



# DOGMAN

A Brotherhood of All Combat Veteran Dog Handlers



VIETNAM DOG HANDLER ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 28 - NUMBER 1 - MARCH 2021

## The Story of a Dog Named Paper

By Ron Werneth

How things happen in life can be amazing; they can occur for a reason. This is one of those stories. Over ten years ago, I vividly remember the first time I saw the documentary *War Dogs: America's Forgotten Heroes*. I cried my eyes out. One of the powerful stories in this television special was about scout dog Paper, his handler Tom Hewitt (42nd IPSD) and the amazing story of this dog's recovery. Paper's survival from a near-death experience is a testament to dedication and meticulous medical care by Dr. John Kubisz and his talented small team at the 764th Medical Detachment. Nevertheless, I never thought that one day I could meet and hear this story firsthand. Sadly, since this documentary was produced over twenty years ago, many of the veterans have passed away.

After several years of searching, I was shocked to locate Dr. Kubisz in nearby Lafayette, Indiana; still hard at work as a full-time veterinarian fifty years later!



*Scout Dog Paper in training at Ft. Benning.*



*Handler Tom Hewitt and Paper at the 764th Medical Detachment.*

My eventful visit with this lifetime veterinarian led to a later meeting with 42nd IPSD scout dog handler Tom Hewitt (now retired in Florida). All of this thrust me into an unexpected personal role of helping Dr. Kubisz's get his previously-unpublished story published as a book, *Paper Dog*. This book is currently in production and will be released sometime in mid-2021 by Elm Grove Publishing. Here is the story behind this incredibly special project from the perspective of a combat veterinarian who came full circle so many years afterward.

Dr. John Kubisz is from Hammond, Indiana. At the age of eleven, he did his first "surgery" on an ailing turtle. This was the beginning of his journey to becoming a veterinarian. In 1967, after graduating from Purdue University, Dr. Kubisz joined the United States Army, as a captain, in the Veterinary Corps. After six months of military service as a food inspector, he

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# FROM THE PRESIDENT

By John R. Harvey  
VDHA President

February is one of those untamed and unpredictable months of the year. At the end, you think back on it with mixed emotions. Every month has its holidays which bring back memories of joy, sadness, optimism and hope. The weather can be as unpredictable as life itself. I can remember my days in the Northeast where there were years when you could have three or four major snowstorms before the month ended. Our friends, brothers and sisters in Texas experienced mother nature's power this year with the cold and snow.

As veterans, we revere Memorial Day in May and Veterans Day in November. The Marine Corps birthday in November has always had a special place in my life. This year my thoughts are focused on Valentine's Day. I struggle to think of any holiday which brings a spectrum of emotions as broad as Valentine's Day. If you are remembering a lost love it can be the saddest and possibly the cruelest day of the month. If you are lucky enough to have survived the turmoil of life with that childhood sweetheart, hopefully you are thanking god with gratitude for the joys and love you shared over your lives. Hold them close and tell them that you love them.

Your lot in life may be the discovery of that new relationship. One that you believed you might never find again. It may be a relationship you decided to give a chance despite your feelings of inadequacy. Our lot in life involves facing "Our Last Chapter." How will this last chapter read when it is finally written? Will it be one of joy and thankfulness? We may

struggle. We may worry about our health, how are we going to get the bills paid, how can we help the kids, or afford that new generator. I find myself blessed to have found someone at this point in my life who wants to share all the excitement to be found in the time we have left. My wish is that all of us can share these moments. Don't ever give up hope. We have concluded that the most important assets we have in our lives are our health and our love,



both of which need daily attention.

I can't say that I have always felt this way. The separation of war can be cruel. I was 19 years old when I found myself in love with someone I believed to be the most beautiful girl in the world. I thought she would be "my forever one." Much to our parent's trepidation, I bought her an engagement ring three weeks before I left for my first tour in Vietnam. I was attached to 2nd Battalion, 26th Marines in Phu Bai. I had been in country almost six months when the infamous mail call delivered that fateful letter. The letter started with, "I am confused, I took off my ring, I met this guy, etc." I was the very last of the thirty-six men in my platoon to receive that "Dear John."

There were thousands, perhaps tens of thousands of such letters in the fall of 1967. By the time I received mine, it was not all that surprising. The media-driven anxiety of the war was taking its toll on both those in the field and those left at home. You could feel the tension everywhere and the expectations of what was to explode in January 1968.

The very worst "Dear John" was the one received by our radioman. At the time, the normal deployment was 13 months for an enlisted man. Our radio man was married with two kids. He was two weeks away from going home. He had made several attempts to meet his wife in Hawaii for R&R; each time there was a reason they couldn't get together. Either the kids were sick or a job interfered, etc. I remember the letter which told him to not bother coming home: "In fact, why don't you just go and get yourself killed." After that no one wanted to be in the bush with him.

