

Earl Powers – Service Timeline

(From Memory and Letters Sent to Wife)



In the Spring of 1968 I received a letter that started: "Greetings from Lyndon Baines Johnson, President of the United States of America". In June of 1968 I was at Fort Polk, Louisiana for basic training and on to Tiger Land at Polk for advanced infantry training (AIT). From Fort Polk I went to Fort Benning, Ga for NCO school and came out E-5 Sgt (Shake and Bake). I will agree that some needed to be Shook more and Baked more.

Some of you might have thought that about me. From Fort Benning I went to Fort Ord, Ca. to help train an AIT company for Vietnam. Marvin Timperly was in this company. He was also in 1st platoon C 3/21 with me in Vietnam. From Fort Ord I went to Cam Ranh Bay , Chu Lai, Hawk Hill, LZ Center and then to Charlie Company on Hill 434 in the jungle of South Vietnam.



June 22nd I was assigned to 2nd platoon.

June 26th We went on search and destroy mission with 101st.



June 27th 2nd platoon went to LZ East to guard the perimeter. We stayed there about a week before we joined back with Charlie Company.

July 2nd 3 were hurt picking up trash on East.

July 3rd While on East we were hit that night and lost 2 KIA and 1 wounded.

Ronald Eugene Knight KIA

Felipe Obed Santiago KIA

July 6th We were back in the field.



On July 10th we were on LZ Center. While on Center, one soldier was killed by his best friend (didn't know rifle was loaded). I was placed in 1st Platoon. At this time there were 4 in my squad, 21 in platoon and about 70 in the company. Most of my pictures and information will be about 1st platoon. Our company commander was called "Outlaw", 1st

platoon called Rebel, 2nd platoon call Studly, and 3rd platoon called Mace. We would spend approximately 7 days guarding LZ Center and 21 days in the field performing Search And Destroy Missions. One of the favorite sayings was "WHEN I GET BACK TO THE WORLD" and then what you were going to do. We would get clean clothes about every 7 to 10 days. Getting clean clothes made you feel like you had gotten a bath. Got very few of those. Only day of the week I knew was Monday because we got a big malaria pill that day. We got a small one the other days. I don't know how the medic kept up with this.

July 14 the Battalion got a new Colonel. He is stationed on LZ Center.

July 20 We were on Nui Lon then Nui Lam near Khang River. We are going to Happy Valley and AK Valley. (See Map A at End)

July 22 On hill above Happy Valley

July 23 Earl Powers 27th birthday

July 24 Captain Carrier, CO gave me a rebel flag that someone had sent him. I was in 1st platoon and we were called Rebel. I had it sewed on top of my hat in September when in Nui Lac Son.

July 27th We were in the flats working at night (went through Nui Lac Son) (See Map D at End)



August 3rd On LZ Center

August 4th PX came to Center. Got a camera

August 6th Shipped out roll of film (When mailing something we would run out to the helicopters when they came in and give the mail to the door-gunners. They would mail for us.) I made a picture with a guy in mortars who a few weeks before had been in the field with us.

August 7th Moving out in a major operation. Going to be a blocking force. Took Pictures: 4 guys (Jones (KIA 8/21/69), Miranda (KIA 8/21/69), Smith (KIA 8/21/69) and Salas), Quintana-Soto (KIA 8/21/69) the medic by himself, and me with Vietnamese soldier.



August 8th and 9th Combat assault. I was in 1st helicopters that went in. This was my 1st combat assault in a helicopter. There were 2 cobras shooting everywhere with their mini gun and rocket pods. Then the machine gunner on my copter opened up just above me. I thought I was a goner.



August 10th On Stand in Chu Lai (Had this about every 100 Days) We would go back to Chu Lai for 3 days and usually have a band each night. We stayed in a barracks with cots. We had a big grass shed with 2 big coolers. One had iced down cold drinks and the other beer 24 hrs a day. While on stand-down I met a guy who said he was getting a 90 day early out to go back to school. I had already seen enough to know that would be good. I asked him for more details. When I went to Vietnam, I had one year left in the Army. Louisiana Tech University had just started a quarter system and 90 days out early would fit perfectly.



