

I guess I've visited Lock Ninh 2-7 times a week for the past 39 years, I think what keeps me going back is my failure to understand why we got our ass kicked that day. my whole life I've been like this, once I can understand why something happened I can put it to rest

*Why did two platoons line up as if on police call and advance to a ridge that we had been receiving fire from not 30 minutes before"*

Plt Sgt Quinn was a dud and I could picture him doing what he was told. I did not know the Recon plt sgt but all that I've learned over the years about him has baffled me to why he and Quinn acted in such a dumb ass manner that day.

A bit of new to me information posted in this group just a few weeks has answered my question **this photo and information posted by [Helene Maria Kieta Harris](#)**



Lt Bedard was wounded at Loc Ninh June 11th and sent home I was his RTO ...Randy

OK a Lt in the field will bust his ass trying to follow orders from a greenhorn Capt. I heard the order on the radio "line your men up and advance to the top of the ridge. (body count, enemy weapons and papers were what we were looking for)

To this day I do not remember a 2nd Platoon Leader. WHY?

For even me to understand this, let alone a stranger I have to take you back and explain my 10 years prior service.

Old brown shoe army, with a tankers MOS (11 Echo) from Day one my NCO's were for the most part Korea War Vets, with a few from WW2

1st and 2nd Lts were tolerated period. You respected the rank!

Tank crews were a little like the Inf fire-team, depending on the tank you had a four or five man crew. In my day a hours operation in a tank translated into 10-11 hours of maintenance

Every Tank platoon had a platoon leader, when the platoon leader was gone, be it 5 minutes or 5 days the gunner was in charge of the tank.

By the time I made PFC I was either the driver or the gunner of the Platoon Leaders tank. From the time I made E-5 I was either a tank commander or the gunner on the Platoon leaders tank. In those ten years I never did see but one Platoon leader that would get his hands dirty pulling 1st echelon maintenance.

In those days rank was slow but by 1966 I should have been a E6 instead of a E5, never a court-martial or article 15, I had a big mouth, thought I was smarter than most senior NCO's and had no respect for some kid wearing a gold bar.

When I walked into 3rd Platoon Sgt Blankenship told me I'm going to make you a fire team leader even though you outrank the squad leader. This was fine with me as I was smart enough to know that I didn't know shit about anything.

the next two months I was in a steep learning mode from everyone in the fire team, I pulled OP, I walked point, somewhere along the way someone found out that this country kid didn't get lost in the bush. This little fire team was both my teacher and my family.

Then one day word came down that 2nd Platoon needed a squad leader, I reported in to Sgt Quinn and he introduced me to my new squad. I've already told how the next day the squad tested their new squad leader, I passed their test and was accepted. From that day on this new squad was my family and my responsibility.

Did Sgt Quinn introduce me to a platoon leader? I do not know, if he did the platoon leader would just have been one more kid wearing a gold bar. In my book he would have been close to nothing.

I joined 2nd platoon towards the end of May, maybe about 2-3 weeks before Loc Ninh. Sgt Quinn passed the orders down to the squad leaders. The platoon leader I have no idea of where he hung out. He for sure never came into my squad area very much if at all.

This is the only way I can explain to myself why I didn't know we had a officer with us the 11th of June.

In my mind it explains the question I've been asking myself over and over "why did two platoon sgts line their men up as if they were on police call. A good NCO would have left several M60's on the ridge as fire support, they would have had a clear field of fire on the ridge as they would have been firing several feet over our heads. A Lt on the other hand is going to do what the company commanders says

Why we were left on our own in that ditch for hours I've always laid it at the feet of the company commander, that why has never bugged me much. Rich says they were in a irrigation ditch, on the radio The CO was just a voice on the radio and could have been anywhere

My squad and what was left of 2nd platoon had one job that day (hold in place) if the whole VC army had came over the ridge we had no choice, when the incoming fire stopped then and only then did we get a relief force. I've read the reports of the relief force attacking the ridge. There was no more incoming fire period.

2nd platoon had one more job that afternoon (carrying bodies to a clearing where they could be taken out by Huey) To this day I don't remember seeing or talking to the company commander or anyone outside of what was left of my platoon, I remember watching Hueys come straight down in this little clearing, blades whacking tree branches on the way down, I remember walking back to the airstrip after dark ( who led the walk? I have no idea ) a good description of me and I think the rest of 2nd Platoon would have been a walking zombies

While I was in Charlie company we only had one good company commander (Zippo Six) the other two (good men?) that got men hurt while they went through their 3-4 months OJT as a combat leader.

The snapshot in the VFW magazine of a platoon waiting to re-enforce 2nd platoon did piss me off, that platoon put on the ridge we were on before the police call order would have been able to stop dead any VC attack.

Anyway that's my story as I remember it and just maybe some of you will understand when I say most officers should be restricted to the officers club when the fighting starts.

I was a good NCO, I would have made a good General anything less I wouldn't have been worth a damn 😊