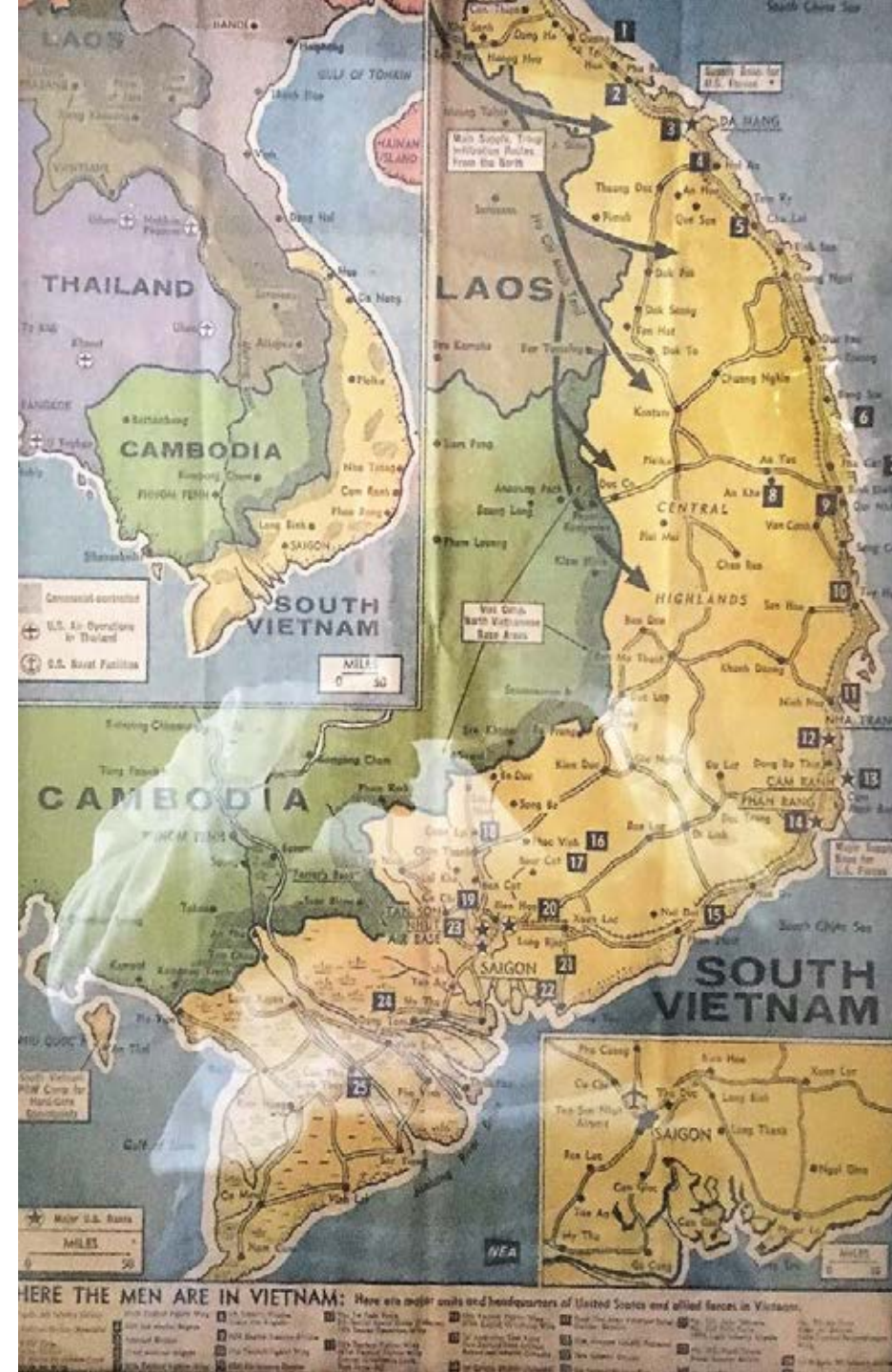


Color Map of Vietnam- 1967

Appeared in Morning Call

- Danang-1st Mar. Div. Hdqtrs.
- An Hoa-25 miles SW
- Nong Son- 33 miles SW
- Marble Mountain- adjacent
- Phu Bai-35 miles NW of Danang.

Danang.





An Hoa Combat Outpost

Vietnam 1967

G Co. 1st Platoon

- Mess hall
- Clubs.
- Movies.
- Duties- base perimeter guard, patrols, ambushes, road sweeps.
- I.G. inspection



On Patrol- Search and Destroy

- Taking a break and checking coordinates. Map reading very tough because of flat terrain except for distant mountains.
- Flat rice paddy areas.



"G" Company Officers

Arndt, Johnson, Capt. Marsden, Harvey

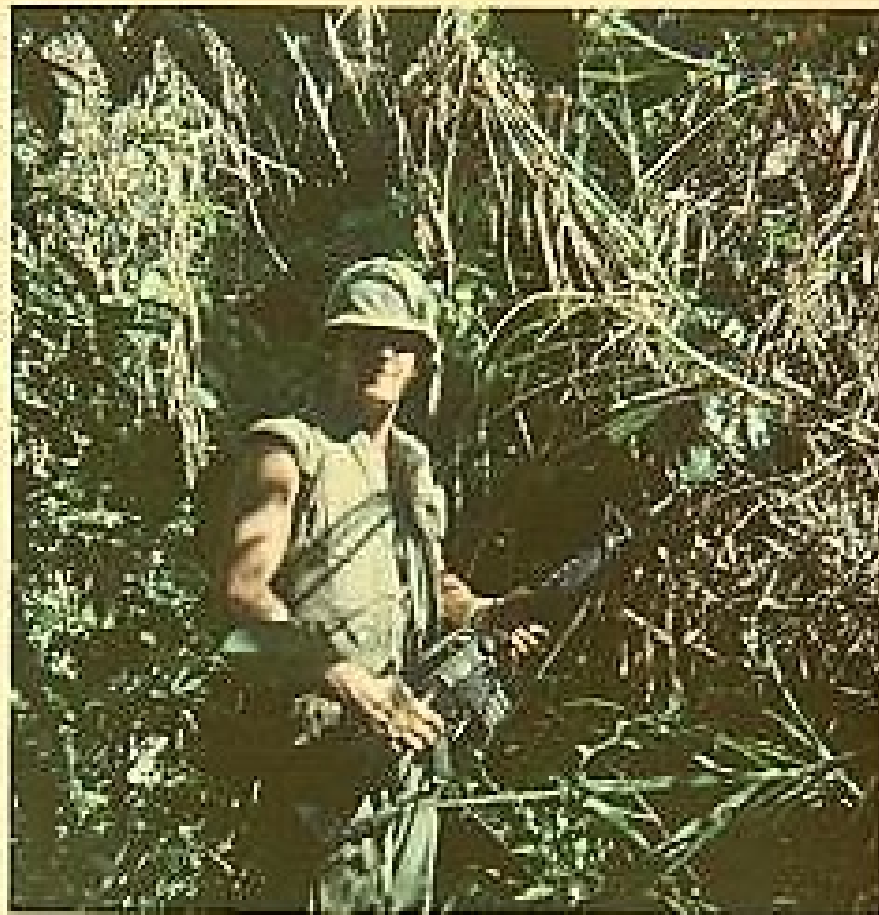


*On Patrol-
heavy vegetation.*

- Booby trap haven. Trip wires, mines, punji stake pits.



