



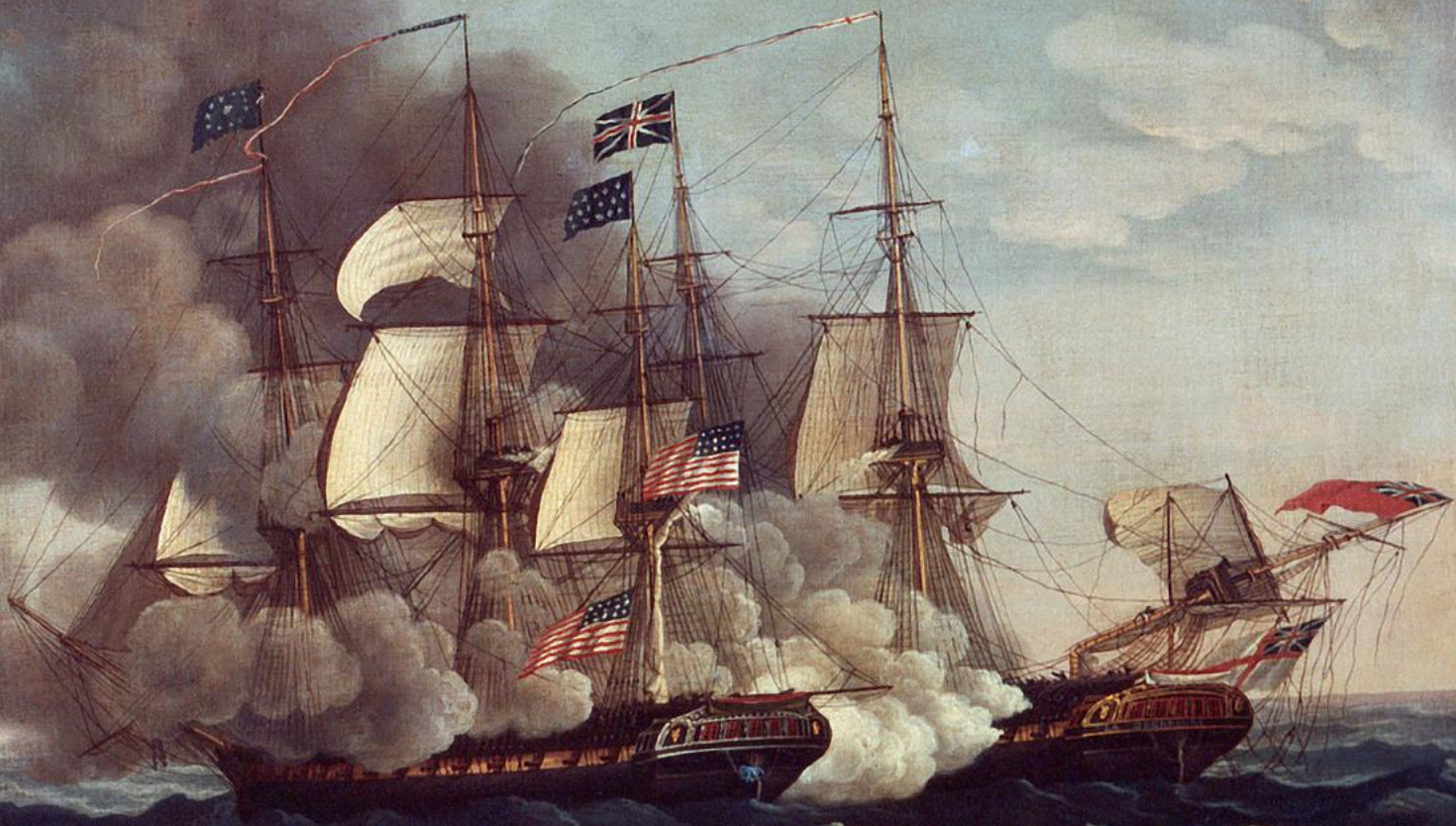
SENTINEL

NEWSLETTER OF THE QUIET PROFESSIONALS

SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION CHAPTER 78

The LTC Frank J. Dallas Chapter

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 4 • APRIL 2021



Paul Revere's Spy Ring

The 277th Anniversary of His Midnight Ride

A Visit to the Son Tay Prison Camp

Did a Surprising Tour Guide Provide
the Answer to a Decades Old Mystery?

A Tribute to SGM Bruce Long



SENTINEL

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 4 • APRIL 2021

From the Editor



How Miller
Sentinel Editor

It feels as though the pace of life is quickening lately. I wonder if that is how Paul Revere felt on that April night in '75. His efforts were something any Green Beret would be proud of. His previous **commo** and **psyops** exploits are evident in that his deliveries of messages of top importance to the other colonies had already made him famous. That night his integral role in gathering intel yielded fruit of immediate and urgent value. And later his **weapons** and **engineering** skills were used

to fashion cannons and outfit ships, including the USS Constitution (pictured on our cover).

I thought this would be a good place to start my intermittent series on historical American Special Operations. Conveniently, I have known Patrick Leehey for about 40 years. In fact, I'm proud to say he was my best man and, with a continent between us, is still my best friend. We hope you enjoy the real story about Paul Revere from a longtime expert.

Colonel John Gargus (Ret.) lost a long time friend recently, Major Solomon Vaughn Binzer (Ret.), known by his Chapter friends as Sol, who had returned to Vietnam after the war as a civilian. Sol had given John his notes from that trip to use as he saw fit. John took the parts of the notes that pertained to Son Tay and Operation Ivory Coast of November 1970, and writes a compelling and revealing account that will be interesting to the Son Tay Raiders as well as to the rest of us.

For those interested, the remainder of Sol's story is included as a separate article. It is quite revealing about how the Vietnamese government acted at that time.

Mike Keele has a knack for capturing an event in a relatable manner. He has done so again in describing our March chapter meeting. Mike also does interesting book reviews and just about anything we ask of him.

Bruce Long has been an important part of this Chapter for a long time and it is felt that he deserves some special recognition. Lonny Holmes, a former Chapter President (2010-2013) and *Sentinel* editor for eight years, has captured the flavor of Bruce's steadfast efforts and the membership's appreciation. Bruce's bio is on the Chapter 78 website — <https://www.specialforces78.com/members-pages/> — where you can also find *Sentinel* archives.

Finally I would like to recommend SOF News, whose editor John Friberg is on top of all things Special Ops. You can, as I do, receive a nearly daily update sent directly to your email for free. Great articles, book reviews, and links to other news (including the *Sentinel*).

At <https://sof.news> there is a newsletter signup tab, or find them at [Linkedin](#), or on [Facebook](#) (@SOFNewsUpdate) and [Twitter](#) (@SOFNewsUpdate). ❖

How Miller
Sentinel Editor

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FRONT COVER: The USS Constitution in action. According to Patrick Leehey, "Paul Revere provided most of the bolts, spikes, nails, pins and other ship fittings for the USS Constitution when it was built in the 1790s. He also provided copper sheeting for the outside of the hull when the ship was re-coppered in the early 1800s. When the vessel was built, English copper sheets were used. The copper sheeting was used to prevent shipworms from boring into the sides of ships, a highly annoying nautical problem at the time." (Painting by U.S. artist Michel Felice Corne in the collections of the U.S. Naval Academy Museum, transferred from the Navy Department in 1869. Official U.S. Navy photograph)



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From the Vice President | April 2021



Don Gonneville
Chapter 78 Vice-President

Special Forces Association President Kevin Harry has published a very comprehensive State of the SFA. I will summarize that document here. For a complete transcript, please contact me.