August 11 They changed our money (mpc's – military pay certificates) They changed the mpc's 2 or 3 times while I was there. They would change it all out in one day and this would keep Vietnamese from cashing in on our dollars.



August 13th Back on Center

August 14th Took Pictures: 1) Hull, Timperly, and Shaw; 2) Hatton, Mittendorf, and Serlerno from 2nd platoon. 3) Hatton and Hoover. 4) Me and Hoover (Hoover in mortars on Center now). 4) One picture of a body in a burned shack.



August 15 Quote from Earl Powers "When Charlie Company goes through an area Sherman's March to the Sea looked like a drowned match." "A" company in a hot LZ.

August 16th Still on Center

August 18th I am Platoon Leader, Lt has left. Hit by Mortars on Center.

For More Information about August 19-Sept 5, view the following pages:

[Articles](#), [Audio](#), and [16 Days Story](#)

August 19th Our Colonels bird was shot down this afternoon. This was on the Southwest side of Center

Colonel Eli Page Howard Jr KIA

Sgt Major Franklin Delano Mohler KIA

Newspaper reporter, doorgunners and pilots KIA

They decided to send us down the West end of Center for a Search and Destroy Mission. Just before we left the hill they said to carry our entrenching tools because we would probably stay out overnight. We were loaded down with ammunition but left our ruck sacks. There were 39 in our platoon(most we ever had while I was there.) We were gone 16 days not just overnight. We made it back to Center with 19 men. That was the worst 16 days of my life. They would fly over and drop us food and ammunition. We didn't have a way to carry extra.

August 23rd In the last 3 days we had 5 killed and about 30 wounded. Miranda, Jones and Quintana-Soto were killed. They were in my squad when I was in 2nd platoon. They were killed in a mortar attack. Quintan-Soto was a medic assigned to headquarters but attached to us. Parrish died that day also. I didn't know about his death. We had just came back from a Search and Destroy Mission. They were all in a sleeping area writing letters. I was in a bomb crater sitting on a sea ration box in the shade of some elephant grass when the first round fell on them. I ran and jumped in my fox hole because it was much smaller than the crater. About 25 or 30 rounds fell on us. After it was over I looked in the bomb crater where I had been. The grass was in little pieces and the sea ration box was small pieces also. It looked like plowed ground. I was thankful for that fox hole.

August 25th Hill 102 (Million Dollar Hill" about 5 miles from Center) We recovered the body of the Colonel. He fell out of the helicopter when it was hit. Bodies of the others on the helicopter were buried near the crash. Others in our company recovered them. (See Map A at End)

August 28th Gene "Doc" Richardson, Louie Walline, Lt Ken Kemmish, Marvin Timperley, Steve Revelle in Picture, Ruck Sack in picture.



August 29th General Abrams & the Secretary of the Army Stanley R. Resor came to Center. "A" company had gone on strike a few days before this.



Mortor Pit Inspection : Gen. Abrams, Sec. Resor, Tom Pozdol, J.B. Evans, and Cook
Photo Provided by Tom Pozdol

September 3 We are on Hill 100. The enemy is a little ways off on the slope of Hill 352. (See Map B at End)

September 5th On Center. After this 16 day stint, I knew I had to try for that 90 day early out.

September 6th Air strikes on Hill 352 (See Map B at End)

September 10th Got a new platoon leader LT John Peterson. I think Lt Kemmish became the executive officer.

September 12 Nui Lau Song province Picture of kid found on Hill 100 now at Nui Lac Son. (Photo Below) (See Map B at End)

September 14 I got my rebel flag put on top of boonie hat



September 15 left Nui Lac Son

September 16 back to Nui Lac Son



September 18 went before E-6 board

September 20 made pictures of graves





September 22 "B" company going to Nui Lam Hill (See Map on p 6). This is next to the one that we were mortared on. I can see 3 Helicopters down on Nui Lam Hill from where I am on LZ Center. (See [Audio page](#) where I talk about this when they went to pick up helicopters with a Chinook.) I am platoon leader again. (See Map A at End)

September 26 They are doing away with LZ East. All B-52 strikes have to go through Pentagon now.