1967 Christmas Card



Peace On Earth



*CO - Capt.
Marsden, Vern,
GySgt. Keegan.*

- Taking a break after Operation Calhoun in early June 1967.
- OP Calhoun took place on the mountain in the background.
- 1st Plt. got 1 KIA, VC.



Nong Son Coal Mine

- Company sized Combat Outpost 8 miles SW of An Hoa combat base.
- Vietnamese coal mine protected by Marines.



Nong Son Coal Mine

- Troops filling sand bags at river at base of Nong Son mountain along Son Thu Bon river bank.



C – Rations

This was eaten in the field and at the outposts, such as Nong Son coal mine, on patrols and the like.

At An Hoa we had a mess hall and regular mess hall food.



Recon Mountain

- Across from the coal mine.
- Marine Recon team on top.



Diary Entries

15 SUN, JULY 2

0800 - STARTED BUNKER BUILDING
SSGT. CARDWELL SUPERVISED.
STAYED OUT ALL MORN.
I CHECKED TWICE IN MORN.
ONCE IN AFTERNOON WITH CO.
ALSO TOOK A RIG OUT TO
OP TO SEE GY. HALE.

STARTED PREPARING LESSON
OUTLINE IN MAP READING.
ANDY HAS LINES.
WENT TO CLUB AT 1915.
WATCHED FBI MOVIE AND
BATMAN. BILL & I WERE
DRINKING SCOTCH & VODKA COLLINS
RECEIVED LETTERS FROM MOM
BARB. & CARD FROM EVELYN
IN PARIS.

14 MON. JULY 3

KOTCHIAN PROMOTED TO SGT.
CO. SHOWED ME MY FITNESS
REPORT. SAID HE COULDN'T
REALLY SAY SINCE I AM ONLY
HERE A MONTH. ALL MARKS
WERE EXCELLENT TO OUTSTANDING.
CHECKED ON BUNKER BUILDING.
FILLED 30 TO 40 SAND BAGS
MYSELF. BUNKER COMPLETED.
1615 CO & I WENT TO MEETING
ON COMPLEX. GEN. ROBERTSON
& GEN. ANDERSON WERE THERE.
LINES TONIGHT.
12:25 AM PURDY WOKED ME & SAID
100% SECURITY. NONGSONG HIT
12:30 WE WERE HEAVILY MORTAR-
ED. CAQ WAS HIT. ALSO. CO
CAME TO BUNKER. NONGSONG
HEAVY CASUALTIES. 13 dead

Diary Entries

MORTARED
12:30 AM
13

TUES. JULY 4

WENT ON 50% ALERT FROM
3:30 AM ON. NO TROUBLE REST OF
THE NIGHT.

STARTED BUILDING BUNKER #6.
SGT KOTCHIAN SCREWED IT UP.
HAD TO RIP IT DOWN TWICE.
SKIPPER SHOWED BILL & I
AROUND LINES IN ORDER TO
REPAIR SAME.

1800 WENT TO CHECK LINES.
WIRE IN PLACE.

WENT TO CLUB. BAD MOVIE.
CAME BACK EARLY AND
WROTE BARB.

12 WED. JULY 5

FOUND OUT WE ARE GOING
TO MINES. STARTED TO
PACK IN MORN.

E. TRACY ALTON 2ND LT
REPORTED TO "G" CO. WILL
REPLACE GY HALE.

ANDY CALLED IN SAID HE
WOULDN'T BE BACK. THAT
MEANS I HAVE LINES.

100% ALERT ON LINES. WENT
TILL 0200.

SLEPT LITTLE.

F Co. Jeep

F Co. was over run at Nong Son on July 4th, 1967. 13 KIA, 40 WIA.

This jeep was destroyed. G Co. took over the lines July 6th.

G Co. at Nong Son several times during my tour.



Son Thu Bon River

- View from my bunker at coal mine.
- Village below, upper class Engineers from mine.
- #1- View towards An Hoa.
- #2 – Op Calhoun in that area in June 1967.



Son Thu Bon River

- ARVN boat ride for Lt. Harvey and me.
- Didn't trust the ARVN sitting behind me, left.
- Lt. Harvey was behind him though.

(Army of the Republic of Vietnam, ARVN)



CH 34- Chopper landing at Nong Son

- Resupply included troops, ammo, food, incoming mail, etc.



CH 34- Chopper taking off after resupply at Nong Son.

- Resupply included troops, outgoing mail, etc.



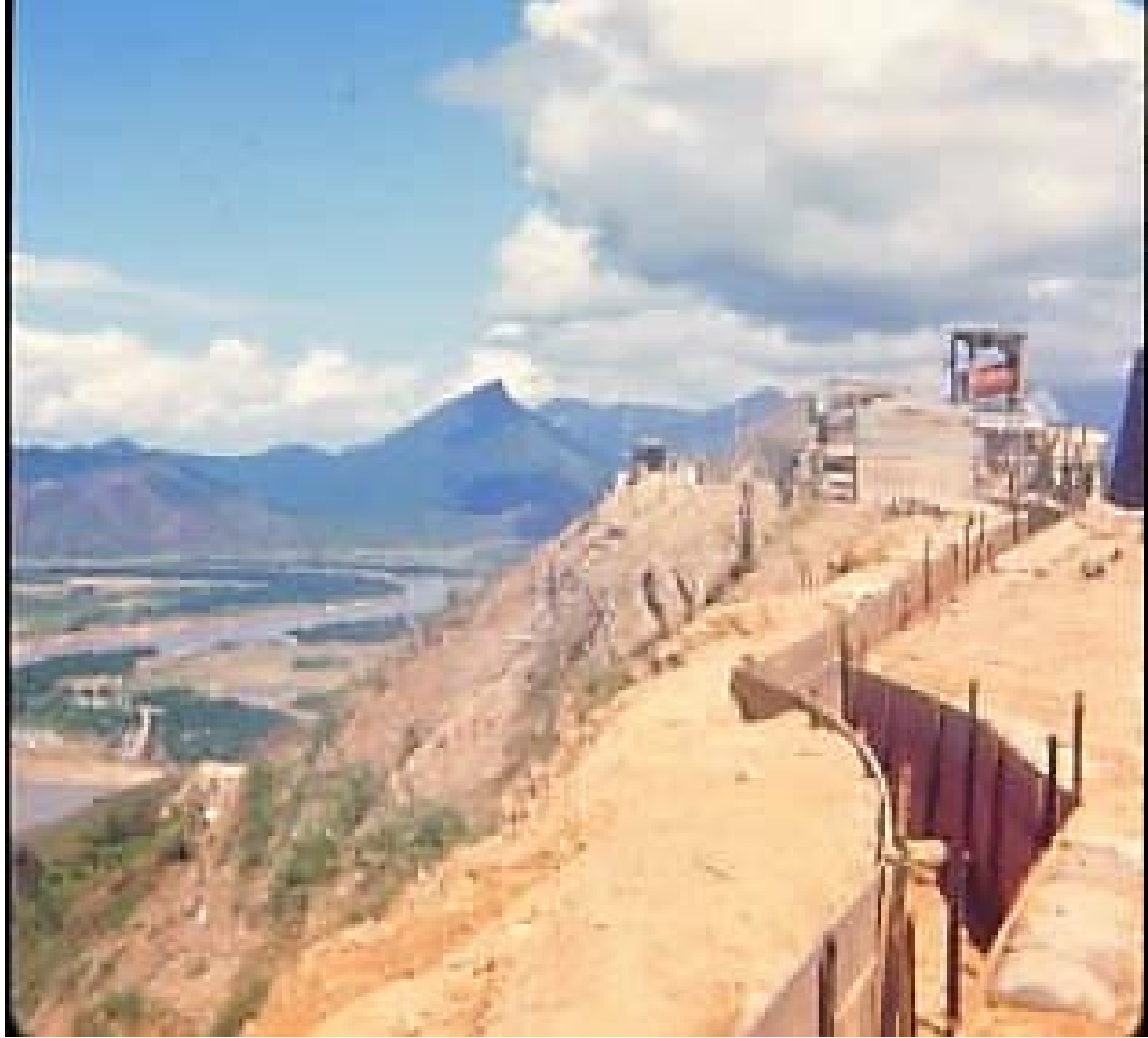
Nong Son

G CO, Capt. Buck Dyer, and I observing air strike on 'unfriendlies' in a ville below the mountain. Probably called in by Recon team from the Recon Mtn. top across the river from our location.



