

GI's Unique Vocabulary—What Did He Say?

CU CHI—The American soldier has always developed his own vocabulary to describe the sights and sounds of war, and the soldiers of today are maintaining that tradition. The jargon of the Vietnam GI is often humorous, sometimes confusing.

From the moment a replacement enters Vietnam he is subjected to the lingo of war. The new man is a "turtle" for the man he replaces because he seems to be so slow in arriving.

If he did not know before coming across the "big pond" (Pacific Ocean), he soon learns that MACV stands for Military Assistance Command, Vietnam; USARV means United States Army, Vietnam; and "short-timer" is a soldier going home soon.

A few of the terms for his fighting comrades, "jet jockey" and "Saigon warrior", are self evident. Many are not.

It is possible to spend an entire tour of duty in Vietnam without learning all the terms for an infantryman. He is a "grunt" or a "stump jumper". He is called a "gravel crusher" or, most often, a "leg."

After a few months in the "boondocks" the GI respects the courage of his tenacious foe and calls him "Mister Charles" or "Sir Charles."

Enemy infested jungles become the "VC National Forests."

A wounded soldier is "zapped" by Charlie and enemy soldiers are "greased," "massaged," or "blown away," by "friendlies" (Allied soldiers).

Abbreviations

Abbreviations are used extensively in this war and it is possible to carry on a conversation that would leave a linguist dizzy.

The military units of Vietnam are divided into several categories. The "good-guys" are:

ARVN — Army of the Republic of Vietnam. This group is the Vietnamese regular army.

CIDG — Civilian Irregular Defense Group. A Vietnamese force that maintains territorial border surveillance.

TROPIC LIGHTNING NEWS



Ready To Strike.... Anywhere, Anytime

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25TH INFANTRY DIVISION, VIETNAM

October 21, 1968

NVA Attack Night Defenses Fail To Score Three Times



By SP4 Richard Patterson

DAU TIENG — Heavy ground attacks on a night defensive position of the 25th Infantry Division's 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 5th Infantry, left 128 enemy soldiers dead in a five-day period.

The enemy, losing 99 men in an earlier attack, made a concerted assault on the night laager of Company A shortly after midnight.

A listening post reported that there were many noises all around them and almost simultaneously two trip flares went off along the wood line.

The Bobcats opened fire with track-mounted .50 caliber ma-

guist dizzy.

The military units of Vietnam are divided into several categories. The "good-guys" are:

ARVN — Army of the Republic of Vietnam. This group is the Vietnamese regular army.

CIDG — Civilian Irregular Defense Group. A Vietnamese force that maintains territorial border surveillance.

PF — Popular Forces. This force, recruited at local levels and kept in their home villages, is concerned with civil defense.

RF — Regional Forces. These troops maintain public order and security in rural areas.

The Enemy

Opposing the "good-guys" are members of the:

NVA — North Vietnamese Army. Trained and well equipped soldiers, the NVA have taken over much of the fighting.

NLF — The National Liberation Front is the political organization of the Communist forces.

VC — Viet Cong. This term, dating back to the French Indochina War, refers to the local guerillas.

Vietnam Slang

From the Vietnamese language the GI's have adopted "chop-chop" for food, the French word "beaucoup" for many, and "xin loi" for the phrase "sorry 'bout that."

A snake is called "Mr. No-shoulders" and if a rumor going around Da Nang can be believed the term "Sabre Jet" is fitting for the Vietnam mosquito.

Army and Air Force pilots have their own lingo for the various aircraft employed in Vietnam.

The A-1E Skyraider, a prop driven World War II fighter-bomber, is affectionately labeled "Spad."

The briefing room language of attack pilots that fly over the north include:

SAM — surface to air missile used by North Vietnamese against American aircraft.

(Continued on Back Page)



MACHINE GUNNER—Private First Class Isaac Gary of Europa, Miss., moves out with Infantrymen of Company A, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 5th Infantry. They were sweeping the battlefield for bodies and weapons after a night of heavy fighting around their night laager position. (PHOTO BY SP4 RICHARD PATTERSON)

on the night laager of Company A shortly after midnight.

A listening post reported that there were many noises all around them and almost simultaneously two trip flares went off along the wood line.

The Bobcats opened fire with track-mounted .50 caliber machine guns from their position two miles southwest of Dau Tieng, compelling the NVA force to attack before they were completely prepared.

During the 3½-hour battle, the enemy made a determined effort to penetrate the defensive wire in front of the "one-one" track.

The track was protected by an anti-RPG screen, and the crew slugged it out with two NVA rocket teams.

Specialist 4 Dennis MarcAurele, of Waterbury, Conn., admitted, "It was tough and go there for a while. One of Charlie's RPG teams was about 60 meters away and I could see them firing at me. A couple of times I thought I'd had it."

MarcAurele was firing the .50 caliber machine gun when an RPG round went over the cyclone fence and exploded next to the commander's cupola. The blast knocked him down inside the track, but he climbed back up and continued firing.

Another RPG nicked the back corner of the track and started a fire. MarcAurele abandoned the track but the fire went out almost immediately so he climbed back in and kept up the fire.

A sweep of the battlefield the next morning turned up 42 bodies of North Vietnamese, seven RPG launchers with 55 rounds and 12 boosters, 12 individual weapons and several bangalore torpedoes.

Later in the same day Alpha Company was replaced by Company B at the position, and a bulldozer reenforced the perimeter with earthen berms.

That night the enemy attacked again. This time, beginning at 3:00 a.m., the NVA launched a (Continued on Back Page)

Better Mail In Your FPCA Your Time Is Almost Up

You have just about run out of time if you haven't already made sure you are properly registered to vote in your home state and requested your absentee

in a voting booth.

