



THIS WAS Gonzales at age 18 in December 1944 in the "Frying Pan" area at Ft. Benning.

trying to get behind us. I yelled to the BAR man to the right that they were getting behind us.

"That kid was one hell of a BAR man. Those suckers didn't stand a chance. He cut them right down.

"What I can't understand is why they didn't mention anything (in the citation) about the grenades.

"Oh, yes, I also found out the leader of the combat patrol which came in and got us out after the ambush was a young lieutenant named John R.D. Cleland."

Capt. Woody Millsapps, G Company commander, was the patrol leader. Lt. Cleland took the other two platoons of G Company in and got the ambushed and pinned-down patrol out. The captain was badly wounded so that night Lt. Cleland took command of the company.

The lieutenant, of course, is now retired Major Gen. Cleland, immediate past president of the Florida Chapter and current Honorary Colonel of The Regiment.

Gonzales has another story to tell soon. It is about an ambush he and Rudy Hernandez got into. The story is not about them but is about another couple of Rakkasans involved in the incident on Thanksgiving Day 1950.

A couple of knee operations and other medical setbacks have kept Gonzales from the last couple of Reunions. That is a situation he hopes to correct.



GONZALES, center, and Rudy Hernandez, CMH, left, at the recent 82nd Airborne Division Review at Ft. Bragg. Camouflaged soldier at right was among those manning displays.

'Without Warning' books available

During the hectic and agonizing winter and spring of 1950-51, the late Sfc. E. Lafayette (Ernie) Deal sketched incidents he witnessed in combat. This art was published in Japan for the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team in book form. The few existing copies of his "Without Warning" book today are collector's items. Many of his combat drawings have appeared in past issues of the *Shimburn*.

Due to the numerous inquiries by Rakkasans wishing to obtain copies of the original book, a second authorized edition has been published by the 187th Airborne RCT Association.

The 1989 edition has a newly designed cover bearing a drawing that was not used in the original book. Inside, all the combat drawings of the original book have been reproduced in sharp detail. The new book has larger pages than the original. It is the same size as the *Shimburn*, with a stiffer cover and coated paper.

Each picture is captioned in greater detail than in the original. These versions were carefully edited by *Shimburn* Editor Russ Brown in consultation with Col. Bill Weber.

Ernie Deal was a philosopher and scholar in the true sense of the words. He came from rural North Carolina where he spent his retirement years. He possessed the "true grit" of the backwoodsman, the soul of an artist and the chivalry of the country gentleman.

This book is a "must" for any collector of Rakkasan memorabilia. It sells for \$10 a copy. See the Quartermaster page for this and other offerings.

The books will be offered for sale at the Scottsdale Reunion as well as by mail. However, fewer than 500 copies are available. Persons wishing to buy copies are urged to order without delay.