



220th Aviation Company

(Surveillance Airplane Light)

(Reconnaissance Airplane)

(Utility Airplane)



"Catkillers" and Family, and all Friends and brothers in Arms, in memory of those who have served.



1LT IVON A. "IKE" BORGEN

2nd Platoon, 220th Aviation Company, Hue.

Wounded in Action 8 January 1967, evacuated to USS Repose (AH-16),
recovered and reassigned 219th RAC, then to 282nd "Black Cats"

INJURED LT. BRINGS HOME CRIPPLED PLANE

PHU BAI, (17th AVN-IO) – With bullets and broken pieces of his spotter plane in his body, Lieutenant Ivon A Borgen of the 220th Reconnaissance Company flew his shot up "Birddog" for 15 minutes and landed successfully at Dong Ha, eight miles south of the Demilitarized Zone.

The pilot had been held below 300 feet altitude by a heavy overcast during a mission in support...[missing text]. **Editor:** *The unknown author of this article got the facts straight, but the following Air Medal article is not totally correct (note corrections). CPT Charlie Goode was Ike's AO that day and has shared his memories of that fateful flight, which helps us record the true story.*



CHARLES "CHARLIE" J. GOODE, JR.
CPT, USMC, Aerial Observer (Sacred Romeo),
3rd Marine Division, (COL, USMC Ret.)

"The best I recall is that we were on a visual reconnaissance—in really lousy weather. The real object of the mission was to check on the troops at Con Thien, since we had previously discovered trench lines coming out of the DMZ and headed for Con Thien. I couldn't see much because of the weather and all looked quiet so we headed for Dong Ha. We were flying basically at tree top level...a few hundred feet, and as we flew over a small hill some goober with an AK-47 center lined us with seven or eight rounds. Ike said, "**I'm hit**," and slumped.

I didn't know if he was briefly in shock or bent over to check his wounds so I grabbed his harness and jerked it back with my left hand and grabbing the stick which was not in but propped next to my right knee. By setting the world speed record I put the stick in and jerked back on it.

How much time passed is hard to say, but it wasn't much when Ike said, "I'm OK, I've got the stick." Good thing, because I had us over 1000 feet and headed north. All of this occurred about 4 or 5 clicks north, northwest of Dong Ha. Ike turned us around and I called Land Shark, told them of our situation and that Ike needed medical attention when we landed.

Ike put us down and unbeknownst to us one of the brake linkages was severed and we had an exciting landing, with Ike doing a great job to keep us out of the fuel pits. We came to a stop and the meat wagon took us to Delta Med. Ike was seriously wounded, patched, and sent to the Repose.

I had a few small pieces of stuff in my leg, got two band-aids and went on my way. When I got to my cot and took off my Li'l Abner boots I had a bent, spent bullet propped between the boot and my socks—a trophy I still have on my desk.

I was back flying the next day and have always regretted that I didn't write a report for the 220th describing Ike's action. He certainly deserved a Distinguished Flying Cross.

That is the best I can recall. Oh, and *I always flew with the stick in after that.*

PS. Hope Ike doesn't say he was always in control and I was crying in the back seat!"

[Editor: submitted by Charlie Goode 27 Feb 2015]

NOW IN ARMY NAVY VET ON SHIP

1st Lt. Ivon Borgen, U.S. Army pilot wounded by Viet Cong gunfire early this month while flying in the Cambodian Border [*the actual location was near the U. S. Marine Corps outpost in Northern I Corps, commonly called Con Thien Combat Base*] area of South Vietnam, is now aboard the U.S. Navy's hospital Ship, the USS Repose, in the South Pacific area.

Although Borgen, now assigned with the Marine Corps, served four years in the Navy, he is on shipboard for the first time in his life. One of two army men under care on the hospital ship, Lt. Borgen has found the other patient is a National Guardsman from Eugene. The Canby, Oregon, man expects to be flying again in about six weeks—he has told his family.

BORGEN HEROISM WINS AIR MEDAL

Heroic actions in Vietnam have brought to Captain Ivon A. Borgen, U.S. Army, an Air Medal (first oak leaf cluster) with V device, headquarters of the 1st Aviation Brigade has disclosed. Captain Borgen is [*Editor: was then*] serving with the 220th Aviation Company, [*but is now assigned to the 219th Aviation Company*] now at Cheo Reo, near Pleiku, as support for Green Beret troops.

The award for the Army officer [*missing text*] bullet and pieces of his right rudder pedal. Despite poor weather and crippled craft, the painfully wounded flyer [*flew the Birddog*] and his Marine Corps aerial observer flew back to the base, touching down to find that the right brake had been hit and was inoperative.

Borgen “exhibited exceptional skill in controlling the aircraft despite his wounded condition,” the official order notes. “His heroic actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.”

Borgen's wife, the former Kae Hulbert, and their three children are living in Canby. He is the son of Elmer Borgen of Canby and Mrs. Eldon Pugh of Union Hill, Aurora and of brother of Peter Borgen of Canby and Mrs. Tom Beisell of Gladstone. He served nearly five years with the Oregon State Police before beginning Army service, and has been in Vietnam since November. [*Ike actually received the Air Medal with V Device while serving with the 219th Aviation Company “Headhunters” but for combat action while serving with the “Catkillers” on 8 January 1967.*]

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