



Combat Wounded April 1967



Our platoon received a mission to prepare a road and route for a convoy of vehicles that would bring in supplies. The job consisted of filling potholes, clearing mines and IED's from the intended route. We were camped near Lai Khe, I think, not sure. My job was working with two road graders to smooth and fill potholes. For security I had two squads of infantry in M113's Armored Personnel Carriers. I was riding on one of the graders with a field radio and flak jacket. We were in our second day of this operation and it was early in the morning. Heading to where the work was to begin that day, we came upon a Vietnamese bus loaded with people. My graders and M113's moved to one side of the road to make room for the bus to pass. The grader I was on hit an IED and the lights went out for me. I came to on a medical helicopter (Dust-off). It took me to a small field aid station and then I was sent to a Mash Unit in Saigon. I went into surgery and they removed most of the shrapnel from my arms and hand. In recovery I had taped to my chest the metal from my wounds plus a Purple Heart. One piece of shrapnel went through my knuckle on the right hand. I was in this Mash hospital for approximately 8 to 10 days. I then was sent to a military hospital in Tokyo, Japan for more constructive surgery to repair my hand. I do not think the driver of the grader made it.



Damaged Road Grader



Getting ready for flight to Tokyo



Bob Roby outside of U.S. military medical facility Camp Zama Tokyo

The aircraft that took me to Japan was a C-141 rigged to transport the wounded.