

**4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, 2nd Brigade, Dragon Mountain, Pleiku; January 1968 -- Volunteering for the L.R.R.P.s**



**Center, with Thompson on left**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade L.R.R.P. Base Camp at the "Oasis"**

**L.R.R.P. Commanding Officer Cpt. Garnett**



**(photo property of Cpt. Garnett)**





**My fast firing new model CAR-15; cleaning rods taped to barrel to clear jams... can shoot only 17 rounds!**

**L.R.R.P. Team "*Hotel-2-Charlie*", Central Highlands, March 1968**



**Shorty**

**Poz**

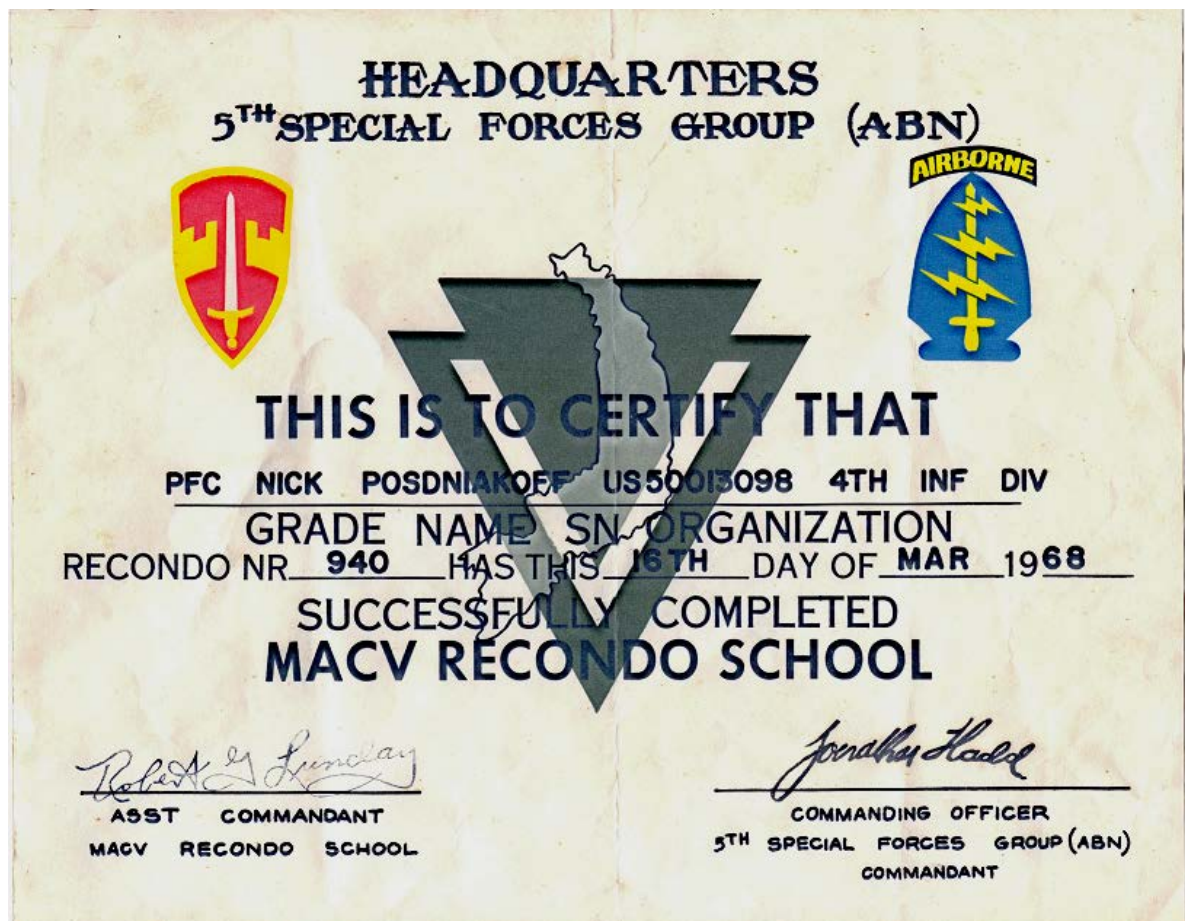
**Thompson**

**Smitty**

**Sgt. Valeen**



Nha Trang

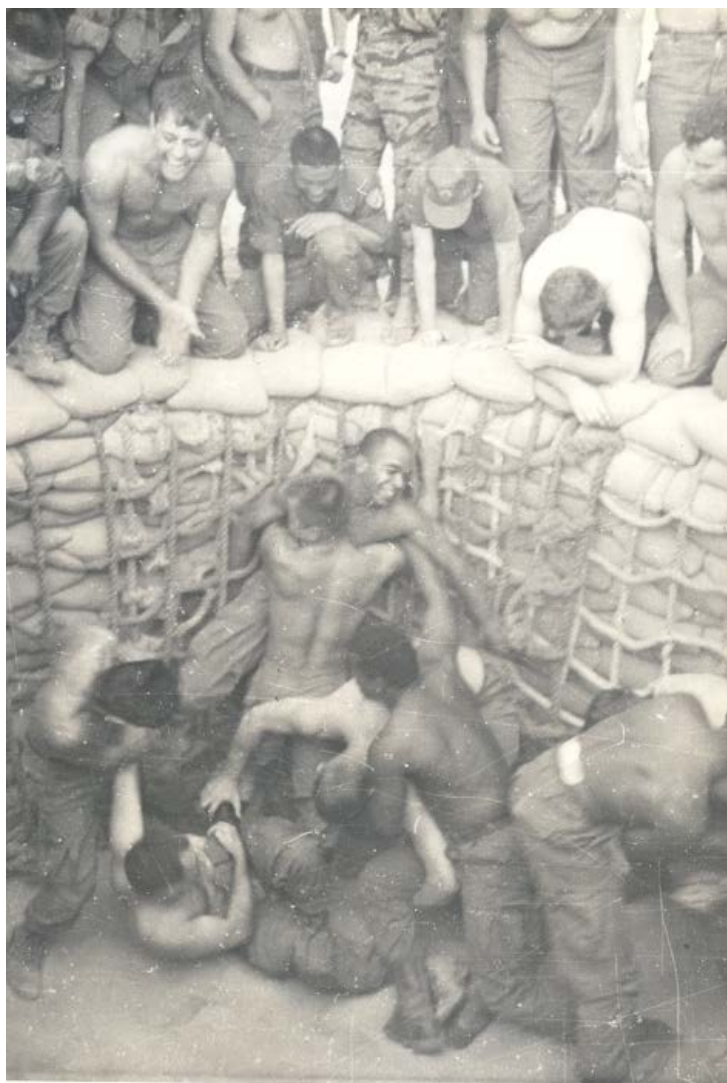




