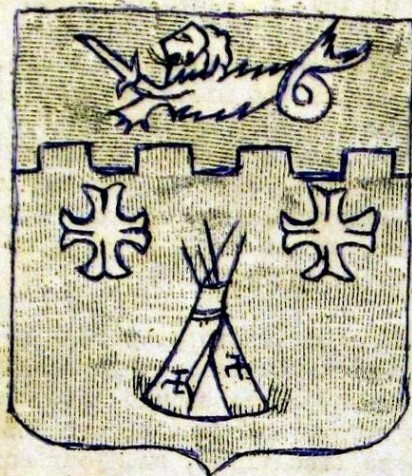


**THE 12TH INFANTRY
HISTORY RECORDED
IN VIETNAM
MARCH-OCTOBER
1969***

***As documented at the:
National Archives at
College Park
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740-6001
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BRIEFING
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* UNIT MISSION EXTRACT SOP
ON LAST PAGE

HISTORICAL BULLETIN NUMBER I

2D BATTALION 12TH INFANTRY

1 MARCH 1969

UNIT HISTORY - PART I

FOR REPLACEMENT BRIEFING
ONLY

REF: 25TH INF DIV REG
612-2 APPENDIX B.

One of the first and foremost of America's regiments, the 12th Infantry began its career on 3 July 1798, when our young nation was threatened by European powers who were plundering our fledgling merchant marine. This maritime harassment continued until the United States was forced into a declaration of war to reassert its national identity. It was in this war of 1812 that the men of the 12th first saw action against a foreign enemy. After a heated contest for control of New York, the 12th was ordered to Fort McHenry, Maryland. There, after withstanding 25 hours of continuous bombardment, 500 men of the 12th Regiment repulsed the assaults of England's finest troops. This fierce bombardment was witnessed by a young American lawyer held as a hostage aboard one of the attacking ships. Francis Scott Key ignored the taunting of his British captors, and concentrated instead upon the words of a strange new poem which came to his mind as he watched the battle...

"Tis the star-spangled banner - O long may it wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!"

The decades following the War of 1812 were years of national growth and expansion, and as the young republic pursued its "Manifest Destiny" in the west, it was inevitable that friction would develop with our somnolent southern neighbor—Mexico. The inevitable came to pass and the 12th Infantry again answered the call to arms.

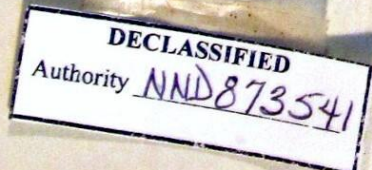
In 1846, the Regiment landed at the port city of Vera Cruz and marched overland to join General Winfield Scott's Army at Puebla, about two-thirds of the way to the Mexican Capitol. After fighting its way across the deserts and mountains,

the 12th was instrumental in the final assault upon Mexico

City. Blocking the approach to the city of Contreras, a

3 July
1798

12th inf.
REGIMENT



NORTH

✓
heavily fortified town. A determined charge by the men of the 12th removed this last obstacle and the way was open to the storied Halls of Montezuma.

The young nation was proud of its great military success and territorial acquisition, but his after glow of victory was soon dimmed by the gathering clouds of sectional conflict. In 1861, the long-feared storm finally broke across the nation and the 12th Infantry was one of the first regiments called by President Lincoln to defend the Union. During the Civil War the 12th distinguished itself as a part of the Army of the Potomac, and fought in ten of the eleven major campaigns waged by that Army.

Perhaps the greatest moment in the history of the Regiment occurred on 21 July 1862, during the Virginia Campaign of that year. The Union Army had penetrated to the outskirts of the Confederate stronghold of Richmond, but it was forced to halt to defend its position in the face of a ferocious attack led by General Robert E. Lee. The brunt of the assault was directed at Gaines' Hill, the sector held by 470 men of the 12th Regiment. Again and again the gray wave rolled across the field, but the 12th held its ground against the vastly superior foe. Six hours later, it was discovered that almost 50% of the regiment, including its commander, had fallen. It had been a costly battle but the Union Army was saved to fight again on other fields.

FREDRICKSBURG
VIRGINIA - 1863
GETTYSBURG

The war dragged on and the men of the 12th bravely fought and fell in some of the fiercest battles in the history of warfare. The Regimental colors still bear the battle streamers memorializing those conflicts in which the men of the 12th gave their "last full measure of devotion"—Manassas, Antietam, Fredricksburg

SOUTH

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Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Virginia-1863, Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Cold Harbor, and Petersburg.

In the years following the Civil War the nation once again turned its energies to the interrupted settlement of the western territories. The early pioneer trails were littered with charred Conestogas and unmarked graves, and the U.S. Army was given the task of protecting American settlements from the menace of Indian raids. During this period, in small companies of forty to fifty men, the 12th Regiment manned lonely outposts from the midwestern prairies to the rocky coastal cliffs of California.

By the turn of the century the United States had completed the difficult task of national consolidation, and with a firm base of domestic progress and prosperity the nation was ready to take its rightful place as a power in the international community. The American People were proud of their new national role, and would soon be given the chance to show that they accepted the great responsibilities which are attendant upon international preeminence. That chance came when the oppressed people of Cuba asked the United States to help them achieve their independence from the colonial rule of Spain.

War was declared in 1898, and the 12th Regiment landed in southern Cuba to begin its march to the Spanish capitol at Santiago. While enroute to this objective the 12th participated in the storming and capture of El Caney, a fortress with thick walls twenty feet high. After the brief Cuban conflict Spain's power collapsed around the world and America found itself the guardian of Spain's island colonies in the Caribbean and Pacific. In 1899, the 12th Regiment was sent to the Philippines to join an American Force already engaged in quieting a fierce native insurrection. For its efforts against the Moros in the steaming jungles of the

CUBA 1898

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Philippines, the Regiment earned three more battle streamers and the thanks
of a grateful nation.

