



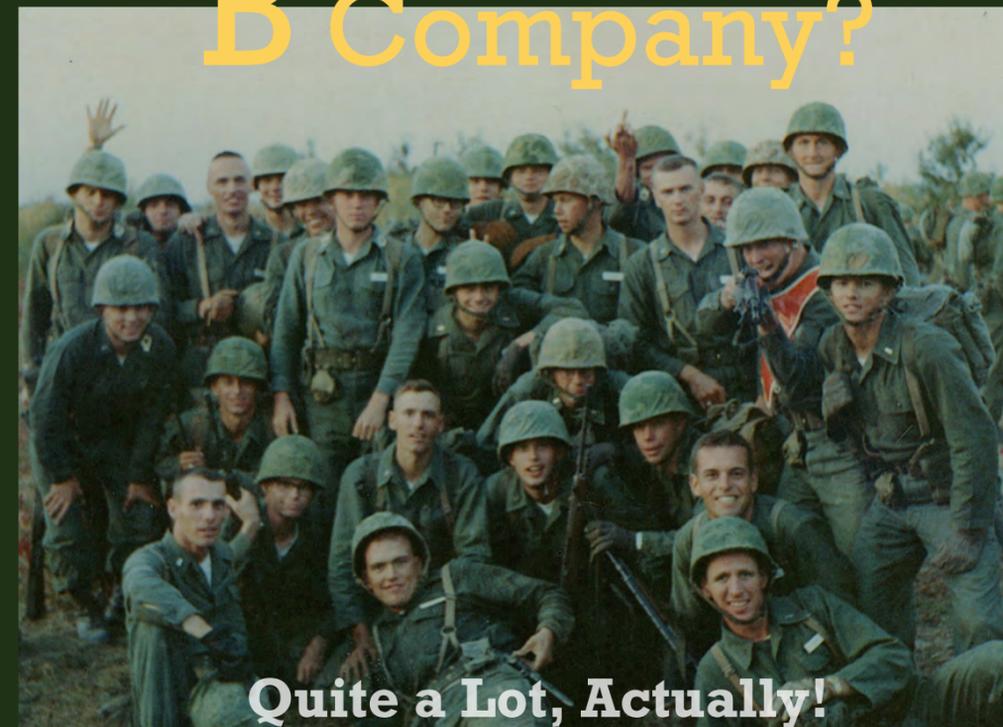
BRAVO, TBS 1-67



1966-2016

Whatever Happened to B Company, 1966-2016?

Whatever Happened to B Company?



Quite a Lot, Actually!

The "Official" TBS 1-67, B Company
Cruise Book
1966-2016



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Compiled by Phil Norton, Bob Lange, Bob Schmitt, and Andy Vaart, with contributions from Harry Roberts, Alex Welch, and others.

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Cover: Andy Vaart





WHATEVER HAPPENED TO B COMPANY?

Quite a Lot Actually!

The "Official" TBS 1-67, B Company Cruise Book
1966–2016



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Preface

The following pages are built around 140 profiles of members of B Company of the first Basic School Class of FY 1967. B Company originally numbered 180 2nd lieutenants and five 1st lieutenants (all but one of whom were on their way to serving as Marine Corps lawyers). B Company's members came to take pride in themselves as a unique group, varied in background and outlook, but unified in their commitment to becoming professionals, Marines.

After a fashion, these profiles reflect both that diversity of experience and outlook. Given an outline to follow, its members chose to approach the task in varying ways, lengths, and formats. Many are accompanied by images. Some date back to Basic School itself, some were taken in Vietnam, many are much more recent, with family members.

The book opens with an introduction written by company member Phil Norton, an officer whose life in the Corps began as an enlisted man, progressed through college, and on to commissioning and training with B Company, and through a varied career to retirement in 1980. He brought a voice of experience to the company and a broad perspective on the unifying story in this book.

