

Unit	Page
2/22	1,3,4&5
2/27	1
4/9	1
2/12	1
7/11	1
2/14	2
125th	2
4/23	2
3/13	3
2/34	6,8
25th Med	6
159th Med	8
65th Engr	7
44th	8

TROPIC LIGHTNING NEWS



Ready To Strike.... Anywhere, Anytime

Vol. 5 No. 41

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TROPIC LIGHTNING NEWS

October 26, 1970

Waiting Pays Off for Division Unit

Manchu Platoon Practices the Virtue of Patience

By SGT WILLIAM ZARRET



RIGHT THIS WAY - An radio telephone operator (RTO) with the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry looks skyward at friendly division choppers during an operation near Dau Tieng. (Photo by SP4 Ed Toulouse)

CU CHI - For men of the 25th Division's 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry, patience recently had its rewards. The unit killed eight enemy in two separate actions near here.

In the first action, the 1st platoon of Bravo Company was set up in a night ambush position when they spotted an individual carrying an AK-47.

"I had my platoon hold their fire in favor of further observation," said Staff Sergeant Dannie Justice of Macon, Ga.

Returns

Within forty minutes the man departed and returned with four of his comrades. This time the Manchus let their presence be known, surprising the enemy group with all the weapons they had. To make sure, 81mm mortars, artillery and gunships were called in while a flareship illuminated the area.

A thorough sweep later turned up two AK-47s and the bodies of three Communists.

Payoff

The waiting game paid off again for an alert ambush patrol from Delta Company, operating north of the Bravo unit.

Having established their ambush position, the Manchus settled for a night of watching the shadows and listening to the jungle's sounds.

Suddenly the silence was broken by the blast of a mechanical ambush, touched off by the enemy.

A recon patrol immediately moved forward to flush out any remaining enemy. After a brief contact, gunships finished the job.

"Some of the enemy took off to the southwest and didn't take time to even shoot back," said Specialist 4 James Modlin of Boykins, Va.

A final sweep uncovered the bodies of five enemy, three AK-47 rifles, two field packs and one Chicom pistol.

Plows Blow Booby-Traps

Triple Deuce Finds Cache

By SP4 FRANK SALERNO

CU CHI - While working with a land clearing unit 15 miles north of here recently, the 25th Division's 2nd Battalion (Mech), 22nd Infantry, found a large

enemy ammunition cache.

During this operation the second platoon of Alfa Company was providing security with their armored personnel carriers for the 984th Land

Clearing Company, which used some plows to clear away dense brush and trees.

Prevent Casualties

"The plows also prevented possible US casualties by detonating enemy boobytraps which went undetected by us," said Sergeant James McDonnell of Alfa Company.

"Later in the day as the plows continued to clear the area, one uncovered a large tunnel which was under the jungle covering," continued the Collbran, Colo., squad leader.

Find Plenty

When the men dismounted their tracks and checked out the tunnel cautiously, they found plenty. Included in the cache

were seventeen 75mm recoilless rifle rounds, one hundred and seventy 57mm recoilless rifle rounds and a 55-gallon drum of tear gas powder.

Shortly afterwards, the cache was evacuated and the tunnel destroyed.

"I'm sure glad we found those rounds because with them the enemy could have done us a J-O-B," said Specialist 4 Dennis Briesse of Elmo, Kan.

Leg and Armor Units Grab Charlie's Chow

By SP4 PHIL MASLIN

CU CHI - While working with an armored unit near here recently, 25th Division soldiers made a dinnertime sweep and took the supper right off Charlie's table. They may have taken a little of the romance out of his life as well.

Alfa Company, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry, teamed with chainpulling sheridans of the 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor, and found a cache in a suspected enemy-infested area 11 miles north of here.

Trap Door

"We were sweeping behind the tanks," said Specialist 4 Jerry Pals of Sheffield, Iowa, "when we noticed a trap door partly knocked in by the tanks. After checking for booby-traps, we found 16 bags of rice in good condition."

"We proceeded about 100 yards when the tanks marked a tunnel with smoke," said Private First Class Clyde Hesser of Clear Lake, Iowa. "Moving with caution, we discovered a large bunker containing a cooking area, sleeping positions and more enemy supplies."