Membership – Current membership stands at 10,226 active members. However, there are over 13,000 inactive members. Chapters are being encouraged to reach out to many of these members to see how they are doing, and to invite them to an event or cup of coffee.

Life Membership for SFQC Graduates – About 15 top graduates of the Q course are offered life memberships in the Association by organizations like the Black Rifle Coffee Company and the Special Forces Charitable Trust, as well as some of the Chapters

SFA NBO Activities – Members of the SFA National Board of Officers meet on a regular basis with the Commanding Generals, Command Chief Warrant Officers, and Command Sergeants Major of USASOC, 1SFC(A), and USAJFKSWCS to represent the Association and to engage with our partners and stakeholders.

Member Management Software – The Association is moving forward with the implementation of Club Express Member Management Software. A Beta test will soon be conducted, with full implementation expected by this summer. All chapters will have access to the software designed to provide more access to chapter member data, mass text/

email capability, no-cost web hosting for chapter webpages, direct messaging between members, chat rooms, and so forth.

SFA NBO Travel – Members of the Association's National Board of Officers travel extensively to meet with various chapters (by invitation), and do so at their own expense. There is no requirement for reimbursement of travel by the chapters, but any assistance is greatly appreciated, of course.

Website – The new public website is up and running at www.special-forcesassociation.org. Thanks to John Joyce, who personally paid over \$2000 of his own money for website development. This allowed SFA to transition to this website with no out-of-pocket expenses. Access this website to review its many wonderful features.

SFA Store – The former SWCS Museum gift shop is now located at the SFA national headquarters in Fayetteville, North Carolina. All gift shop items are also now available at the public website mentioned in the previous paragraph.

Also included in President Harry's message is information on the SFA national grounds development, a one day tactical shooting competition called Tactical Skirmish, "SOF for Life" program, the St. Philip Neri Award, and SFA scholarships.

More information on these and other SFA programs will be forthcoming.

De Oppresso Liber

Don Gonneville

Vice President, SFA Chapter 78



As promised at March's Chapter meeting, here's the information regarding Amazon Smile. You may choose whichever organization you prefer (e.g. Green Beret Foundation) from their list of over one million organizations and your donations will accrue for six months, and then be forwarded to the organization you've chosen. If your non-profit organization is not present on their list you can add it through the website (it must be a 501(c)(3) public charitable organization). The new organization will need to follow up with documents to Amazon.

Log into smile.amazon.com, sign in with your account info and pick your organization for donations. Amazon pays 0.5% of all purchases to your choice. You can visit this same page for a detailed description of the program.

Chapter 78 Meeting • April 10, 2021

If you plan to attend the next Chapter meeting please e-mail **VP Don Gonneville** at: don@gonneville.com, no later than Thursday April 8th, midnight. We need an exact headcount.

TIME: Breakfast – 0800 • Meeting – 0830

LOCATION: The Pub at Fiddlers Green

ADDRESS: [4745 Yorktown Ave Bldg 19 Los Alamitos, CA 90720-5176](https://www.google.com/maps/place/4745+Yorktown+Ave+Bldg+19+Los+Alamitos,+CA+90720-5176)
(Joint Forces Training Base, Los Alamitos)

Prado Range Shoot • April 15, 2021

ARRIVAL TIME: 0830 — **EVENT TIME:** 0900 – 1300

ADDRESS: [17501 Pomona Rincon Rd, Chino, CA 91708](https://www.google.com/maps/place/17501+Pomona+Rincon+Rd,+Chino,+CA+91708)

- All shooters must have a holster. It can be inside or outside the belt, but not a shoulder holster.
- Shooters must also have 300 to 400 rounds of ammunition.

We need a good headcount, so please RSVP to don@gonneville.com. When you RSVP, please put "Range Day" on the subject line.

Paul Revere's Spy Ring



By Patrick M. Leehey

"In the Fall of 1774 & Winter of 1775 I was one of upwards of 30, chiefly mechanics, who formed ourselves into a Committee for the purpose of watching the movements of the British Soldiers and gaining every intelligence of the movements of the Tories."

— Paul Revere letter to Jeremy Belknap, 1798.

Paul Revere, American silversmith and revolutionary, is probably best known for his messenger rides in the years just before the outbreak of the American revolution, in particular his alarm ride on the night of April 18-19, 1775. Revere's purpose on that evening was to warn Massachusetts residents that British troops had departed for the countryside northwest of Boston, probably to arrest Patriot leaders Samuel Adams and John Hancock, or to confiscate military supplies stored in the town of Concord, Massachusetts. Probably less well known is Paul Revere's later career as an early American manufacturer of cannon, church bells, ship fittings, and copper sheets to line the outsides of the hulls of American ships.

One of the least known of Paul Revere's revolutionary war activities was his participation in or possibly leadership of a spy ring organized in and around his Boston North End neighborhood. This was one of many such spying operations conducted by the American Patriots as well as the British authorities in the months leading up to the actual outbreak of hostilities between local Massachusetts militia and British regular troops. While almost certainly not the only such operation being carried out at the time, Paul Revere's spy ring is the only one for which we have good evidence. This evidence comes largely from Paul Revere's own accounts of his midnight ride. These include his letter to Jeremy Belknap quoted above as well as the rough version and revised copy of a deposition taken just after the battles of Lexington and Concord.

In the fall of 1774 relations between the colony of Massachusetts Bay and the British government in London had deteriorated almost to the breaking point. In the spring of 1774, news had arrived of the passage of the so-called Intolerable Acts. These measures were the British Parliament's response to the destruction of over 300

Above, Paul Revere crossing a bridge in the Massachusetts countryside while on his midnight ride. Sketch by A. Lassell Ripley. (Courtesy Unum Corporation via Paul Revere Memorial Association.)

chests of British East India Company tea the previous December. In addition to closing the Port of Boston and transferring the colonial capital to Salem, Massachusetts, the Intolerable Acts included the Massachusetts Government Act, less well known today than the other actions, but in fact considerably more serious in its effects. The Massachusetts Government Act provided that henceforth nearly all Massachusetts officials would be appointed or at least paid from London. It also stipulated that town meetings, the bedrock of New England democracy, could only be held once each year and would be restricted to considering routine business only. The majority of Massachusetts citizens considered the Massachusetts Government Act to be a totally illegal overthrowing of the Massachusetts Colonial Charter which had been in force since 1691. The result was the radicalization of the countryside and towns of Massachusetts outside of Boston, which at that time comprised 95% of the citizens of Massachusetts Bay colony. New judges appointed under the Massachusetts government act discovered to their surprise that when they arrived at their new courthouses to take up their duties, they were met by angry crowds of locals that prevented them from even entering their courthouses. In Worcester, Massachusetts, the new judges were forced to repeatedly resign their judgeships in a ritualistic manner while marching down Main Street between two rows of angry citizens. The new Governor's Councillors appointed under the Massachusetts Government Act found their reception so threatening they either resigned immediately or retreated in a hurry to the town of Boston. The result was that by the fall of 1774 the British authorities in Boston had lost control of the Massachusetts countryside. They huddled in Boston protected only by the fortifications on Boston Neck, the warships in Boston Harbor, and the shallow waters of Back Bay and the Charles River.