**RECONDO School, Nha Trang**



**Surfing**



**The Pit**

**McGuire Helicopter Emergency Extraction Rig**







**Recondo No. 940**



**Swedish K 9mm**



**M3 Grease Gun .45 cal**

**Capture of NVA Communist Party political commissar on the Cambodian border - Sgt. Valeen**

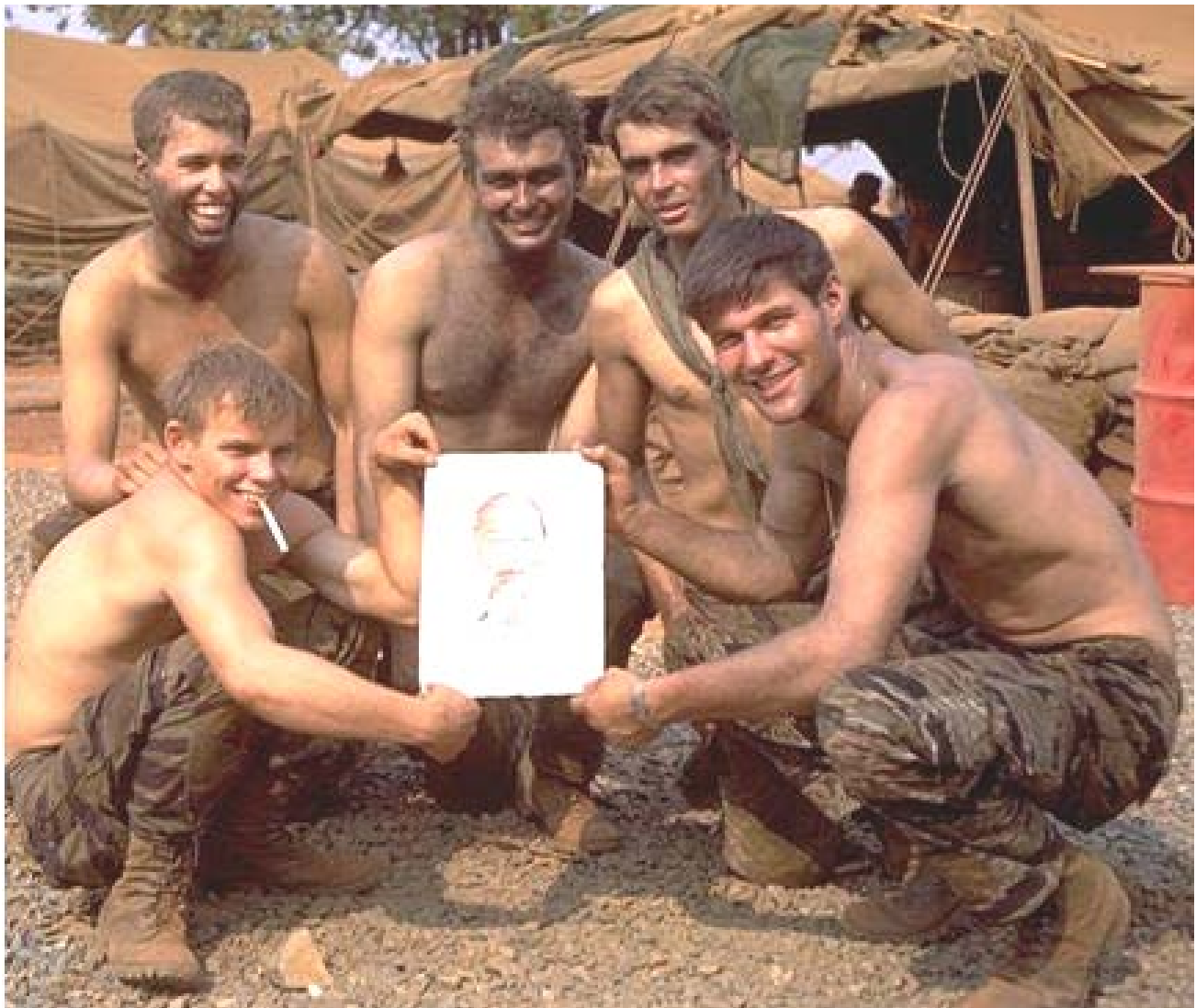


**Thompson**

**Smitty**

**Poz**

**(photo property of Cpt. Garnett)**



**Shorty**

**Ho Chi Minh**

**Sgt. Valeen - Team Leader "Hotel-2-Charlie"**





(photo property of Cpt. Garnett)

Shorty

Valeen

Shaner



Saddling up





On point



Sp/5 Steimbach, smoking, leader of team "*Hotel-2-Alpha*". . . his body will not fit into cave hiding the VC arms cache





**I'm appointed the apprentice Tunnel Rat**



**Steimbach collecting arms from inside the VC cache -- KIA later on 12 April 1968**



**Team leader Sgt. Johnson who almost washed me out of the L.R.R.P.s on my first mission**



## Operations in Pleiku & Kontum Provinces



Sgt. Valeen

### Ivy LRRPs Bag 2 VC

CAMP ENARI — "You might say it was the same thing happening all over again," grinned Sergeant Leonard Valeen of San Bernardino, Calif., with the Ivy's 2nd Brigade Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP) section, after his team had just detained a Viet Cong soldier walking down a trail.

Several days earlier, SGT Valeen's team had trapped a hard core Viet Cong in exactly the same spot, almost at the same time.

