

# Vietnam Games

by [Andrew Belmont](#)

A/159 ASHB 101 ABN, C/159 ASHB 101 ABN & A/228 ASHB 1 CAV

Neither I nor Lowell were more than three years beyond high school but here we were opposite each other at a two seat game table in the Pachyderm O Club (CH-47s for you tree trimming types), with a Chess board between us. I feeling confident about my chances even if my technique was more like checkers then chess, but it often worked on my brother back home. Now as I wisely made my opening move Lowell countered. I quickly grabbed a piece and boldly moved it forward and again Lowell countered. Still confident as the sixteen pieces were barely moved about. Now my turn again. Ahh the Knight with it left/right turns seemed to be my smart choice, grab and go -HA! Lowell blandly asked, "do you know the least amounts of moves for a CHECKMATE? Me, huh? Lowell," three - CHECKMATE".

Two nights later, Lowell get over here! Do you know how to play CRIBBAGE? Yeah, says he. Ok penny a point -dime a box- twenty-five cents of game my old high school rules. Win/ loose \$1.75 big stakes for H.S, uhm say Lowell, how 'bout ten cents a point- fifty cents a box - a Buck a game? No problem as I'm a man of means these days, a WO1 peter pilot, no longer making bucks with snow shoveling and weed pulling. Yeah, OK. I figure hey with my H.S. win/loss record maybe five buck loss at most, bring it on. Seven hands of cards in one game and I O U \$17.25. WHAT?

Lowell convinced me NOT to play poker as after my losses to him there was barely enough to cover my bar bill, you know 15¢ a beer and 25¢ a shot. Lowell was gracious enough to buy me a beer, with my money. Blood Sweat n Tears, Credence Clearwater Revival, Three Dog Night and the Stones on the club speakers with 8" woofers was almost enough to sate my gambling needs. Almost!

Lowell get over here, I don't have any more money and do not know how to bet on this game but do you know how to play Stratego? Lowell, sorta, OK, I'll go easy on you and I'll let you see how it is played. The FLAG is the goal but there are bombs and a spy and Marshals and soldiers. Sixteen pieces each side with physical barriers on the board. Real army maneuvers from Napoleon's war, none of this jungle stuff.

Ta Da, I finally found Lowell's Achilles Heel. Not only my nemesis Lowell but I dispatched all commers. 99 wins out of 100 games until Bill. Bill would win two out of three Stratego but loose cribbage and chess no contest. To get my Stratego fix I had to suffer the indignity of a majority of losses to Bill as by now no one else would play me. Whaaa, take my board and go home!

There were darts but that was a draw as 'peter pilots' have good hand to eye coordination and the game seemed to digress as the evening and the beer flowed.

Like most units there were some 9 to 5 workers who always seemed eager for Volleyball. Combat rules applied unless the C.O. was playing. He being a LARGE child had that advantage and the fact that he was C.O. Amazing how a point was argued to the millimeter but when the CO played IN/OUT end of discussion. As soon as he left, haggle and squabble ensued.

Like a star baseball third basemen I and some of the Stratego victims were traded to other Divisions. My new digs had chess but No cribbage and alas NO Stratego, but they did have a ping pong table and usually played doubles. As a newbe on the block I watched the scene. Kinda like a basketball two on two pickup game. Myself and another pilot from the old unit never having played a game of ping pong together were in short order owners of the table. Bah new guys. Oh YEAH we're bad DELEUXE. NEXT.

Yeah, there was a real war in progress but combat volleyball and bar games still stand out in my good ole days' recollections. Now days chess and cribbage are computer games but no one to buy a beer, even with my own money.

Andrew