



IN MEMORIAM

On the 18th of May 1969, SP4 Fred H. Paddleford, a member of HNB, 1st Bn, 83d FA passed away quietly on the United States Hospital Ship Repose. He indeed had paid the supreme sacrifice for his country. He had been wounded while administering aid to the wounded during the early morning attack on Fire Support Base Bastogne on 12 May 1969.

Specialist Paddleford was born in Buffalo, New York. He and his family lived there a number of years before moving to their present location in Jacksonville, Florida. After attending high school in Jacksonville, Fred enlisted in the United States Army in June of 1968. From Jacksonville, he went to Fort Benning, Ga. where he completed his Basic Training. On 9 September 1968 he went to Fort Sam Houston where he completed his training as a corpsman. Fred came to Vietnam on 17 December 1968, and was assigned to HNB, 1st Battalion, 83d Field Artillery on 23 Dec 68. He stayed in HNB until he was attached to C Battery on 14 April 1969. He served at FSB Bastogne until wounded under hostile fire on 12 May 1969.

During the past year, Fred has been awarded the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnamese Service Medal, The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Ribbon, the Purple Heart, and the Silver Star Medal.

On the 21st of May 1969, a Memorial Service was held in honor of Fred at FSB Blaze. Chaplain McLean of the 27th Engineers conducted the ceremony. An altar was erected, and it was near this altar that the rifle with bayonet was placed in the ground, the helmet placed on top of it and the spit shined boots placed in front of it. A small pouch, carrying the equipment which the Medic uses, a part of his uniform was hung from the top of the rifle. On the right hand side of the rifle, the National Colors were unveiled and the Battalion Colors were unveiled on the left hand side. At this point, the National Anthem was sung followed by the Invocation. Following a Scripture Reading by Chaplain McLean, CPT Babb, the Battalion Surgeon, added pertinent comments concerning the activities in which Fred was engaged. After CPT Babb's comments, a Memorial Prayer was given by the Chaplain ending in a moment of Silent Meditation. The Benediction was given in conclusion.

Specialist Paddleford was the only man of the 1st Battalion, 83d Field Artillery to die of wounds received in hostile combat during the three years this battalion has been in Vietnam. He died in honor as he had lived and it is with this in mind that we here pay him tribute.

He is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Eldrid Paddleford, 6905 De Lisle Drive, Jacksonville, Florida.