This is unfortunate because they are, by their lack of interest and action, helping to undermine and destroy our democratic so-



ballot for the coming election.

The fact that you can't—or don't—vote this year may not matter much to you. There are a lot of people in this category—they just can't see any reason to get too excited about making little X's on a piece of paper or pulling the handles

ciety and processes.

It's a recognized fact that the United States is, economically and militarily, the most powerful nation in the world. It is almost inconceivable that we could be defeated in a military confrontation or through the breakdown of our economic system.

Yet it is possible that our democracy as we know it could shatter and crumble from within because of a disinterested, complacent and non-participating citizenry.

It makes little difference which candidate or party you support. It is, however, vitally important that you exercise your right as a citizen and cast your ballot.

Without the continuing interest and participation of every citizen in the political processes and activities of government, our democracy may cease to exist.

The dreams and sacrifices of millions in the past and the hope of future generations are embodied in the right of every citizen to vote. Don't fail to cast your ballot. (AFPS)

Take A Hint GI!



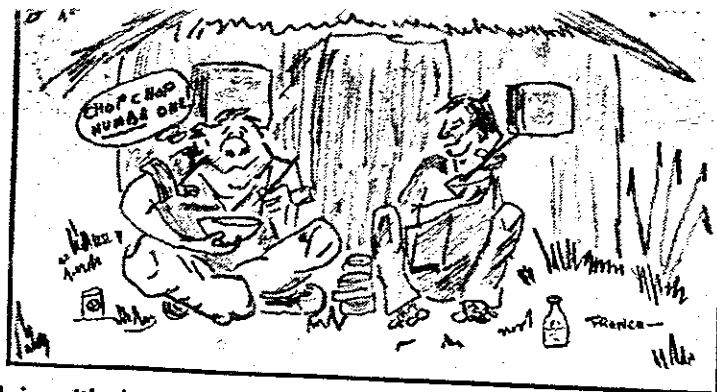
Help Control Heat Injury, It's A Must

All commanders are reminded of their responsibilities for the prevention of heat injuries. Normally, heat exhaustion is preventable.

Closely observe and reduce, when possible, continuous arduous work of personnel newly arrived in country. The normal period

BRONZE STAR MEDAL FOR HEROISM

LTC Thomas C. Nunn, HHC, 2d Bn, 14th Inf
CPT Robert A. Snyder, B Btry, 11th Arty
CPT George D. Featherston, Co B, 3d Bn, 22d Inf
CPT Harry K. Jowers, C Btry, 7th Bn, 11th Arty
1LT David C. Kregar, B Btry, 7th Bn, 11th Arty
1LT Richard Booth, HHC, 3d Bn, 22d Inf
1LT David Beach, HHC, 4th Bn, 23d Inf
1LT Barry Buckley, Co B, 3d Bn, 22d Inf
1SG Ronald G. Combs, B Btry, 7th Bn, 11th Arty
SFC Carlos Solivan, B Btry, 7th Bn, 11th Arty
SFC George C. Kearns, B Btry, 7th Bn, 11th Arty
SFC Ralph Walters, C Btry, 7th Bn, 11th Arty
SFC Paul Gargis, HHC, 3d Bn, 23d Inf
SFC James Smith, A Trp, 3d Sqd, 4th Cav
PSG Gordon Burns, Co B, 3d Bn, 22d Inf
PSG Walter H. Langley, HHC, 4th Bn, 23d Inf
PSG Marion D. Wright, HHC, 4th Bn, 23d Inf
PSG John Ellison, Co B, 3d Bn, 22d Inf
SSG George Dukes, Co B, 2d Bn, 22d Inf
SSG Colon Gore, Co A, 1st Bn, 5th Inf
SSG Bernard T. Hayward, B Btry, 7th Bn, 11th Arty
SP6 Edvent Grinnell, HHC, 2d Bn, 22d Inf
SGT Frederick Watts, B Btry, 7th Bn, 11th Arty
SGT Richard Peeler, C Btry, 7th Bn, 11th Arty
SGT Kenneth R. Bailey, B Btry, 7th Bn, 11th Arty
SGT Leo Fox, C Btry, 7th Bn, 11th Arty
SGT William E. Glass, B Btry, 7th Bn, 11th Arty
SGT Daniel E. Lewis, B Btry, 7th Bn, 11th Arty
SGT Eugene Anhalt, C Btry, 7th Bn, 11th Arty
SP5 Michael M. McCaughtry, B Btry, 7th Bn, 11th Arty
SP5 Edward Young, C Btry, 7th Bn, 11th Arty
SP5 Daniel O. Pina, B Btry, 7th Bn, 11th Arty
CPL Danny Durgam, C Btry, 7th Bn, 11th Arty
CPL Jerome Vice, C Btry, 7th Bn, 11th Arty
CPL William F. Robicheau, B Btry, 7th Bn, 11th Arty
SP4 Vincent P. Dimarzo, Co B, 2d Bn, 12th Inf
SP4 George W. Jones, B Btry, 7th Bn, 11th Arty
SP4 Robert A. McMann, Co A, 2d Bn, 22d Inf
SP4 Turner R. Smith, Co D, 65th Engr Bn
SP4 Anthony N. James, B Btry, 7th Bn, 11th Arty
SP4 Thomas G. Hagland, Co D, 65th Engr Bn
SP4 Terrence P. Clark, Co B, 2d Bn, 22d Inf
SP4 Albert W. Hawkins, Co D, 3d Bn, 22d Inf
SP4 Richard L. Ebergart, B Btry, 7th Bn, 11th Arty
SP4 Dennis R. Thomas, B Btry, 7th Bn, 11th Arty
SP4 Phillip Latta, Co A, 1st Bn, 5th Inf
SP4 Gerald H. Krell, B Btry, 7th Bn, 11th Arty
SP4 Pedro T. Gamez, B Btry, 7th Bn, 11th Arty
SP4 Dennis R. Thomas, B Btry, 7th Bn, 11th Arty
SP4 William Glass, B Btry, 7th Bn, 11th Arty
SP4 Able A. Garcia, B Btry, 7th Bn, 11th Arty



Join with the people! Understand their life, use phrases from their language and honor their customs and laws.

