



Background on Louis Piatetsky

Louis I. Piatetsky

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to share my thoughts about my experiences as a former Navy Hospital Corpsman ("Medic") while assigned to a front line U.S. Marine combat company. I was part of a Combined Action Platoon of the 1st Marine Division, 2nd Battalion, 5th regiment in the Chu Lai area of Vietnam. I was taught to speak the Vietnamese language in Okinawa prior to arriving in Vietnam. I administered to the medical needs of both the Marines and the civilians. I treated approximately 500 civilians per month during my tour of duty. Some of my activities are documented in the official U.S. Marine History Museum Division Headquarters. I was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal, The Purple Heart, Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with bronze star. My language skills enabled me to obtain life saving information about enemy activity, location of land mines, and other important information. I developed a mutual trust among the civilians I helped. They called me Doctor Lou. I participated in countless patrols with the Marines. A vital dialogue developed between the Marines and the civilians. In the midst of the conflagrations of combat we also achieved positive contributions to the suffering of innocent children and civilians. Much has been said and written about the negative aspect of war. I wish to express some positive emphasis for the anonymous legion of those who administered to the needs of the victims of war. I have written some thoughts recently which I could not express when I initially returned to state side duty. (Due to the negative political atmosphere at that time). I would be honored to participate in the war letters project.

Respectfully yours,

Louis I. Piatetsky

I have enclosed a letter I wrote shortly after my arrival in Vietnam (11 May '66) and a letter I wrote shortly before leaving Vietnam (21 January 1967). I have also enclosed some war poetry I wrote. Perhaps material for a future project.