

1969

"I was wounded. I was lying on the ground and had him across the sights of my M16. I remember clearly wishing I could speak Vietnamese. I couldn't. I can remember whispering out loud, 'Don't throw it. I won't pull the trigger.' And the kid snarled at me—literally—and threw the grenade right at me. And I pulled the trigger."

"It was years later that I was driving down I-5, the interstate that goes through Oregon and Washington. Dark, middle of the night, country music on the radio. And his eyes appeared in the windshield."

U.S. MARINE CORPS FIRST LIEUTENANT KARL MARLANTES was awarded a Navy Cross in 1969. His latest book is the memoir *What It Is Like to Go to War*.

were warned by the nurses who flew over from the States, to take your place, that you should take your uniform off before you walk the streets. When I got to San Francisco Airport, I took a dress I'd packed into the ladies' room, took my uniform off and threw it in the trash."

U.S. ARMY NURSE EDIE MEEKS,

above, standing at right, served in 1968 and 1969. She's now an operating-room nurse in Mount Kisco, New York.



▲ **"IT WAS INSANITY.**

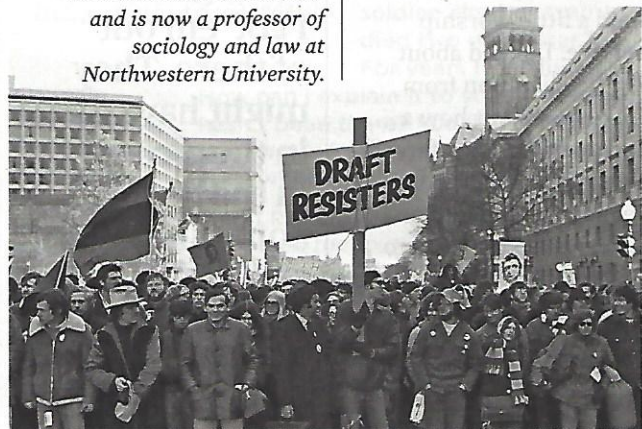
There would be these perfectly wonderful and healthy young men, and they were blown up for no reason. Being the naive person I was, I thought the Army was supposed to take care of you. But they were just using these young men up. They were disposable.

"When I came back, you couldn't even tell anybody you'd been there—1969 was the height of the anti-war protests. They were beating up on the wrong people—the soldiers—instead of the people in Congress who were sending them there. You

"I left for Canada in August, the same month as Woodstock. There were 50,000 war resisters in Canada. Most ended up in Toronto, Montreal or Vancouver. About half of them are still up there. None of us had many regrets. As the war rolled on, we knew we were in the right place."

JOHN HAGAN

returned to the U.S. in 1977 and is now a professor of sociology and law at Northwestern University.



"Had we been wiser—though that's asking a lot from a 20-year-old—we might not have said things like cops were pigs. And those poor people who had to serve in Vietnam, we should have treated them with way more compassion than we



did. We didn't understand you could seek justice and still be compassionate. My defense is that we were young. We were full of ourselves. But we were right about that war."

▲ **GARY WEINER,** a 1971 Cornell graduate, is a mediator in California.

1970

"WE WERE ALL THE WAY north to Cambodia. I didn't say that. No Cambodia. I can say we took off our patches, and painted over the stars and bars on the trucks. I married up with the 76th Infantry Detachment Combat Tracker Team. They wore boonie caps and whatever the hell else they wanted. Everyone had two canteens of water, one for each person and one for the dog. Gotta keep the dog going. He was a mean, nasty black Labrador named Rigger. He hated me. But he loved Charlie.

"Once we went into a village and found bandages and a blood trail. Rigger went berserk. He followed a game trail to a hospital complex, with tea brewing and rice in the pot. It was still hot. Talk about pucker factor. The guys figured they were 20 minutes ahead of us. We never made contact; they knew we were coming."

U.S. ARMY SERGEANT FIRST CLASS FRED-OTTO EGELER

was with the 199th Infantry Brigade, which was covertly deployed to Cambodia in the spring of 1970.

1971

"I hope that we will put this war behind us ... in such a way that the history of the next 20 years will read nothing like the last 20 years."

DANIEL ELLSBERG, 10 days after the publication of the "Pentagon Papers"