What the authorities in Boston feared in particular was that local militias might combine together to attack them in Boston. To try to forestall this eventuality, the new military governor General Thomas



“Paul Revere Watching the Ships in Boston Harbor” by A. Lassell Ripley. Just prior to Paul Revere’s midnight ride, Patriot spies noted that British authorities had ordered that the boats on the warships in Boston Harbor be lowered and brought around to the foot of Boston Common. (Courtesy Unum Corporation via Paul Revere Memorial Association)

Gage organized a series of raids into the countryside to capture or destroy gunpowder, ammunition, weapons and other supplies stored in the powder houses of the various towns. One such expedition had already been undertaken successfully to the powder house on Charlestown Common (today the town of Somerville) on September 1, 1774. A second similar expedition had been sent to Salem, Massachusetts, by water, in February, 1775, but had been turned back by a large crowd of citizens. In the spring of 1775, Thomas Gage obtained good intelligence that a large supply of military stores, including two cannon that had been spirited out of Boston, had been collected in the town of Concord, Massachusetts, about 30 miles northwest of Boston. General Gage became determined to either capture or destroy these stores.

Both the British authorities in Boston under Governor Thomas Gage and the various Patriot groups opposing them tried to keep track of each other’s movements and what their opponents were up to as best they could. As mentioned, Paul Revere’s spy ring was certainly not the only one that was an operation in the spring of 1775. It is simply the one that we know the most about. Paul Revere’s group had a problem however. According to Revere’s own account, the members of his group agreed to meet on a regular basis at the Green Dragon tavern near the center of Boston. As Revere describes in his letter to Jeremy Belknap, “We were so careful that our meetings

should be kept Secret; that every time we met, every person swore upon the Bible, that they would not discover any of our transactions, but to Messrs. Hancock, Adams, Doctors Warren, Church, and one or two more.” Unfortunately, the Patriots discovered that very soon after each of their meetings all of their discussions were reported almost verbatim to General Gage. They found this out because someone close to General Gage but who had Patriot sympathies reported this all back to them:

“About November when things began to grow serious, a Gentlemen who had Connections with the Tory party, but was a Whig at heart, acquainted me, that our meetings were discovered, & mentioned the identical words that were spoken among us the Night before. We did not then distrust Dr. Church, but supposed it must be someone among us. We removed to another place, which we thought was more secure: but here we found that all our transactions were communicated to Governor Gage. (This came to me through the then Secretary Flucker; He told it to the Gentleman mentioned above.)”

In fact, the Massachusetts Patriots did have a traitor in their midst – Dr. Benjamin Church. This information did not definitely come out until after the Revolutionary war began, but Revere is clear in his letter to Belknap that he did not then have a high opinion of Dr. Church. Dr. Church was eventually arrested for carrying on a treasonous correspondence with a loyalist brother-in-law in Boston. Church was

eventually court-martialed and removed from his post as Director-General of the Continental Army Hospital. He was also expelled from the Massachusetts Provincial Congress. Massachusetts authorities did not really know what to do with him, however, because Church's activities had occurred before the American Colonies had formally broken with the British home government. Unwilling to release him, the Americans kept Church in confinement at several locations for a number of years. Eventually he was allowed to go into exile on the French island of Martinique in the Caribbean for the duration of the conflict with Britain. The ship carrying him there sank, however, and Dr. Church was never heard from again, probably to the great relief of the American authorities.

As Paul Revere reports in his accounts, during the winter and spring of 1774 and 1775 he and his neighbors took turns patrolling their part of town in groups of two. Dr Joseph Warren, the last major Patriot leader still in Boston at the time, served as the clearinghouse for all intelligence gathered by various Patriot groups. On Saturday, April 16, the Patriots noted that all the boats on the transports in Boston Harbor had been lowered and brought around under the sterns of the warships, and also that the Grenadiers and light infantry had been taken off duty. Towards the evening of April 18, 1775, a number of soldiers were observed marching towards the bottom of Boston Common next to the river, where many of the boats had been brought around from the harbor.

That same evening at about ten o'clock, Paul Revere received a message from an unknown person asking him to hasten to Dr. Warren's surgery in the center of Boston. When he arrived, Dr. Warren informed him that a large number of British troops planned to leave Boston that night, probably to march to Concord, Massachusetts, to capture military stores. Warren also informed Revere that, according to his most recent intelligence, the troops also planned to stop in the town of Lexington, Massachusetts, somewhat closer to Boston, to arrest Samuel Adams and John Hancock, who were staying at a house there owned by one of John Hancock's relatives. As it turns out this intelligence was not correct. The British troops had no orders to arrest anyone.

After conferring with Dr Warren, Paul Revere returned to his own neighborhood where he contacted a "friend" (probably Robert Newman, the sexton at the Old North Church) to set the famous lantern signals in the church tower. In Revere's own words: "we agreed that if the British went out by water, we would show two Lanthorns in the North Church steeple, and if by land one, as a signal." (By "water" Revere meant that the troops would be transported in small boats across the Charles River, which in fact they were; by "land" meant that the troops would march out Boston Neck, around Back Bay, and then northwest towards Concord, which would have delayed them by several hours. Thus, to be strictly accurate, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow should have written in his famous poem "one if by land, and two if by river" rather than the more melodious "one if by land, and two if by sea").

After conferring with Newman, Revere stopped at his own house to pick up his boots and overcoat, and then made his way down to the North End waterfront where two friends waited to row him to Charlestown, just across the lower end of the Charles River. The



The Old North Church, Boston, Massachusetts. Robert Newman, the church sexton, hung two lanterns in the bell tower of this church on the night of Paul Revere's famous midnight ride. These signals showed patriots in Charlestown, across the river, that British troops had left Boston by water for Cambridge, Massachusetts, from where they would march into the countryside. The lantern signals were a back-up in case Revere was prevented from leaving Boston. (Photo courtesy Pat Leehey)

two rowers dropped Revere off near an old battery just outside of Charlestown, after which Revere made his way to the Charlestown town square, where he met with the local Sons of Liberty, and confirmed that they had seen his signals. (These signals were a back-up in case Revere was prevented from leaving Boston.) Revere then borrowed a horse from a local Patriot sympathizer, and set off about eleven o'clock towards Lexington and Concord. After narrowly escaping capture just outside of Charlestown, Revere alarmed the captain of the militia in Medford, Massachusetts. He then alarmed all of the houses between Medford and Lexington, where he arrived a short time after midnight.



The Paul Revere House, Boston, Massachusetts. Located on Boston's Freedom Trail, this house was owned by Paul Revere from 1770 to 1800. Revere was living here with his family when he was called to make his famous messenger ride into the Massachusetts countryside on the evening of April 18-19, 1775. (Photo courtesy Pat Leehey)

Here Revere ran into a problem. The guard on duty outside the house where Adams and Hancock had lodged did not want to let him inside. He told Revere not to make so much noise, that everyone in the house was asleep. Revere, probably tired and possibly annoyed, cried out "Noise! You will have more noise than this before long. The Regulars are out." Eventually he was allowed into the house where he delivered his message to Adams and Hancock.