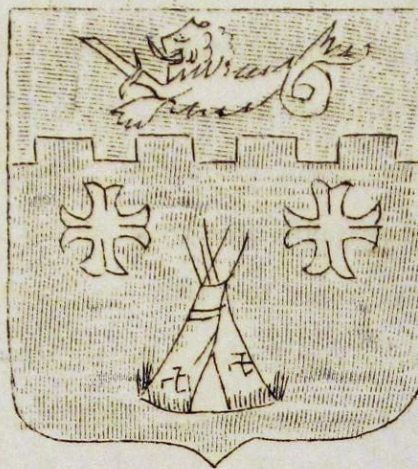
READ UNIT HISTORY - PART II

NEXT MONTH



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HISTORICAL BULLETIN NUMBER II

2D BATTALION 12TH INFANTRY

1 APRIL 1969

UNIT HISTORY - PART II

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The beginning of World War I found the Regiment stationed in Nogales, Arizona, fighting Mexican border bandits in Arizona and Texas. With the outbreak of the War the Regiment was given the responsibility of training cadre for overseas shipment. The Regiment finally received its call to action in Europe, but the war ended while it was still at the New York Port of Embarkation.

In the period of calm between the world wars, the famous 12th was assigned to Fort Howard and Fort Washington, where for nearly twenty years it served the Nation's capitol as an honor guard for presidential inaugurals and official state functions. During this assignment the 12th was known as the "President's Own."

At the outbreak of World War II the 12th Regiment was assigned to the Fourth Infantry Division. Two years of intensive training prepared the Regiment for the role it would play when the "Famous Fourth" led the way in Normandy and smashed ashore on Utah Beach in the pre-dawn hours of D-Day, June 6, 1944. From the beach-head the men of the 12th sliced through the Nazi defenses at Cherbourg and St. Lo, eventually effecting an Allied breakout after bitter hedgerow combat at Mortain. Liberation of Paris gave new momentum to the Allied thrust and the 12th Infantry was in the vanguard leading the way across Europe into "Fortress Germany." The 12th was instrumental in smashing the Siegfried Line, and moved on unflinchingly into the Battle of Hurtgen Forest, the bloodiest single fight of the European War. Four Nazi Divisions pounded the U.S. Forces, but the Americans were not to be stopped.

The Battle of the Bulge was Germany's last desperate gamble for victory, and the brunt of the battle fell upon the 12th Infantry, standing firmly astride the path of escape chosen by the Nazi high command. The fierce attackers were thrown back and by New Year's Day, 1945, the demoralized Nazis withdrew in utter defeat.

BATTLE

of the

BULGE

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For its gallant action in containing the German counterattack in the Battle of the Bulge, the Regiment received the Distinguished Unit Citation. The General Order awarding this citation read in part:

The courage and fighting determination of each member of the Regiment in the stand along the Sauer River presented an inspiring example of the invincibility of free men Ducti Amore Patriae, 'Led by Love of Country.'

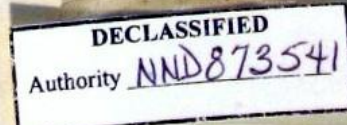
After the premature collapse of the Reich that was to have lasted 1,000 years, the 12th Regiment joined its parent Division in Germany to take its place among the NATO ground forces deterring the aggressive ambitions of the USSR.

In 1956, the 12th Regiment returned to Fort Lewis, Washington, where it underwent a pentomic reorganization, becoming the 1st Battle Group of the 12th Infantry of the Fourth Infantry Division. The organizational charts were redrawn and the unit given a slightly different name, but the men of the 1st Battle Group, 12th Infantry were determined to carry on the proud heritage and traditions of the old 12th Infantry Regiment.

The years following the pentomic reorganization were by no means years of inactivity for the men of the 12th. The national demand for military preparedness and the desirability of a flexible response to any military contingency gave birth to countless training operations, exercises, and maneuvers. During this intensive training the 12th Infantry participated in some notable "firsts" for the Army:

1. In Operation "Desert Rock" the 12th became the first unit to train with the newly developed tactical atomic weapons.
2. In Exercise "Rocky Shoals" a task force from the 12th was the first to be lifted by helicopter from the decks of a navy aircraft carrier to an objective far behind the beachhead during the first major amphibious operation conducted since World War II.

led by love of country



✓
3. In 1960, after intensive training in Alaska, the unit participated in Exercise "Little Bear," its first Arctic maneuver.

READ UNIT HISTORY - PART III



NEXT MONTH



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In October 1963, the 12th Infantry again reorganized under a new concept and was redesignated as the 1st & 2d Battalions, 12th Infantry. The attention of the nation was now focused more and more upon the growing turbulence of Southeast Asia and the 12th began an intensive training program in jungle warfare and counter-insurgency to prepare for its anticipated deployment in South Vietnam.

On 8 October 1966, the USNS General Walker steamed into the port city of Wung Tau, Republic of Vietnam. Crowded at the railing on the decks and the fantail were the men of the 12th Infantry, getting their first look at the small republic that was losing the battle to preserve its independence from Communist attack. In desperation the Vietnamese had asked for our help, and the arrival of the General Walker and countless other troop ships was our answer to these brave people. There were no problems in the minds of these men about the "whys" or "wherefors" of their presence in Vietnam. They were a new generation of Americans in the uniform of their country, politically mature and wise beyond their years. They knew that they were in Vietnam to fulfill our nation's contractual obligation to the SEATO Pact of 1955. They had come in the interests of the Vietnamese People and in our own clear self-interest. Basic to the principles of freedom and self-determination which have sustained our country for almost two hundred years is the right of peoples everywhere to live and develop in peace. Our own security is strengthened by the determination of others to remain free and by our firm commitment to assist them.

Once ashore the men of the 12th found themselves strangers in strange land with a climate and terrain unlike any they had ever experienced before. Their first task was to familiarize themselves

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with their new working environment and acclimate themselves to the extremes of temperature and rainfall. In order to clear the port for later arrivals the battalion boarded a truck convoy and traveled to Camp Martin Cox, located thirty-five miles northeast of Saigon. While at this camp the men of the 12th learned how to construct the kind of defensive positions dictated by the tactics of the enemy and the availability of natural materials in Vietnam. They doubled as engineers and carpenters to improve the camp in preparation for the arrival of the 9th Infantry Division in December, 1966.

