

Third Battalion, First Marines



August 1965 - September 1966

DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to the memory of the men of Third Battalion, First Marines, First Marine Division, who died in action against enemy forces in the Republic of Viet Nam, 1966.

Pvt. Ronald Paul Almaraz
Sylmar, Calif.

Pfc. Louis Allen Ambrose
Perth Amboy, N.J.

Sgt. Charles Eugene Anderson
Spokane, Wash.

LCpl. Dennis Richard Andrew
Easton, Penn.

Cpl. Anibal Felipe Aviles Jr.
Mayaguez, Puerto Rico

Sgt. David Leon Baungardner
Topeka, Kan.

Cpl. Richard Gale Bilotta
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Pfc. William George Blanchard
Durham, N.C.

LCpl. James Jerome Bradley
New York, N.Y.

LCpl. Csaba Boromissza
South Gate, Calif.

Sgt. Robert Brown
Plaquemine, La.

Cpl. Albert Cabanayan
Maui, Hawaii

LCpl. James Henry Cavicchi Jr.
Quincy, Mass.

Cpl. Hosy Chapel
Mobile, Ala.

Pfc. David Lee Chapman
Tulsa, Okla.

Pfc. Steven Anthony Church
Los Angeles, Calif.

Sgt. Charles Ellis Crutchfield
Salem, Ill.

Cpl. Charles William Davis
Front Royal, Va.

Cpl. Leland Francis Dixon
Mobile, Ala.

Cpl. Henry James Doster
Buffalo, N.Y.

Sgt. John Henry Eaglin
Corpus Christi, Tex.

LCpl. Jesse George Eastman
Camp Geiger, N.C.

Pfc. Charles Lee Edwards
Memphis, Tenn.

Pfc. Thomas William Edwards
Binghamton, N.Y.

Pfc. Joseph George Evans Jr.
Uniontown, Penn.

LCpl. Thomas Kenneth Emmons
Denver, Colo.

LCpl. Philip Fitch
Cincinnati, Ohio

LCpl. Peter Thomas Fitzpatrick
Garden City, Mich.

Cpl. James Lee Gardner
Portland, Ore.

Pfc. Rickey Dean Garner
Dallas, Tex.

Sgt. Marvin Edward Glassburn
Fairmont, Ind.

Cpl. Roy Gonzales Jr.
San Antonio, Tex.

Pfc. William Richard Graham
Cheverly, Md.

HM3 Garold Arthur Hann
Aumsville, Ore.

Pfc. Louis Peter Hernandez
San Bernardino, Calif.

Pfc. Danny Trent Higgs
Battle Creek, Mich.

1st Lt. Phillip Hines
Galena, Kan.

LCpl. Douglas Warren Hogge
Yorktown, Va.

Pvt. Harold Granvill Hugart
Miami, Fla.

Sgt. Leonard Ashby Hultquist
Keystone, Neb.

Pfc. Gerald Clarence Hunsbarger III
Sacramento, Calif.

Pfc. Thomas Alvin Jennings
Palestine, Ill.

LCpl. Frank Dennis Kornovich
San Jose, Calif.

Pfc. Jose Enrique Laguer
Brooklyn, N.Y.

LCpl. Roger Lamar Leslie
Warrior, Ala.

Pfc. William Lutz
Philadelphia, Penn.

Pfc. Gerald Clyde Lyman
San Francisco, Calif.

LCpl. Frederick George Lynch Jr.
Philadelphia, Penn.

Pfc. Stephan James Martin
Los Angeles, Calif.

Pfc. Charles Adam McGee
Alton, Ill.

Cpl. William David McCuen Jr.
Philadelphia, Penn.

Sgt. John Albert Mitchell
Columbus, Ohio

LCpl. Michael Gary Murray
Richmond, Va.

Pfc. Alan Craig Mulford
Seattle, Wash.

Pfc. Fred Howard Horton
Oklahoma City, Okla.

LCpl. Robert Lani Nucku
Honolulu, Hawaii

Pfc. Jerry Emmet Parks
Grand Rapids, Mich.

LCpl. Joseph Anthony Randazzo
Modesto, Calif.

Sgt. Joseph Louis Rapp
Freeburg, Ill.

Cpl. Stanley Riffle
Columbus, Ohio

Pfc. John William Robbins
Pueblo, Colo.

Pfc. Daniel Gordon Rogers
Garland, Tex.

Pfc. Joel Rodriguez
Rio Grande City, Tex.

Pfc. James Herbert Rowden
Medford, Ore.

Pfc. David Louis Sabec
Vandacia, Ohio

Cpl. Jimmy Pineda Sanchez
Los Angeles, Calif.

Pfc. Charles Sherlee Satcher
Hodge, La.

Pfc. Royce Glenn Scoggins
Sherman, Tex.

Pvt. Conrad William Shaina
Santa Susana, Calif.

Pvt. Anthony George Shepler Jr.
Chicago, Ill.

Sgt. David Shields
Rutherford, N.J.

Cpl. Walter Ruben Shortt
Augusta, Mo.

