My adventure in Berlin as if told to my granddaughters.

1969-A Pivotal Year

January 12: The Super Bowl III takes place at the Orange Bowl in Miami. The New York Jets defeat the Baltimore Colts, 16-7.

January 20: Richard Milhous Nixon succeeds Lyndon Baines Johnson as the 37th President of the United States of America.

January 25: In Paris, the US-North Vietnamese peace talks begin, one of the major 1969 events of the month.

May 20: Nine days of fighting cease and U.S. troops of the 101st Airborne Division and South Vietnamese forces captured Ap Bia Mountain, Hill 937. It is known as one of the bloodiest battles of the Vietnam War.

July 7: Less than a month after President Nixon implements the removal of U.S. troops in Vietnam, the first U.S. troops leave South Vietnam in Saigon.

July 20: Neil Armstrong becomes the first man to walk on the Moon.

August 15: In New York, The Woodstock Music and Art Fair opens with over 400,000 young people in attendance. Performers feature Ravi Shankar; Crosby, Stills and Nash; Joan Baez; the Grateful Dead; Creedence Clearwater; Jimi Hendrix; Janis Joplin; the Jefferson Airplane and Canned Heat.

October 16: Capping a momentous season, the New York Mets win the World Series in Game 5, a 5-3 triumph over the Baltimore Orioles.

November 15: 250 thousand protesters stage a peaceful demonstration against the Vietnam War in Washington D.C.

November 24: The My Lai Massacre, the mass murder of unarmed South Vietnamese civilians at the hands of U.S. troops, is investigated.

Vietnam War soldiers and choppers

1969 was an exciting and pivotal year for me. I was finishing my senior year at Loyola University in New Orleans. As a healthy 21-year-old, I was looking forward to the adventures I imagined lay ahead of me. I would finally get to live my life the way I wanted to, or so I thought.

Events outside of my control would determine what and where my adventures would be. The war in Vietnam had been going on since 1955, however, it wasn’t until the end of 1964 that the US began committing a significant number of soldiers to the war effort. Over the next 5 years, the number of U.S. soldiers fighting in Vietnam grew from approximately 23,002 to 540,000 by April 1969.