September 28 Picture of stream, Hill 407, going to top of 396. I am now a Staff Sgt. (See Map C at End)

September 30 on Hill 407 and going to Hill 434 tomorrow (Hill I came in on) (See Maps B & C at End)

October 2 on Hill 434 (See Map B at End)

October 5 Hill 352 (See Map B at End); Crossing river on rope



October 9 Kit Carson Scott Dang. Our mail goes by truck to LZ Baldy and then by air to us.

October 10 supposed to leave Center tomorrow

October 12 020274 just below Nui Lac Son (See Map D at End)

October 14 picture of kid riding calf. The enemy is building up supplies & reorganizing. We stayed on Hill 102 a few days and in 3 weeks they were back and it took the ARVNs 5 days to take it again.



October 15 On Hill 185 0228 right in the middle of Nui Lac Son. Beautiful here. Regional and Popular Forces are here. I will go on R & R Nov 6-13. (See Map D at End)

October 19 077295 a small hill. East is to the right and West is to the left. (See Map C at End)



October 21 096308 (See Map C at End) Point man hit in neck. Glynn Michael Schroeder KIA (See Pic on Left)

October 24 On Center

October 28 Stand Down

November 4 Derwin Michael Bailey KIA (I was in Chu Lai fixing to leave on R & R). I turned in my paper work for an early out to go back to school.

November Hawaii for R & R - When I left for Hawaii I had 216 days left in the Army. When I got back from R & R I had only 118 days left in the Army. I was approved for a 90 day early out while in Hawaii.

November 17 LZ Center

November 19 We are finding a lot of rice

November 20 WE are still in the flats. We have a 90 mm mortar and recoilless rifle with us. We are at 098318. The enemy is on Hill 63 083326
We are moving toward 352 (See Map C at End)

November 21 Found a bunch of eggs. I had 2 boiled eggs and some sausage someone else had got from home.

November 23 On Center, Monsoon will be over in mid January

November 25 We are going to Nui Lon & Hill 110 & Hill 102 (See Map A at End)

Nui Lon 035217

Hill 102 012224

Hill 110 022238

I am now drawing \$530.00 a month before anything comes out.

November 26 leaving LZ Center today

November 27 Had boned turkey in our c-rations. On ridge line of Hill 407 073284
Have 18 in platoon now. It is raining and cold. May have to get a monsoon sweater and rain jacket out. (See Map C at End)

November 29 Near 110 and 102. An Army photographer is with us.

December 1 CBS news is with us. Gary Shepard went on a S & D with my platoon. My wife and father saw me on Walter Conkrite News about 1st of January as we were moving down trail. The camera man was just in front of me so they saw me several times.



December 2 West of Nui Lam (See Map A at End)

December 6 Hill 100 085208 (See Map B at End); "Little Joe" came in today (anyone remember him)

December 10th LZ Center

December 12 I am on Hawk Hill with some kind of parasites.

December 13 I am in Hospital at Chu Lai. They could not take care of my problem at Hawk Hill.

December 15 Learning to play chess

December 18 Marvin Timperly came by to visit. He had just got back from Australia.

December 19 Sgt Salerno Plt Sgt from our company going to Japan because of his malaria.

December 20 Sgt Selcer has a job on Center but has to stay in field till I get back

December 21 Got out of hospital. Have to go back on December 29th to be checked again to make sure they got them all.

December 23 I bought a ½ frame camera

December 24 I saw Bob Hope Show with Connie Stevens, The Goldiggers, and Neil Armstrong. When I got back to Center and got equipment, my old camera was gone.



December 26 6 drowned at Combat Center at Chu Lai.