About a half hour later, a second messenger, William Dawes, arrived. Dawes, also sent to Lexington by Dr. Warren, had taken the longer land route from Boston, thus arriving after Revere even though he left Boston earlier. The two men "refreshed themselves" (probably got something to eat and drink) and then decided to continue on to Concord. Along the road they were joined by a third patriot, a Dr. Samuel Prescott; soon afterward all three men were halted by a British patrol.

Dawes and Prescott managed to escape; Revere was held for several hours, questioned, and even threatened at one point, but eventually he was released, though the British confiscated his horse. Making his way back to Lexington on foot Revere assisted Samuel Adams and John Hancock to escape towards Woburn, Massachusetts. Revere and a Mr. Lowell, John Hancock's secretary, were carrying away a trunk of papers that Hancock had left behind when the British troops arrived on Lexington Green about 5:00 in the morning. In his 1775 deposition Revere reports that he could see the troops marching on to Lexington Green and he heard the sound of musket fire, but he could not see who fired first as a building just then obstructed his view. This is why Paul Revere's deposition was not included with

the others in "A Narrative of the Excursion and Ravages of the King's Troops under the Command of General Gage on the 19th of April 1775, together with Depositions taken by the Congress to Support the Truth of It" (May 22, 1775), a copy of which was sent to England to support the contention that it was British soldiers that fired first and not the American militia. As is often the case with military conflicts, both sides went to great lengths to try to prove that it was the other side that started the war. ❖

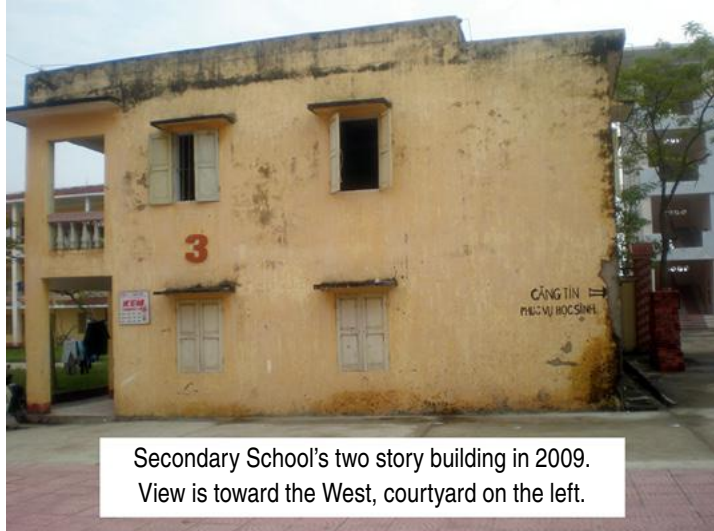
Note: All of the quotations in the above article have been taken from Paul Revere's own three accounts of his famous ride, from the Revere Family Papers collection at the Massachusetts Historical Society in Boston. They are most easily accessible at:

- MHS Collections Online: Letter from Paul Revere to Jeremy Belknap, circa 1798 (masshist.org) which includes [links for Revere's 1775 draft and final depositions](#).
- The three accounts can also be accessed through the PaulRevereHouse.org website at paulreverehouse.org/reveres-own-words/.

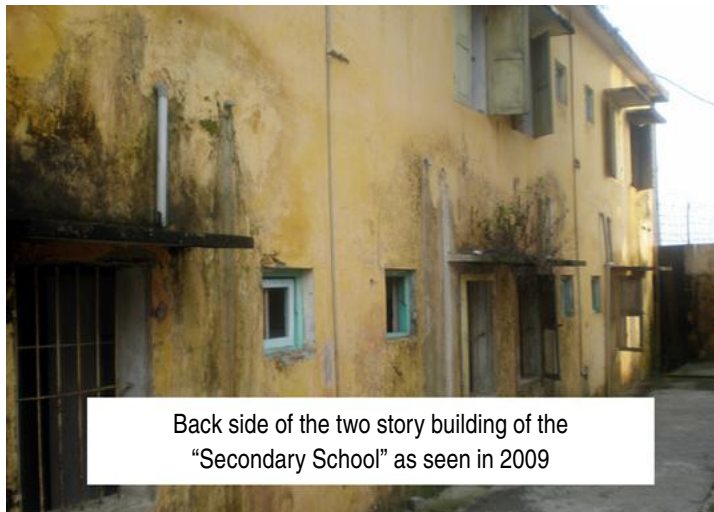
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Until his retirement in January, 2019, Patrick M. Leehey served as Research Director at the Paul Revere House in downtown Boston, Massachusetts, for 33 years. Mr. Leehey now serves as Consulting Historian at the Revere House.

A Visit to the Son Tay POW Camp



Secondary School's two story building in 2009.
View is toward the West, courtyard on the left.



Back side of the two story building of the
"Secondary School" as seen in 2009

The photo above, to the right, and on the following pages were taken by Air Force veteran Bobby Thrower, who visited the Son Tay Prison Camp in 2009. Thrower did not get a photograph of the front of the building. His tour guides brought him into the compound from the east entrance. He took photos of the East wall and the back side of the building. When he came to the front, he saw the bullet holes. He intended to step back and take a photo from the front, but his guides did not allow him to walk across the courtyard to take more photos. Although the color of the buildings were somewhat fresher, the compound in general was as it had been when Sol Binzer visited in 1994.

Photos taken by Sol Binzer during his tour at the prison camp were later destroyed, but that's another story.

Did a Surprising Tour Guide Provide the Answer to a Decades Old Mystery?



John Gargus

By Colonel John Gargus (USAF, Retired)

This is Sol Binzer's incomplete story on what he had learned about the Son Tay raid from a tour guide who escorted him to the ruins of the POW camp during his visit to Vietnam in 1994.

I have known Sol since he joined our Special Forces Association's Chapter 51. He never mentioned his visit to Son Tay until I recalled that we were approaching the 50th anniversary of the raid during a Friday evening dinner on 6 November. He said that he had an interesting visit to that camp and that he would give me a part of his memoirs where he recorded that event. Then on the following Wednesday breakfast he handed me a 6 page account with edited background that explained the reason for his visit to Vietnam. I was eager to follow up on his story when I called him on the next day. We never got to the subject because Sol confessed that he was coming down with a flu and that he was not feeling very well. I called him after that about every other day. He was never ready for a conversations because he still did not feel well and was tested positive for corona virus. He was always optimistic about his condition and promised that we would get together for a long discussion about his visit to Vietnam as soon as he got over it. When I called him twice on Wednesday 25 November, he did not answer and did not call me back. Then we all found out that he passed away on Thanksgiving Day.

Because he told me to use whatever I could from his document in any future stories I may write about the POW rescue, I will quote parts of his account here.

"The story about the Special Forces raid to rescue POWs from the Son Tay prison camp back in 1970 as reported in the November/December 2020 edition of the VFW Magazine brought the memory of my own visit to the abandoned camp. That was back in 1994, before the US had diplomatic relations with the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, or North Vietnam as we called it during the war.