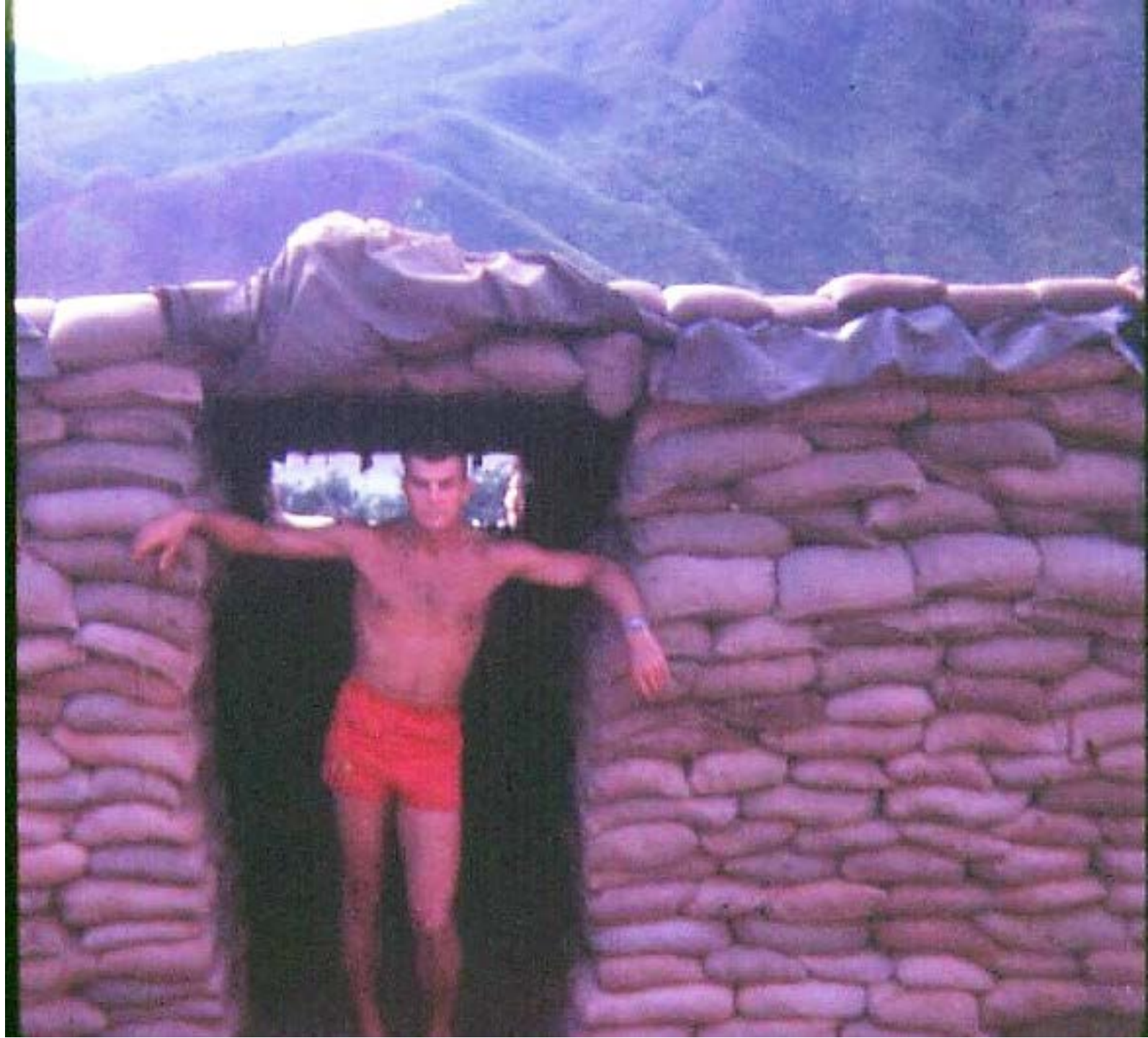
Nong Son

- Top of the Nong Son trench line.
- At the far end , water barrel is a home made shower made by my Platoon Guide, Sgt. Lee Walker.
- Fortifications. Land mines.
- Scenery. One of my favorite slides.



Vern's bunker

- I spent a few hrs. raising the roof so I wouldn't have to stoop. You can see the old level by my elbows.



Vern Arndt's Lounge

Lounge chair made from ammo boxes.

Sipping a soda upon completion.



Nong Son Coal Mine

Vern, down to about 185 lbs. at this point, from 200. 29 waist.

Picture is black and white and tarnished in lower right corner.



Vern and radioman

Vern and John Hayles enroute Nong Son on Amtraks.



Air Strike on ville

Bombs away, napalm.
M60 machine gun in
foreground.



OCTOBER 8

RAINED ALL DAY DOWN TO
ANTENNA VALLEY AND ALL
NIGHT. TURNED OUT TO BE
TYPHOON.

OCTOBER 9

WAIT FOR WATER TO GO
DOWN. COMPLETELY SUR-
ROUNDED BY WATER ON
AP BA (5). WATER 20'
DEEP OVER VALLEY.

***Antenna Valley
typhoon.***



Antenna Valley typhoon.



***Antenna Valley
typhoon***

L to R-
Sgt. Parkey.
Navy Corpsmen,
Docs Graham and
Moore.



***Antenna Valley
typhoon***

Tree tops showing.

Yellow smoke for
chopper coming in
with supplies.



***Antenna Valley
typhoon.***

Lt. Arndt.

Notice ponchos' set
up on left rear.

Water 20-25 feet
deep.



Typhoon

Recon Mtn.
during typhoon.

Antenna Valley
upper left of
photo.