Several days later, the ammo dump in Phu Bai was attacked and destroyed. During the attack he slipped and broke his trigger finger which kept him in the rear until his rotation date. I am glad he finally made it home. I never found out what became of his marriage but I hope that he eventually had a full and wonderful life.

I know that for the thousands of similar stories, there are other stories of the relationships which endured. There were those back home who stayed faithful and true. To all of those relationships I say "bravo."

Many of us had broken spirits that needed to mend, and the angels

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# Waiting for the Dogs - Three Perspectives

*This is the last installment of the three-author, real-life story which is an accounting of how "waiting for the dogs" to arrive at U-Tapao Royal Thai Air Base interconnected three dog handlers assigned to the 635th SPS. The last issue included the 'First Part' by Ben Cox and most of the 'Second Part' by Dave Broeker. In this issue we publish the rest of Dave's story and add 'Part Three' by Jim Dorris.*

*Second Part (continued from last issue)*

*By Dave Broeker*

Keeping the kennel area and equipment clean and secure was a full-time task for all three of us. Jim and Robert took over when I left for the states and I heard they made the transition to the new kennels very successful.

TSgt Tom Swartz, the Kennel Master, made my K-9 tour at U-Tapao very easy and enjoyable. He trusted me and complimented me on work well done which only made me work harder for him. Both TSgt Swartz and TSgt Cox played major parts in getting me through a rough time in my life.

I helped many of the newly arriving K-9 airmen to learn a lot of the "basic" Thai words, money exchange (Baht), and customs. Unlike the English alphabet of 26 characters, the Thai alphabet has 44 characters.

I'll probably always be remembered for the time I lost the deuce-and-a-half and I swear that some "camoy" (thief) relocated it from where I parked it. Fortunately, we recovered it or I'd probably still be paying for it today!

Dog handler Harold L. Horn and I were both from Iowa. In fact, we were from towns within 20 miles of each other. I remember writing to my congressman and asking for an Iowa state flag. I passed that flag on to Harold and always felt good that he would be there to represent Iowa after I had left to go back to the states. A few years later, he showed up working at the same business I worked at. He came walking down the aisle one day and I was amazed to see him there. He had been discharged and was working third shift in the fabrication area. I worked days and lost track of him. I've tried repeatedly to locate him but have been completely unsuccessful.

The K-9 group was tightly knit and we took care of most problems internally. We tried hard to support and cover for each other during times of stress, divorce, or loneliness. All in all, U-Tapao was a learning experience that taught most of us how to handle stress and gave us the ability to learn how to make new friends that would last a lifetime. I met a lot of friends and grew up an awful lot in that year and it was a time well spent that I wouldn't give up for anything.

*Part Three*

*by Jim Dorris*

I arrived at U-Tapao in early February of 1968. They assigned me to "A" Flight and sent me to every post on the base to work. That's when I met TSgt Ben Cox and I think it was over a cool one downtown. I found out he was K-9 and was getting everything ready for the "First Wave." I mentioned the fact I had worked at the Dog School on the AZR course (Medina @ San Antonio) and we knew some of the same people. I told him I wanted a dog. Ben thought there might be some extra or replacement dogs not going to the Thai's.



*Jim Dorris gets the "big kiss" from one of the heros stationed at U-Tapao RTAB, Thailand -1968*

I'm not sure of the date but, I met with TSgt Tom Swartz and Ben after the Dogs arrived and they were going to request I be assigned to K-9. I was told after the dust settled and everything was going right, I'd be assigned "Skipper" or one of the others not assigned and in the mean time I would work at the kennel and train with the unassigned dogs.

I found out later A1C Robert Recenes was also assigned. We reported to duty to assist A1C Dave Broeker, the Kennel Clerk, on May 5th, 1968. I remember Dave and the fact that he had been stationed at Westover AFB.

I remember the Earth Mover in the jungle cutting trails for the Dog Post. I believe Tom and Ben took part in that adventure. No offense but, I think a one-armed monkey high on Thunderbird would have done a better job. Come to think of it, I think Adolph Coors had a lot to do with that operation.

As most of us know, the price of having dogs in Thailand was to give the Thai's dogs as breeding stock. I hated to see them go to the Thai's because I heard they ate dogs.