Big Haul

The combined leg and armor operation uncovered 675 pounds of enemy rice, 16 cans of meat, 10 pounds of dried fish and assorted other food supplies. Also evacuated were 500 rounds of new small arms ammunition, 150 sandbags and 30 packs of Vietnamese cigarettes.

Further investigation disclosed a small complex of four bunkers arranged in a circular pattern similar to that used in GI perimeter defense," said Sergeant Byrle Darland of Bowie, Tex.

"In one we discovered a strong and almost forgotten scent of perfume and some female-type garments."



MARKING ROUND - A pair of artillerymen from Alfa Battery, 7th Battalion, 11th Field Artillery chamber a "Willy Peter," the artillery's nickname for a marking round, white phosphorous. (Photo by SP4 Tom Benn)

DECORATIONS

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

SP5 Hugh M. West, B Trp, 3d Sqdn, 4th Cav

SOLDIER'S MEDAL

CPT Arther A. Schulz, C Trp, 3d Sqdn, 4th Cav
SFC Walter J. Prince, B Trp, 3d Sqdn, 4th Cav
SP5 Geron C. Morgan, B Trp, 3d Sqdn, 4th Cav
SP5 Louie Yrigoyen, B Trp, 3d Sqdn, 4th Cav
SP4 Lonnie Collins, B Trp, 3d Sqdn, 4th Cav
PFC Kenneth A. Collins, B Trp, 3d Sqdn, 4th Cav

BRONZE STAR

1LT Billy W. Evans, Co D, 2d Bn, 12th Inf
CSM Henry K. Kahanu, HHC, 1st Bn, 5th Inf
SSG Nicholas J. Demongeot, Co F, 75th Inf
SGT Patrick D. Cookman, Co B, 3d Bn, 22d Inf
SGT Thomas A. Schommer, Co F, 75th Inf
SGT Richard F. Stockmaster, Co A, 1st Bn, 5th Inf
SP4 James H. Baker, Co A, 2d Bn, 14th Inf
SP4 William L. Turner, Co B, 2d Bn, 27th Inf
PFC John M. Atoigue, Co D, 1st Bn, 27th Inf
PFC John R. Berry, Co A, 1st Bn, 5th Inf
PFC Paul A. DeGhetto, Co A, 1st Bn, 5th Inf
PFC Phillip Gann, Co A, 1st Bn, 5th Inf
PFC James L. Huff, Co A, 1st Bn, 5th Inf
PFC James A. Ludwig, Co A, 1st Bn, 5th Inf
PFC Randy D. Stisser, Co D, 2d Bn, 27th Inf
PFC Taula Tagipo, Co B, 2d Bn, 27th Inf

Mailing Suggestions Will Speed Delivery

Even with the Christmas season still two months away, it is a good idea to start preparing for it now.

It is important to observe the following tips during the forthcoming Christmas Season:

CORRECT MAILING ADDRESS - To expedite your mail, let your family, friends and relatives know your correct mailing address ahead of time.

DEADLINES - The suggested mailing date for surface mail to CONUS is November 1. For Airmail, a faster but more costly service, the suggested mailing date is December 1.

SAM (SPACE AVAILABLE MAIL) - SAM is airlifted to San Francisco at no additional cost to you. The surface rate is charged and the parcel is sent via truck or rail transport, after reaching CONUS. To qualify for SAM a parcel must weigh no more than five pounds. Maximum size is 60 inches. (To compute the size of any parcel, measure it once the long way (length), and once around the widest part (girth) and combine the figures.)

PAL (PARCEL AIRLIFT) - PAL applies to parcels weighing up to 30 pounds and less than 60 inches in size. Payment of surface postage, plus one dollar, insures that your parcel will be airlifted to the post office of delivery. This is a real postage saver, but remember the 30 pounds 60 inch rule.

PARCEL POST - The maximum size for surface mail is 100 inches and the weight limit is 70 pounds. Allow at least 75 days for delivery.

SERVICES - When mailing a parcel, inform the window clerk of all the special services you desire, such as insurance, airmail, etc. The insurance receipt you will get when mailing a package is your proof of insurance. In the event that the parcel is lost or damaged, the receipt will be needed to initiate a claim. In Vietnam, remember that all jewelry (watches rings, etc.) costing more than \$10.00 must be sent by registered mail for your protection.