Designate 6th & 7th Campaigns

The Department of the Army has designated two more Vietnam campaigns.

The sixth campaign, from Jan. 30, 1968, through April 1, 1968, will be called "Tet Counteroffensive."

A seventh campaign has been

designated beginning April 2, 1968. Its name and termination date will be announced later.

Battle stars for these periods are authorized for wear on the Vietnam Service Ribbon in accordance with Army Regulation 672-5-1. (ANF)

TROPIC LIGHTNING NEWS



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Commanders are reminded of their responsibilities for the prevention of heat injuries. Normally, heat exhaustion is preventable.

Closely observe and reduce, when possible, continuous arduous work of personnel newly arrived in country. The normal period for acclimatization is one to two weeks.

Provide adequate amounts of water or other fluids and supplemental salt to personnel in each unit.

When the situation permits, arrange for periodic rest periods, especially for personnel that are not acclimatized.

Tropic Lightning

Combat Honor Roll

The name of Sergeant Daniel R. Doyle, US50203036, assigned to Battery B, 2d Battalion, 77th Artillery, is added to the Tropic Lightning Combat Honor Roll this week.

Sergeant Doyle distinguished himself by heroic actions on 6 May, 1968, during an attack on a fire support base in the Republic of Vietnam.

While approaching a suspected enemy village, Company A came under an intense hostile attack. The order was immediately given to assault the enemy fortifications. As he moved forward, Sergeant Doyle spotted a hostile soldier hidden in the brush. Reacting instantly, he killed the enemy soldier.

As he continued to advance, Sergeant Doyle came under devastating hostile fire from a well-concealed bunker. With complete disregard for his own

safety, he crawled through a heavy volume of fire until he could see the enemy rifle muzzles protruding from the bunker's firing ports.



Sgt. Daniel R. Doyle

Receiving covering fire from his comrades, Sergeant Doyle rushed the hostile fortification and tossed a grenade inside. No sooner had he taken cover when the insurgents threw the grenade out.

Determined not to suffer defeat, Sergeant Doyle pulled the pins out of two grenades. He then triggered the firing pins, held the grenades a few seconds, and tossed them into the bunker, killing the hostile occupants. His valorous actions contributed immeasurably to the defeat of the enemy force.

Sergeant Doyle's personal bravery, aggressiveness and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, the 25th Infantry Division and the United States Army.

SP4 Thomas A. Magland, Co D, 65th Engr Bn
SP4 Terrence P. Clark, Co B, 2d Bn, 22d Inf
SP4 Albert W. Hawkins, Co D, 3d Bn, 22d Inf
SP4 Richard L. Ebergart, B Btry, 7th Bn, 11th Arty
SP4 Dennis R. Thomas, B Btry, 7th Bn, 11th Arty
SP4 Phillip Latta, Co A, 1st Bn, 5th Inf
SP4 Gerald H. Krell, B Btry, 7th Bn, 11th Arty
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SP4 Dennis R. Thomas, B Btry, 7th Bn, 11th Arty
SP4 William Glass, B Btry, 7th Bn, 11th Arty
SP4 Able A. Garcia, B Btry, 7th Bn, 11th Arty
PFC Douglas Syberston, HHC, 3d Bn, 22d Inf
PFC Angelo Viteritti, Co A, 2d Bn, 22d Inf
PFC Jimmy D. Lester, Co A, 2d Bn, 27th Inf
PFC John Roberts, Co B, 3d Bn, 22d Inf
PFC John F. Kirkpatrick, Co A, 2d Bn, 22d Inf
PFC Isaac K. Gary, Co A, 1st Bn, 5th Inf
PFC David Stairs, C Btry, 7th Bn, 11th Arty
PFC Allen Ray, B Btry, 7th Bn, 11th Arty
PFC Michael B. Smith, Co A, 2d Bn, 22d Inf
PFC Tommy B. McKamey, Co B, 3d Bn, 22d Inf
PFC Claudie S. McCrory, Co A, 2d Bn, 22d Inf
PFC Kenneth Gjonola, C Btry, 7th Bn, 11th Arty



HELPING HAND—Specialist 4 Bennie I. Langston, a squad leader with Company A, 2d Battalion, 27th Infantry Wolfhounds finds out that a combat photographer is not only good for a few pictures, but also a helping hand and sometimes both. Langston, from Sillbee, Tex., was on a reconnaissance-in-force operation northwest of Saigon when he took the helping hand of the lensman.

(PHOTO BY SP4 BILL CLEVENGER)

Velvet And Licorice An Odd Combination

DAU TIENG — When First Lieutenant James Carper thinks of his family back in Tampa, Fla., his thoughts may include two members who slither.

"Their names are Velvet and Licorice—although one eats dog food, the other still prefers mice," said Carper, the artillery liaison for a battalion of the 3d Brigade.

