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Lieutenant Hatfield

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LIEUTENANT HATFIELD

LARRY ROTTMANN

Lieutenant Hatfield figured that he was a survivor—

One night a mortar round shredded his mosquito netting, but he escaped completely unscathed.

A couple months later, a single 50 cal. round went right through the top of his steel pot without touching a hair on his head.

Another time he stepped on a “Bouncing Betty” but only the guys in front and back of him got hit.

Lieutenant Hatfield figured that he was a survivor—

But one evening he sent a reluctant patrol into “Indian Country,” and they got badly ambushed.

A few weeks later, he wrote up an “Article 15” on a trooper he found sleeping during guard duty.

And once, he ordered a private from Alabama to stop flying the Confederate flag over his bunker.

Lieutenant Hatfield figured that he was a survivor—

But he didn’t survive the high explosive fragmentation grenade rolled under his cot late one night by his own men.

“He was a survivor, a Brave Soldier,” wrote the colonel to Lieutenant Hatfield’s parents, “and he died in a manner you can be extremely proud of.”