Following the introduction is one of two articles reprinted from 2009 issues of *Leatherneck* magazine. The one appearing after Phil's introduction is Col. Hays Parks' (USMC, Ret.) description of the honors bestowed on fellow classmate Jerry Zimmer, who died with his radar intercept officer (RIO) in Vietnam in 1969 when his F-4 crashed into a hillside in Que Son, RVN, apparently brought down by enemy gunfire. Such ceremonies take place multiple times a day in Arlington National Cemetery and around the country. The *Leatherneck* article forms a kind of tribute to our deceased classmates, serving as a vision of how each might have been taken to rest.

In that vein, the work continues with a page dedicated to those who have died since we entered TBS. Included is an image of the memorial plaque for those who died in action, as a result of wounds, or for other reasons in the line of duty. The plaque was prepared through the leadership of Hays (and with donations from B Company mates) and will be installed at the US Marine Corps Heritage Museum in 2017.

The following section includes an infographic showing the various paths the Marines of B Company followed since November 1966, including their MOS's, and their post-TBS and post-Marine Corps careers. The infographic is the product of research by Harry Roberts and Bob Lange.

Then follow the profiles, sorted alphabetically through each platoon. Standing between the "formations" of second and third platoon is a diversion, a kind of "centerfold," showing images from the 2016 50th Anniversary Reunion. I thought of it as a kind of "command" ele-



ment formation, featuring men who have held leadership in many such formations, Marine, Army, Navy, and civilian, over the years.

The second *Leatherneck* article appears as the last profile in this book. It is the account of Jerry's widow, Elaine, of the attempt in 2009 to recover the remains of Jerry and his RIO. It appears in this book as a substitute for Jerry's profile—this volume's final profile. Both articles are reprinted with the kind permission of *Leatherneck*.

The last section, following Elaine Zimmer's article, is a trip into B Company's past. It is a timeline of key TBS events, inspired by Bob Lange's wife, Judy; illustrated by Alex Welch's artist friend Gib Robbie; and based on Alex's fond memories of our twenty-one weeks together.

The overall work owes itself to the intense effort of Phil Norton and Bob Lange and others. Bob doggedly drove a search for members unfound as of October 2016 (with thanks to Tracy Rich, my spousal unit who loves nothing better than ferreting answers out of cyberspace). Phil quality checked and did initial layout. Bob Schmitt and others helped proof and fact check it.

Moreover, we would be bereft of a good number of stories of our deceased classmates were it not for the graciousness of numerous family members in providing pictures and information for the biographies of loved ones so that we can properly honor and remember them.

And, of course, none of this would have been possible without the persistent efforts of B Company's premier communicator and network-builder, Bob Schmitt.

—Andres (Andy) Vaart





Introduction

American History, 1966—2016: Told by the Men of Company B, TBS Class 1-67—A Legacy of Service, Success, and Leadership

In 1840, Scottish writer Thomas Carlyle articulated the “Great Man Theory” which stated that, “The history of the world is but the biography of great men.”

As I read the biographies of the men from Company B, TBS Class 1-67, I realized that I was reading a very special American history. It begins with exceptional young men who actively sought the challenge of becoming officers of Marines instead of following less stressful, and more financially rewarding, career paths. Successfully exceeding unbending selection criteria and learning the art of small-unit leadership, these young men had launched their careers of service and leadership. Their chosen path inevitably led to the dense jungles of Viet Nam or to the dangerous skies above.

Some gave their all, and many shed their blood while accomplishing their assigned missions and leading the fine young warriors of the United States Marine Corps.

There are those who stayed in the Corps, engaged in future armed conflict, and trained others for success in warfare.

Others left active duty but served their country and their communities in the professions of law and law enforcement, education, financial services, state and Federal service, business and industry, and other honorable professions, but they never stopped being Marines.

Their tradition of service continued in retirement with boy scouts, nonprofits, churches, political service, and most importantly their families.

Carlyle was correct. We see in our cruise book the history of the past 50 years as lived by the “Great Men” of Company B, The Basic School, Class 1-67.