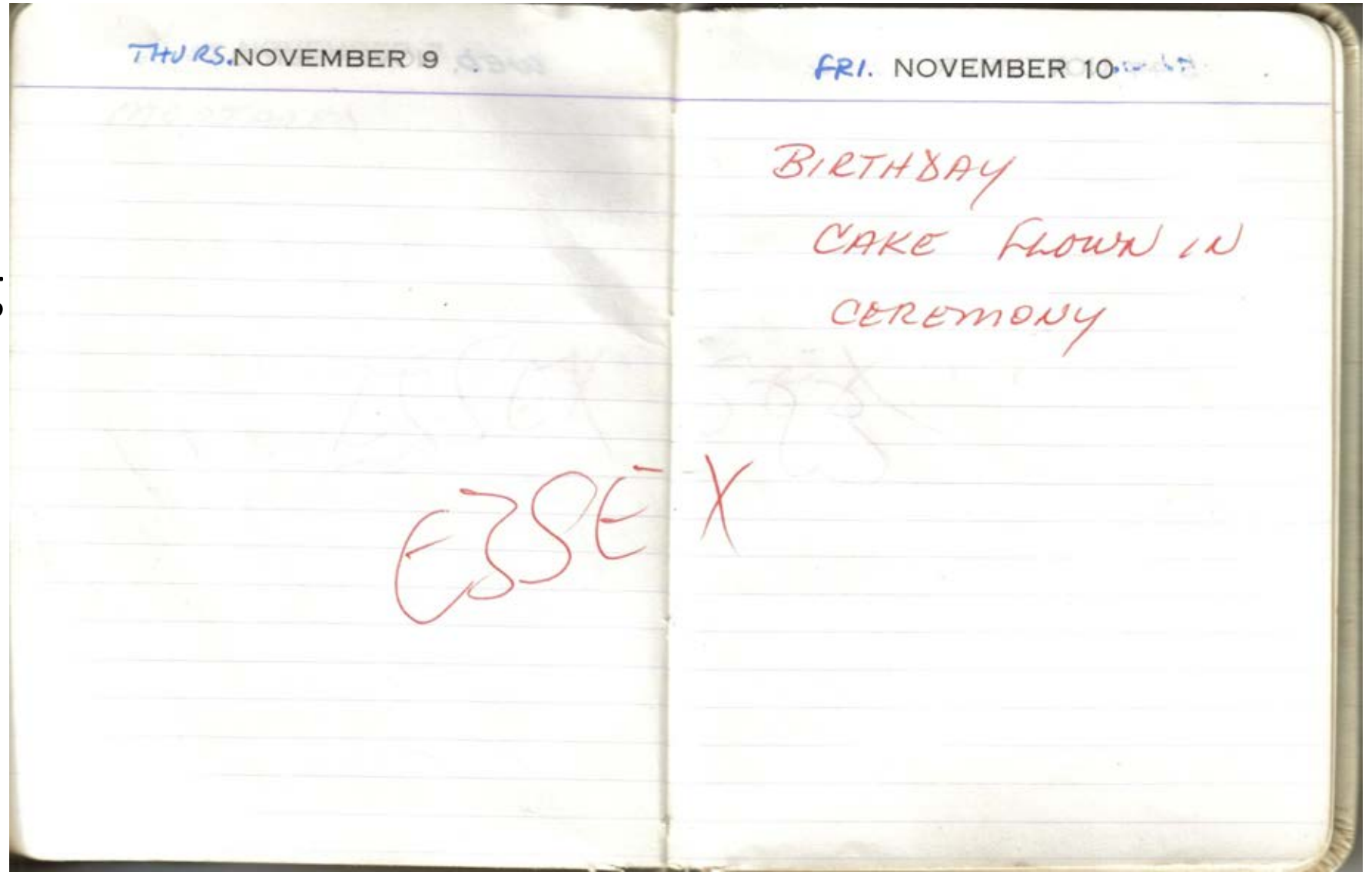
Antenna Valley

- OP Essex lead in-
- October 8, 9 – we were in Antenna Valley and did not see the enemy or meet any enemy resistance.
- 20-25 feet deep water covered the Valley for at least one day and night. Torrential rains. Typhoon.
- We walked out the next day. No Resistance.

Diary Entries

OP ESSEX

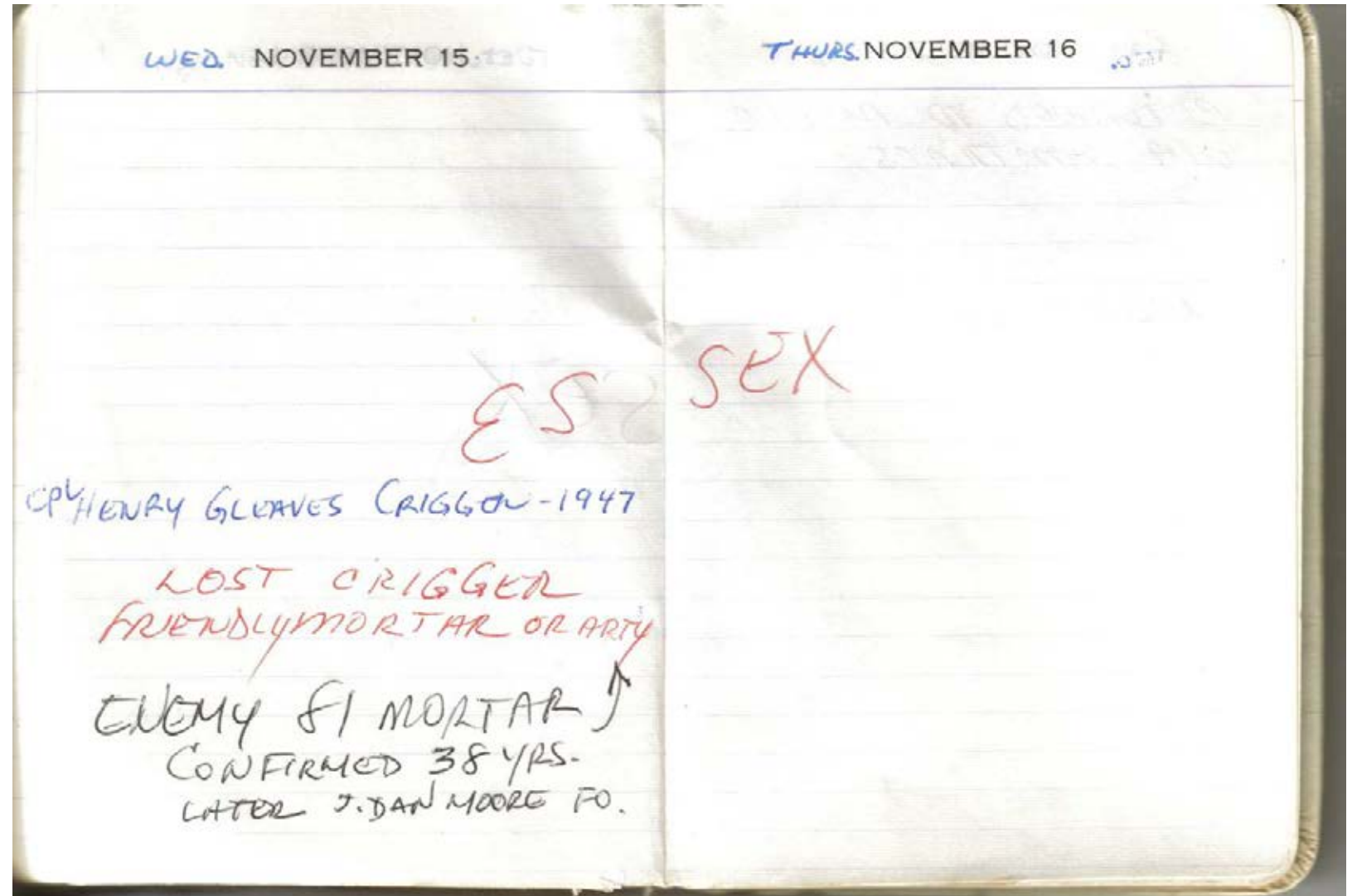
Several days search
and destroy moving
into the Valley
deeper toward SE.
No resistance for
us.
Cake ceremony



Diary Entries

OP ESSEX

Little resistance
rest of OP.
Last day TV crew
flown in for USA
News interview.
Lost Cpl. Henry
Crigger to arty
round.