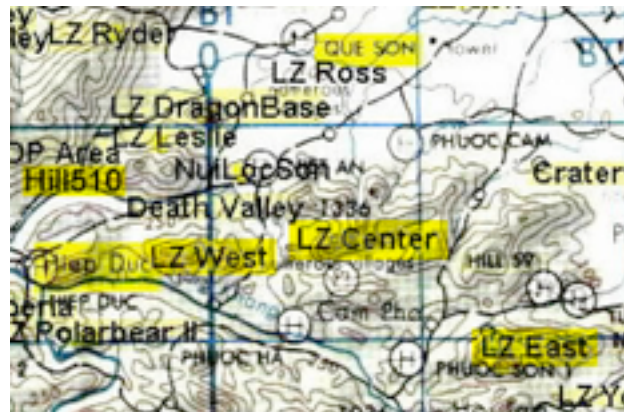
December 29 To hospital for checkup. Going back to Center tomorrow and join back up with my group

December 31 We are leaving Center. We will have Stand Down 14th of January

January 1 Enemy hit a company at 4:15 in the morning. 8 killed and 5 wounded.

January 4 Sapper Squads are hitting several bases.

January 6 LZ Ross got hit last night. Putting more wire around Center



January 7 Lt O'Neill CO just back from Hawaii. HE said, "I saw your ass on tv."(Gary Shepard with CBS News was with us on Dec 1)

January 7 Gene Gordon Wells a Sgt in D Company was killed today. He came in with me and we made E-6 on the same day. I had just talked with him 2 days ago on LZ Center. They were operating with tanks in the flats.

January 12 We are back on Center. We Captured an NVA nurse & 1 VC today on a S & D Mission.

January 14 At Chu Lai for Stand Down

January 15 Pictures of air strike on Hill 434 in AK Valley at the Butterfly. I am Platoon Leader again. (See Map B at End)



January 18 Going off West end of Center for my last time. These picture were made that day.



January 21 I am in Chu Lai.

January 23 Going to Cam Ranh Bay



January 26 Going to Hong Kong

January 28 In Hong Kong

February 1 Sunday night leaving Hong Kong for Vietnam tomorrow

February 3 I became the Executive officers helper. I told him, "If he couldn't do it by himself I would help him". Since he didn't do anything, I didn't either.

February 7 Still Goofing off in Chu Lai.

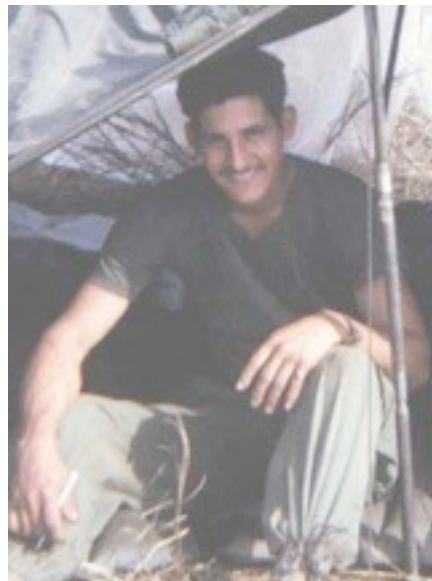
February 12 Major over S-4 put me in charge of details in our battalion area in Chu Lai.

February 14 Mighty rough day. I had the guys from our battalion who were in Chu Lai police up the area (pick up beer cans they threw down the night before) in their swimming trunks and I and I think Marvin Powers played penny poker with 2 LT'S the rest of the day.