"This time we were moving to set up our ambush," recalled Private First Class Nick Posdaniakoff of Syracuse, N.Y., one of the patrol, "when I spotted this figure duck behind a tree."

As the team cautiously moved on the suspect, the man pretended to chop wood.

A quick but thorough search of the area revealed a bagful of carbine rounds which the detainee had just hidden.

The detainee was held for further questioning, later revealing himself as a local VC supply man. The suspect then volunteered to lead the LRRPs to the spot where he stored his weapons.

The next day, a slightly beefed-up LRRP team followed the VC to a cave where he disclosed his cache.





Shorty

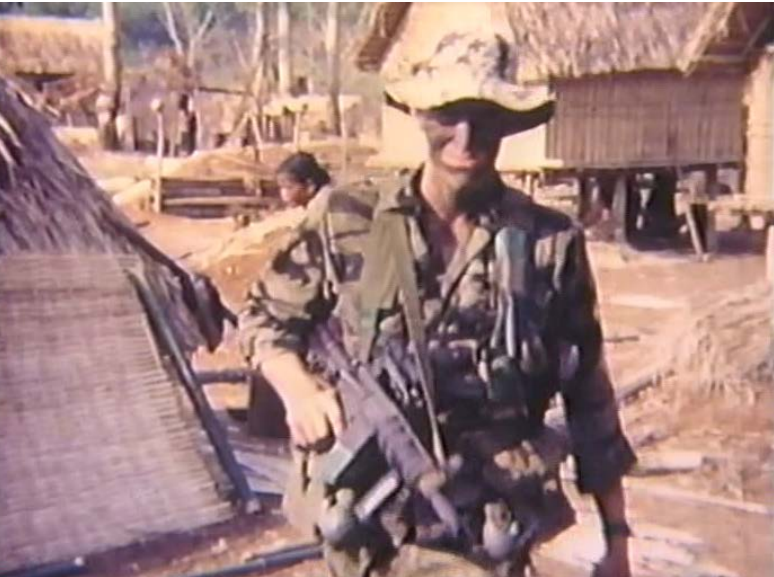
Night Moves...



Wearing Chinese PLA bush hat on point position



Inside a VC village





VC archer... Nooo... it wasn't me who fired that arrow!



VC hiding in a hole... *Chiêu Hồi!*



VC Communist prisoners on their way to interrogation

Inside an NVA base camp - food is still fresh in the mess kits



NVA, in a big hurry to depart, left their gear behind as well...





**Inside the NVA base camp with teammate Cope**



**Suppressed M16 for our night ambush missions**





Jarvis

Finch

**Black P.J.s.... getting ready for our night moves in the jungle**





Sniper mission

## Red Squad Talks Way Into A Jam

**THE OASIS** — A group of Viet Cong soldiers talked their way into a jam recently just as members of a Long Range Patrol from the 4th Division's 2nd Brigade were getting ready to go back to their camp.

"We really didn't expect to find too much. The area was thick with bushes, but sparse on trails and signs of enemy activity," said Specialist 4 Keith Naccarato of Priest River, Idaho.

Then, just after a lunch break, Specialist 4 Nick Posdniakoff of Syracuse, N.Y., the team's pointman heard several voices.

SP4 Naccarato and SP4 Posdniakoff moved up for a better look and spotted two VC taking a smoke break alongside a small waterpoint.

Signaling his team to try and take them alive, SP4 Naccarato came out of a jungle of vines and approached the two enemy soldiers from the rear.

"Before I could get close to them, they spotted me and started to run. One picked up his weapon and that's when I cut loose."

The enemy soldier was slain instantly.