PROPER WRAPPING AND PACKING - The primary cause of damage to the mail is improper packing. Parcels that are not packed well enough to withstand the handling it will receive in transit, can not be accepted nor insured. This is for the protection of the package.

Supplier Intercepted, NVA Suffers Loss

By SP4 GARY PETERSON

DAU TIENG - In a recent operation near here, 25th Division troops surprised an NVA resupply man, killing him and capturing his supplies.

The first platoon of Alfa Company, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry, was in a day holding position along a trail.

About noon, the point men on the trail suddenly came face to face with an NVA soldier

loaded down with a large rucksack and a rifle.

The Golden Dragons immediately opened up on the man, causing him to drop the sack and run for the bushes.

A thorough search of the area turned up the dead NVA, his AK rifle, four full magazines, clothing, a poncho, a hammock and 40 pounds of rice. Most of the items were found in the rucksack.



BACK TO THE NDP - Infantrymen and their armored personnel carriers of Alfa Company, 4th Battalion (Mech), 23rd Infantry return to their night defensive position after a long day's mission, 12 miles southeast of Xuan Loc.

The Armored Personnel Carrier

A Moving Fire Support Base

By SGT MIKE KEYSTER

OB LYNCH - It travels through mud, swamps, streams, and through seemingly impenetrable jungle.

It saves miles of walking and enables 25th Division infantrymen to carry extra gear and equipment. It carries handy little personal items that help a "grunt" put up with all the miseries of the field. It even

provides a warm and dry place to sleep at night.

This handy, olive drab workhorse item to the Tomahawks of the 4th Battalion (Mech), 23rd Infantry, is the armored personnel carrier (APC).

"My track can sleep up to six men," said Private First Class Phil Gessert of Highland Park, Ill., an Alfa Company track driver.

"During the monsoon, it rains almost every night, but the guys can stay dry in the APC."

Specialist 4 Ferman Bennet of Paxton, Ill., an Alfa Company track commander, said his track enabled him to carry along his camera, tape recorder, radio and a goodie box from home. "These things would be a lot harder to carry if I were in a straight leg infantry unit," he said.

With the large storage and carrying capacity of the APC in mind Private First Class Ted

Buckridge of Temple City, Cal., an Alfa Company rifleman said, "on a dismounted rifle (reconnaissance in force), you only have to carry the equipment you need for that day."

"The tracks are usually close by if we get into contact," Buckridge added. Those 50s (50 caliber machine guns), are a real comfort.

"Vines, trees, bamboo, and streams sometimes cause us to dismount and follow the APCs," said Bennet, "but the tracks usually get through just about anything. They are sure great for breaking trail."

"An APC is like a moving fire support base," said Gessert, in summing up the advantages of an armored personnel carrier. "It brings you a lot of comfort in the field."

Any 11-Bravo would agree that the track sure beats walking.

Como is Lifeline To Outside

By 1LT A.L. JOHNSON

OB LYNCH - At a fire support base, the lifeline to the outside world is communications. If the line is cut, a lot more than conversation might be lost.

To make sure this doesn't happen at Operation Base Lynch, Company C, 125th Signal Battalion maintains a VHF platoon working around the clock.

Consisting of 49 men, the platoon supports the 2nd Brigade with standard communications as well as services ranging from switchboard operations to ammo.

The men of the 125th at Lynch represent a wide variety of specialties in the communications field.

Each man is a vital link in the communications chain. Sergeant Wayne Griffin, platoon sergeant, asserts that only through team effort can the platoon's essential mission be accomplished.

"Here in the field, the men are more aware of the need for close cooperation than ever before," he said. "Without a doubt, there is more of a feeling of urgency for the importance of around-the-clock communications between Lynch and other elements of the 25th Division."

"If we lost contact with the outside world, Lynch could become a mighty lonely corner," said a newly arrived generator mechanic. "Each man here has an important responsibility to keep up his end of the job."

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SP5 Tom Watson 7/25th	PFC Doc Polls 269th



GOODBYE MESSHALL - Tripper is about to go on a bummer. The canine, once owned by the men of Head and Head Company, 3rd Brigade, was rounded up by the Dog Squad and is on his way to the vet. (Photo by PFC Patrick Murphy)

Chasing Cu Chi Critters

MPs are Going to the Dogs

By PFC DAVE COOPER

CU CHI - Should a 25th Division trooper wake up one morning and not find Bowser chasing the hootch-maid around it may be because of the division's Dog Squad.

