

Glen Charles LUDBAN
EO2, USN
KIA 6/30/69
Dong Ha

The following information was donated to the NMCB 62 “Minutemen” Website on 1-15-2010 by permission of Gary M. Ludban, the Brother of Glen.

Gary Ludban, USAF 69 – 72, has requested that anyone who knew his Brother Glen contact him by email at garyjready@embarqmail.com.



1 July 1969

Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. LUDBAN
910 S. Randolph
Garrett, Indiana 46538

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Ludban:

On behalf of the officers and men of U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion SIXTY-TWO, and for myself, I wish to express our deepest sympathy and offer our condolences on the tragic loss of your son Glen. As your son's Commanding Officer, I want you to know that all of us are keenly aware of the loss that you have suffered, and that we also sadly share that loss with you.

Your son served proudly and well in the SEABEES, and he was killed in action while doing his duty for his country. I hope that the knowledge that Glen did serve so well, and that he died without suffering, will be of some comfort to you in this most trying time. It is for this reason that I write and relate to you the circumstances of your son's death and briefly describe to you the fine young man that he was.

Glen was assigned to an ALFA Company road crew detail located on Route 9 approximately 15 miles west of our base here in Dong Ha. Sometime during the night of 29 and 30 June 1969, an old French concrete culvert under Route 9, a vital U.S. convoy road, was destroyed by the enemy, and the road was rendered impassable. Glen's detail was on its way to the scene to construct a bypass around the area when the tragedy occurred. Glen and one other NMCB-62 SEABEE equipment operator had dismounted from their truck so that they could walk around an Army weapons vehicle guarding the bypass site. As Glen walked around the Army vehicle, he detonated the concealed land mine and was killed instantly. Two of the Army personnel were seriously wounded and MEDEVACED with your son's body to the THIRD Medical Battalion Hospital in Quang Tri Combat Base.

Mere words are all too inadequate for expressing my deepest sympathies to you at this trying time. Your son was a very real asset to my Command. His friendly and outgoing jovial nature was a morale booster of the highest caliber, not only among his very close friends in ALFA Company, but also for the many other servicemen he came to know while in the Battalion.

Affectionately known to all as "Heavy", Glen was one of the most capable and reliable equipment operators in ALFA Company. He seemed to enjoy his work and his talent for handling equipment was in demand on a variety of projects including the Cam Lo River Bridge, Route 9 roadwork, and Dong Ha Combat Base convoy route.

This morning, the 1st of July, Glen's shipmates joined together in a memorial service at our Chapel here at Camp Barnes. Led by our Battalion Chaplain, we offered prayers for Glen and for your comfort. Our Chaplain, LT CROWE, CHC, USNR, spoke with me today and indicated that he too intended to write to you. He will send you a Chapel Bulletin describing the memorial service and I am certain that you will find comfort in his message. His words did much to relieve the pain that I personally felt from Glen's loss.

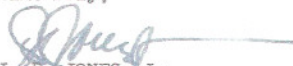
Glen's remains are now enroute from the Quang Tri Hospital to the Army receiving center in DaNang and from there will be shipped to the States.

I have directed that Glen's personal effects and belongings be inventoried as soon as possible by his Company Commander and then forwarded through channels to you.

Please do not hesitate to write to me if there is any additional information that I can provide or if there is any way in which I can be of further assistance.

Once again, please accept our deepest sympathies.

Sincerely,



J. P. JONES, Jr.
CDR, CEC, USN
Commanding Officer
USN MCB SIXTY-TWO

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
Detachment 1, 620th Tactical Control Squadron
APO San Francisco 96362

Mr. and Mrs Ludban;

4 July 1969

The Officers and Men of Detachment 1, 620th Tactical Control Squadron, Dong Ha, Republic of Vietnam, extend our deepest sympathy to you at this time.

Your Son Charles was a personal friend to many of the men on our installation, and will long be remembered for his wonderful personality and friendship that he extended to everyone he met.

We are certain that his success in life was due in no small part to the training and influence you exerted on his character during the formative years. His respect for our American way of life is a tribute to your contributions toward his upbringing.

Again, we, the undersigned, extend our warmest affection and deepest sympathy.

Clarence L. Oliver, Lt. Col., USAF

Charles J. Newsum Jr. Capt USAF

William H. Baldwin, Capt USAF

Major Charles C. Rungtzen XO.