The reason for my 1994 visit was twofold. I worked for a non-profit veteran's organization known as BRAVO, the acronym for Brotherhood Rally of All Veteran Organizations. I was the Editor of its magazine, BRAVO Veterans Outlook, as well as Producer of its television documentaries and weekly programs BRAVO Veterans Forum and BRAVO Sound Off. The television work was seen on cable public access stations and some PBS stations. The organization was based in Calabasas, California.

The opportunity to return to Vietnam came about as a business proposition. Henry Truyen, the son-in-law of my former counterpart

and other South Vietnamese living in California, proposed establishing connections with an in-country Vietnamese veteran's organization to provide tours for American veterans to visit their former battle and base camp sites as well as the cultural places of North and South Vietnam. Such a tour would benefit BRAVO by enriching its video library and magazine pages, as well as being part of a venture with potential economic value.

The business plan was developed, arrangements made, visas obtained, and Korean Air Lines was to be involved so they provided complimentary air fare for the development tour. I was a little nervous about returning to Vietnam because the Viet Cong had put out a reward notice, a price on my head, back in 1966 when I was an Adviser in Pleiku Province." ...

"I cannot remember the actual name of their group after so many years, but it was made up of former Viet Cong and NVA troops, some showing the wounds of war. It was a cordial gathering, good food, beer consumed by their veterans, our group did not drink. Some told of where they engaged US forces and spoke respectfully of our troops. They wanted to have US Veterans return on tours in order to have a profitable business.

The plan for our visit was that two retired NVA officers would be our guides and minders, Lieutenant Colonels Cang for the southern part of our tour, and Le Co for the northern part. They would take us to several places in the south and then north to Hanoi. The organization asked we make a report on the accommodations and dining so they could take corrective measures before the American veterans and their wives began to take part in the tours. We would travel by van along with an interpreter, sometimes a local guide and the two retired Army officers who watched over us very closely. It was also apparent that we were watched by security personnel throughout our trip."...

"Arriving in Hanoi the city was decorated for a celebration. Even with my rudimentary Vietnamese language I could read Dien Bien Phu, and realized it was the 50th anniversary of the decisive battle when the Viet Minh defeated the French forces at an outpost."...

"On the next day, May 7, our party was taken out of the city on a tour of potential tourist sites. But then came the surprise of the trip. "



"Secondary School" two story building
bullet holes from 1970 as seen in 2009

We rode for a long distance around forested areas, along what could have been the Red River, then along a curved road, seemingly further away from the city. The woman that was with us, the Regional Tourist Development Director and Le Co did not speak and did not answer where we were headed. Tony Diamond, and I, became a bit nervous. I kept thinking about the price on my head from 1966. The van pulled off the two lane blacktop road into what looked like a run-down motel. We stopped in front of a vacant one story office building and exited the van.

Le Co and the tourist development director told us they brought us to this former POW camp because they thought it could be developed as a wartime historical site and tourist attraction. It was Son Tay. We knew it was historically important to Americans and to our many Special Forces friends. We asked if we could video inside and take photographs and Le Co and the civilian director gave us permission on video tape.

The woman director, who was a very attractive and charming woman with passable English skills, took out keys and opened the gate and we walked into the former POW camp. The place appeared to be cared for and maintained at a low level. The grass was not too overgrown, some administration buildings did have broken glass in the windows, and all doors were padlocked.

The prison barracks that housed the POWs had their big, rusting steel doors chained closed and locked with a big pad lock. John Johnson, our videographer, put the lens of the video camera inside one of the buildings when I held the doors open about three inches. There was some light coming through a window but barely enough to see anything inside. I attempted to take photographs through the opening between the big doors but nothing showed on the negative." ...

"Le Co and I walked about the camp and we talked about the raid soldier to soldier, like historians. We had been together for several days and had become close. I liked Le Co, he was a good man, a good person and as a soldier of his nation fought well. He was an air defense expert, was a commander of Surface to Air Missile sites (SAM), and shot down several of our 52s. He did not boast of that. I had been a Field Artillery officer but at the Artillery School's Career Course we spent two months at Fort Bliss studying missiles and Air Defense Artillery so I was familiar with Le Co's SAM systems. We connected.

Le Co pointed to one of the POW barracks buildings with a damaged roof. One of the helicopters landed inside the camp and its rotor hit the edge of the tile roof, and was never repaired. We walked around the wall, and where part of it had been knocked down a fence replaced the opening. Then at the rear of the camp we stood for a while watching the river that flowed toward the camp, then bent sharply to the right and then back alongside the camp and onto the Red River. Le Co told me the POWs were moved because there was fear the river was going to flood and overflow the camp. We both looked at the river that was full of red muddy water and commented to each other that we would not like to be drown by that.

As we walked and talked, Le Co told me he was on duty at his SAM site headquarters in the Hanoi area on the night of the raid. He said it was a very confusing situation. He told me that his headquarters could not get any other regional headquarters on the telephone.

That in one of the freakish things in the fog of war, the telephone system around the country was being repaired that day and communication was difficult. So when the US Navy began to fly over the port of Haiphong that night and not drop bombs but just drop flares nobody could figure out why. He said they could see the flares but could not talk to the Haiphong area because the phone lines were out. And, they did not know about the raid at Son Tay.

Le Co and I walked out to the highway while the others stood around the van. He pointed to the right of the camp at a two story, yellow building he called a dormitory where foreign troops were living at the time of the Son Tay raid. That building the Special Forces referred to as the "secondary school," and from which about 200 troops charged out from and into the night and engaged in a brisk firefight with the Americans. Le Co told me they were Chinese troops living there and were in Vietnam to learn how to use the Soviet SAM systems the Vietnamese were using. I thought that was revealing, but not surprising, because China was supporting Vietnam during the war and Vietnam was the only country using the Soviet SAM system in combat."

I question the 200 troops charging to join the firefight at the POW camp. Such assistance to the defenders of the camp never materialized. The 200 man figure is first mentioned in Ben Schemmer's book on the raid. He interviewed Special Forces Colonel "Bull" Simons who gave him this number as his estimate of the housing capacity of the mistakenly attacked "secondary school". I know this because I joined Colonel Simons on three lectures on the raid given at the USAF's Special Operations School at Hurlburt Field in Florida. Who were the soldiers at that school and how many were killed? That question always came up every time we spoke and he dismissed it in many ways. No way we killed every one. If we killed all 200 of them then who was left to assist someone else who was also under attack? Who would charge blindly into a firefight not knowing what was happening? We don't know if they were Russians or Chinese. They were not Vietnamese and as third country nationals, they were not combat ready troops. Nevertheless, stories about our troops eliminating some 200 Chinese or Russians are still being told. Sol Binzer must have been a recipient of such raid misinformation.

What really interests me is the information that the tour guide volunteered about the nationality of the "secondary school" occupants on the night of the attack. For the first time in 50 years since the raid I ran across information from a former North Vietnamese soldier with background in SAM defenses who called the occupants as Chinese. None of the North Vietnamese war histories identify the occupants as foreign nationals. Some claim that they were invalids and recuperating troops from the battles in the south. Our diplomatic channels, even with former POW Douglas B. Peterson, who became our Ambassador to Vietnam in 1997, failed to have that government reveal who occupied that facility. No one from the North Vietnamese government or military circles ever expressed published account of who was there.