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## 2020 VDHA Deaths (66)

Last Updated: 3/1/2021

Since April of 2002, Dave Broeker has been spending hours of his own time receiving and tracking our members' deaths. Starting in 2013, the VDHA has published a list on the VDHA website of names, unit's, & date of death, that were all reported during the previous year. This list will also be published in the first Dogman issue of the following year. A second list will be created, combining all names on all lists, and sorted alphabetically by last name. Any name not found previously in our database will be added posthumously, in an effort to honor and track the status of our K-9 brothers. Anyone reporting a death or modification should contact the Webmaster by e-mailing info to [deaths@vdha.us](mailto:deaths@vdha.us).

| NAME                     | UNIT(s)                                  | Date of Death |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Adams, Richard           | 981 <sup>st</sup> MP Co.                 | 06/17/20      |
| Baker, Dale L.           | Scout Dog School                         | 04/10/19      |
| Barbour, Roy Leon        | 595 <sup>th</sup> MP Co.                 | 08/01/19      |
| Batsa, Richard 'Batman'  | 37 <sup>th</sup> SPS                     | 11/14/20      |
| Belon, Bob               | 212 <sup>th</sup> MP Co.                 | 06/18/19      |
| Bogatitus, Albert        | 33 <sup>rd</sup> IPSD                    | 03/19/20      |
| Brooks, John M.          | 388 <sup>th</sup> SPS                    | 06/15/07      |
| Brown, Robert 'Bob' Alan | 58 <sup>th</sup> IPSD                    | 09/18/19      |
| Broyles, Gary Kenneth    | 35 <sup>th</sup> & 58 <sup>th</sup> IPSD | 01/23/17      |
| Bulkowski, Ed            | 35 <sup>th</sup> SPS                     | 02/14/20      |
| Bustamonte, Mike         | 212 <sup>th</sup> MP Co.                 | 07/30/20      |
| Carsten, Drew            | 981 <sup>st</sup> MP Co.                 | 08/12/19      |
| Childers, Ernest         | 432 <sup>nd</sup> SPS                    | 08/19/20      |
| Cooper, David Matthews   | 12 <sup>th</sup> SPS                     | 05/18/20      |
| Cyree, Douglas           | 41 <sup>st</sup> IPSD                    | 02/22/20      |
| Dennis, Julius R.        | 595 <sup>th</sup> MP Co.                 | 08/02/20      |
| Diller, Ken              | 12 <sup>th</sup> SPS                     | 01/03/20      |
| Dinkins, Willie James    | 557 <sup>th</sup> IPCT                   | 08/27/20      |
| Dotson, Jerry Lee        | Army                                     | 11/04/19      |
| Dyni, Emil E.            | 981 <sup>st</sup> MP Co.                 | 09/05/20      |
| Emmings, Joseph C.       | 981 <sup>st</sup> MP Co.                 | Unknown       |
| Espinoza, Gil            | 388 <sup>th</sup> SPS                    | 08/26/14      |
| Eubanks, George          | 25 <sup>th</sup> IPSD                    | 12/07/67      |
| Feeney, David Michael    | 58 <sup>th</sup> IPSD                    | 03/09/19      |
| Futrell, Raphael         | Iraq Pup                                 | 03/27/09      |
| Germain, Noel            | Tuy Hoa Fall                             | 2000          |
| Guerrero, John           | Marine Scout Dog                         | 07/17/20      |
| Haas, Richard            | 212 <sup>th</sup> MP Co.                 | 03/31/20      |
| Hamel, Walter            | 42 <sup>nd</sup> IPSD                    | 06/28/20      |
| Hayes, William           | 212 <sup>th</sup> MP Co.                 | 12/17/19      |
| Hein, George             | 981 <sup>st</sup> MP Co.                 | 08/13/15      |
| Hills, Gordon 'Lynn'     | 981 <sup>st</sup> MP Co.                 | 02/19/13      |
| James, Sidney            | 366 <sup>th</sup> SPS                    | 09/01/19      |
| Jones, Mike              | 3 <sup>rd</sup> SPS                      | 09/01/20      |
| Knott, William           | 981 <sup>st</sup> MP Co.                 | Unknown       |
| Lewis, Mercer            | 42 <sup>nd</sup> IPSD                    | 09/24/20      |
| Maehrer, John            | 8 <sup>th</sup> SPS                      | 01/15/83      |

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## 2020 VDHA Deaths (66)