Carper and his wife Gloria

have kept—at least two giant black indigo snakes around their home for the past few years.

"Velvet is a slim, trim six-footer and Licorice measures in at a shapely 5 feet, 10 inches," he said.

The serpentine duo have been parents many times over. In fact, Velvet is expecting again, related Gloria.

"Perhaps when I return home in a few months we'll have all kinds of little snakes running about. That will make it an even more interesting homecoming."

His wife has taken the snakes on the banquet circuit many times, traveling from one civic group to another.

"Now that Velvet is expecting again their public appearances will be curtailed for awhile. You just can't get Licorice to leave the house without Velvet, and she's in no condition to be going anywhere," observed Carper.

Although her measurements are almost 7 by 7 by 7, Velvet is one of the number one pinups of 3d Battalion, 22d Infantry troopers.

"In fact, the battalion considers our two snakes absentee mascots," noted Carper.

"It's a great feeling when members of your family make good."

Wolfhounds Ambush VC In Triangle

CU CHI — Soldiers from Company C, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Wolfhounds working near the Iron Triangle sprung a night ambush killing four enemy soldiers.

The company's 3d Platoon, led by Staff Sergeant John R. Hinton, 28, Jacksonville, Tex., received the order to set up an ambush 400 meters from the battalion's perimeter.

The platoon had set up and after a few hours heard strange noises. The troops waited until the noises became louder and more distinct. Soon they saw a large NVA patrol heading towards them.

When the enemy was close enough to the ambush, the Wolfhounds opened up with claymore mines, small arms and machine gun fire. Once the firing had ceased the platoon returned to the night location.

The following morning the



HELPING HAND—Specialist 4 Bennie I. Langston, a squad leader with Company A, 2d Battalion, 27th Infantry Wolfhounds finds out that a combat photographer is not only good for a few pictures, but also a helping hand and sometimes both. Langston, from Sillbee, Tex., was on a reconnaissance-in-force operation northwest of Saigon when he took the helping hand of the lensman.

(PHOTO BY SP4 BILL CLEVINGER)

Uproots Tree And Occupant

DAU TIENG — To engineers driving Rome plows, the job is, for the most part, routine, but not for Specialist 5 Richard Strubberg, of St. Louis, Mo.

Working with the 588th Engineer Battalion from Dau Tieng, Strubberg was driving a Rome plow, cutting down rubber trees near a village in the Ben Cui Rubber Plantation. He was clearing a night location for the 1st Battalion (Mechanized); 5th Infantry Bobcats near the site where human wave and mortar attacks had occurred four times in the last 10 days. The Bobcats had killed more than 200 enemy.

"We had been cutting down rubber trees there the day before," stated Strubberg, "and we had left a row of trees

standing near the villagers' garden.

We planned to cut the rest and then cut down that last row without damaging the villager's crops. I started plowing down the row, when I pushed over one big tree and it came out of the ground, roots and all. Then I saw a hole underneath the tree.

"I raised up in my seat and saw it was a well-made bunker and noticed a leg sticking up.

"I grabbed my rifle, hopped off the plow and went over to the bunker to check it out. I thought it was a dead VC," he went on, "and then all of a sudden it moved!

"I just about jumped out of my skin. I called Lieutenant Hamlin, my platoon leader, who called out a security team, the recon platoon of the battalion, and in the meantime I started digging him out.

"I had caved in the bunker, almost suffocating him. When I got him out I waved my shirt over him to give him air. He was wounded in the hand, arm and head, but was well bandaged. He was real young and dressed in an NVA uniform."

A dust-off was called and they took him to Tay Ninh.

First Lieutenant Ward Hamlin of South Haven, Mich., stated, "The 5th Mech killed 37 VC and NVA here last night when they hit our night laager position. No doubt he was one of the wounded.

"He probably saw that remaining row of trees and figured we wouldn't cut it down, but we surprised him."

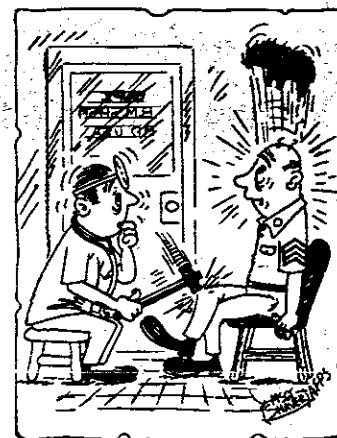
Strubberg summed up his

feelings: "You just never know what you're going to dig up in Vietnam. I'll sure keep my eyes peeled from now on!"

noises. The troops waited until the noises became louder and more distinct. Soon they saw a large NVA patrol heading towards them.

When the enemy was close enough to the ambush, the Wolfhounds opened up with claymore mines, small arms and machine gun fire. Once the firing had ceased the platoon returned to the night location.

The following morning the area was searched and four bodies were found. The 2d Brigade troopers also captured three AK-47 rifles, several hand grenades, ammunition and one CHICOM pistol belonging to an NVA officer killed in the ambush.