Sol Binzer described his tour guides as *"two retired Army officers who watched over us very closely."* Retired Lt. Col. Le Co just happened to be a career soldier in SAM defense. Was he purposely matched with Binzer whose air defense background must have been investigated before he received approval to visit Vietnam? They hit

it off very well. Was Le Co gathering intelligence information from a friendly American veteran? I asked my friend Merle Pribbenow, who has been providing me translations of Vietnamese histories, books and articles about the raid, to search for Le Co on 1 December. I received an amazing three document reply.

Senior Colonel Le Co is one of the national heroes in Vietnam. On December 16, 2012 he was featured on a TV interview which celebrated the 40th anniversary of North Vietnamese victories during B-52 bombing of Hanoi (Linebacker II). From Saigon Giai Phong [Liberated Saigon] newspaper, 16 December 2012

"Senior Colonel Le Co, former air defense missile combat training officer, who shared with us the research used to shoot down B-52s. He was one of those whose helped to write the "Red Book" [the manual for shooting down B-52s], recording his experience in fighting B-52s in the Vinh Linh-Quang Tri area in May 1966 [sic - should read "May 1968"], who predicted the direction from which the enemy aircraft would make their attack and came up with plans to fight back that were successfully employed five years later."

Senior Colonel Le Co may still be alive. On February 3, 2020 he was honored for his 70th year as a member of the Communist Party. Here is how it was reported on Ho Chi Minh City Party Committee website:

Senior Colonel Le Co [Lê Cổ], former Air Defense-Air Force Service Combat Training Officer: Maintaining The Moral Quality of a Communist.

"I am honored to be a member of the Vietnamese Communist Party. From the time I was very young I joined the revolution and participated in the fight against the French colonialists and the American imperialists. As one of Uncle Ho's soldiers, I have always maintained my revolutionary ideology and have carried out Uncle Ho's teaching. Uncle Ho said, "Our army is loyal to the Party, subservient to the people, and prepared to fight and to die for the independence and freedom of the Fatherland and for socialism. The army will accomplish every mission, overcome every obstacle, and defeat every enemy." ...Filled with pride for the fact that I am a Party member who has been awarded the 70 Year Party Membership medallion, I hope that our youth today will be able to build on the successes and the revolutionary moral qualities of the Vietnamese Communist Party, that they will be proud to be citizens of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, and that they will defend our Fatherland's territorial sovereignty."

Sol Binzer never found out what a distinguished tour guide he had. Le Co continued to serve his party and nation when he posed as a tour guide for Binzer's BRAVO visit to Vietnam. Did he inadvertently reveal a long held secret by identifying the occupants of the "secondary school" as Chinese? He was the only known high ranking soldier to comment about who occupied that facility on the night of the raid. As an eventual Air Defense-Air Force Service Combat Training Officer for the SAM training school west of Son Tay, he would have known the nationality of trainees who were quartered in the "secondary school". ♦

My Visit to the Son Tay POW Camp — A memoir by S. Vaughn Binzer

Editors Note: *Portions of this memoir describing Sol Binzer's visit to the Son Tay POW Camp were included in John Gargus' story. Sol's trip to Vietnam was exceptional in its timing. It occurred just months after the U.S. ended its trade embargo with Vietnam in February 1994 and the year after Vietnam abolished the travel permits which had tightly controlled all movement by foreigners in the country. With travel industry experts predicting a sharp rise of Americans eager to visit Vietnam, Sol and his business associates were part of a wave of those seeking to provide services to this new market.*

Our party consisted of BRAVO's Executive Director Tony Diamond, Videographer John Johnson, and myself, Ron Sleeis a veteran of the 1st Cavalry Division, along with Henry Truyen and three other Vietnamese associates. Flying on a KAL 747 in Business Class, we arrived at Ton Son Nhut Airport on 29 April 1994, checked into a hotel in Ho Chi Minh City. Then we were taken to a dinner meeting with the local chapter of the Vietnamese Veterans Association.

The next morning we were whisked, bag and baggage, out of Ho Chi Minh City to avoid the celebrations of the anniversary of America's departure from Vietnam and the fall of RVN on April 30, 1975. We toured the Iron Triangle, Ben Het, Ben Cai, Tay Ninh and other places and stayed overnight in a smaller town. After the second day on the road we returned to Saigon and then flew to Pleiku the next day. I was looking forward to seeing the city and area where I was an Army adviser during 1965-66, a place that I became so attached to that I could call it my second home town.

We landed at the former Pleiku Air Force Base, also known as Cu Hanh, early in the morning. A different driver and van met us and drove into the city to the Hollywood Hotel, near where our advisory team's NCO team house had been. To satisfy my curiosity, LTC Cang let us walk around the central part of town near the Province Headquarters where I had been the Operations Advisor. Further down the street we found where my team's officer's quarters was replaced by a five-story building of the Province Ministry of Water. That was sort of ironic as next door to our team house was a neighborhood pump where people came to fill their buckets, and I had an additional duty of team water minister to look after the water truck that filled our cisterns and water towers so that the advisors team houses had water to shower and flush the toilets.

Then we drove south on Highway 14 to the junction with Highway 19 and the Catecka Tea Plantation. Not far from there was Camp Inari, the base camp of the US Army 4th Infantry Division. One of my advisory duties was being involved in the leasing of the land for that base camp. At the tea plantation, LTC Cang recorded for us on video the official DRV account of the 1965 battles of the Due Co and Plei Me Special Forces Camps. He told of the great victories by NVA forces and the "10,000 casualties suffered" by the 173rd Airborne Brigade, which did not engage the enemy in either fight.

One of my personal goals was to visit the site of the Plei Me Special Forces Camp, only about another ten miles or so down a dirt road. I had been involved in that battle, not engaged, and wanted to see it for the men who had been in that fight. Cang was opposed to that, it was

a dangerous road, it would be dark soon, we didn't have time and other reasons. So, I never did get to Plei Me.

Ron Sleeis, who was with the 1st Cavalry Division in 1965 at the tea plantations did describe on video his experiences there. We had to stop at the gift shop and buy some tea, still some of the best quality on the world market. Children from the elementary school swarmed us trying out their English that was being taught in school, not Russian, a sign of things to come. When we tried to make contact with Montagnard tribal people who were walking along the highway while we were videotaping interviews, they ran from us when Cang appeared in his Army uniform.

Back in Pleiku city we all took short nap before dinner. While waiting for Cang the Americans took a walk down the main street for a couple of blocks. When we arrived at the back gate to the Province Headquarters complex I stopped and took a photo of the gate and the sign above it. After walking about fifty yards, a young DRV Lieutenant riding a moped with his wife on the back, stopped our party and demanded to know who we were and why I took a photo. He was angry. Another of his rank rode up. I had to use my rusty Vietnamese to explain who we were and that in 1965 I was an adviser there and just wanted a memory of the place. He was convinced enough to let us pass but sent word to Cang of our transgression.

We then made it quickly back to our hotel and Cang who was waiting for us, nervous that we were doing something that could get him in trouble. After supper we all turned in so we could get an early start to Qui Nhon in the morning. About two hours into a deep sleep, Cang woke Tony Diamond and I demanded my camera so that he could have the film developed, and said he would return it to me in the morning. He did, along with the prints and negatives, I didn't take pictures of anything that would get him in trouble.