Because of a sudden dog population explosion, there is a current campaign going on to control the number of stray animals running loose on this base camp.

The Dog Squad, consisting of four men from the 25th Military Police (MP) Company, cruises the camp roads, keeping a sharp

eye out for any strays.

"Just recently we received word that all pets must be on a leash and tagged," said MP Private First Class Robert Neary. "But instead of just hauling the dogs away to the Division Vet, we tell the owners (if available at the time) that the dogs must be tagged and tied so that we don't have to take them away."

"At first we only had to round up five strays per day, but now the quota is up to ten," said MP Private First Class Jim Quigley of Tama, Iowa. "We usually find them around mess

halls at meal times."

The job is not one that boosts the MP's prestige.

"This job is a real hassle because it makes us look like the bad guys," Neary of Phoenix, added, "and it doesn't give us a very good relationship with other GIs."

"It's easy to pick up strays that don't belong to anyone, but lately we've gotten a lot of harassment from guys when we take their dogs away," Quigley said. "They seem to think this is our bag."

Once a dog is caught, it is taken to the 4th Medical Detachment, otherwise known as the division vet. If the dog has been registered, the owner is notified. If not, then the dogs are kept for 72 hours before they are "permanently" processed.

An important off-shoot of the program is its health aspect.

"We've given rabies vaccinations to more than 700 canines since May," Brewer added. "Thanks to the shots and the work of the Dog Squad we haven't had any rabies cases since January."

IT'S HAPPENING

TROPIC LIGHTNING: A BELIEVER...Bulldog Smith is new to the 25th Division but old to the war. The sergeant spent 14 months in the field as an 11 Charlie with the 2nd of the 47th, a 9th Division outfit. He came through the experience without a scratch. Nary a bullet, booby-trap, frag or mortar round could fell the Bulldog. When the 9th Division closed up shop and went home recently, Smith was transferred to the 25th to do his last few days. He was assigned to Admin Company and made a duty soldier. One of Bulldog's duties was to pull a little bunker guard on a recent stormy night. For some reason, Smith was standing in the bunker so that his head rested against the metal roof-not the best place to rest it during tropic lightning time. A bolt of the stuff took aim on Bulldog's bunker, zapped the roof and knocked him cold. Happy ending. Bulldog came out of the thing with nothing more serious than a singed pate. Unless lightning strikes twice in the same place, Smith is going home in 8 days. Sit tight, Bulldog.

DON'T TRUST THE ARMY...When you DEROS, you may have an assignment waiting for you in the States. Then again you may not. Personnel is supposed to report you to the Department of the Army a full five months before you rotate. But, experience has shown that they slip up enough to warrant a trip by you to the nearest personnel palace to give them a little nudge.

LOVE IT OR LEAVE IT DEPT...Now, we all love Vietnam. But, as it is often said, absence makes the heart grow fonder, and besides a little leave never hurt anybody. Unfortunately, a lot of leave has been bugging USARV, or should we say a lot of almost leave. It seems that some soldiers have been zipping down to Tan Son Nhut every few days hoping to get on a flight, not making it and then spending a few at Camp Alpha. That ain't gonna get it any more. You have only one chance at leave now. If you don't get on free, you have the option of paying for a seat or turning tail and heading back for your unit. Thus, in addition to the \$250 you needed before to get out of country, you'll need an additional sum to cover the cost of the ticket. Here is a handy-dandy table of ticket prices to R & R sites:

Bangkok	\$72
Hong Kong	130
Taipei	218.30
Sydney	627.40
Hawaii	558.60

THE ROCK THAT WASN'T...One day recently, Specialist 4 Bruce Stafford of Kingston, N.Y., and Specialist 4 Neil Ringler of Long Beach, California, were adding another wing to their bunker house when a large rock imbedded in the bunker wall impeded their progress. They hammered at it and knocked it about a bit but the thing wouldn't budge. "Let's dig it out," one of them said during a brainstorm. Dig they did. And as they dug, the rock took on a familiar shape. It wasn't a rock at all, heh, heh. It was a live 155mm artillery round, heh, heh. The explosive ordnance destruction team of the 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor was called in and as our two heroes looked on, made it go boom.