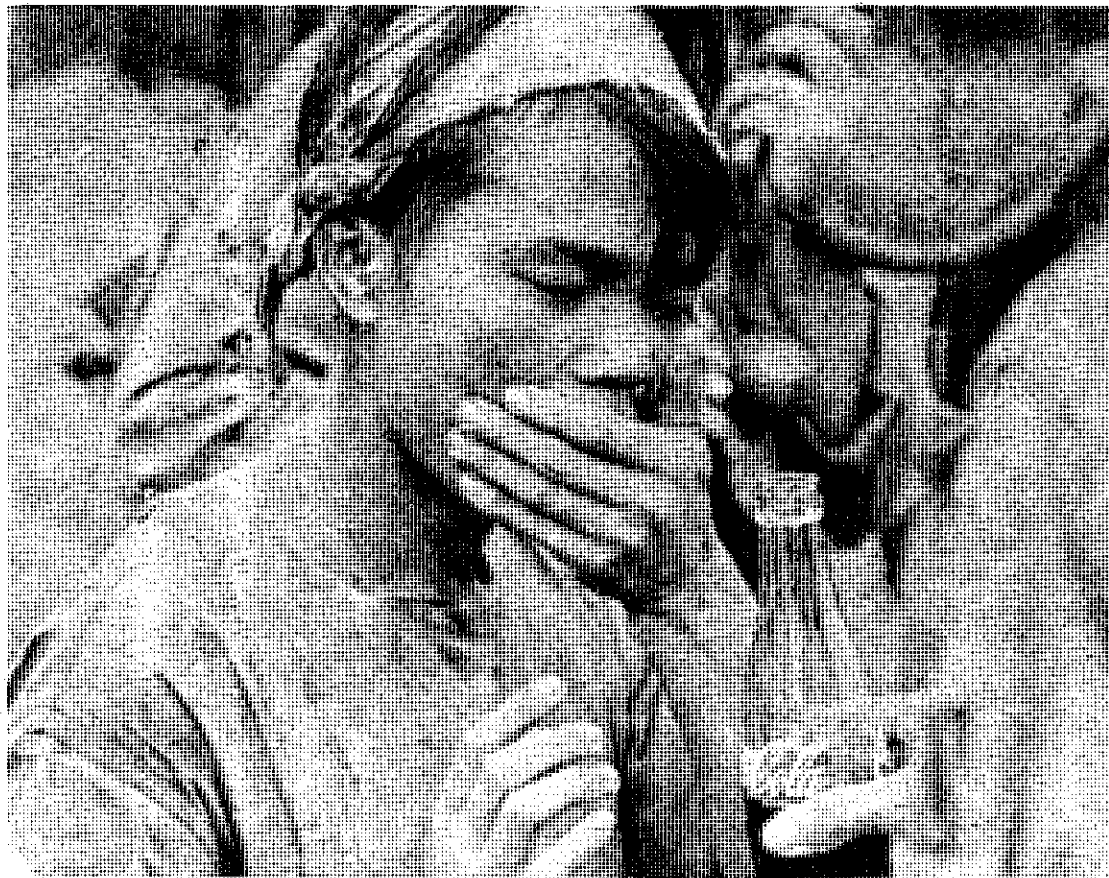
Uncover Center

CU CHI — While searching the dense jungles of the Iron Triangle, northwest of Saigon, 2d Brigade soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Wolfhounds uncovered an enemy rest and recuperation center.

The Tropic Lightning soldiers, sweeping an area hit by air strikes, discovered a bunker complex containing sleeping quarters, tables, chairs, and cabinets.

Some 15 pounds of medical supplies and documents were also uncovered.

The documents indicated that the area was used by wounded soldiers for recuperation and as a type of rest center for the enemy troops.



HAVE A COKE—An NVA soldier who accepted the South Vietnamese government's offer of amnesty under the Chieu Hoi (Open Arms) program, is offered a coke to ease his coughing spells. The North Vietnamese soldier came out of hiding and turned himself in to a 1st Brigade unit sweeping Highway 26 near Dau Tieng.

(PHOTO BY SP4 DON BROWN)

3/4 Cavalry-

When You Hear Th

CU CHI — The last orange streaks of an October sunset are fading from the sky, and distant clouds and a quickening breeze, heavy with moisture, forecast a coming storm.

The commander of the lead tank waits and watches from atop his cupola, a cigarette cupped in his hand, the other arm draped over the .50 caliber in front of him. He gazes down the stretch of road that will be his patrol tonight, and his thoughts are entirely his own.

Over the radio the troop commander is telling someone to get his tail in gear and his track in line. A laconic "roger" replies. Then silence.

It is deceptively peaceful and no one seems to feel the need to raise his voice or speak more

than a few words at one time. An occasional laugh, the clatter of a belt of ammunition being loaded into a machine gun, the scrape and rustle of legs trying to find comfortable positions are the only sounds which break the quiet.

The thrust of 90mm gun barrels puncture the last pale yellow-gray light over the horizon, and the steel giants squat in line, waiting.

"All right, move it out!"

One by one, the engines of seven APCs and three tanks turn over, catch and burst into roaring, throbbing life — the blasts from their exhausts so hot that it is impossible to stand behind them. Lurching and clawing at the mud, the tracks move into convoy formation and the

tanks take up security positions.

All is sound bigger than life you along in it.

Down the road they grind along. The searchlight tank stabs at it like the slash of a sword in slow motion, in slow motion, tree line that rice paddies with road. A good pickup bush, all right. back on the highway. Ever they're there.

And then the heavy crack of a M-16's, split red tracers suddenly, the whole



AIRIAL RECON—Looking for signs of Viet Cong encampments and bunkers, an OH-6A Cayuse sweeps up behind a 3/4 Cavalry trooper.





AERIAL RECON—Looking for signs of Viet Cong encampments and bunkers, an OH-6A Cayuse sweeps up behind a 3/4 Cavalry trooper.



GUARDIANS OF THE SUPPLY ROUTE—A 3/4 Cavalry tank and armored personnel carrier convoy await the signal to move out.