Norman O. Gallen, SMSGT USAF

Donald K. Kovacs SMSGT, USAF

Francis B. Lanning, TSGT, USAF

George E. Stever, MSGT, USAF

Russell D. Miskin, SGT, USAF

John F. Furtak Sgt. USAF

Ernest K. Gnabalen SSGT USAF

Leroy T. Barnett SSGT USAF

Richard W. Thompson SSGT USAF

Walter C. Maffei SSGT USAF Check for 75.00

Gregory T Arnold SSgt USAF

Francis J Boyer TSgt USAF

Dorman H Roll Sgt USAF

Thomas J. Koneph SGT USAF

Fredrick Torres SGT. USAF

Ray B. Sennett SGT USAF

Robert G. Nelson SSgt USAF

Chasene K. Anderson SSgt USAF

Earl W. Morris SGT USAF

Rudolph P. Langman A/C USAF

William P. Clancy Sgt. USAF

Edward Weikens A/C USAF

Walter A. Morgan SGT USAF

Michael J. McGowan SGT USAF

Joseph P. Pryke Sgt USAF

Joseph J. Lillman Jr. AMN USAF

Robert H. Wagoner SSG. USAF

Richard W. Gillaspie TSgt USAF

Eugene C. Jensen SSGT USAF

Ronald W. Richards Sgt. USAF

Gary P. Christman SSgt USAF

Walter J. Harris TSgt USAF

Richard T. Armstrong Sgt. USAF

Francis J. McNally Jr. A/C, USAF

U. S. NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION 62
FLEET POST OFFICE
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 09501

5 July 1969

Mr. & Mrs. Charles J. LUDBAN
910 South Randolph
Garrett, Indiana 46538

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Ludban;

I am the Chaplain for MCB SIXTY-TWO. I wanted to send you some copies of the bulletin for our memorial service honoring your son, Glen Charles. He was well liked and about two hundred men, mostly from his company, came out that morning to pay final tribute to their fallen comrade.

Especially broken were his Chief Petty Officer Joseph Hirtle who looked upon your son as if he were his son, and Craig Vail who was with your son that day. Craig said that your son, perhaps in jest, insisted on walking ahead of him just in case anything happened. He actually saved his life taking his place.

We don't understand why these things happen but can only hope that someday we'll understand the wisdom of our Heavenly Father who loves us as sons and daughters.

May God comfort your hearts in this time of loss.

In His name,



R. R. CROWE
LT, CHC, USNR



30 August 1969

Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Ludban
910 South Randolph Street
Garrett, Indiana 46538

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Ludban:

Soon after the very untimely death of your son, Glen, his shipmates got together and decided they wanted some way to honor their departed shipmate who had contributed so much to their own morale and good spirits. As I had mentioned in my previous letter, Glen was a highly respected NMCE-62 SEABEE, not only for his professional ability as an Equipment Operator, but also because of his pleasant, vivacious and congenial personality that attracted so many to him.

His shipmates joined together and went to the BRAVO Company signpainter and had the sign shown on the enclosed photographs prepared. It is an all steel sign with a dark blue background, red and white lettering with a steel pipe for a post. The sign was erected on the road where Glen lost his life and dedicates a 4.5 mile stretch of vital highway in his honor.

Glen was a member of the initial crew who started upgrading a narrow and winding old French road between the Khe Gio Bridge and Elliott Combat Base. This was the only stretch of the 25 mile convoy route, Route QL-9, between Dong Ha Combat Base and Vandegrift Combat Base that had not been upgraded. Vital ammunition and supplies passed over this road in steady streams of convoy traffic daily, supplying the combat troops in the forward areas. The old road was not only narrow, rough and unpaved, but was constantly being mined and, because of the dense foliage along the sides was highly susceptible to ambushes, which did occasionally occur.

The road is now just about complete, except for a short 3/4 mile stretch at the Khe Gio Bridge, which is scheduled to be completed by mid-September. The paved surface is 24' wide with 4' shoulders throughout, and has virtually eliminated the roadbed mining incidents. Convoys now speed over the road at 30 to 40 mph and claim that the paving of QL-9 by NMGB-62 from Dong Ha to Elliott has cut over one hour off the time required for a one-way trip to Vandegrift.

This project is probably the largest highway construction project involving the greatest amount of earthwork of any that has been undertaken by any construction battalion in Vietnam. It is a highway in which we are very proud and take particular pride in dedicating to a brave, highly respected and honored prior member of this Command.

I hope that these photographs and this brief letter will provide you with greater insight into the work in which your son was involved and his contribution to the cause of freedom in the Republic of Vietnam. If you think of any detail, no matter how small, that I may have overlooked, please do not hesitate to write. We will be doing a feature article on the road in our Battalion newspaper, the SEABEACON, soon and I will insure that you get a copy of that particular issue.