Killed In Action- KIAs

- Lost 8 men KIA in my 7-month tour as a 1st Plt. Cmdr., Golf Co. 2nd Bn. 5th Marines, 1st Mar. Div.
- Cpl. Michael Hare -June 17 –sniper.
- LCpl. Jack W. Finchum- July 27 - accident. Self inflicted.
- Cpl. Larry Arnold- Sept. 26 – Booby trap 155mm.
- Operation Essex KIA's
 - Cpl. Clarence Scott- Nov. 6
 - LCpl. John Tooke- Nov. 6
 - PFC. James “Lucky” Jenkins- Nov. 6
 - PVT. Dale Shumbarger- Nov. 6
 - Cpl. Henry Crigger- Nov 15- artillery or mortar.

In Memoriam RIP

Hare



Finchum



Arnold



Scott



Jenkins



Shumbarger



Tooke



Crigger



**Replaced by
Lt. Mike McNeal as
1st. Plt. Cmdr.**

Interviewed 18 Lts.
4 selected for Aerial
Observer.

**Givvin, Rasmussen,
Berman, Arndt.**

On the Job Training

FRI. DECEMBER 15

PLACED AS 1ST PLT. CMDR.
LT. MIKE MCNEAL
- PHU-LAC 6

HATCH & ME TO DANANG.

SAT DECEMBER 16

WENT TO AN HQA 1540
LEFT FOR DANANG FOR AO
INTERVIEW.
GOT SOME GOOD STUFF IN
DANANG.

AO INTERVIEW
PICKED 4

GIVVIN RASMUSSEN
BERMAN ARNDT

Aerial Observer

- AO Unit, 1st Mar. Div. located at Marble Mountain, near Danang. Primarily a helicopter and small aircraft airbase.
- Providing reconnaissance, direct air and artillery support missions for ground troop units.



AO Duty

- Ready to fly. Leaving my hooch for duty. Walk up to flight line.
- 2 hops a day, each around 3 hours in length depending upon the plane, where we were going, and why.
- 430 combat flight hours.
8 Air Medals in my 7 months of duty.



Bird Dog, 01C

- Single engine. Max speed 85 knots.
- We flew at 1000 feet, usually.
- Reachable by rifles and machine guns.



Rest & Relaxation

- Sydney, Australia
- Kings Cross area

BER 29 2014

LEFT RIR
SAT DECEMBER 30

1800 DANANG

LANDED AUSTRALIA
0730

BRIEFED & SENT ON OUR
WAY. STAYED IN CREST
HOTEL. \$9.50/day.

*Sydney, Australia
January 1968*

- *R & R*
- *Kings Cross area of Sydney.*
- *Sydney Beach*
- *7 days and nights and then back to Vietnam.*



Landing at Marble Mtn. 01 Bird Dog

- South China Sea in background. Officer's Club large roof.
- My hooch right side of pic.



Aerial Observer hooch party

Lt. playing the guitar and another AO, died in mission plane crashes after I left the unit a few months later.



Promotion to 1st Lt.

Date of rank-
November 1, 1967

Feb. 1, 1968 event



Air Medal

- *Presented by Col. at Div. Hdqtrs in Danang.*



Ubon AF Base in Thailand, 1968

- *Overnight liberty in Ubon, Air Force Base in Thailand.*
- *1 hour flight from Danang in a prop type Mail plane late afternoon. Return VN early morning.*



Flight log book

1st entry- May 24-
Crash landing noted in
upper right corner.

Coordinates- AT810548

MONTH MAY YEAR 1968

F-ADF L-LF range T-TACAN
G-GCA O-OMNI S-Simulated
I-ILS R-Radar J-Jet

DAY	AIRCRAFT		KIND OF FLIGHT CODE	PILOT TIME			INSTRUMENT TIME	NIGHT TIME	LANDINGS					CATAPULT	STD INST. APPR. COMPLETED			REMARKS			
	MODEL	SERIAL NUMBER		TOTAL PILOT TIME	FIRST PILOT	CO-PILOT			A/C COMDR.	CARRIER					NO.	TYPE	S				
										ARR	TAG	BOL	FC						SEA/LAND		
24	0524	21335	W3	.8	.8	DUC TAY	0524		MAJ. LORTUS	VA	20TAS	1	20TAS	1	FAIR	BANTAN (2) AT810548 CRASH LANDED					
24	0524	810	W3	3.1	3.9	KY LAM NHA	0524		CAPT. DANIEL	VA	20ST	1	20ST	1	FAIR						
25	0525	027	W3	2.0	5.9	PHU BAI	0525		LT BOONDS	VA	220	1	220	1	FAIR						
26	0526	915	W3	2.8	8.7	KY LAM NHA	0526		CAPT. JOHNSON	VA	220	1	220	1	FAIR						
27	0527	402	W3	3.0	11.7	DUC TAY	0527		CAPT. MARTIN	VA	20TH	1	20TH	1	FAIR						
27	0527	320	W3	2.4	14.1	KY LAM NHA	0527		LT BOONDS	VA	220	1	220	1	FAIR						
28	0528	009	W3	3.0	17.1	KY LAM NHA	0528		CAPT. DANIEL	VA	21ST	1	21ST	1	FAIR						
28	0528	320	W3	2.5	19.6	RUONG RUONG	0528		LT BOONDS	VA	220	1	220	1	FAIR						
29	0529	027	W3	2.5	22.1	PHU BAI	0529		CAPT. JOHNSON	VA	220	1	220	1	FAIR						
30	0530	027	W3	2.8	24.9	PHU BAI	0530		CAPT. JOHNSON	VA	220	1	220	1	FAIR						
31	0531	402	W3	2.6	27.5	DUC TAY	0531		CAPT. MANSOR	VA	20TAS	1	20TAS	1	FAIR						
TOTAL THIS PAGE				27.5																	
BROUGHT FORWARD				336.1																	
TOTAL TO DATE				363.6																	
*See page 2 for codes.				TOTAL ACCUM. PILOT TIME			TOTALS, THIS FISCAL YEAR														

CERTIFIED A CORRECT RECORD:
Pilot
Approved:
C.O. or authorized deputy

Pilot-time report submitted through last (or day of this month; noted by Initials)

Diary

Crash landing
also noted in my
one year diary.

Significant
emotional
event.

14
START DIARY LAND VIET
MAY 23 NAM

LANDED DA NANG YESTERDAY.
GOT ASSIGNED THIS MORN TO
2/5 AT AN HOA.
PACKED UP GEAR AT TRANSIENT.
PROCEEDED TO 15TH AIR FREIGHT
FOR FLIGHT TO AN HOA.
GOODLUCK!!

ARRIVED AN HOA! WHAT A
FLIGHT! SLEPT IN MESSHALL
REPORT FOR INDOCTRINATION
COURSE.

NO ASSIGNMENT

"O" CLUB

13 68 CRASHED AT 810548
MAY 24 AIR FORCE DZ
BANTAN(2) MAT. LOFTUS-PILOT

BRIEFED BY CO 2/5
LT COL JACKSON
SQUARED AWAY!!

"ASSIGNED" "C" CO.
"G" CO. RETURNS FROM FIELD
FOR REPAIR.

GET ASSIGNED 1ST PLT.
AFTER A FEW DAYS
LOOKING AROUND.

TOMORROW REPORT FOR
LAST DAY INDOCTRINATION.