Setting Claymore ambush



"Naccarato's gook"... shoot first, and search for weapons later





Naccarato with radio

me with 79



Sampling *Montagnard* rice wine with Valeen and Chue; on the Cambodian border





**Former VC comrade Ebon Chue, my teacher on how to survive on point**



**Cooking rats in the bush with Chue**



**M79 Grenade launcher**



**Modified CAR-15**





**Radio Relay mission; supporting a L.R.R.P. team in trouble on the Laos border**

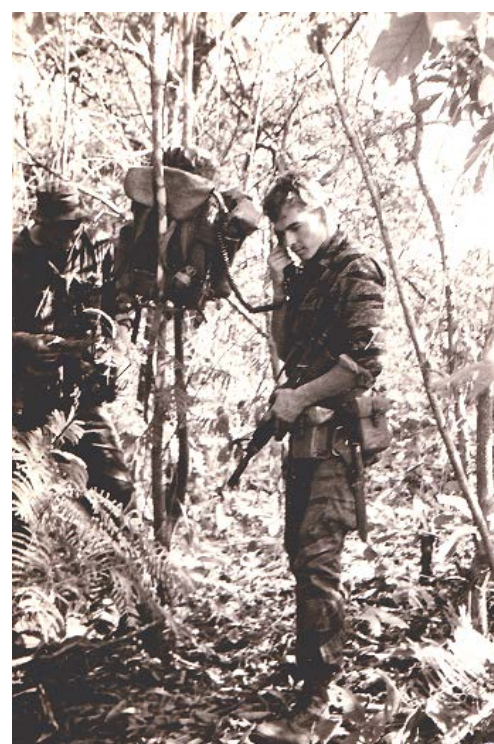


**Fire Mission !**

**NVA incoming fire from Laos**



**"Cpt. Gooney"**



**my "Prick-25" Radio**





Sgt. Popay with his “prisoner”