In early November the Battalion was on the move again, this time to Phuoc Vinh, where the familiarization and training procedures were broadened to include battalion and company-sized operations in the field. In late November, after almost four years of stateside and in-country training, the 12th Infantry was ready at last to accept the responsibilities of a combat unit of the American Armed Forces in Vietnam. Accordingly, the Battalion began packing for its move to a home of its own at Camp Rainier, in Dau Tieng, Binh Duong Province. The move was accomplished by mid-December. The Battalion's new base of operations was situated in the famous Michelin Rubber Plantation, forty-five miles northwest of Saigon.

The "Warriors" were satisfied with their base camp. It was well fortified and strategically located, intercepting a score of enemy troop and supply routes from the sanctuary of the Cambodian jungles to the battlefields of the southern Delta. From their numerous base camps in the vicinity of Dau Tieng, the enemy had long dominated and terrorized the people of the area. One of the first missions of the "Warriors" was to seek out and destroy these Viet Cong base camps. One by one the hidden bunker and tunnel complexes were destroyed and their discouraged tenants forced to seek shelter deeper in the matted growth of the steaming jungle.


TRE SUOI TRE

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The name Suoi Tre will long be remembered in the record of the present conflict. Suoi Tre was a fire support base established by a force of American American Artillery and Mechanized Infantry units. The 12th was airlifted to Suoi Tre to conduct search and destroy sweeps around the perimeter of the encampment. During the early morning hours of March 21, 1967, the Battalion made strong contact with the 272d Viet Cong Regiment, and the fire support base was subjected to a withering hail of mortars. With human waves overrunning the artillery positions, the "Warriors" were sent to aid the badly battered artillery men. When the smoke cleared the remnants of the enemy Regiment fled in retreat, leaving 647 of their fallen comrades behind on the painted field of battle. "This battle said General William C. Westmoreland, as he stood on the hood of a jeep addressing the weary victors, "is a major victory of the Vietnam War." At a somewhat later date the Commander in Chief of America's Armed Forces acknowledged the outstanding bravery of the 12th Infantry at Suoi Tre. By Executive Order the President directed that the 2d Battalion, 12th Infantry be awarded the highly prized Presidential Unit Citation.

North of Dau Tieng a number of streams come together and give birth to the Saigon River. From this point of origin the sluggish stream meanders south, and on one of its lazy curves it brushes the outskirts of Dau Tieng. In April of 1967, the "Warriors" followed the Saigon as it pushed its way south and penetrated deep into the Bo Loi Woods, an area long regarded by the enemy as his personal preserve. In this twilight world beneath a double canopy of vines and trees the Viet Cong had created a natural warehouse with tons of ammunition and other necessary supplies of war. The guards and caretakers of these vital supplies retreated before the determined advance of the 12th, and the capture and destruction of such quantities of food and ammunition dealt severe blow to Viet Cong effectiveness in the entire area.

LOI WOODS



The year 1967 marked the twentieth anniversary of the partnership between the 12th Infantry and the Fourth Infantry Division. In August of 1967, the men of the 12th exchanged the ivy cross of the Fourth for the lightning-slashed red taro leaf of the 25th Infantry Division. Just as the Nazis of World War II spoke fearfully of "those men with the terrible green crosses on their arms," the guerrillas of Vietnam have come to fear the men with "Tropic Lightning" on their sleeve.

The experiences gained in numerous battles and operations clearly demonstrated that mobility was the key to success against an enemy dedicated to the tactic of "hit and run." During August of 1967, a group of 138 men and 6 officers arrived at Dau Tieng to bolster the strength of the Battalion and make possible the addition of a fourth rifle company. The worth and capability of this additional muscle was soon put to the test at the city of Loc Ninh. Just after sunset on 3 November, an estimated battalion of North Vietnamese Regulars launched an all-out attack against the "Warriors'" defensive perimeter. Throughout the night the ground trembled as the men of the 12th delivered their own special brand of discouragement to the attacking enemy. As dawn broke and the smoke cleared the enemy withdrew leaving 80 of their dead and 7 prisoners of war behind. A thorough search of the battle area uncovered a large assortment of weapons and munitions of Chinese and Russian origin.

The festivities of the Lunar New Year signalled the beginning of the enemy's Tet Offensive, and the "Warriors" were airlifted to join other units around the beleaguered city of Saigon. In the weeks that followed, the Viet Cong found to their dismay that no tunnel was deep enough or bunker wall thick enough to shield them from the determined men of the 12th Infantry. Four weeks of fierce and continual fighting produced 326 enemy killed in action, 7 prisoners of war, and numerous weapo

and munitions, including 28 of the enemy's most destructive weapon, the 122 millimeter rocket.

Today in the rice paddies and jungles of the divisional area of operations northwest of Saigon to the Cambodian border a new chapter is being written in the history of the 12th Infantry. The present conflict is not yet resolved and so the record cannot be set to print, but the proud tradition of the famous 12th Infantry will be carried on here in South Vietnam. It will be continued because the men of the 12th, like their brave forebears at Gaines' Hill, El Caney, and The Bulge, are "led by love of country."

led by love of country

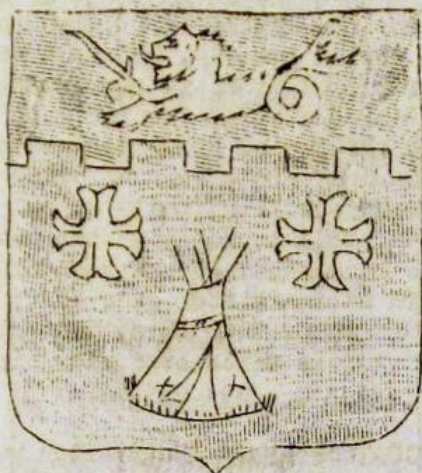
READ UNIT COAT OF ARMS

NEXT MONTH



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HISTORICAL BULLETIN NUMBER IV