BRIEFED BY CO MARESEN
CAPT. TYPE. NOT MUCH SAID.
ALL REAL GOOD PEOPLE.
HOPE I AM NO DISAPPOINT-
MENT. EXPECT A LOT FROM
ME I BELIEVE..

ASSIGNED 1ST PLT "G" CO

AF O2 Skymaster

- Crashed in a plane just like this flown by Air Force Major Loftus, May 24, 1968.
- Coordinates AT 810548, which was known as “Arizona territory”, because of a previous big operation conducted there. Not a very nice place.



Cessna O-2A "Skymaster"

VMFA 122
F4B Phantom



*F4 Phantom
Camo Air Force*



Good Bye Vietnam- best flight all year



Flying across the dateline

Imperial Domain of the Golden Dragon



Let it be known that on this day

13 July, 1969

AT 1236 GREENWICH TIME

having crossed over the one hundred and eightieth meridian is hereafter and forever a member of the "Order of the Golden Dragon."

金龍

His Imperial Majesty,
the Golden Dragon

Robert F. Six



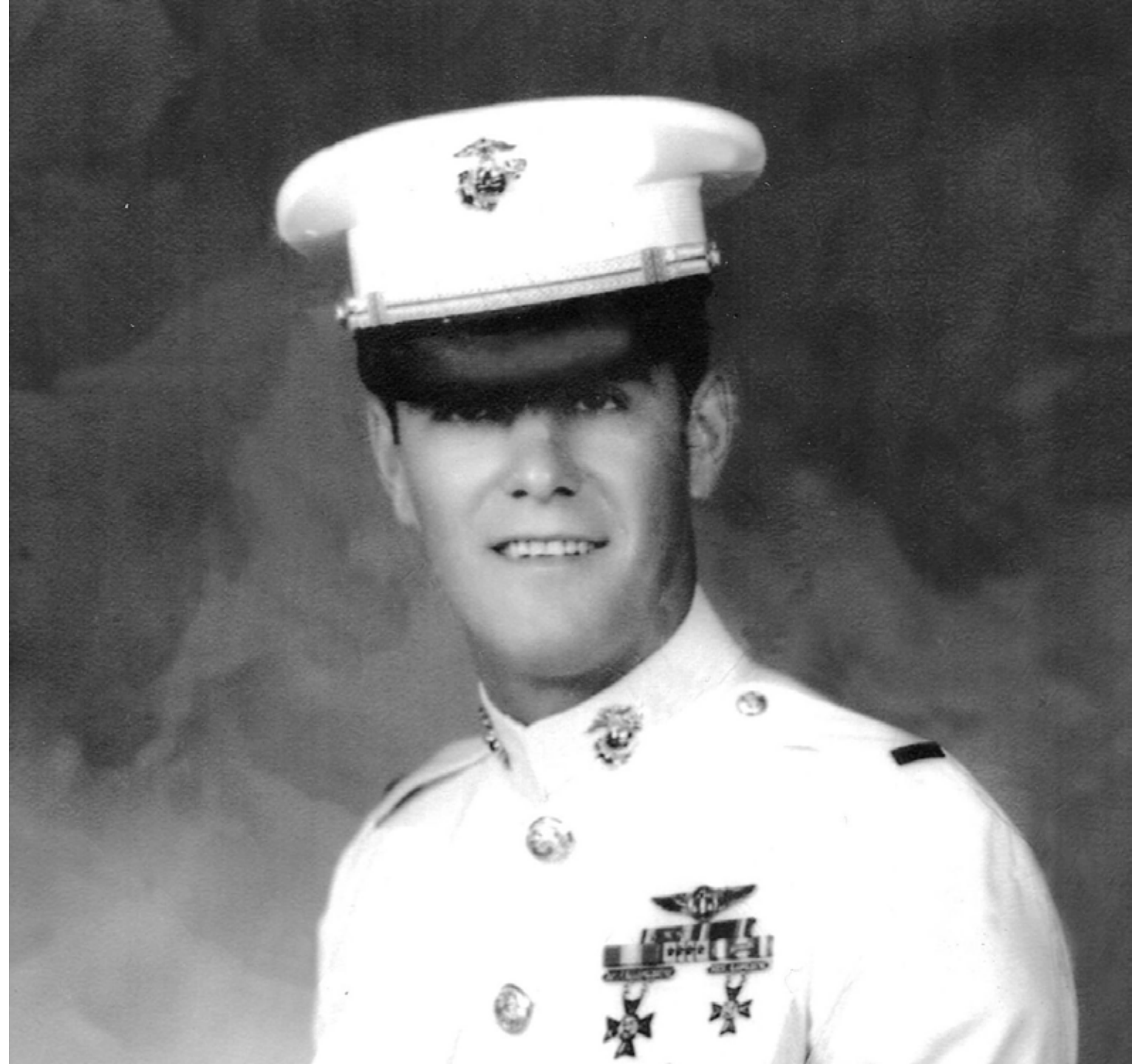
President,
Continental Airlines

July 27, 1968



July 27, 1968

- *1st Lt. Arndt, age 26.*



Camp Pendleton

- 2nd Infantry Training Regiment
- Assigned M Co. Commander
- Staff and I put 13 companies of 300 men through Advanced Infantry Training.
- Training was 4 weeks.
- Most of them grunts, went to Vietnam. Some sent for specialized training such as artillery, communications, tanks, engineering, motor transport, supply, etc.



M Company
Advanced Infantry Training Regiment



San Clemente Beach

May 1969

- **Lt. Jim Jones,**
- Wife, Diane & dog, Buffy.
- My wife, Barbara Arnd, pregnant with son, Chris, born 09/18/69.
- Pres. Richard & Pat Nixon- West White House and beach just south of this beach. Visible and walkable.



Corporal Discharge

Honorable Discharge



from the Armed Forces of the United States of America

This is to certify that

CORPORAL (E-4) LAVIERNE BARRY ABNEY POTTS

was Honorably Discharged from the

United States Marine Corps

on the 27th day of October 1966. This certificate is recorded

as a testimonial of Honor and Faithful Service

A. H. DAVIS

A. H. DAVIS, COLONEL, USMC

Captain Discharge

Honorable Discharge



from the Armed Forces of the United States of America

This is to certify that

CAPTAIN LAVERNE BARRY ARNDT

was Honorably Discharged from the

United States Marine Corps

on the 1st *day of* MARCH 1977 *This certificate is awarded*

as a testimonial of Honest and Faithful Service

J. McCullen, Jr.
JOSEPH T. MCCULLEN, JR.
Assistant Secretary of the Navy

Shadow Box



Ribbons, Medals explanation

- Left to right, top down, each row.
- 1st row- Air Medal with 8 Awards, 430 combat flight hours, Combat Action Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation with 2 bronze stars.
- 2nd row- Navy Unit Commendation, National Defense with 1 bronze star, Vietnam Service with one silver star and 2 bronze stars.
- 3rd row- Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation with Palm, Vietnam Civil Action Honor Unit Citation with Palm, Vietnam Campaign Ribbon.
- I also rate Cold War Commemorative Ribbon, not displayed, but shown below.