AND FROM SAN CLEMENTE...President Richard M. Nixon signed a bill during the latter part of August increasing the interest rate on Series E and H bonds to five and a half per cent. That means if you buy a \$25 savings bond at \$18.75 today, in five years and 10 months you will be able to cash it in for \$25.73. The same five and a half per cent interest rate applies to bonds of higher denominations as well. I guess that's the end of the good old \$25 dollar bond. It's now a \$25.73 bond. Doesn't have the same ring.

Arty Survey Teams Are Unsung Heroes

By SP4 JAMES DURAN

CU CHI - Each morning one sees them leaving base camp, their trucks and jeeps loaded with an array of strange equipment. In the evening, they return to that mysterious little shed, their rear area shop.

It's the survey section from the 3d Battalion, 13th Field Artillery (The Clan) headed by Sergeant First Class Leroy Johnson of Neptune, N.J.

Artillery survey is an important segment of field artillery, yet little is known about their job or responsibilities.

The mission of an artillery unit is to "shoot, move and communicate." The mission of the artillery survey section is to provide the technical firing and gun emplacement data, vital to the basic artillery mission.

On call day and night to precede the guns to the new firing location, the section must provide its security with of a gun jeep and small arms. During the Cambodian operation, men and equipment were loaded aboard choppers and inserted as an artillery recon unit to plot azimuths for the guns soon to arrive.

"Upon reaching a location, we must determine the exact battery center and the azimuth to the end of the orienting line through the use of our T-16 theodolite," said Johnson.

"This is an angle measuring instrument which we also use to take astronomical readings. Using this we are able to plot the exact patch that the round will take upon leaving the tube."

"If the weather is overcast we can accomplish our mission with the azimuth gyro. The gyro will give us the information in any kind of weather. However, it must be used carefully being a sensitive instrument, costing \$28,000.

"We also supply coordinates and altitude readings, but the important factor is azimuth, the line over which the projectile will be traveling. Usually we supply all three factors for the added safety of the people we support.

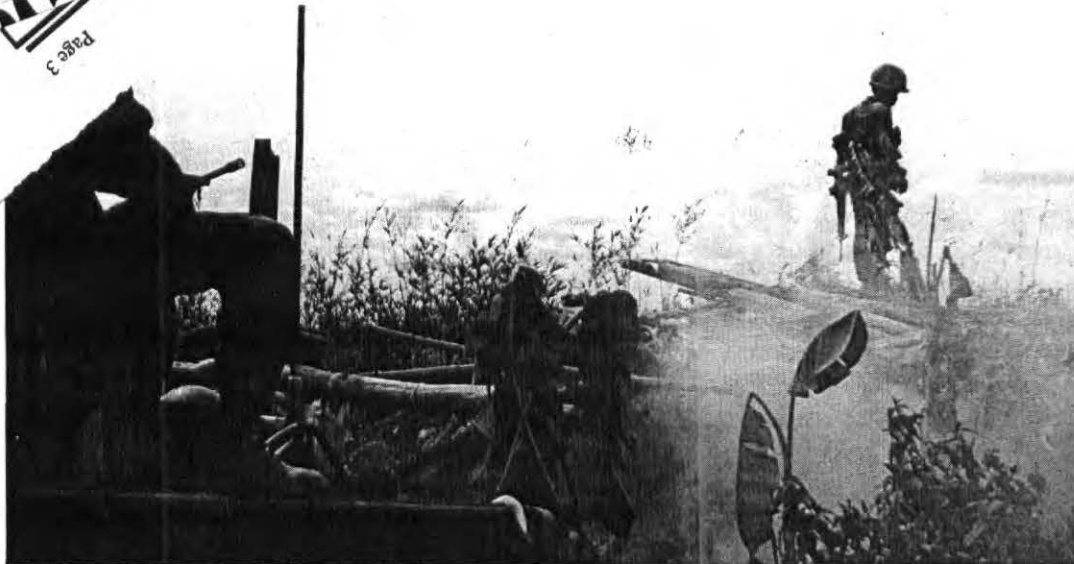
"And, if the guns have all the data, the number of rounds wasted is decreased. Using all three factors, the Howitzers can have the first round on target, what we call "The Sunday punch," said Johnson.

The Clan sun and star spotters are organized into two teams each headed by a staff sergeant team chief. Next come the chief computers followed by the operators, the tapemen and radio telephone operators.