2D BATTALION 12TH INFANTRY

1 JUNE 1969

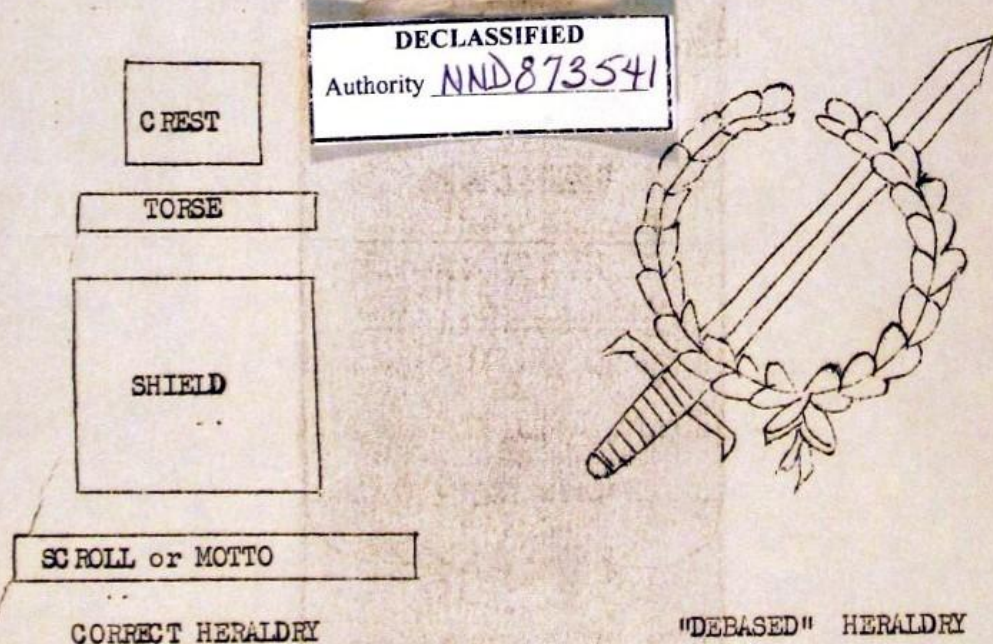
COAT OF ARMS

Vietnamese Campaigns

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ORIGIN OF HERALDIC SYMBOLS. Historians and social scientists have often noted the fact that man has always been a flock creature. Not content with a lonely hermit's existence, man since the dawn of time has formed family, clan, regional and national groups; and the membership of these groups have worked together as warriors, hunters, foodgatherers, and builders. As these primitive social groups developed with the passage of time each of them created some symbol which represents their association. These symbols of group identity were passed from one generation of elder to another, and in time developed a great religious significance. The specific symbols employed varied greatly, but each was viewed as a holy object by the members of the clan or social group it represented. Thus, the nomadic tribes of the Asian plains marched behind a staff covered with horse tails, the pre-columbian Indians of America offered sheaves of grain to carved stone totems, and early Egyptians counted on the magical protection afforded by long strings of dried scarab beetles. During the Middle Ages family symbols were painted upon shields and were the only means available to identify the heavily armored knights of the period. The design of the king's shield was soon transferred to a cloth banner, and with the rise of modern nation states at a later period these banners became national symbols. It can be seen, therefore, that since pre-recorded times, man has created and venerated symbols which stood for his group.

COMPONENTS OF A COMPLETE COAT OF ARMS. Very often we hear soldiers talking about their unit "crest." They are obviously referring to their unit coat of arms, but the crest is actually only one small part of the complete coat of arms. European heraldry developed over the centuries into a rather complicated and exact set of rules and traditions governing the creation and use of a coat of arms. The U.S. Army has adopted the established rules of military heraldry, and each unit insignia must adhere to the traditional rules of heraldry with respect to size, shape, color and design. A unit coat of arms which meets all of these criteria can be truly appreciated as a work of very ancient art. A unit insignia which fails to meet the criteria is referred to as a "debased" device. A correct coat of arms must contain 4 separate items arranged generally in the sequence shown below. A sample of "debased" heraldry is also provided to show the difference between the two:



EXPLANATION OF COMPONENTS OF A CORRECT COAT OF ARMS:

I. The CREST. The crest is the topmost component of a coat of arms, and its general purpose is to signify the occupation or a major accomplishment of the individual, family, or unit which the coat of arms represents. For example, a crest consisting of a crown is traditionally used for royal families. An astronomer might very well use a star, an actor could use a comical mask, and a soldier could use a weapon or a hand holding a weapon. Animals are often used as crests, primarily because of the traits which folklore has assigned to different animals... a fox for slyness, a lion for courage, a dove for peace, etc. A crest, then, can be any object which represents the occupation or an outstanding achievement of the owner of the coat of arms. It can be quite plain, or extremely ornate, consist of combinations of animals and objects and scrolls (as in the royal arms of Great Britain.)

II. The TORSE. In the Middle Ages the helmets worn by knights and common soldiers were often uncomfortable and too large for the head. This was remedied by wearing a soft cloth cap beneath the heavy metal helmet. Before any major campaign, tourney or extended crusade a soldier's wife made the special helmet cap and had it blessed by the local priest before presenting it to her husband at his departure. It was regarded as something of a good luck charm and all soldiers were proud of their torse as it represented the love of their womenfolk watching over them in battle. The common soldiers were only allowed torsos of one color and plain cloth, but the nobles were granted the right to wear braided bands of colored silk. A torse of two or more colors on a coat of arms, therefore, is taken to mean nobility of purpose, devotion, and good fortune.

III. The SHIELD. The shield forms the major portion of the coat of arms, and it is decorated with colors and designs of objects which are somehow meaningful to the owner of the coat of arms. Many military units reproduce the shield portion of the coat of arms for its members to wear on their uniform, and this is the unit "crest" which is often mentioned in conversations between members of the unit. The shield is thus chosen because it is usually the most colorful component of the unit coat of arms, although some units have had the entire heraldic device produced.

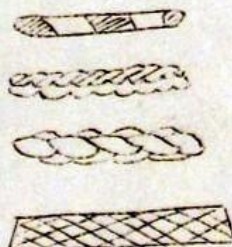
IV. The SCROLL or MOTTO. This is the parchment scroll beneath the shield. On it can be found the latin motto (English, French, etc.) of the individual or unit. The motto chosen is usually a phrase of some special significance of the owner of the coat of arms. It can be a slogan, an excerpt from some written praise of the owner, or a traditional battle cry.