Last Updated: 3/1/2021

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| NAME                              | UNIT(s)                                  | Date of Death |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Majorowski, James L.              | 212 <sup>th</sup> SPS                    | 02/04/14      |
| Marshall, Hebert                  | 56 <sup>th</sup> SPS                     | 06/01/71      |
| Martin, George                    | 14 <sup>th</sup> SPS                     | 01/16/20      |
| Mastrangel, Guy Frederick         | 58 <sup>th</sup> IPSD                    | 2015          |
| Milner, Charles Eugene 'Chuck'    | 981 <sup>st</sup> MP Co.                 | 01/10/20      |
| Miltner, Terry A.                 | 981 <sup>st</sup> MP Co.                 | 03/21/20      |
| Monsour, David                    | 212 <sup>th</sup> MP Co.                 | 01/14/15      |
| Orphey, Bill                      | 366 <sup>th</sup> SPS                    | 02/01/20      |
| Patterson, Winfield               | 50 <sup>th</sup> IPSD                    | 12/29/06      |
| Pletsch, Bruce R.                 | 58 <sup>th</sup> IPSD                    | 07/05/19      |
| Pulver, Tommy Joe                 | 58 <sup>th</sup> IPSD                    | 11/25/20      |
| Ransom, Randy Frank               | 48 <sup>th</sup> IPSD                    | 10/18/16      |
| Rhamstine, Allan Robert           | 58 <sup>th</sup> IPSD                    | 12/24/19      |
| Runner, George                    | 212 <sup>th</sup> MP Co.                 | 09/13/19      |
| Schartiger, William Bill 'Shorty' | 58 <sup>th</sup> IPSD                    | 02/01/19      |
| Schmidt, Jerry                    | 212 <sup>th</sup> MP Co.                 | 08/20/19      |
| Shingler, James Chris             | 432 <sup>nd</sup> SPS                    | 07/01/88      |
| Smith, John                       | 635 <sup>th</sup> SPS                    | 06/29/20      |
| Sons, Jimmy                       | Unknown                                  | Unknown       |
| Staats, Lawrence Richard          | 58 <sup>th</sup> IPSD                    | 12/04/20      |
| Swails, Larry M.                  | 212 <sup>th</sup> MP Co.                 | 03/20/20      |
| Takach, Steve                     | Unknown                                  | 03/26/20      |
| Throneburg, Robert 'Bob'          | 377 <sup>th</sup> SPS                    | 02/05/20      |
| Tompkins, Steve Elliott           | 58 <sup>th</sup> IPSD                    | 02/30/20      |
| Vardaman, James Kimble            | 58 <sup>th</sup> IPSD                    | 03/22/15      |
| Weaver, Donald                    | 212 <sup>th</sup> MP Co.                 | 09/24/19      |
| Wesley Jr., Dennis                | 8 <sup>th</sup> SPS                      | 11/21/20      |
| West, Butch                       | Marines                                  | Unknown       |
| Wooten, Robert                    | 34 <sup>th</sup> & 42 <sup>nd</sup> IPSD | 06/28/20      |



# Waiting for the Dogs - Three Perspectives

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I remember the plywood bunker filled with sand and stacking sand bags around it. Robert Recenes and I put that piece of work together in two days with the help of five cases of beer. I remember the original K-9 building was a wood hootch. We stapled rolls of plastic to the inside walls to seal the heat and moisture out and then we transferred the Base Commander's new window air conditioner from Supply to the K-9 section.

Then, there was the time Harold Horn and I borrowed the Base Commander's jeep, which was parked at the main gate while he visited his girlfriend downtown.

My dad had sent me "Blue Bonnets" seeds (Texas State Flower) just as his dad, had sent to him in the South Pacific. So, one night while taking rations out, I spread seeds all over the trails and in the jungle. I wonder if they ever bloomed?

A1C Recenes and I would raid Supply every time there was an alert. Then the Supply Depot figured out they was missing things. So, they requested K-9 dogs be posted inside of the Supply. (Let the Fox guard the hen house.) The Depot was guarded by one of us in K-9 like "Woody & Navigator." We would wave as we drove past them or whoever might be pulling duty.

I can't remember when, but they moved K-9 down in the "Red Horse" area. We were next to the Navy "P-3" crews. I loved breakfast. I remember a cook with a stainless steel pitcher in his hand asking how you wanted your eggs.

Then there was the evening the Bomb Dump was hit. (I'll have to find something with dates to remember when.) As I was walking from the perimeter into the revetments, I watched and filmed mortar rounds. I fell from the water tower where I had been watching and filming, and broke my 8 mm movie camera. Somewhere I still have the film.

After making it to the ground, all hell broke loose. All I saw was a fireball go up, fire and bombs above me, and then the concussion hit me and the back of the kennel. I went about three feet in the air and the end of the kennel building was blown out. After it was all over we lost one dog. I can't remember his name but he was half St. Bernard and half Shepherd. He had been tossed in the air so hard it twisted his intestines and he had to be put down.

December 11, 1968, I think it was Harold Horn and I went on R&R to Bangkok. We both survived and returned to U-Tapao.



*Sentry Dog Ara and Jim Dorris, Thailand - 1968*

I remember in early January, Bob Hope was there for two Christmas Shows. K-9 stood post for security so some of them could see one of the Christmas shows. I thought this is strange, Christmas in January. Well it didn't matter because it was Bob Hope.

In February I had a going-away party in the fishing village next to the base. They say the village had communists in it. But we drank beer and ate canned fish from the cannery. I packed my leash and choke chain and some other leather gear with the hope of going back to K-9 in the States.

In March, 1969 I reported for duty to the 351st SPS at Whiteman AFB, MO. (SAC) I was assigned as a Flight Security Controller "Kilo" Flight. I received a letter from Harold Horn and talked to him a couple of times but haven't heard from him since.

Tom brought Gillette razors over from the States to trade. They gathered dust and I don't remember anyone wanting a close shave!