On the road in the morning the van headed east on Highway 19 past old Camp Holloway where US helicopter outfits were based from the early 1960s and then was a DRV Re-Education Camp. We needed to pay respects at the province memorial to the Martyrs of the Revolution" and then traveled on. My boss didn't want to waste time by stopping at the District Headquarters where I was an advisor so on we went and did stop at the top of Mang Yang Pass to take a photo.

From there it was down a steep and winding road to An Khe, where the 1st Cavalry Division had its base camp and Ron Sleeis gave us another video report.

We stopped there for lunch, then back into the van and on to Qui Nhon, turned left onto Highway 1, and paralleled the beautiful South China Sea. Further up the highway we stayed overnight at Sa Huynh, a former beach resort. In the morning we did video reporting before breakfast and it was already about 100 degrees. My report started something like "If you're over forty and overweight you will quickly be reminded how hot and humid Vietnam is" as sweat streamed down my face and literally pooled at my feet.

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A TRIBUTE TO SGM BRUCE LONG



SGM Bruce Long (Retired)
President SFA Chap. 78



By Lonny Holmes

SGM Bruce Long (R) has been a member of Special Forces Association Chapter 78 for over fifteen years and is currently serving his third term as its president.

I became closely associated with Bruce during my tenure as chapter president from 2010 through 2013 when the chapter began to develop ideas to raise funds to help support the Green Beret Foundation. Bruce was a senior staff member at the planning and organization phases during the establishment of the First Green Beret Shooter's Cup. He helped organize and participated in the multiple fundraising activities held at the Orange County Fairgrounds and in several others in the eastern areas of the Greater Los Angeles region. When the chapter decided to join the major Sporting Arms demonstrations at Raahauge's Shooting Range in Ontario, CA. Bruce manned the Chapter's booth and discussed Special Forces history and our goals with members of the community who participated in the weekends activities.

The three years of the Green Beret Shooter's Cup were a huge success, and SGM Bruce Long contributed to this complex competition of 25 five-man teams, consisting of active duty Green Berets and members of the law enforcement community including teams from the FBI, LAPD, Long Beach PD, and others. Bruce played a significant role as event grader and safety officer helping in the establishment of each of the individual range events.

The single most important contribution SGM Bruce Long made to SFA Chapter 78 during his first tenure as President and which continues today, was the establishment of close relations with Company C (formerly Company A), 19th Special Forces Group, Airborne. This relationship with Company C was facilitated by the fact he had served as SGM in the local Reserve and National Guard SF units prior to his retirement. This relationship resulted in both Officers and NCO's attending Chapter 78's monthly meetings and our annual Christmas Dinner. Their commanding officers and SGM's made presentations to our Chapter about current activities and SF deployments around the world. The Chapter also attended several C Company Airborne Operations held at Joint Forces Training Base-Los Alamitos, CA.

During Bruce's tenure as President, Chapter 78 organized farewell activities when the then Company A, 19th SFGA was deployed into combat during the current "War on Terrorism." Bruce also led the effort to send CARE packages to the teams when they were deployed. When the teams returned from their combat deployment, SGM Long established welcome committees to greet them on the airport runway and organized a BBQ luncheon for the soldiers and family members.

"A tip of the Green Beret" to SGM Bruce Long (R). ♦

At top left, Bruce Long dressed in his official SFA blazer and wearing his Green Beret poses in front of a portrait of himself in uniform from his younger years.

Below left, Bruce Long's medal and service ribbons: Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with Arrowhead, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Army NCO Professional Development Ribbon, Army Overseas Service Ribbon, RVN Campaign Medal with 1960- device



- ❶ Bruce Long and Chris Martin in December 2012 after receiving the Order of Saint Maurice Award.
- ❷ Bruce at a daytime tactical jump.
- ❸ Geri Long, SFC Boodaghian, Bruce Long, Bonnie and Richard Simonian at the SF Jump in Los Alamitos.
- ❹ Bruce timing an event at the 2012 GBSC.
- ❺ Colonel Wise giving the "Oath of Office" to the 2016-2017 Officers.

- ❻ The Chapter 78 welcome committee
- ❼ SGM Beetham, Bruce Long and Colonel Wise
- ❽ SFC Dave Dougherty of then Company A and Bruce Long at the October 2020 Chapter meeting held at the Joint Forces Training Base in Los Alamitos, California.
- ❾ Bruce and Geri Long celebrated with their family at the 2019 SFA Chapter 78 Christmas Dinner.

My Visit to the Son Tay POW Camp — A memoir by S. Vaughn Binzer continued

On the way to Da Nang we had to stop at the My Lai Massacre Memorial site, the marker of a horrible event. Then on to LZ English, Quang Ngai where we had the only bad treatment on the trip, and to Da Nang. Early the next morning we made a quick stop at China Beach to get a quick report by Tony Diamond from where he entertained as a comedian with his four piece band for the Department of Defense entertainment tours. There Lt. Col. Cang left us and Le Co picked us up for the northern part of our trip.

Arriving in Hanoi I was amazed by the beauty of the city. All of my references had been in black and white television and photographs, mostly from during the Vietnam War. Now I was seeing the capital of our former enemy in living color and was impressed by the number of parks, ancient pagodas, and modern buildings that existed. As Le Co had the driver conduct a brief tour of the city before we checked into a small hotel in the central part of downtown there was no visible signs of war damage from bombing by US aircraft, except for the tail of a B-52 serving as a memorial in a small pond surrounded by a cluster of apartment buildings.

After checking to our hotel, where there was a small cafe and bar on the ground floor with a TV set showing recreation of the battle, I walked a few blocks along the downtown street. There were displays in the store windows honoring the heroes of the battle and in one large department store there was a large diorama depicting the battle with lights showing the advance of the Viet Minh forces. In our hotel room the three TV channels all presented programs and films about the battle.

The next day, May 7, the actual 50th anniversary of the victory at the Battle of Dien Bien Phu, we visited a golf course that cost \$10,000 to become a member which were mostly those foreign bankers and investors as well as some high ranking government ministers. The caddies were all women. We were supposed to have lunch there but the women caddies did not like the system of getting paid only tips for carrying the bags of the golfers. They were on strike and were very angry and near riot. We were ushered back into the van and then ate from a sidewalk vendor.

Editors Note: *The paragraphs following are a continuation of the memoir after the section describing the tour of the Son Tay Prison Camp.*

Back in Hanoi we attempted to meet with the US Joint MIA Commission but there was nobody on duty, and then the van driver got lost going back to our hotel. It was late afternoon and we got onto the street where the city's huge Dien Bien Phu Victory Parade was starting and we were going the opposite direction. We drove past cars carrying dignitaries, trucks with veterans of the battle, and well-designed floats honoring the victory over the French. Some of the people jeered at us, some waved and we waved back.

After dinner that evening I went down to the bar on the ground floor of our hotel to have a Pepsi. The owner was there watching a movie about a 105mm howitzer crew at the Dien Bien Phu battle. Turned out he was an artillery battalion commander in the battle and we had short talk, he was not a welcoming host to a former American Advisor from the Second Indochina War.

The next day we flew back to Saigon, back to the same hotel, and then turned in all of our video tape and photographic film to the official censors. Every inch of video was viewed and had to be before it, and we, would be permitted to leave the country. The censors kept our film more than a day because they didn't have same format as our camera, so then John Johnson had to take our camera and sit with the censors to view our tape through the eyepiece in order for them to approve what he had shot.