GETTING READY TO MOVE—Sergeant First Class Bobby Hollis of Columbia, Tenn. and Specialist 4 Mitchell J. Tipton of Olivehurst, Calif., bleed the fuel filters of their tank.



MISSION COMPLETE—Captain Garrett Marcinkowski of Stamford, Conn., operations officer of Delta Troop, sits at the controls of his Cobra after completing a convoy escort mission near Tay Ninh.



HAPPINESS IS A WARM PUPPY—'Heavy but happy load' seems to be the thoughts of Specialist 4 Steve Billimeier of Sacramento, California, as he prepares to board a chopper. The dog, named Killer, is the mascot for the commo section of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Wolfhounds. (PHOTO BY SP4 HECTOR NADAL)

Army Beats All In Shoot-Outs

Led by six Army marksmen, the United States shooting team won every individual and team match in the recent international military sports championships at Fontainbleau, France.

In competition against marksmen from 13 nations, the Americans dominated pistol and rifle events and, in addition, won all three special Olympic-style shooting contests.

Army participants, members of the Marksmanship Training Unit at Fort Benning, placed among the top three in every individual event. (ANF)



A WHAT?—First Lieutenant James W. Carper of Tampa, Florida, finds it hard to believe that the VC suspect is going to be lifted off along with his motorcycle. Alpha Company, 3d Battalion, 22d Infantry detained the suspect while on a sweep along a highway west of Nui Ba Den mountain.

(PHOTO BY SP4 HERB BURDETT)

Nhi Binnh Village Gets Gift From A Lions Club In Florida

TAN SON NHUT — The village of Nhi Binnh, known to most infantrymen simply as Catholic Village has been the scene of numerous fierce military operations in and about its boundaries.

But Regulars of the 3d Battalion, 22d Infantry also have spent countless hours helping

the occupants of this quaint little village only a few miles north of Saigon. Recently their help took the form of a 22-pound bundle sent to the village by Mr. and Mrs. C. Ward Carper and other members of the West Hillsborough Lions Club in Tampa, Fla.

The Carper's son, James, is

the artillery liaison officer with the battalion. "We were operating in and around the village a few months ago and I discovered through one of our interpreters, Staff Sergeant Vinh, that there were certain things the villagers needed but couldn't get," said Carper.

"In some cases they couldn't afford these items because the VC had been taxing them for many months, or the VC in the area kept them from traveling to Saigon to do their shopping," continued Carper. "In effect the VC had put a partial economic blockade around the Village."

Sergeant Vinh conveyed the needs of the villagers to First Lieutenant Carper and he in turn informed his parents. The bundle recently arrived and included 25 spools of thread, 17 packages of needles, 10 pieces of yard goods, each four yards long, 10 pairs of rubber sandals,

Listening Post-Early Warning System

CU CHI — One of the many jobs an infantryman pulls in the field is that of taking his turn on a listening post or LP.

Great stories rarely result

from listening post duty, but the LP is one of the primary defenses of any unit spending a night in the field.

The quick thinking of the

men manning a listening post can alert the remainder of the unit to an impending attack. Often, men on an LP see the enemy at close range some-

times less than fifteen meters away.

"The mission of the listening post is to provide the unit with an early warning system," said Sergeant First Class Robert Nelson, of Hannibal, Mo., acting first sergeant of Company D, 3d Battalion, 22d Infantry. "Since the men are out past the first wire of the perimeter they can alert the unit to any Viet

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"The mission of the listening post is to provide the unit with an early warning system," said Sergeant First Class Robert Nelson, of Hannibal, Mo., acting first sergeant of Company D, 3d Battalion, 22d Infantry. "Since the men are out past the first wire of the perimeter they can alert the unit to any Viet Cong movement in their vicinity."

It takes nerves of steel to man a listening post with only claymore mines, hand grenades and individual weapon for protection when the Viet Cong are moving near your position.

"You get out beyond that first wire and that's it, your on your own," said Private First Class John Zukovic, of Tamaqua, Pa. "You have to have a lot of faith in the other men with you and confidence in yourself and your equipment," he added.

In addition to the claymores and individual weapons, the men on the listening post have a radio and a starlight scope, which is used to detect movement in the dark.

Recently one of the 3d Battalion, 22d Infantry's LP's reported a large number of enemy troops 75 meters from their position. Word was passed back to the command post, and as the men manning the IP watched, mortars began falling on the enemy position.

"Sometimes, if the enemy situation proves a threat to the men on the LP we will pull them back into the company area," said Nelson. "Other times we will order them to just remain quiet and not do anything. Or, we might direct them to engage the enemy."

"After a night of watching for VC, fighting off the insects, and often the rain," exclaimed Private First Class Wardell Perkins of Gordo, Ala., "I'm mighty glad to see morning come, and I'm pretty sure the others feel the same way. That old sun looks pretty good."

area kept them from traveling to Saigon to do their shopping," continued Carper. "In effect the VC had put a partial economic blockade around the village."

Sergeant Vinh conveyed the needs of the villagers to First Lieutenant Carper and he in turn informed his parents. The bundle recently arrived and included 25 spools of thread, 17 packages of needles, 10 pieces of yard goods, each four yards long, 10 pairs of rubber sandals, 24 rubber balls, three dolls, three shirts and one blouse, three nurses uniforms and a stuffed dog!

These common every day items were just what the villagers said they needed, according to Carper. "I hope to return there someday to see first hand the results of the generosity of the West Hillsborough Lions Club," he added.



ELUSIVE CHARLIE — Almost lost in the foliage, a rifleman from Delta Company, 2d Battalion, 27th Infantry Wolfhounds carries on the incessant search to find, fix and finish the enemy.