Looking back, what a great adventure for all of us! The friendships and unquestioned dedication of our dogs! The common experience of war forges timeless bonds and we are experiencing that now, thirty years after the fact.



*Jim Dorris and Harold Horn enjoy a little down time in Thailand - 1968.*

# Thailand Dog Handlers - Behind the “Seens”

By Dave Broeker  
VP-Thailand Units  
635th SPS Unit Director

I've “seen” so many instances where the Thailand Dog Handlers continually pull together towards a common goal of reuniting old memories and friendships. One example of this is our recent fund raiser for the Thailand Dog Handler Website. I have been tossing the idea around in my head for almost ten years of designing and minting a commemorative badge honoring all Thailand Dog Handlers when the time was right. That dream came to a head after I recently became the VDHA VP-Thailand Units after the passing of Ernie Childers.

I'm blessed to have “seen” so many veterans get involved, whether they ever served in Thailand or not, or even if they had never been a dog handler, who asked that badges be donated in their name to others who couldn't donate at this time.

The plan was to ask for a minimum donation of \$60 to the TDH website operating funds, and we gave the badge to them for free, which included personal engraving and postage. The fund raiser continues to be a complete success as additional sales continue. It was a very learning experience.

If you might be interested in acquiring a badge or two, please e-mail me at [davebroeker@comcast.net](mailto:davebroeker@comcast.net) or download the order form by clicking [HERE](#). At this point in time, less than half of the Thailand Dog Handlers have been contacted. If you know of a Thailand Dog Handler that missed out on this offer, please let them know to contact me at [davebroeker@comcast.net](mailto:davebroeker@comcast.net). We still have several badges but when they are gone, no more will be minted because the minimum quantity to mint is fifty.

I want to take a moment to thank John Homa for his assistance during this fund raiser. John creatively mentored me to make the best decisions, including how to raise the funds we needed and how to contact as many Thailand Dog Handlers as we could find.

John Homa is currently very active as a Military Working Dog Heritage Museum and Handler Center (MWDHM) Board Member. His Board position is Projects and Events Project Manager. He can be reached at [projectmanager@mwdhm.org](mailto:projectmanager@mwdhm.org). I couldn't have done it without your help John, so thank you for a job well done! More info concerning the MWDHM can be found at <https://mwdheritagemuseum.org/>. You can also request a subscription to their newsletter, *The Paw Print*. (See Page 11 of this *Dogman* for details.)



*The Thailand Dog Handlers commemorative badge is available through the fund raiser for their website.*

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

... Continued from Page 2.

of Valentine's Day at the time helped us through.

To everyone in our VDHA family I encourage you to find love and happiness in your last chapter, even if it is just nurturing that loving memory of someone you have lost. Focus on the good and God will take care of the rest. Happy Valentine's Day all year long.

### Reunion:

The year 2021 is going to be a transformative year. I hope everyone who wants access to the "vaccine" has been able to get it. I had my second shot February 1. Your board of directors continues to have a monthly conference call in order to discuss the when and the where of our next reunion. We had hoped that we could schedule it for October 2021. However, based on our last conference call, the consensus of the board is that April or May 2022 might be a more realistic time frame. The place of the reunion is still a wild card. Our next conference call is March 28th.

If you as a member have an idea as to where you might like to see the reunion held, please send me an email and I will convey your thoughts. [jrhcpa@hhcpas.com](mailto:jrhcpa@hhcpas.com). The more detail you provide, including the names of possible hotels, description of tours and any other activities would be helpful in planning. Another thought that had been suggested by me was the possibility of requiring attendees to show proof of having received the vaccine and or a negative COVID 19 test 72 hours prior to check in. I would appreciate your opinion on that also.

We wish you all a wonderful and healthy Spring.

# VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Ernie Ayala

I don't usually write book reviews for this section. I do them in my Sentry Dog Alumni Newsletter called *The Sentry*. But this book was so compelling, I recommend you all read this, especially if you are not a fan of reading. I'll tell you this is a cover-to-cover book you will find difficult to put down.

The book, *Long Daze at Long Binh* did not catch my interest because it was written by two medics. Generally, the books written by dog handlers catch my interest. I also didn't think I would be interested in a whimsical high-spirited recollection of Vietnam with no battle scenes or pictures of war-torn soldiers barely making it through a fire fight alive.

The authors, Steve Donovan and Fred Borchardt did something extraordinary; something I did not expect to get out of this unique experience. Not only did they capture my interest, they catapulted me right back to 1966 to re-live my life as a young man all over again. Their rare style of writing looks like an interview without a third person holding the mike. It's very easy to read and the flow of the discussion will cause you to cover 100 pages before you know it. Actually, it's over 350 pages, but the flow is so rapid that you'll finish this book and want more.