LCpl. Walter Glenn Shults
Oakland, Calif.

LCpl. Robert Patrick Sousa
Alameda, Calif.

Pfc. Richard David Swayze
Santa Maria, Calif.

Sgt. James Edward Thompson
Trenton, N.J.

Pfc. Clyde Edward Triebel Jr.
Boyetown, Penn.

Cpl. Richard Alfred Ungerecht
Northome, Minn.

Pfc. Richard Allan Wagner
Stockton, Calif.

Pfc. Bruce Lamar Watkins
Dothan, Ala.

Pfc. Billie Joe Williams
Kansas City, Kan.

Pfc. Kerry Lee Williams
Philadelphia, Penn.

Pfc. Rubio Ybarra
Weslaco, Tex.

Pfc. Charles Louis Zoog
Hickory, Penn.

Pfc. George Leroy Samuels
Eureka, Kan.

Pfc. Stephen Charles Valliere
Tupper Lake, N.Y.

Cpl. James E. Keeler

Cpl. Russell E. Metzger

Pfc. Ronnie E. Hall

Cpl. Lonnie R. King

LCpl. Clarence W. Howard

LCpl. Gary Henderson Rogers

Pfc. Robert Leo BABULA
Indiana, Penn.

Pfc. John Eugene Bodenschatz Jr.
Redondo Beach, Calif.

Pfc. Robert Curtis Borton Jr.
Winfield, Mo.

Pfc. Edward Wayne Butler
Sacramento, Calif.

Pfc. Dennis Ray Carter
Lomita, Calif.

LCpl. Raul Flores
Corpus Christi, Tex.

Pfc. Weston David Maclean
Westberry, N.Y.

LCpl. Vernon Arthur Manheim Jr.
Franklin Park, Ill.

Pfc. Richard Dean Power
Shelvin, Minn.

Cpl. Elliott Simmons Jr.
Buffalo, N.Y.

Pfc. John Smith
Sacramento, Calif.

Cpl. Winford Leslie Sprinkles
Nashville, Tenn.

LCpl. Stephen Stanley Strycharz Jr.
Hartford, Conn.

Pfc. John Elmo Watson
Sheds, N.Y.

Cpl. Michael Carroll
DeWitt, N.Y.

Commanding Officer



Lt. Col. James R. Young

Lt. Col. Young took command of 3d Battalion, 1st Marines in April, 1965, following a tour as director of the 1st Marine Division Schools at Camp Pendleton.

He began his military career as an Apprentice Seaman in the Navy in 1944. Following World War II he returned to his home state of Colorado and graduated from the University of Colorado in 1948. Upon graduation, he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps.

Lt. Col. Young saw action in Korea as a first lieutenant in 1950 and received the Purple Heart for wounds received during the North Korean Aggression of that year.

Among his subsequent duty assignments were tours as an assistant infantry monitor at Headquarters, Marine Corps, Washington, D.C., as a company commander in the 9th Marines, and as a student at the Senior School, Marine Corps Schools, Quantico, Va.

Among his awards and decorations are the World War II Victory ribbon, Bronze Star with combat V, Purple Heart and Army Commendation ribbon.

Lt. Col. Young is married to the former Miss Camille Matteson of Fort Collins, Colo. They have two children, Roland and Stanley.

The accomplishments of this Battalion in the 14 months since its organization form an enviable record. The events in which we have participated read like an Odyssey; Camp Pendleton, Okinawa, Philippines, Vietnam. In retrospect, it is sometimes hard to believe that we have covered so much ground in such a short time. The events that stand out in my memory are the 20 mile forced march in less than 5 hours from Las Pulgas to San Mateo at the end of lock-on; the sailing from Long Beach on 23 August 1965 for an unknown destination, with many families waving from the pier; the training at Northern Training Area, Okinawa, culminated by the field performance of the "Hello Dolly" cast; our introduction to the oppressive heat and belligerent water buffalo of South East Asia during Operation Hilltop in Mindoro, Philippine Islands; the tension as we made the amphibious landing in Vietnam as the assault battalion for Operation Double Eagle, which was the largest amphibious operation in combat since Inchon, Korea; our success in Operation Utah when we decimated an entire enemy battalion.

We participated in seven major combat operations in our first 90 days in Vietnam: Double Eagle I, Double Eagle II, Utah, Texas, Iowa, Hot Springs and Wyoming. We have entered into combat by every means: amphibious shipping of all types; amphibious tractors; helicopters; trucks, transport aircraft and, of course, on foot. We have walked and fought over many miles of mountains and paddies. Many of our men did not survive. This book is dedicated to their memory.

Each of you can take justifiable pride in your part in this enviable record of accomplishment. The "Thundering Third" has secured every objective and accomplished every mission assigned. It has been an honor and privilege for me to serve with you throughout this period. I hope that this book will provide you with a visual link to the part you played in preserving our heritage in the outposts of freedom. Your generation has acquitted itself honorably and proudly. May God Bless you and grant you a long and rewarding life. You have earned it.

J.R. Young