(PHOTO
BY SP4 ROBERT O'HARE)



BEAT THE HEAT—Tropic Lightning's Chick of the Week is a cool customer from Miami, Florida.

Warrior Motor Pool Keeps Them Running

DAU TIENG — The 2d Battalion, 12th Infantry operations five miles northwest of Saigon have, for the past two months, depended on two resupply convoys from their rear staging area at Tan Son Nhut Air Base

every day.

The Third Brigade's struggle to keep this vital supply link functioning and to keep the battalion's mechanical equipment in top working condition, is being admirably handled by the White

Warriors motor pool section. The section is under the direction of Staff Sergeant Gary L. Neff from Tacoma, Washington.

Working conditions for most Americans in Vietnam are substandard compared to home. However infantry division mechanics perhaps serve as one of the best examples of how the job can be done under the most adverse of circumstances.

The Warrior's canvas quonset garage covers a gravel floor where a hand dug hole in the wet mud-clay serves as a grease rack. Army and Air Force conex boxes are employed as tool sheds and parts storage lockers.

With fifty-six motor vehicles and gasoline powered electrical generators demanding constant attention and feeding, the mechanics and clerks wage what often becomes a sixteen-hour-a-day battle against the rain, mud and dust.

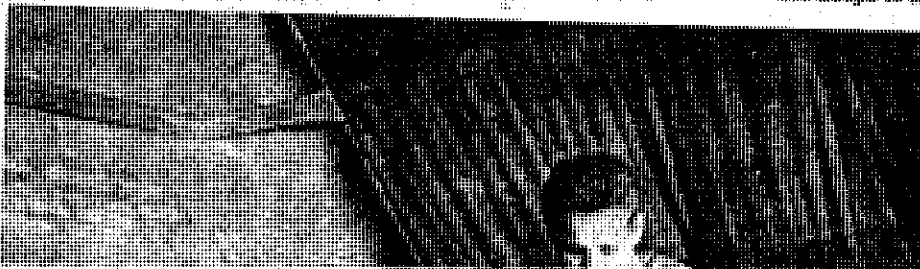
Repairs and oil changes are only part of the picture. The motor pool also maintains a clerk staff whose job is to carefully screen and test applicants for a military driver's license. This same staff must also assure that the proper tools and parts are available when they are needed in the shop.

When the 2d Battalion, 12th Infantry White Warriors in the field receive their hot evening meal, clean clothes, and rations of cold drinks they owe a vote of thanks to the motor pool, a team that keeps it all coming.

BY SP4 CHARLES HAUGHEY



LYING DOWN ON THE JOB—SP4 Dan Weller from Muskegon, Michigan makes repairs on a five-ton truck.



REPLACING BRAKES—on a deco-and-a-half is a regular chore for SP4 Thomas Wood from Albion, Oklahoma, especially during the rainy season.



Michigan makes repairs on a five-ton truck.

thanks to the motor pool, a team that keeps it all coming.

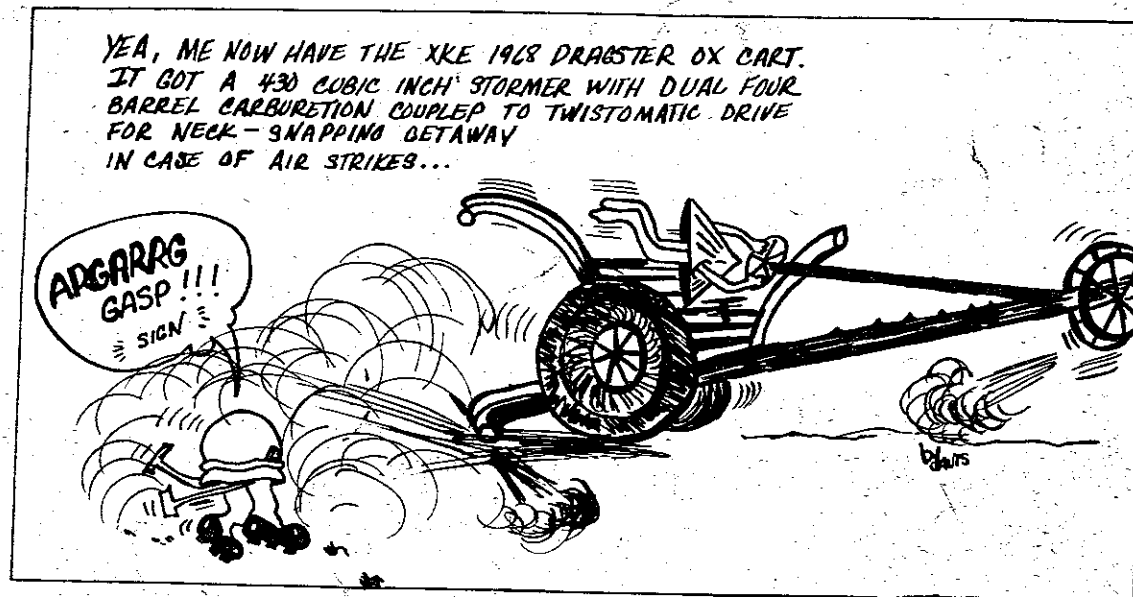
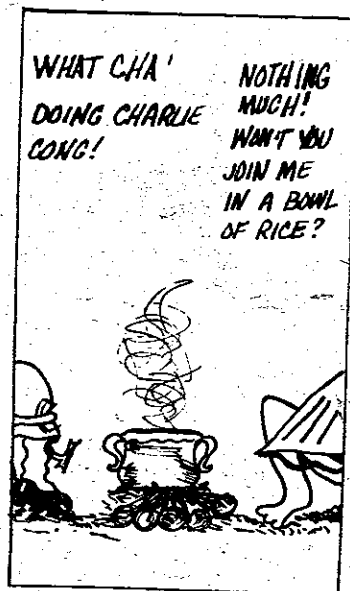
chore for SP4 Thomas Wood from Albion, Oklahoma, especially during the rainy season.