I am proud and humbled, as I know each of you are, to have been part of this amazing legacy of service, success, and leadership.—Phillip C. Norton





Whatever Happened to B Company?



The first reunion of the men of B Company TBS 1-67 in 1996 posed the question seen above on the cover of the Reunion Cruise Book Bob Lange and I produced after the event. It was the question company members Bob Schmitt and Jim Scott, friends in Southern California, put to each other as they thought about the Basic School experience. After some "procrastination"—as Bob explained in his labor of love, TBS1-67.COM,—the two and others mounted a reconnaissance operation (Google was only a dissertation idea that year) and began locating members, with a view toward a reunion to mark the passage of thirty years since our shared experience during 5 July through 23 November 1966. The reconnaissance led to the discovery of the whereabouts of some 80 members. Twenty five would join that first reunion in June 1996. Reunions have followed in five-year intervals since.

With each reunion and with each TBS Bulletin that Bob has faithfully produced since 1996—79 times as of the end of January 2017—an increasingly substantial and detailed answer has emerged to the original question, as will be evident in the 140 profiles contained in this book.

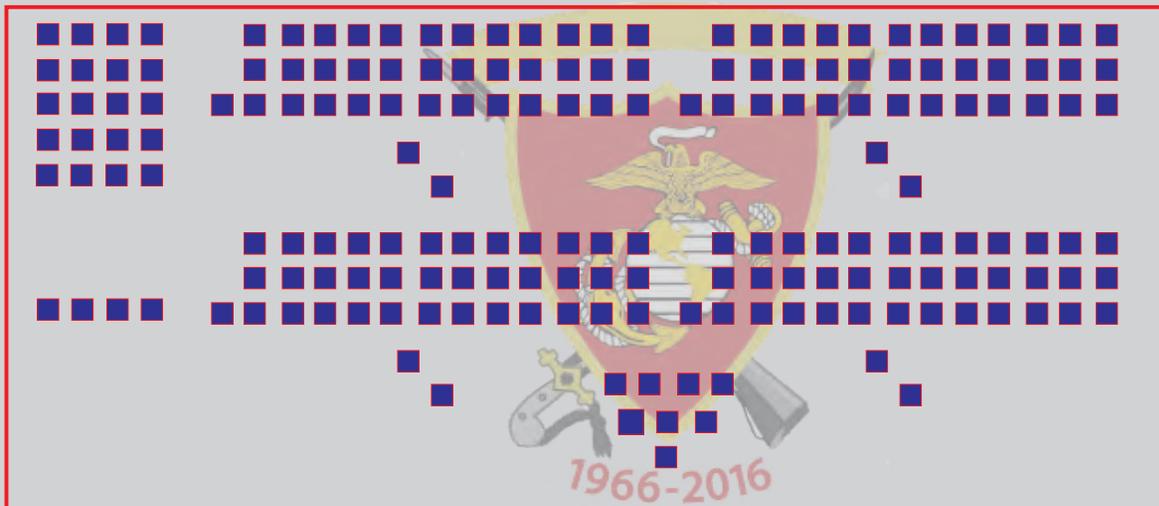
Happily, early drafts of this work generated an inspired thought in Harry Roberts, the self-styled LCPL Schmidlap, who took on himself a survey of the information contained in these profiles to produce data for the infographic following this page. Harry's effort, in turn, sparked Bob Lange to collect and provide MOS data. Thus, the following infographic answers a number of questions we were usually unable to answer, such as: "How many of us remained in the Corps?" "What number of us went into what MOSs?" and so on—in effect it answers in a statistical way (perhaps not with the precision the Federal Reserve seeks) the fundamental question. —av