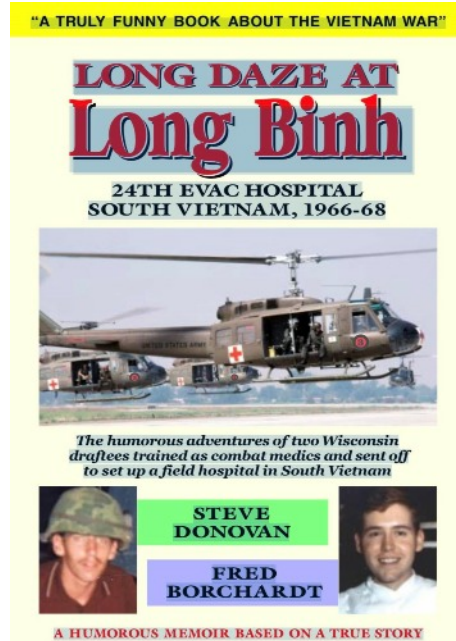
Authors Donovan and Borchardt are from Wisconsin and they go into some detail about their time in basic training at Ft. Campbell, KY and Ft. Sam Houston, TX for AIT medical training for medics. Then they are sent to Vietnam on an old Navy ship from WW2 which transported hundreds of Army and Marine infantry units at the start of the 1965 Vietnam build up.

Recalling my own experience, I spent time in Long Binh from October to December, 1967 and was transferred out three days before Bob Hope and his show came there. They have a very funny chapter on that. In fact, this book kept me in stitches (not literally) from beginning to end. They hit several nerves I had forgotten like my first experiment with marijuana, the bar girls in Bien Hoa ("No money, no honey! No tea, no talk!" So up comes another dollar to keep them on the table).

Then there is the endless array of chores that have to be done around a compound that have nothing to do with your MOS, like digging ditches, burning crap, setting up water systems, pulling sentry duty, guarding LBJ prisoners while they dig ditches, liberating lumber and other supplies, wheeling and dealing to get stuff you desperately need, trading goods for the use of your ration card to guys who buy cigarettes and booze for the black market.

This was a "for pleasure reading" book that you never have to worry about the characters dying at the end or other dramatic turns of events. No gut-wrenching chapters of death; just day to day adventures of two rear-echelon, well REMFs, as they were called over there, counting down the days to get back to The World, surviving and doing what they must for the war effort and supporting their brothers.

It is available through Amazon books. You can also read a sample and see photographs and news about the book on [longbinhdaze.com](http://longbinhdaze.com).



## DOGMAN

DOGMAN is published quarterly by the Vietnam Dog Handler Association, Inc. Members and their families are encouraged to submit articles, letters, photos, etc.

Letters and stories are subject to editing. Email all submissions to [Dogman@VDHA.us](mailto:Dogman@VDHA.us) or mail to Steve Lemish, Dogman Editor, 152 W. Park Avenue, Suite 150, El Cajon, CA 92020 (include a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you want them returned).

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# TRACKER REPORT

By John Dupla

I know many trackers and VDHA members live in colder climates and deal with weather like this on a yearly basis. But this was a first for me and my neighbors. Speaking of weather-related issues, Tracker Estel Matt's home in Lake Charles, LA was damaged last year in a hurricane. I got an e-mail from him and his home is repaired along with a new roof. I just hope we all get through the coming years, free from harm and staying safe.

Being safe is also on my mind, as I've completed my two COVID vaccine shots. I highly recommend getting them. Neither shot gave me any trouble and were without issues. My daughter-in-law, my granddaughter (both RVN's), a retired Navy nurse friend of mine, and a retired doctor friend have all endorsed getting them. The sooner we can get control of this situation the faster we can get back to the "new" normal.

Dixie Whitman, a VDHA and MWD supporter, is now involved with gathering stories concerning dog handlers and their K-9 partners. She volunteers her time in promoting the Military Working Dog Museum. They also put out a monthly newsletter, giving out the latest news. They collect stories and items for the museum from and for all past and present dog handlers and K-9's. She has asked me to participate in an online video interview about trackers. The interview will be recorded and submitted to be archived for the museum. Due to the weather and it's distractions, I have yet to do it. I suggest you read the MWDHM article on page 11, titled "Available: The Paw Print" where you can request a subscription to their newsletter, *The Paw Print*.

Hope all is well with you and your family.

Until then, SEEK ON.