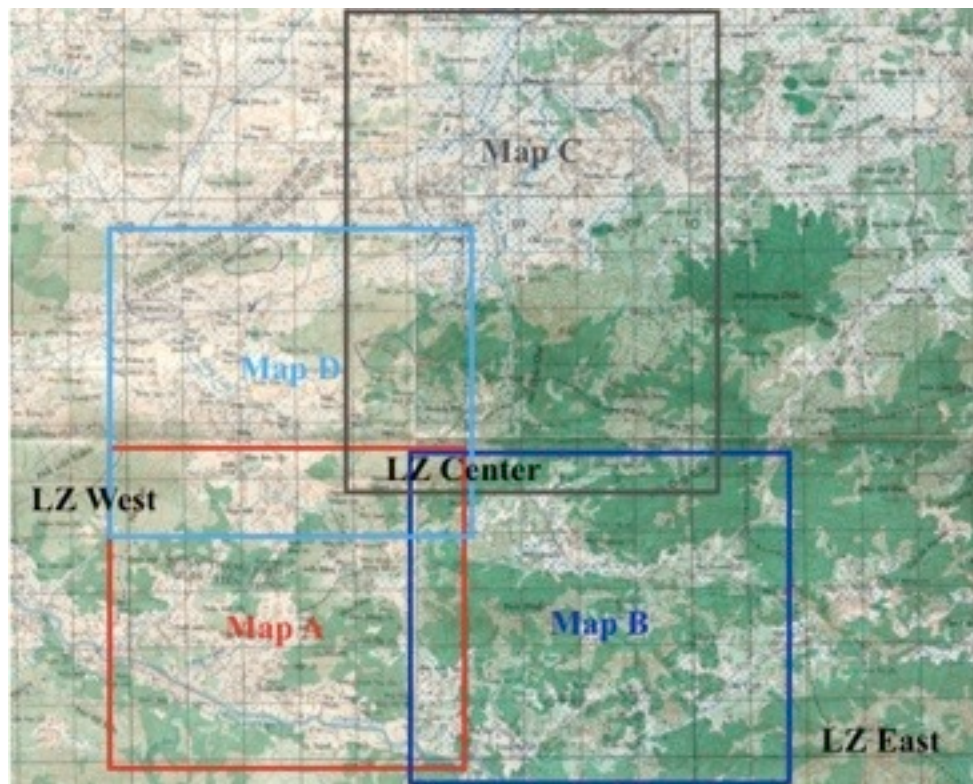
March 3rd I'm getting short

March 12 I am in Fort Lewis Washington getting out of the Army.

March 27, 1970 Two Good Friends Killed
Gary Don Polk and Arnold Garza



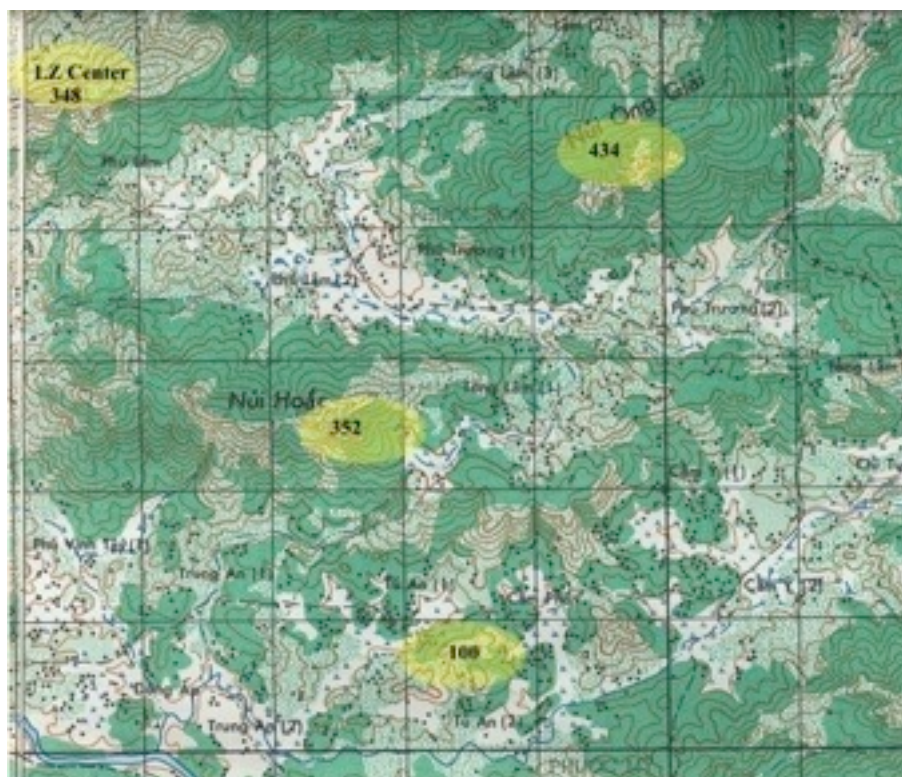
Overview of Maps



Map A: Southwest of LZ Center



Map B: South of LZ Center



Map C: Northeast of LZ Center



Map D: Northwest of LZ Center