SAMPLE COMPONENTS:

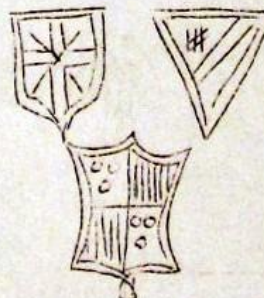
CREST



TORSE



SHIELD



MOTTO/SCROLL

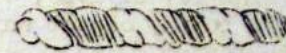


COMPONENTS OF 12TH INFANTRY COAT OF ARMS

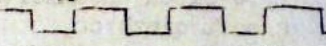
I. CREST. The 12th Infantry crest is an armored arm with an ungloved hand grasping a broken flag staff. This crest commemorates a great moment in the history of the unit. It represents the storming of the heavily fortified blockhouse at El Caney in Cuba during the Spanish American War. The flag suspended from the broken flagstaff represents the defeat and surrender of the Spanish garrison.



II. TORSE. The torse in this case is the braided silk cap representing nobility of purpose. The colors of the torse are white and blue and represent the Infantry.



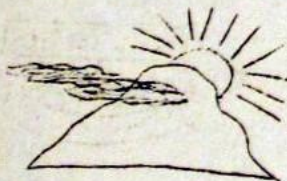
III. SHIELD. The red sea lion on a gold background were taken from the Philippine Coat of Arms, and commemorate the 12th Infantry's participation in subduing the Moro Rebellion after the Spanish American War. The colors here were also taken from the Spanish national flag. The turreted wall dividing the shield represents the blockhouse captured by the 12th at El Caney during the Spanish American War. The two white crosses (called crosses moline) commemorate the greatest achievement of the unit during the Civil War. At Gaines' Mill during the Virginia Campaign, where the 12th held its ground before the onslaught of a vastly superior enemy. The crosses represent the iron fastening of the mill stones at the site of the battle, and the pair recall the crushing losses sustained. The wigwam with its five poles represents the five Indian campaigns in which elements of the 12th Infantry took part.



IV. MOTTO. The unscrolled motto Ducti Amore Patriae was taken from the general order awarding the 12th Infantry the Distinguished Unit Award for its valiant defense of the Sauer River line during the attempted German breakout of the Battle of the Bulge in World War II. It may be translated "Led by Love of Country."

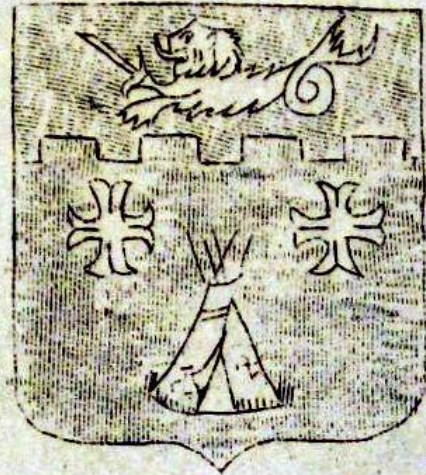


You have every reason to be proud of your coat of arms. In effect, it stands as a miniature history of the record and achievements of your famous unit. Perhaps some day in the future something new will be added to the coat of arms to commemorate our present efforts here in the Republic of Vietnam. What do you suppose it will be? Nui Ba Den in the background behind the sea lion?....a palm tree superimposed upon the crest?....a big orange malaria pill beneath the wigwam?...



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HISTORICAL BULLETIN NUMBER V

2D BATTALION 12TH INFANTRY

1 JULY 1969

REGIMENTAL COLORS & BATTLE STREAMERS

UNIT DAY

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Indian Wars

Civil War

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Spanish-American War

Philippine Rebellion

World War II

MOLOCKS
BANNOCKS
PINE RIDGE
PENINSULA
VIRGINIA - 1862
MANASSAS
ANTIETAM
FREDERICKSBURG
CHANCELLORSVILLE
GETTYSBURG
VIRGINIA - 1863
WILDERNESS
SPOTSYLVANIA
COLD HARBOR
MYRTLEBURG
SANTIAGO
MAOLOS
TARLAC
LUZON 1899
NORMANDY
NORTHERN FRANCE
RHINELAND
ARDENNES-ALSACE
CENTRAL EUROPE

Red with black stripes

Blue and Gray bands

Blue and Gold

Red and blue bands

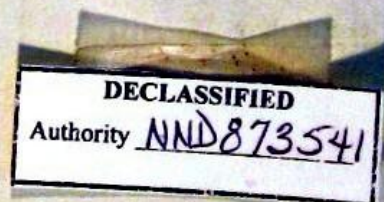
Green with Red, white,
blue, black & brown
stripes



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS 2D BATTALION 12TH INFANTRY
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96225

8 July 1969

To the Officers and Men of the 2d Battalion, 12th Infantry:



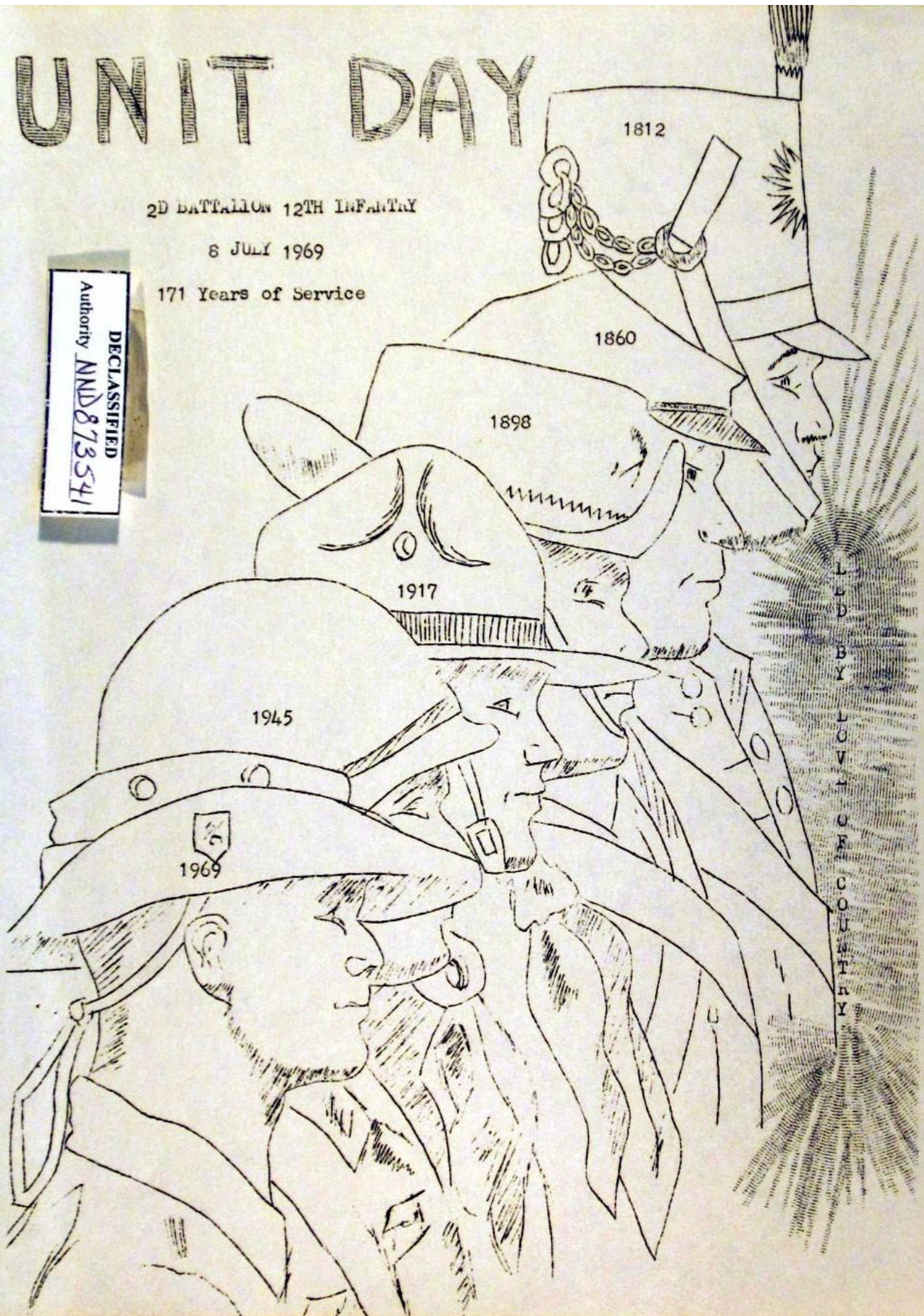
UNIT DAY

2D BATTALION 12TH INFANTRY

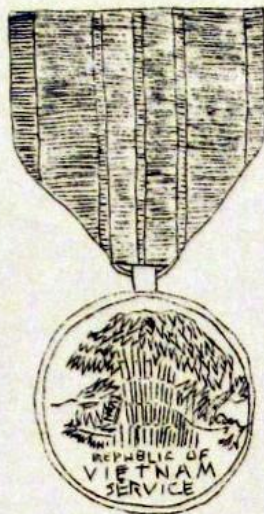
8 JULY 1969

171 Years of Service

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VIETNAMESE CAMPAIGNS



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1. VIETNAM ADVISORY CAMPAIGN
March 15, 1962 - March 7, 1965
2. VIETNAM DEFENSIVE CAMPAIGN
March 8, 1965 - December 24, 1965
3. VIETNAM COUNTEROFFENSIVE
December 25, 1965 - June 30, 1966
4. VIETNAM COUNTEROFFENSIVE (PHASE II)
July 1, 1966 - May 31, 1967
5. VIETNAM COUNTEROFFENSIVE (PHASE III)
June 1, 1967 - January 29, 1968
6. TET COUNTEROFFENSIVE
January 30, 1968 - April 1968
7. April 2, 1968 -



HISTORICAL BULLETIN NUMBER VI

2D BATTALION 12TH INFANTRY

1 AUGUST 1969

CAMPAIGN MEDALS EARNED BY WHITE WARRIORS

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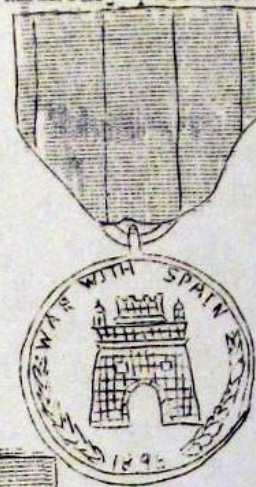
Campaign and Service medals earned by members of the 12th Infantry since the Civil War when the War Office/Department of Defense began issuing medals to commemorate involvement of American military personnel in campaigns and operations on foreign soil...and significant training assignments in unusual areas or environments...and noteworthy humane action projects carried on by military personnel.



