

Larry King

i arrived in country feb. 6 1970. went in atp. 1/11th 2nd plt. i don't remember who my tank commander was, or who the driver was. i manned the right side 60 cal. George Frances Paterson manned the left onc. George was KIA in a fire fight on april 1, 1970.

my day started off like anyother the morning of march 26 , after we left the ndp, we were busting jungle the tc turned to Paterson and myself and said get ready we are going to rescue a unit that is pinned down. i don't know how long it took us to get thero . i heard the rpg rounds first, and then the small arms fire. GIS were running from the jungle and getting behind our pcs. some were climbing on the pcs and hugging men and thanking them for coming the first thing i fired on was a nva bunker on the top rim of a old b-52 crater. i just shut the machine gun down long enough to reload from then on. the smoke from the gun powder was so thick it made ti difficult to breath. i can't tell you how long we fought. when the tc told us we were pulling out, our pc was one of the last to get in line. while we were trying to get turned around, i saw Capt. pondexter running out to our flank, and toward the bunkers firing his m-16 trying to cover , as we tuned around, capt. pondexter also had one arm bandaged. after we moved out far enough for the b-52 strike, i remember watching from the top of the pc, the flash, sound and rumble as the hit. i remember going back the next day, and was surprised to see the vehicles was not damaged from the bombs. i hope this helps in some way. i was only 18 at the time, it was a long time ago. i don't talk much about my service in vietnam. that was my first big fire fight. george helped me get through it, only for him to get killed in the next one, one day before he was to go to the rear.

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ps. them mashed taters you spooned out, the ones you was always saying would put hair on your chest. didn't do me much good.