

..... PARTING SHOT



Photo courtesy Ed Marco

A Prayer in the Jungle

This picture was taken in June 1969 in the Central Highlands. I am on the far right, shirtless. I still wear that St. Michael Medal around my neck today. We were a grunt outfit, Charlie Company of the 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry in the Army's Fourth Infantry Division.

That chaplain, a Catholic priest whose name I don't remember, would try to get out to us to attend mass about once a week. He always had a Polaroid camera with him and would ask one of us to take pictures. He

would then give them to us to send home to let our families know that the Lord was still looking over us.

The sandbag-and-log altar this day was set up in our overnight fighting position, and that's our shelter half hooch next to it. The chaplain was our link to what was going on in the war; our Captain never told us squat.

This picture means a lot to me because it shows someone who cared about us.

— Ed Marco ♦