Civil War



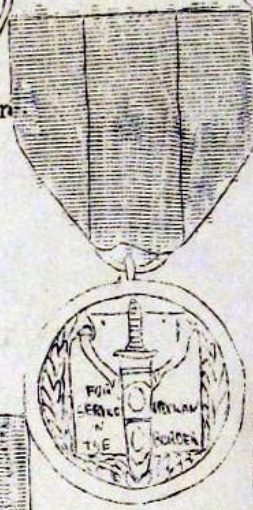
Indian Campaign



Spanish Campaign



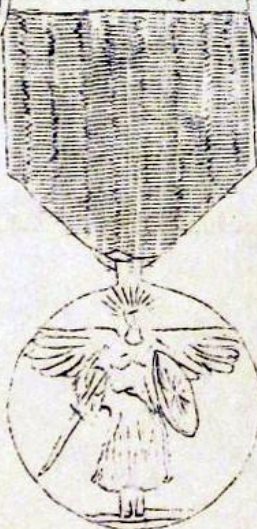
Philippine Insurrection



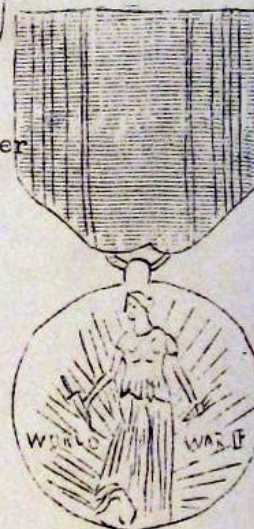
Mexican Border



World War I - European



World War I - Victory

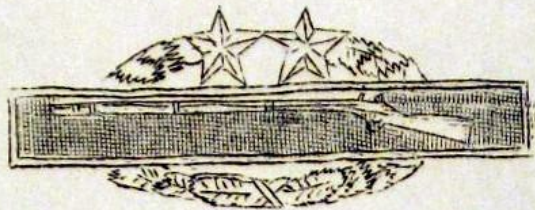


World War II - Victory

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Occupation
Germany



Vietnam Service

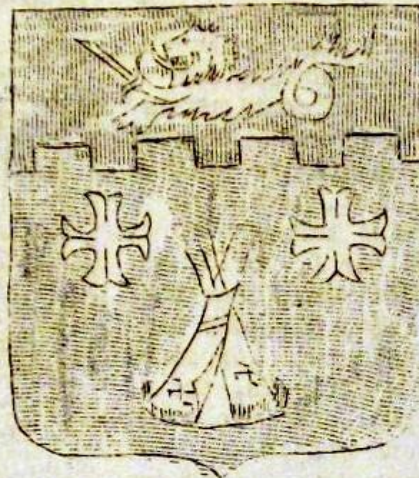


American Defense



National Defense

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Authority NND873541

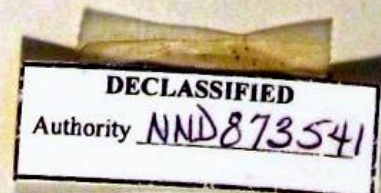


HISTORICAL BULLETIN NUMBER VII

2D BATTALION 12TH INFANTRY

1 SEPTEMBER 1969

THE UNIT TOTEM



THE 12TH INFANTRY TOTEM

One of the most unique sights to be seen in the Republic of Vietnam today is the famous "Warrior" totem pole of the 2d Battalion, 12th Infantry. This colorful 40 foot totem depicts the major conflicts in which the United States has participated since its founding. Long before the unit's arrival in Vietnam, the totem pole served to remind all incoming recruits of the outstanding performances they were called upon to continue as an integral part of the 2/12's fighting forces. Each figure on the totem represents the unit's participation in a major conflict, beginning with the War of 1812, proceeding through the Mexican War, Civil War, World War I, World War II, and now the conflict in Vietnam. When the unit deployed in Southeast Asia, the pole was left behind at Ft. Lewis, Washington. Responding to a challenge from his fellow officers, the Battalion Commander had the pole cut into segments, carefully packed and crated and shipped to Vietnam. It was not until the unit reached Dau Tieng and Camp Rainier that the pole was reconstructed. A large combat infantryman's badge rests near the top of the structure, symbolic of American Infantrymen in all wars. The totem now stands as it did back in the states as a tribute to those who have served so faithfully in the 2d Battalion, 12th Infantry since its beginning.

* At the present writing, the Unit totem is still located before the old Battalion Headquarters in Dau Tieng, left behind when the battalion was hastily deployed around Saigon in September...and later situated at Cu Chi as part of the 2d Brigade, 25th Infantry Division.

Those who fondly remember the famous totem are hopeful that plans can be made in the immediate future to secure the pole and have it erected again in the place where it rightfully belongsThe present Battalion Headquarters in Cu Chi

NVA REGULAR
Vietnamese Conflict

GERMAN SOLDIER
World War II

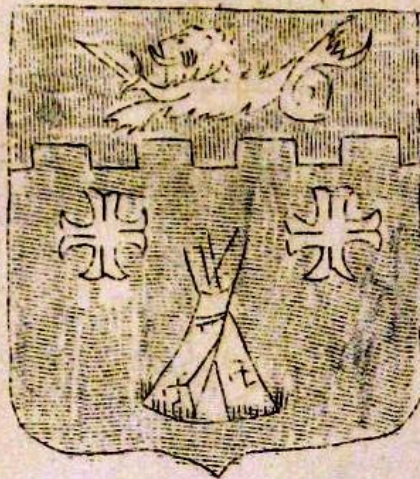
INDIAN WARRIOR
Indian Campaigns

CONFEDERATE
Civil War

MEXICAN SOLDIER
Mexican War

BRITISH SOLDIER
War of 1812

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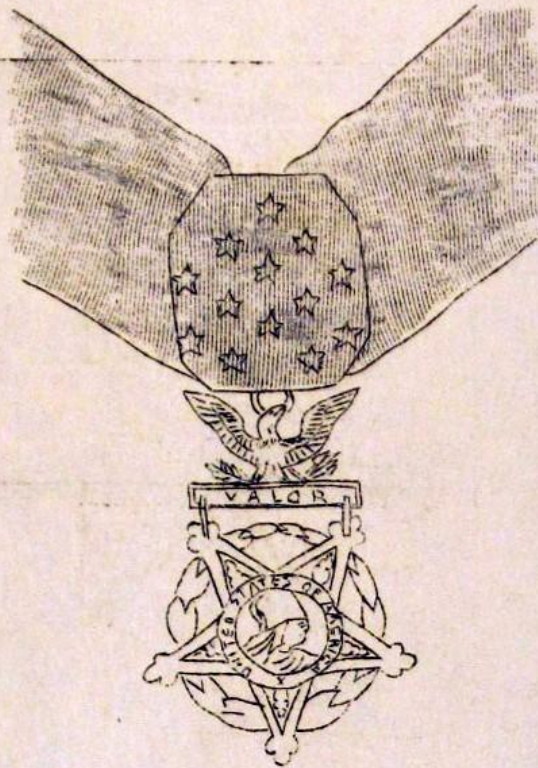
HISTORICAL BULLETIN NUMBER VIII