L.R.R.P. Platoon Sgt. Blake, KIA 22 March 69



Chopped 79



with Sgt. Yasui

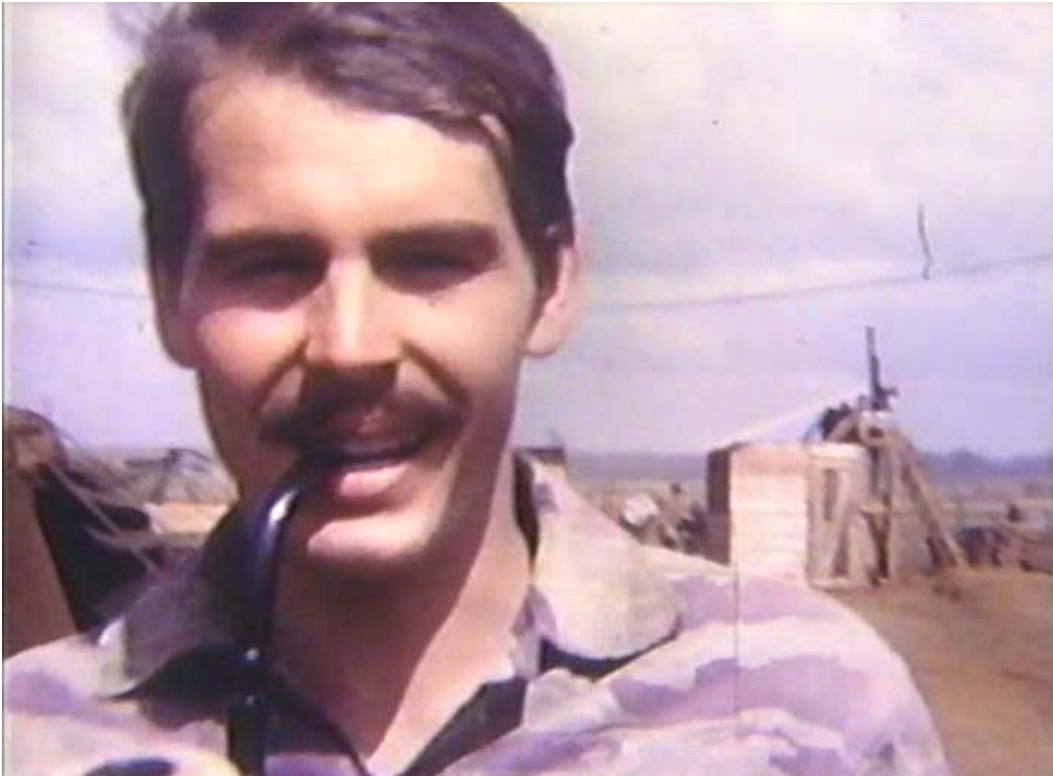




Sgt. Yasui from Hawaii



L.R.R.P. Laundromat



The Oasis, July 1968; promotion to L.R.R.P. Team Leader *"Hotel-2-Charlie"*



**Thompson with arm wound, one week before KIA**



**Lt. Hall crossing river to arms cache just minutes before our contact with the NVA**







**Cpt. Garnett landing in his bubble to evacuate wounded Soule and Thompson**







**Close call - my pack is shredded**  
**12 July 1968**

**71<sup>st</sup> Evac Hospital, Pleiku; visiting wounded teammates Thompson, Soule, Lt. Hall, Flores...**



**Quintero**

**Cope**

**Finch**

**Johnson**

**Tex**

**Mayle**



Thompson is dead...

HEADQUARTERS  
4TH INFANTRY DIVISION  
APO San Francisco 96262

AVDEH-AGD

19 July 1968

LO 7-186

SUBJECT: Escort Duty, Priority: Urgent

TO: Individuals Concerned

TC 200. Indiv this sta placed on TDY as indic. RPSCTDY. TDN. CIPAP  
POSDMJ.KOFF, NICH US 50 013 098 (SSAN: 068-40-1112) SP4 E-4, HMC, 2d Bde,  
4th Inf Div APO San Francisco 96262.

TDY to: Oakland Army Terminal, Oakland, California, and Ward Cove, Alaska

WP date: O/A 19 July 1968

No days: Approx 15 days

Sety Cinc: NA

Purpose: To escort remains of CPL William A. Thompson, RA 11 824 887

Auth: AR 638-40 and USARV Reg 638-31. CH SUPSVC UNCLAS MSG # 12335

Tvl data: Tvl by rail a/c is directed to POE. Indiv will report to

Trans Off at POE for trans to destination.

Acct class: 2192020-32-22 P2530-211 399-999

Emergency Leave Address: Mr. Vladimir Pozdnjakoff

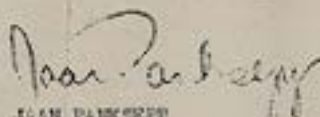
211 Miles Avenue

Syracuse, New York

Sp instr: Indiv will report to CO, USAR Personnel Center, Oakland, Calif.

Indiv will have in his possession appropriate Class A Uniform  
for area to which escorting remains. The carrying of any kind of  
dangerous articles (hand grenades, tear gas grenades, signal kits,  
etc), firearms ammunition, explosive or incendiary ammunition, or  
any kind of explosive device in accompanied or unaccompanied per-  
sonal baggage aboard military aircraft is prohibited.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



JAAN PANKSEPP

CPT, AGC

Asst AG

DISTRIBUTION:

25-Indiv conc

1-CO, Unit conc

3-FIN-P

2-PSD-R

2-Cas Br

1-Ref Set

1-Rec Set

5-CO, NTMTS at POE





**Farewell to Kull and Ahrendsen followed on 07 September 1968... two Bronze Stars pinned on their empty hats**



**A welcome sight... slick dropping to extract our team under fire**



**Safe inside the chopper -- escape from a hot extraction**



**Hot Extraction at night -- lifting off under fire -- made it again!**

**Last L.R.R.P. mission in Vietnam...**



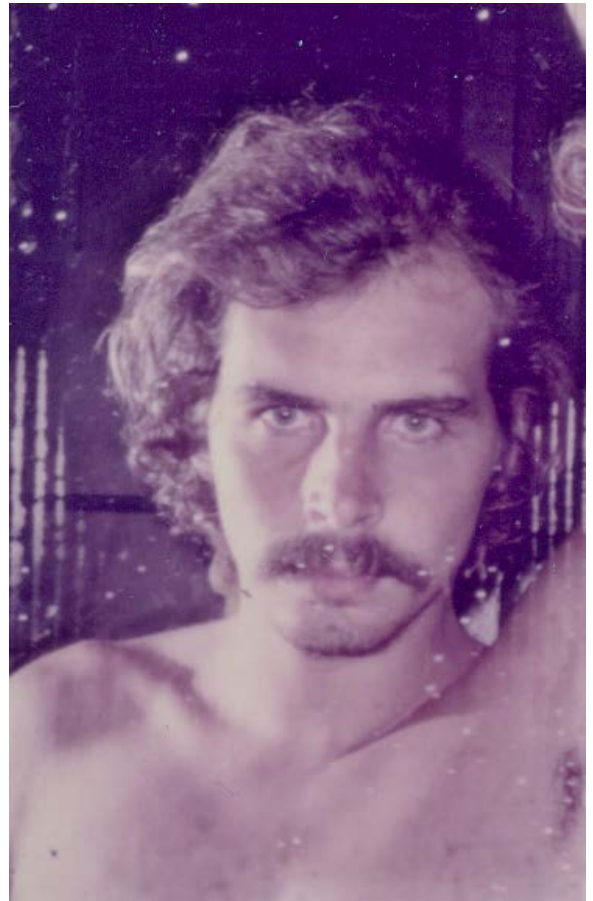


L.R.R.P.s - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ghraumiVO2w>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sa5XIKB7TwU>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X9dEfvLObDc>

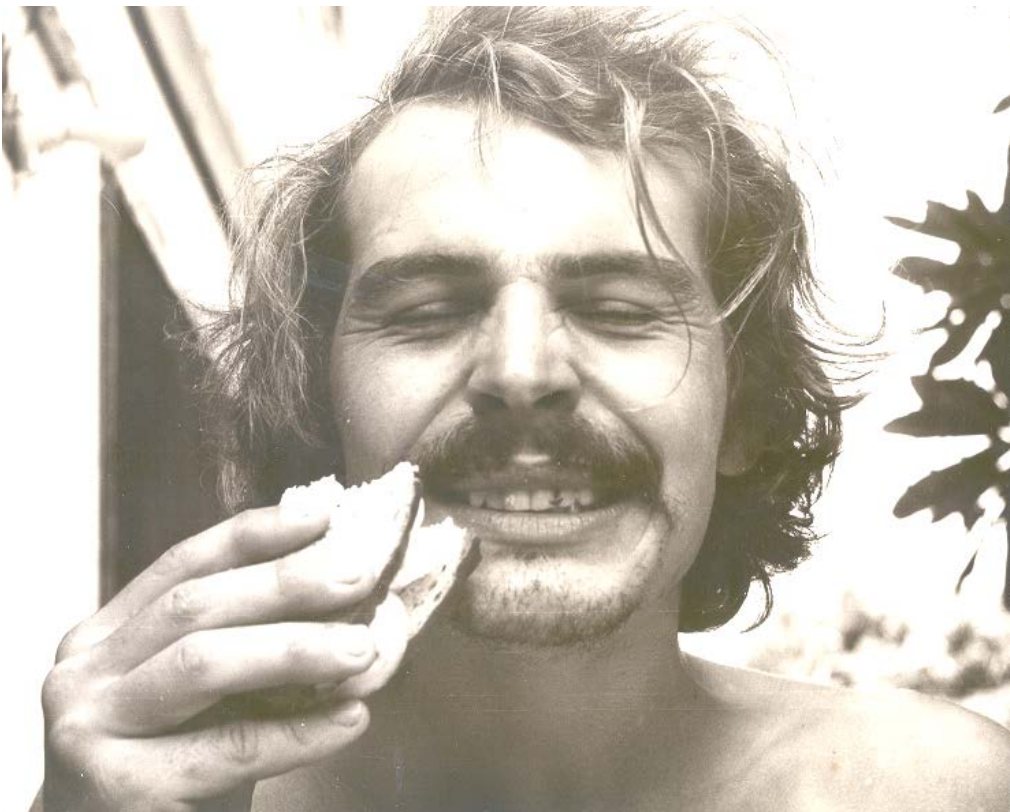




**Last week in the Army, January 1969**



**Six months later...**



**Surf bum back in Hawaii...**