The delay caused us to miss our Korean Air flight so had to go by Thai Air to Bangkok to wait overnight for a KAL plane to Seoul, then another to Los Angeles.

It was a good trip and great to visit the Central Highlands where I made so many Vietnamese and Montagnard friends, to enjoy the beauty of that region and not have anyone shoot at me. It was a pleasure and education to spend time with Le Co and learn of his life and love, and the visit to the former Son Tay POW Camp that very few Americans had been.

Returning to Calabasas, California it was back to the computer and to publish the first of the stories of our trip to Vietnam in the June/July 1994 edition of BRAVO Veterans Outlook magazine. It included some of the photographs. Subsequent editions of the magazine covered the Son Tay visit, among other stories.

The BRAVO organization ceased to exist about 2002. The founder and Executive Director Tony Diamond passed away in 1999 and his successor, a Navy veteran Tom Wieber, did also in 2021. As for myself, I was the Editor of the magazine and a video Producer for ten years until 2000 when I moved to Kentucky. The huge video library, including the Son Tay footage, was tragically dumped into a dumpster when the organization closed its doors. My collection of all editions of BRAVO Veterans Outlook were donated to a Kentucky Vets Center before moving to Las Vegas in 2014.

The original purpose of the trip, to develop a tourism business for Vietnam veterans to tour their former battlefields did not come to fruition for BRAVO.

It is revealing that the troops being housed in the "secondary school" turned out to be from China, and how a chance meeting with Le Co brought that to light.

With greatest respect for the Son Tay Raiders Association, I salute all who were involved.

Chapter 51, Special Forces Association

Life Associate Member

Former: Major, Artillery, Airborne, USA,

Operations Advisor, Pleiku Sector Advisory Team

Assistant Sub-Sector Advisor, Le Trung District, Pleiku Province

September 1965-August 1966

Myself ❖

Note: Solomon Vaughn Binzer was interviewed for the Veterans History Project and is archived on the Library of Congress website. To view his interview visit <http://memory.loc.gov/diglib/vhp/story/loc.natlib.afc2001001.115956/>.

SFA Chapter 78 March 2021 Chapter Meeting



Mike Keele

By Mike Keele

Chapter 78's meeting for March marked something of a new beginning, sparked by the up-coming SFA national reunion to be held in Las Vegas this coming October, immediately following and in cooperation with the Special Operations Association Reunion, with both events being held at The Orleans Hotel and Casino. The SOA will lead off with their reunion running from October 18th

through the 22nd. The SFA convention will commence festivities on the 22nd, and end on the following Monday, October 25th.

The combined event is the brain child of John Joyce, a member of Chapter 51 in Las Vegas. Formerly a Chapter 78 member, he moved to Las Vegas to pursue business interests there. He came to our meeting to give an update on preparations for the combined event. To make it all work, John sought Chapter 78 assistance to co-host the SFA event by assisting Chapter 51, the primary host Chapter.

John attracted two other former Chapter 78 members to our meeting, Lonny Holmes and Brad Welker. They asked us to contribute some blood, sweat and smiles to the operational effort, as it takes a lot of bakers to create a pie this large. John has also gone all out in recruiting corporate sponsors to provide auction prizes, as well as funding for the special events he has lined up. In addition, various active duty SF units will be attending and a recruitment detachment will be on hand. There will be a number of guest speakers there to inaugurate the Orleans' newly renovated mezzanine level conference floor, where all the SOA functions have taken place for many years.

John estimates that between thirty and forty vendors will be on hand, selling their products and displaying their wares. There will be a large number of authors on site to sign their books, and probably agree to mug for some photos. The Orleans has committed to providing as many rooms as are needed at a discount for both events. Local attractions have also agreed to group discounts for shows and sight seeing tours throughout the week-long event. For up-to-date additions to the events list, go to John's website at sfacon.com.

Richard Simonian, Chapter 78 Treasurer and Chaplain, will also contribute materially to the event, and he gave some insight as to his plans for stimulating a recruitment drive to bring in new, and younger, SF members to help sustain Chapter 78 for the future. His contribution to that end will include paying for a significant number of SFA life memberships for new members, along with recruiting at the national level through the efforts of John 'Tilt' Meyer, who now lives in Tennessee. Tilt has begun going to Forts Benning and Campbell to give orientations to the troops targeted for recruitment, and to liaison with the administrations of the target Groups.

Alex Quade, an honorary member of Chapter 78, was on hand to update us on her most recent projects, including a new book. She also produced the movie *Danger Close* on having been embedded with ODA's from Tenth Group in Afghanistan. Alex will be one of the speakers at the SF annual reunion in 'Vegas this October.

There were other guests at the meeting, but these old ears couldn't hear clearly and these old fingers couldn't scribble fast enough to cover it all. For more complete information, please attend our upcoming meetings. The April meeting will be held on the tenth, to accommodate C Co. The May meeting will be five weeks after that, on May 15th, 2021. ♦

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Above left, Alex Quade after the meeting with Richard Simonian and Aaron Brandenburg. At the meeting, pictured at right, she shared the story behind the "VALOR" shirt she wore that day.

From the Rocking Cactus Designs website: "VALOR" was taken from Bible verse Judges 6:12 "The Lord is with you, you mighty [men] of valor!" Have faith – NO fear! This shirt was inspired by a true Hero, Alex Quade. A war reporter and documentary filmmaker, Alex covers our U.S. Special Operation Forces on combat missions. The only reporter ever embedded long term with these elite units, downrange, she single-handedly gives our warriors a voice, honors their service and shares their stories with and for their families. "I am privileged to witness their fearlessness and faith in each other." (Quade, 2021)

To purchase a shirt visit rockingcactusdesigns.com.

SFA Chapter 78 March 2021 Chapter Meeting

Photos by Susan Weeks and Debra Holm



- 1 Richard Simonian, John S. Meyer and John Joyce
- 2 Chapter Vice President Don Gonneville included Chapter President Bruce Long in the meeting through a video call.
- 3 Former *Sentinel* editor Jim Morris was presented an award for his work by Don Gonneville.
- 4 Aaron Brandenburg spoke to the group about "bridging the gap" to attract younger members to SFA. Aaron was 10SFG, was in Alex Quade's movie *Danger Close*, and served with SSG Rob Pirelli, KIA. ([March 2018 Sentinel](#))
- 5 Tom Turney and Mike Jameson
- 6 Former Chapter 78 members Brad Welker and Lonny Holmes. They are now both members of SFA Chapter 51.

- 7 Richard and John display the new SFA Life Member "Vanity Cards."
- 8 Mark Miller, Jack Blau and Jim Suber
- 9 John S. Meyer, Gary Macnamara and Kim Holmes. Her father Lonny Holmes, former Chapter 78 president and editor of the *Sentinel* and now a member of SFA Chapter 51, is visible over Kim's shoulder.
- 10 Greg Horton
- 11 Jim Morris, Aaron Brandenburg, Alex Quade and Richard Simonian
- 12 Ed Barrett, Chapter 78 ROTC Coordinator
- 13 Susan Weeks and Ham Salley
- 14 Charlie Gage and Mark Miller