2D BATTALION 12TH INFANTRY

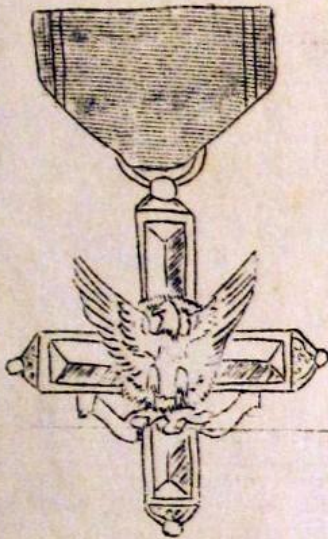
1 OCTOBER 1969

SERVICE & VALOR AWARDS

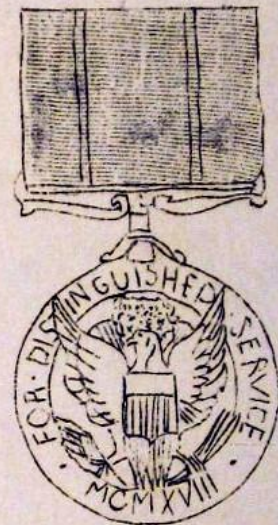




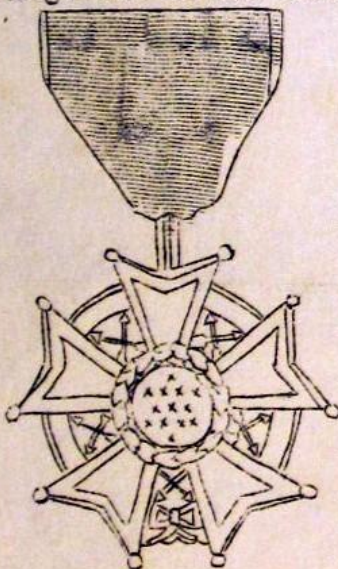
Medal of Honor



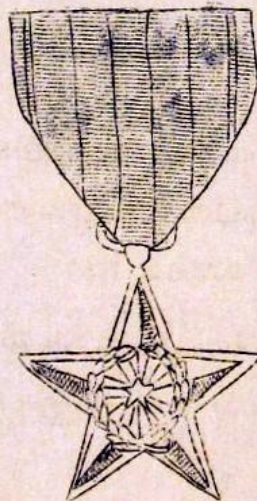
Distinguished Service Cross



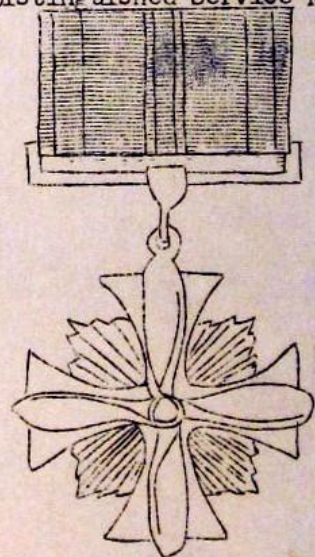
Distinguished Service Medal



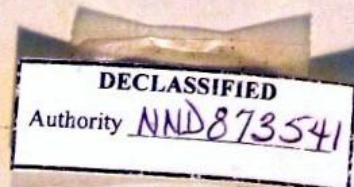
Legion of Merit



Silver Star

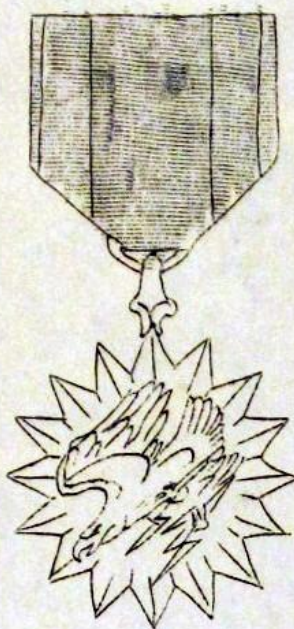


Distinguished Flying Cross

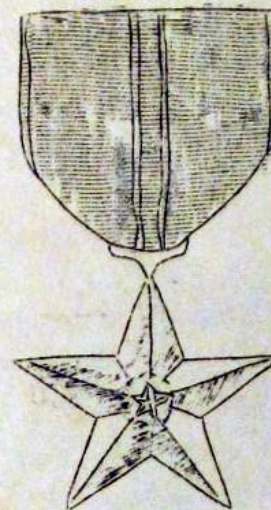




Soldier's Medal



Air Medal



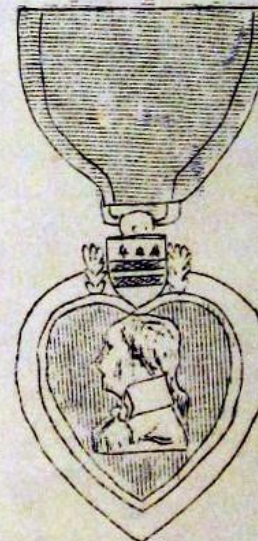
Bronze Star



Army Commendation Medal



Medal for Merit



Purple Heart

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* UNIT MISSION EXTRACT
ON NEXT PAGE

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS 2D BATTALION 12TH INFANTRY
APO San Francisco 96225

AVICTU-SA

5 May 1969

SUBJECT: Briefing of all new replacements (Extract to Appendix A, Administrative/Tactical SOP)

3. Mission of Battalion. To close with the enemy by means of fire and maneuver in order to destroy or capture him, or repel his assaults by fire, close combat, and counter attack.

4. Mission of Battalion Headquarters. To command and control assigned combat elements.

5. Additions to Basic Mission. To conduct military operations, primarily search and destroy, in assigned areas of operation in Vietnam.

To conduct defense of assigned sector of base camp perimeter at Cu Chi, RVN.

To assist through military operations, civic actions, and psychological warfare means in the pacification of assigned areas vicinity of base camp as well as in selected tactical areas of operations.

To plan and conduct military operations in conjunction with the South Vietnamese Military Forces.

* BRIEFING ONLY



1ST BDE

4/9

2/22(M)

3/22

4/23(M)

2/34 ARM

2ND BDE

1/5(M)

2/12

3/4 CAV.

3RD BDE

2/14

1/27

2/27