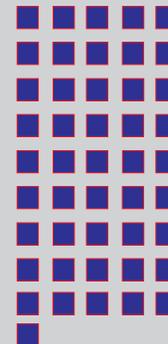


B Company: By the Numbers

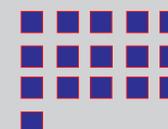
B Company: 185 Officers (July 1966); Approximate distribution of post-TBS Life as of January 2017—Courtesy of Harry Roberts and Bob Lange



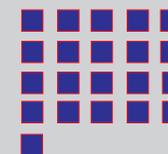
Continued in Service
(20+ years, incl. re-
serves and NG.) (46)



Killed in Action (16)



Deceased on duty
or after service (21)



MOS Distribution (By number; totals include all but six B Co. members)

Infantry 60 Aviation 59 Artillery 13 Supply 10 Combat Engineer 9 Comms 9
Aviation Cmd&Control 8 Motor Transport 6 Lawyers 3 Tracked Vehicles 3

Law (22)



Engineering (incl. IT) (12)



Aviation (7)



Authorship (7)



Medicine (2)



Ministry (2)



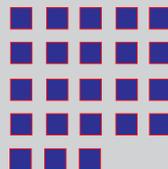
Accountancy (2)



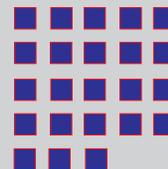
PhD (3)



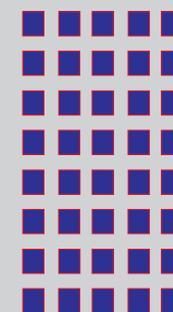
Government
Service (23)



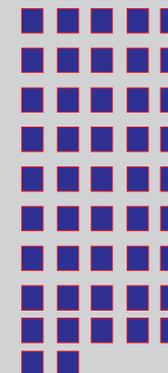
Academia (23)



Golden Wedding
Anniversary or close
(40)



Business (47)







First Platoon



First Platoon Roster

Aker RL	Daniel WR
Astle JC	Davis JO
Babers HD**	De La Garza LA
Bache TW*	DeLuca RJ
Baker JR**	Dick ED
Bassett IA	Drummond TW
Bershinsky GV*	Elliott O
Billipp NK**	Eloe EE
Boehm RW	Esler RG
Bradlich WJ	Evans DP
Brown RA	Fischer, Jr. JL
Brundage, Jr. WR*	Fore JO
Buescher AS	Frame RC
Burns KR	French JK
Burt JH	Game JG
Byers DM*	Gerlach HL
Chapman WF	Glasgow, Jr. JP*
Cialone II JA	Gleason TJ*
Connelly EJ	Goble WC
Corcoran KC	Gordon, Jr. JW
Crew II TW*	Haggerty JJ
Curtis TM	Wilson KS
Daerr RL	
Daley RC**	

*Deceased **Killed in action



First Platoon



The future of the Corps, 1966??





First Platoon

John C. Astle

Year and Place of Birth: 1943, Charles Town, WVA

High School: Barboursville, H.S., Barboursville, WV

College: Marshall University (BA Sociology), '66

USMC Entry: Enlisted in the reserves, June 1961, 6-month tour of duty included Paris Island and Camp Lejeune. Upon returning home I enrolled in college and at the same time was accepted into the PLC Program from which I received a regular commission upon graduation and assignment to TBS 1-67 and B Company, 1-67. After completion of TBS, I went to Pensacola, where I completed flight school. From there, I went to New River, NC, where I joined HMM-261 for transition into the CH-46.

I went to Vietnam in the middle of June 1968. I was assigned to HMM-164, where I served my entire tour. Upon returning CONUS, I rejoined HMM-261. In the spring of 1970, I did a Caribbean deployment with 261. At the end of that deployment, I got orders to Amphibious Warfare School. While not an honor graduate, I did finish.

After AWS, I was assigned to HMX-1, where I served for 3 and ½ years. From there I went back overseas, where I joined MAG-36, first as the HAMS-36 XO and subsequently, as the assistant ops officer for HML-367. In that capacity, I took part in the final evacuation of Saigon in April 1975. Coming back to the states, I made the decision to resign my regular commission and accept a reserve commission. While serving as a reserve officer, I had a number of billets in various places. My last billet was as the IMA Chief of Staff for MARFORRES and from that position I retired at 30 years as a full Colonel.