## Vietnam Dog Handler Association Officers

|                    |                |                                             |              |
|--------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------|
| President:         | John R. Harvey | 3000 Holiday Dr., Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316 | 860-796-7813 |
| Executive V.P.     | Ernie Ayala    | 13862 Mardi Gras Lane, Riverside, CA 92503  | 626-862-2667 |
| V.P. Trackers      | John Dupla     | 904 Chetwood Dr., League City, TX 77573     | 281-332-2163 |
| V.P. Thailand      | Dave Broeker   | 1712 Crescent Dr., Pekin, IL 61554-1637     | 309-202-5542 |
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| Webmaster/BX Mgr   | Dave Broeker   | 1712 Crescent Dr., Pekin, IL 61554-1637     | 309-202-5542 |
| Asst. Webm./BX Mgr | Michael Hurder | 986 Coronado Way, Livermore, CA 94550       | 925-518-0318 |
| Historian:         | Vacant         |                                             |              |
| Dogman Editor:     | Steve Lemish   | 152 W. Park Ave., #150, El Cajon, CA 92020  | 619-444-5525 |



Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1079  
and  
Layton City

Cordially invite you to attend the  
*Vietnam War Dog Memorial  
Dedication Ceremony*

Saturday, March 13, 2021  
1:00pm

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall Replica  
Layton Commons Park  
508 Constitution Circle Layton, UT 84041



Due to public health concerns, all attendees will be  
REQUIRED to wear face masks and maintain six feet of  
social distance, between other family groups.  
Attendees may provide their own seating.  
No pets allowed, with the exception of working K-9s.



**DEADLINE**

**ARTICLES FOR  
THE JUNE  
ISSUE MUST  
BE SUBMITTED  
BY  
MAY 23**

# The Story of a Dog Named Paper

... Continued from Page 1.

requested to be sent to Vietnam, and the Army was happy to oblige. Upon arrival in Vietnam, Dr. Kubisz became the commanding officer of the 764th Medical Detachment based at Cam Ranh Bay. He ran the main hospital where his animal patients included everything from military dogs to a tiger cub. Dr. Kubisz, with his small team of veterinary care specialists were the people to see whether your dog needed some routine preventive care or something major, such as being wounded in action.

Easter Sunday, 6 April 1969, is a day that is etched in the mind of scout dog handler Tom Hewitt. While on patrol with members of the 101st Airborne, he and his dog Paper stopped for something to eat. They were sitting in an area surrounded by thick bamboo. Suddenly, Paper began to alert and walking up the trail was a single enemy soldier who was promptly shot.

Later, they continued on patrol and started seeing signs of enemy activity everywhere. The group then entered a ravine area when all hell broke loose. During the engagement, Paper was severely wounded in one leg, his bones were exposed and he was bleeding profusely. Sadly, the patrol was very deep in the bush so Tom and others had to carry Paper for three days before they could be medevaced out. The next stop would be Cam Ranh Bay and the care of the 764th Medical Detachment.

An exhausted Tom Hewitt and his beloved Paper made it to Cam Rahn Bay but this was really just the beginning. Paper's leg wound was the size of two palms and the dog was near death. The smell of Paper's rotting flesh and dirty bandages permeated through the air. Initially, Dr. Kubisz told Tom that, given how badly wounded his dog was, he should prepare for the worst. The handler pleaded with the veterinarian to try his best. What good is a three-legged dog in combat?

In order to save Paper's life, multiple surgeries and a blood transfusion were required. Remarkably, one of the surgeries was an intensive three-hour skin graft. However, even with all this care, there was no guarantee Paper would regain full use of his leg, let alone his return to fighting form again. Dr. Kubisz and his team performed a near miracle, and after many weeks of recovery, Paper was fit for duty.

Handler Tom Hewitt was eager to get back to work. It was hard for the 764th to say goodbye to this amazing duo but they still had a job to do. Sadly, on 26 June 1969, their first mission out, Paper was killed in action but handler Tom Hewitt wasn't wounded.

This article is really just a short description of Kubisz's book, *Paper Dog*, which covers everything from daily life as a combat veterinarian in Vietnam to lots of anecdotal personal stories that cannot be found in any other published works. This book is a fitting tribute to all our Dog Men, Tracker and veterinary Vietnam veterans along with their four-legged heroes. It was an honor for me to assist Dr. Kubisz in getting this special story into print; please watch for *Paper Dog* later this year.



Dr. Kubisz (left), Ron Werneth and retired MWD Brutusz at 2019 Howard County Vietnam Veterans' Reunion in Kokomo, Indiana.



Paper being attended to by Dr. Kubisz six weeks into his treatment.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Checking: \$32,307.83

Savings: 5,079.23

Total: \$37,387.06

## From the Facebook Group Team

By Mike Hurder

I had only been an administrator for my Facebook pages up until now. The experience with the VDHA Facebook group has been a good one. I rarely dropped in before, and I now see I've been missing a lot. I'm starting to see why old soldiers go to the VFW halls (something I've never done). There is no other place for us, is there? By that, I mean there's no place we can be our old selves again and let our hair down. That's also why we happily travel across the country for reunions; brothers once again but face-to-face. Sadly, there are fewer and fewer of us each time. I've determined that I will not miss another one if I can help it.