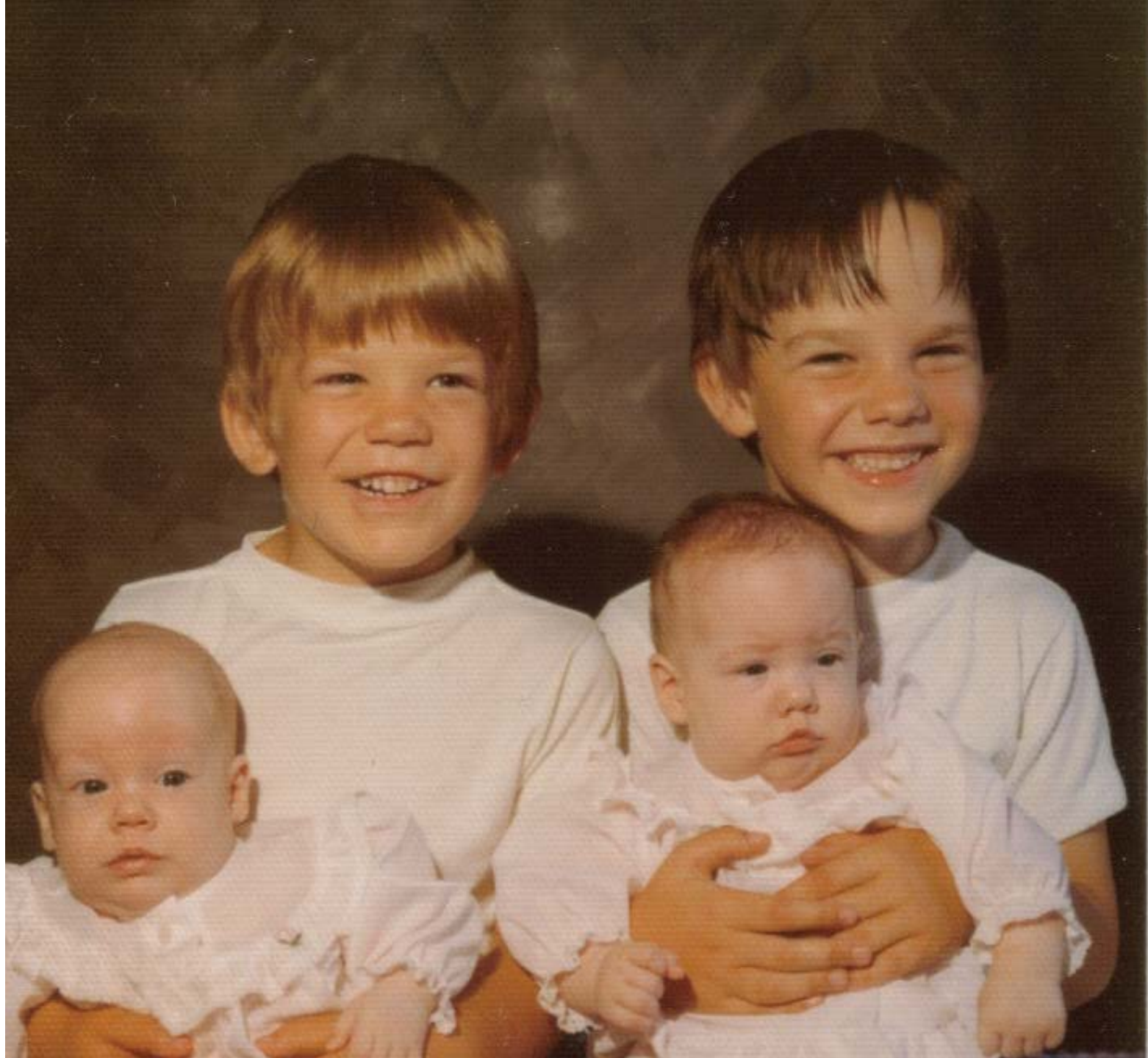


- *Former Navy and Marine Corps personnel who served in the Vietnam War can apply for the two Republic of Vietnam unit awards. A written request can be submitted for the awards as: The Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation (Gallantry Cross) and the Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation (Civil Actions Medal).*

Civilian life

Two boys and fraternal twin girls.

- Chris 9/18/1969
- David 01/19/1971
- Susan and Melissa 04/18/1975



2016 Photo



June 27, 1992

Palace Gardens
Restaurant in Whitehall.
25 years this June.



June 27, 1992

Mary Ann and I at our
honeymoon bed and
breakfast in Emmaus.



Military Reunions

2000 - AO Reunion in San Diego, CA.

2002 - Evening Parade Wash, DC.

2003 - Change of Command Annapolis, MD.

2004 - Golf Co. 2/5 in Wash, DC.

2011 - TBS 3-1967 at Quantico, VA.

Aerial Observer Reunion in San Diego 2000

Brig. General Mike
Neil and Tom Givvin
organized event.



Mission Beach, CA

Catamaran Hotel Sunday
buffet breakfast. The
morning after.



Commandant's Home 8th and I Streets Wash, DC



Cocktail Party at CMC Home in Garden

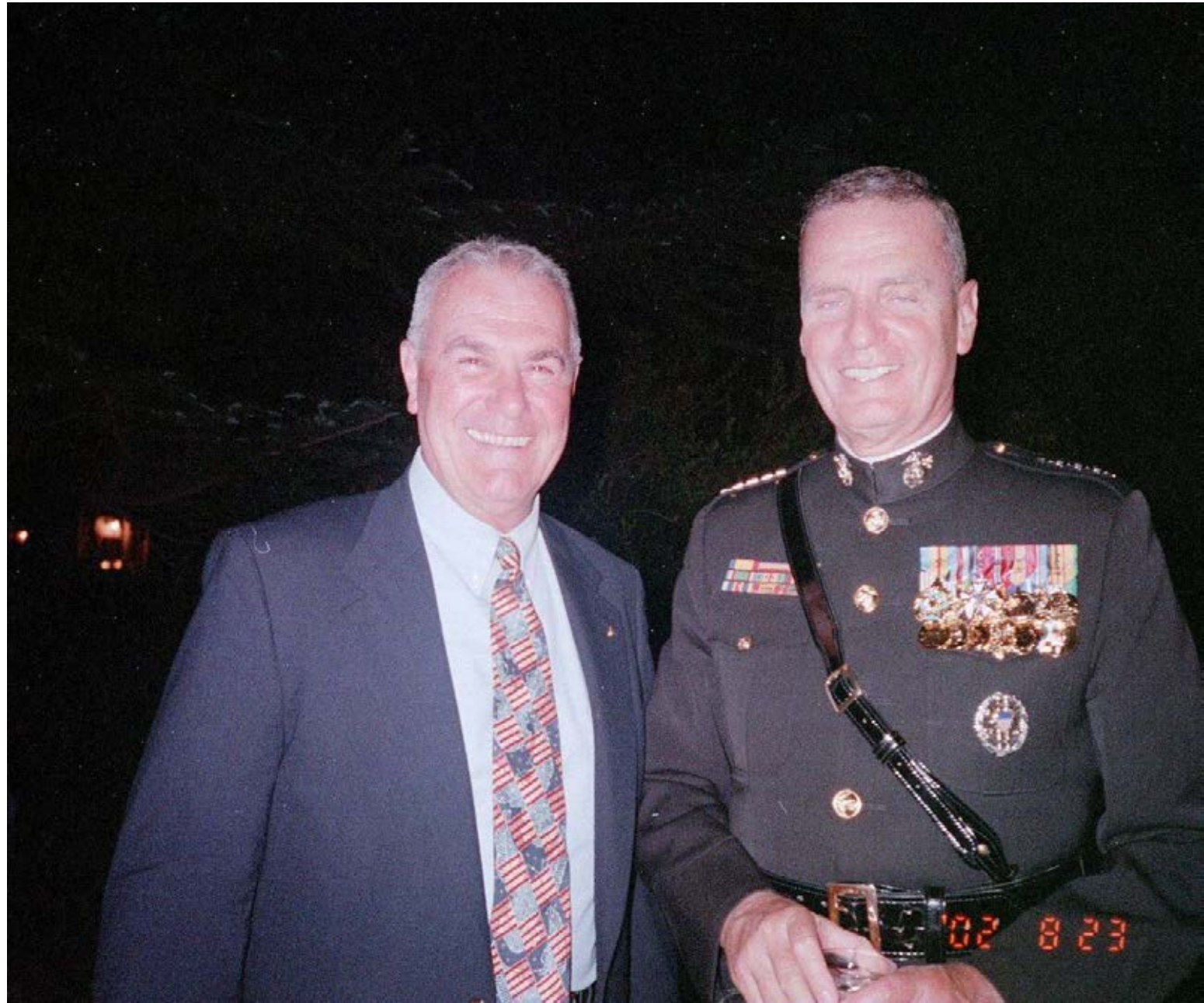


Commandant of the Marine Corps

General Jones and Vern

August 23, 2002

Evening Parade and
Cocktail Party at the CMC
home in Washington, DC.