Post-USMC: On separation from the Marine Corps. I found employment as a police officer/pilot for the Baltimore City Police Department. I had all the tools of the trade—a badge, a gun and handcuffs for kinky sex. After several years I realized that the job did not provide any growth potential or intellectual challenge. So when drinking with friends one night, someone suggested I should run for mayor of Annapolis. I had just enough whiskey and it seemed like a good idea. While I won the primary I lost the general election (thank God!). The following year I ran for the state legislature and won a seat in the House. After 12 years in that position, I ran for the state senate and won. I am currently serving my 22nd year in the Maryland State Senate. Since the Maryland Legislature is parttime and only meets for 90 days a year, I made my living as a medical evacuation pilot for Washington Hospital in Washington, DC.

Principal hobbies. I have become a serious hunter. In the course of the years and in a number of countries I have killed everything from a squirrel to an elephant and had fun doing it.

Family: I met my wife in a bar in Annapolis 46 years ago. (Do you see a trend here!) Jayne and I had two sons; our oldest, Jay, graduated from the US Naval Academy and served for five years as an officer of Marines. After he got out he went to graduate school, met a great woman, married and gave us 3 grandchildren. My youngest son, David, graduated from Clemson but, unfortunately, was killed in a car accident 6 months after graduation.

Reflections: The basic school, as a beginning of 30 years of service as a Marine, was a solid foundation. I've retained some of the friends I made, and the memories of shared times over those 30 years provide me with a great sense of accomplishment. I only wish Captain Roger Lamphier (Platoon Commander, 1st Platoon), who said to me, "Astle you're nothing but a goddamn phoney," were still around so I could ask him how I did for a goddamn phoney and how his career went!





! Welcome Bravo Company !
TBS 1-67

1966 – 2016

Fifty Years in Making the Old Corps



With four reunions as "practice," we got this one "just right"! After much planning under the leadership of Larry Karch, nearly 50 of our class gathered in Fredricksburg, VA, with spouses and friends and a few relatives of those we lost in war. The reunion marked the 50th anniversary of our class experience from 5 July through 23 November 1966. It was a grand event, held during 20-23 October. Photos and stories can be found on the web site (<http://www.tbs167.com/>) created and managed by Bob Schmitt. Dianna Cahn, a reporter for *Stars and Stripes* was at nearly all the reunion events, and wrote a great story, which appeared in the 11 November 2016 issue. The issue featured photos and profiles of several TBS 1-67 classmates.

The following pages contain a small selection of images from the reunion, including a visit to TBS, dinner at the Globe and Laurel restaurant, an afternoon of reminiscing at reunion headquarters, and a grand banquet featuring retired LtGen. Ron Christmas.





The Company, October 2016



Photo courtesy of and © Elaine Zimmerman

TBS, MCB Quantico-21 October 2016



The Company, October 2016



Welcome, 20 October

Clockwise from immediate left: Al Bassett, Hon Lee, Bob and Penny Rivers; Bill and Paulette Symolon; John Astle and Larry Akers; Greeting station with Vicki Lee, Larry Karch, Nate Wong, Hays Parks, Al Buescher; Lori Hill with Kevin and Linda Trainor.



The Company, October 2016



The Banquet, 22 October

Counterclockwise from immediate left: John Metschan, Al Buescher, Bob DeLuca, Bob Lange, John Astle; Jim and Bonnie Hajduk and Dick and Carol Larsen; Betty and Roger Daniel and Bob and Shannon Schmitt; Enter the Lions, courtesy of Hon Lee and the Jow Ga Shaolin Institute; Harry Roberts, Bill Symolon, David Taylor; Ron Christmas delivering keynote address.