Sincerely,



J. P. JONES, Jr.
CDR, CEC, USN
Commanding Officer
USN MCB SIXTY-TWO

Encl:

- (1) Photographs of Memorial Sign
- (2) Photographs of QL-9

GLEN LUDBAN
MEMORIAL HIGHWAY

CONSTRUCTION

BY

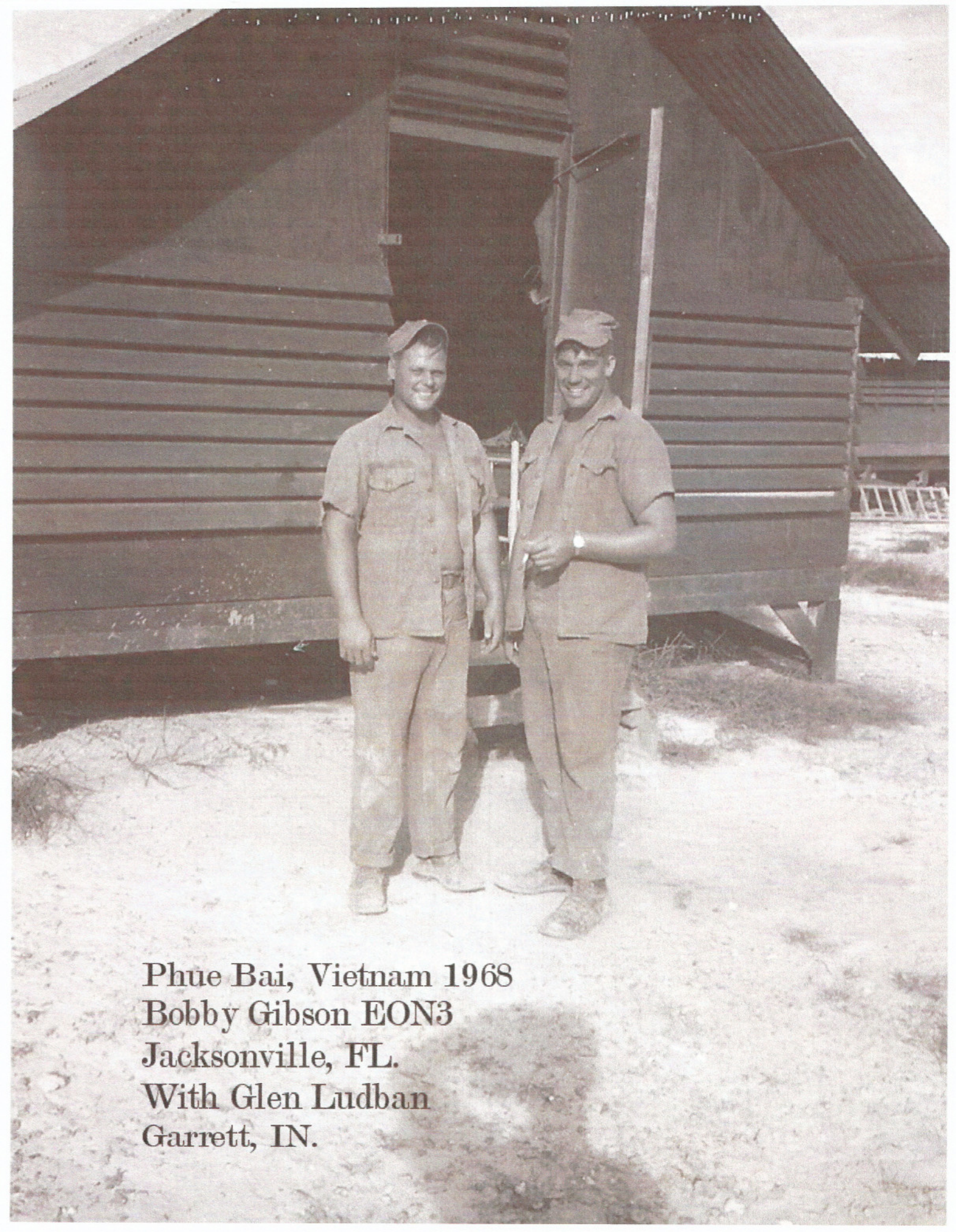
ALFA COMPANY

UNITED STATES NAVAL

MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION 62





A color photograph of two young men in military uniforms standing in front of a wooden building. The man on the left is wearing a tan short-sleeved button-down shirt, tan trousers, and a tan cap. The man on the right is wearing a similar uniform but with a watch on his left wrist. They are both smiling. The building behind them has horizontal wooden siding and a dark doorway. The ground is sandy and uneven.

Phue Bai, Vietnam 1968
Bobby Gibson EON3
Jacksonville, FL.
With Glen Ludban
Garrett, IN.