MOTOR MECHANIC—SP4 Howard Rhodes from Smithfield, N.C., changes a faulty water pump on a deuce-and-a-half.



MOTOR POOL CLERK—PFC Noah Clayton of Anderson, Alabama, plays the important role of keeping records and keeping things in order in the maintenance shop.



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COLONEL Lewis J. Ashley, commander of the 3d Brigade (left), examines a cannister of fuses for enemy 82 mm mortars which were part of a giant cache of enemy rockets, mortars and ammo found in a canal several miles west of Saigon by the 2d Battalion, 12th Infantry. Captain Joe W. Rigby, Battalion executive officer, looks on.

(PHOTO BY SP4 CHARLES HAUGHEY)

NVA Attack...

(Continued From Page 1)
well-coordinated attack under cover of an intense mortar, 107mm rocket, and RPG bombardment.

While artillery units dropped shells onto the enemy position, the infantrymen fought a vic-

vance using small arms, automatic weapons, RPG's and mortars.

In this latest fight, 37 North Vietnamese Army soldiers were killed without the loss of a single American life.

The enemy killed in the four

So, don't kid yourself. Place your order now for your own 1967-1968 25th Infantry Division Yearbook. Someday you will congratulate yourself for having done so.

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NVA Attack...

(Continued From Page 1)
well-coordinated attack under cover of an intense mortar, 107mm rocket, and RPG bombardment.

While artillery units dropped shells onto the enemy position, the infantrymen fought a vicious battle on the ground killing 49 enemy.

At the battle site, now the scene of three attacks, the battalion commander, Lieutenant Colonel Andrew H. Anderson, remarked, "After three times you would think Charlie would learn his lesson, but just in case he hasn't, we're ready to teach him another."

Anderson, of Alexandria, Va., seemed to be foretelling the future. Less than 72 hours later the NVA attacked again.

This time they ran into the guns of Alpha Company again.

Five minutes after midnight the North Vietnamese hit the base in what was estimated to be battalion strength. For three hours the enemy tried to ad-

vance using small arms, automatic weapons, RPG's and mortars.

In this latest fight, 37 North Vietnamese Army soldiers were killed without the loss of a single American life.

The enemy killed in the four clashes on the edge of the Ben Cui rubber plantation totals 227.

Vocabulary...

(Continued From Page 1)

Jinx — means to take evasive zig-zag action to avoid SAM's.

Junk — what becomes of a million dollar war plane that zagged when it should have zigged.

Beginning the day a "turtle" arrives, and until he leaves Vietnam as a "short-timer," the most important term in a GI's vocabulary encompasses everything from his sweetheart to Mom's apple pie and a soft bed: The United States — reverently called "The World."

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You Hear Thunder On The MSR

ange than a few words at one time. An occasional laugh, the clatter of a belt of ammunition being loaded into a machine gun, the scrape and rustle of legs trying to find comfortable positions are the only sounds which break the quiet.

The thrust of 90mm gun barrels puncture the last pale yellow-gray light over the horizon, and the steel giants squat in line, waiting.

"All right, move it out!"

One by one, the engines of seven APCs and three tanks turn over, catch and burst into roaring, throbbing life — the blasts from their exhausts so hot that it is impossible to stand behind them. Lurching and clawing at the mud, the tracks move into convoy formation and the

tanks take up front and rear security positions.

All is sound and movement, bigger than life, power carrying you along in its swell.

Down the road, Indian file, they grind along in the night. The search light of the lead tank stabs at the darkness and like the slash of a sword blade in slow motion, slices through the tree line that rises beyond the rice paddies which border the road. A good place for an ambush, all right. Someone yanks back on the handle of a .50 caliber. Everyone knows—they're there.

And then the high, sharp, staccato crack of an AK-47, higher than M-16's, splits the night, and red tracers streak past. Suddenly, the whole column opens

up with everything it's got.

This is the Three-Quarter Cav.

Every day, somewhere along the main supply routes from the Phu Cuong bridge on the Saigon river, or from Tan Son Nhut Air Base through Cu Chi and on up to Tay Ninh, an element of the 3d Squadron, 4th Cavalry is engaged in securing the road for the convoys which supply the Tropic Lightning Division. At other times the Cav may be supporting the infantry on offensive operations or providing security for artillery fire support bases in the Cu Chi and Tay Ninh areas.

At night, when the Viet Cong like to mount their attacks, the Cav often works with local Vietnamese Regional and Popular Forces to cordon off villages and

safeguard them against enemy terrorism.

The Cav's role is a diversified one.

Delta Troop's observation helicopters conduct reconnaissance missions over suspected enemy positions. Aerial scout teams supply the visual information needed by infantry and armored units conducting ground operations. And teams made up of Cobras and Huey gunships provide tremendous fire power in support of ground forces.

Massive and flexible fire power characterize the Three-Quarter Cav. The "Horsemen" guarantee that vital supplies flow smoothly along the MSR and stand ready to provide air and ground striking forces against the enemy.



READY FOR CHARLIE—Specialist 5 Vincent R. Kelly of Corpus Christi, Tex., commander of a Bravo Troop tank, loads a 90mm round into the breach of his main gun.