

Gen. Pats Que Son Fighters 'Greatest Soldiers'

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CHU LAI, Vietnam (UPI) — The commander of American infantrymen who fought the recent battle of the Que Son Valley declared Wednesday, "these are the greatest soldiers the Army has ever had."

"I fought for three years in World War II and those were fine men, but these are better," said Maj. Gen. Lloyd B. Ramsey, commander of the Army's Americal Div.

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The division gained a measure of notoriety during the Que Son fighting when five men of an infantry company refused to advance against North Vietnamese

troops after a week of bitter fighting late last month. The incident received worldwide publicity.

Ramsey, 51, defended the typical ground trooper.

"You tell him something and he may not want to go — hell, I don't want to go into battle myself—but by God he'll go and he'll do the finest job in the world.

"There's nothing you can say that's good enough for these men. They showed tremendous courage going into battle and tremendous pride coming out of it."

Ramsey, who was wounded three times during World War II, has responsibility for a 22,000-man division, largest in the Army.

The Que Son fighting west of Tam Ky, 340 miles north-northeast of Saigon, cost Americal and U.S. Marine units at least 80 dead and several hundred wounded. The North Vietnamese lost an estimated 1,000 men.