Back to Facebook: there are a couple of things I should go over. We have about 700 members in the group now. There has been a steady trickle of newbies arriving since I came aboard. I try to reply to their requests and grant them passage as long as their bone fides pass muster. We greet them all and welcome them to the group. Unfortunately, I have also denied access to as many as I've allowed.

A denial usually happens because the newbie hasn't either 1) answered the group questions or 2) agreed to the rules. Both are mandatory. If they don't do one or the other, I try to get them to redo the request. Sometimes, however, I fail to make contact and have to deny them.

Recently, I've denied membership to two large groups of "referrals." These are folks who are recommended by a standing member of the group. We can always use new blood, and it's important to pass our history on to others. What we can pass on now helps today's handlers and K9s going forward. We began the "Never Again" movement, and the more people we introduce to that mindset, the better off our brothers and sisters serving now and their furry partners will be.

By all means, bring as many of your friends to us as you can, but please tell them to go to the Facebook page and request membership themselves. That process will walk them through the questions and the rules. You can also email or message them Facebook with instructions, emphasizing the importance of agreeing to the rules. I'm far more likely to let the questions pass, but the rules are sacrosanct.

That's all I have this quarter. I'll try to drop a line for each issue of the *Dogman* with new content. Thanks for being my brothers and sisters and for understanding. WOOF!

Shorty send...



VDHA member Joe Gajewski at the Motts Military Museum in Groveport, OH. Joe has been traveling to different War Dog Memorials (See more on Page 12).

## Available: The Paw Print

The Military Working Dog Heritage Museum (MWDHM) is publishing a monthly newsletter: *The Paw Print*. If you would like to receive monthly copies, please email [info@MWDHM.org](mailto:info@MWDHM.org) and you will be placed on the list. More info concerning the MWDHM can be found at <https://mwdheritagemuseum.org/>



**Special points of interest:**

- A Letter from our President in Celebration of K9 Veterans' Day on March 13th.
- Do you have a desire to help build this museum? Our non-profit is being formed to build a museum to tell YOUR stories. Get information on volunteering your time and talent.
- The story of Dogs for Defense and how it started our Military Working Dog Program.
- Profiles of dog handlers and dogs.
- We located another wonderful and never-dedicated War Dog Monument. Where you can find the great new piece of work? What does Scout think?

### The Paw Print

The Voice of the Military Working Dog Heritage Museum & Handler Center

Issue 1 Volume 3 March 2021

#### National K9 Veterans' Day: A Push by Joe White to make March 13th Official



Photo Courtesy of the 47th IPSD

**Inside this issue:**

- From the President 2
- Dogs For Defense 3
- 2 X 4: Ernie Childers 5
- Meister, From Three Handlers With Love 7
- Kate Stanford Breaks the Mold 9
- Sticks and Stripes 11
- On The Road With Trooper and Scout 12

#### Joe White in Vietnam

Joe White served in the Army infantry during the Vietnam War. He seized an opportunity to become a dog handler with the 47th Scout Dog Platoon (IPSD) and served alongside a beautiful solid black German shepherd named Ebony.

Joe's devotion to Ebony remained with him throughout his life. In 1996, he detailed his Vietnam experiences writing a book entitled *Ebony and White*. As he transitioned from dog handler to veteran, the love and admiration for working dogs stayed with him, pushing him to organize National K9 Veterans' Day, celebrated on March 13th, the Dogs for Defense's anniversary.

Every year, supporters remember Military Working Dogs, state Governors decree proclamations, and "Dogmen" and "Dogwomen" take part in honoring their partners.

Joe didn't live to see the full realization of his dream, an official national holiday in honor of our military working dogs. Still, we suspect he would be much encouraged by the growth of his idea, the wide acceptance of the holiday by today's MWD community, and acknowledgment by the general public of military working dogs' sacrifices. We honor Joe, Ebony, the 47th, and all K9 veterans on a uniquely American holiday. Happy K9 Veterans' Day!

We try to show as many of the War Dog memorials and monuments as we can in Dogman. However, much of the time we do not have space for more than one or two photos. Many of those photos are taken at dedications and such, showing lots of people standing in front of the memorial. As such, we don't get to admire them from many different perspectives.

One of our members, Joe Gajewski, has been traveling to visit many of the memorials and taking lots of pictures. We will be sharing here so you can get a better look at some of the memorials dedicated to you and your dog. Dogman welcomes other handlers to share your photos. Please send to [Dogman@VDHA.us](mailto:Dogman@VDHA.us).

This issue features a few of his photos he took last year at the War Dog Memorial at the Motts Military Museum in Groveport, Ohio. He traveled about 500 mile miles about a month or so after the dedication. He met Ed Reeves briefly, and found out he was also the model for the statue. Joe was able to find his dog's name on the wall, **Nick 607X**.

Vietnam Dog Handler Assoc.  
c/o Randy Kimler  
2225 Merriman St.  
Port Neches, TX 77651-4302

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## WAR DOG MEMORIALS