Change of Command Annapolis Academy



Change of Command

Annapolis Basketball arena.

Son Chris, and two Univ. of Penn friends (Josh and Mike), Mary Ann and I attended the General's change of command ceremony January 13, 2003.



Parade Magazine
January 19, 2003

Supreme Allied
Commander of
Europe.

SACEUR



General James L. Jones, Jr.

- CO of Hdqtrs Co. at Camp Pendleton 1968-1969.
- Commandant of the USMC.
- SACEUR -Supreme Allied Commander of Europe.
- Obama's National Security Head for 2 years.



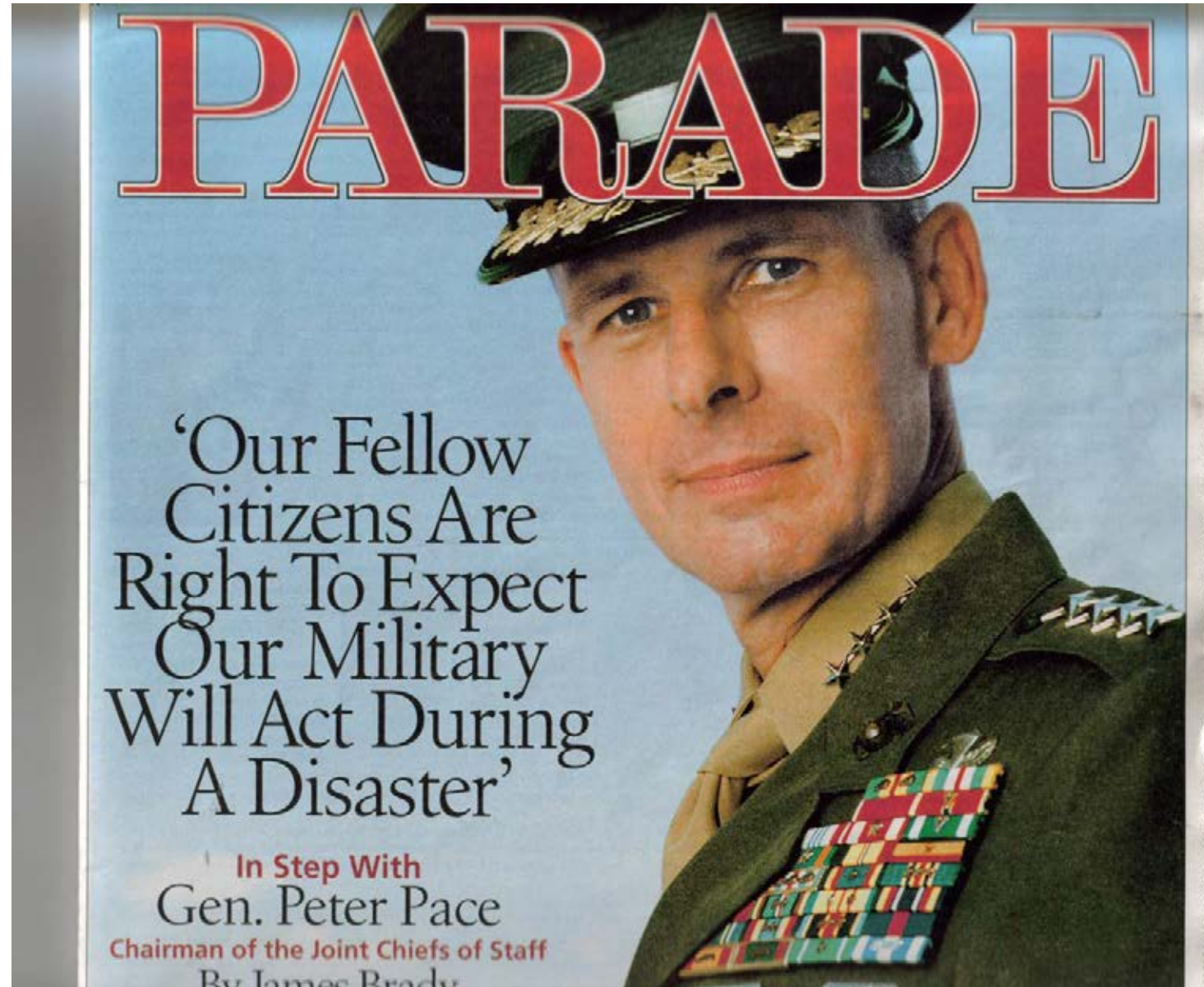
 For a great friend of our Marine
Vern Good - Jim Jones

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

General Peter Pace

Followed me in Vietnam as a Platoon Commander in "G" Company, 2nd Bn. 5th Marines. He joined them at Hue City during the TET offensive around the 1st of Feb. 1968. He was 2nd Plt. Cmdr.

Met him at 2004 Reunion.



Individual pictures

- *General Pace, and Vern*
- *2004 "G" Co. 2nd Bn. 5th Marines, Reunion in Wash, DC.*



*2004 "G" Co. 2nd Bn. 5th
Marines, Reunion Wash,
DC.*

*General Peter Pace was
then Chairman of the
Joint Chiefs and invited
our whole reunion to a
cocktail party at his
residence at Ft. Myer.*

*Gracious host and sent
pictures to each of us.*



*"G" Co. Reunion 2004
Lts. Harvey and Arndt*

Retired Lt. Colonel Bill
Harvey and Vern at 2004 G
Company Reunion in Wash,
DC.



*TBS 3-67
Reunion at Quantico
2011*

Tim Curtis , unknown,
Paul Bloom, Vern Arndt,
Jim Burgio, Bob Arboleda,
Tom Domogala, unknown.



*Emmaus
Memorial Gardens*

*Captain Vern Arndt
USMC 1963-1969
Vietnam Veteran*

Friend, *Ron Montz*,
bought a brick for me at
the Emmaus Memorial
Gardens. Wife and grand
kids are surrounding me
as we installed the brick.



Finis

Summary

I served 6 years active duty, 3 yrs. as an enlisted man, Cpl. E-4, and 3 years as an Officer, Captain, O-3. I enlisted looking for my identity, travel, and adventure. The USMC brought out the best in me and to that I am forever thankful. Parris Island and Quantico were instrumental in molding me into the individual Marine I became. Then Vietnam came along and screwed it up and I became a civilian again.

Thank You

Once a Marine, always a Marine

L.B.Arndt

Semper Fidelis