As each man works together, they will rotate to a new job within the team. Through cross training each man will be able to assume the duties of the next higher grade. With this system, the section will seldom be out of operation with the loss of a man.



BREAKING THROUGH - The men of this Bravo Company armored personnel carrier of the 2nd Battalion (Mech), 22nd Infantry, look for enemy positions as they move through thick brush 15 miles north of Cu Chi. (Photo by SP4 Frank Salerno)



I'LL HUFF AND I'LL PUFF AND BLOW YOUR HOUSE DOWN – says this ARVN trooper of the 46th Regiment. He watches over the entrance to a freshly constructed enemy bunker after the grenade he threw inside exploded. The men on the APC reconned the bunker with machinegun fire before the ARVN dismounted to check it out.



THE PAUSE THAT REFRESHES – The 46th Regiment, rests in the shade next to the APC.



RIFT – Dismounted 25th ARVN of the 46th Regiment, 2nd Battalion rifs through thick brush one mile east of Trung Lap village during a recent combined operation with Triple Deuce.

Triple Deuce, ARV

Photos By S
Story By SF

CU CHI – Elements of a 25th Division mechanized battalion team with 25th ARVN Division soldiers in a large-scale operation near here recently, netting stores of enemy supplies and two detainees.

Alfa, Bravo and Headquarters Companies of the 2nd Battalion, (Mech) 22nd Infantry, worked with a Vietnamese battalion of the 46th Regiment. The three-day search mission took place a mile east of Trung Lap village.

"Leaving at dawn, we linked up with the ARVNs at their previous night ambush site and went to the area to be searched," said Specialist 4 David Rodriguez, a Bravo Company machine gunner from San Antonio.

"When we reached the designated area to begin the rift, the tracks were in first and the ARVNs followed, thoroughly searching the area."

It wasn't long before the ARVNs were uncovering freshly-dug tunnels and fighting positions with heavy overhead cover. It was readily apparent that the enemy had been there only hours before.

In an effort to avoid casualties from enemy mines and boobytraps that might have been left behind, the combined force made extensive use of artillery and air-strikes to prep certain areas.

"Judging from the number of secondary explosions set off by the artillery and air-strikes, we would have taken a lot of casualties had they not been prepped."



CASUALTY – While working on operations one mile east of Trung Lap village, a 25th Division ARVN is being placed on the stretcher for casualties. On the left, a 25th Division ARVN is being placed on the stretcher for casualties.



During the afternoon chow break, some 25th Division ARVN of the 46th Bravo Company APC.

I Combine to Operate

FRANK SALERNO
DENNIS LEBLANC

used," said Specialist 4 Paul Richmond, a Bravo Company medic from Peabody, Kan.

With the operation in its final day, the Allied force could list two detainees, assorted ammunition, materiel for boobytraps and more than 250 pounds of rice.

The prisoners, one male and one female, were found hiding in one of the many tunnels uncovered by the men of Alfa Company. After preliminary questioning, they were evacuated by helicopter to an area where they could be more thoroughly interrogated.

Included in the ammunition supplies were AK-54 rounds, M-16 rounds, smoke grenade fuzes, springs, explosives and boxes of blasting caps. The rice was found wrapped in sandbags and placed in a 55-gallon drum.

With the mission completed, Specialist 4 Dennis Garrison, a Bravo Company armored personnel carrier driver from Flint, Mich., came to a startling conclusion.

"It's been a long time since we were in terrain that thick and found enemy positions that well fortified," he said. "It reminded us all of some of our operations in Cambodia."



illage, booby-traps set up by the enemy in thick brush caused combined force r, on the right, a member of Triple Deuce.



BREAKING BUSH - A 25th Division ARVN of the 46th Regiment breaks through the thick brush one mile east of Trung Lap during a combined operation with elements of Triple Deuce.

Ask SGT Certain

DEAR CERTAIN: I fell asleep while on bunker guard last week. I wouldn't have been caught except that a Hoi Chanh tried to turn himself in and when he couldn't awaken me, he took my weapons to the orderly room where he gave them to the first shirt. I was given an Article 15, busted to E-2 and fined \$75 for the next three months. I appealed on the grounds that I didn't know how to use the M-60 or the M-79 which I was given to guard the bunker. If I had been studying the weapons manual, they claim, I wouldn't have fallen asleep. The first sergeant said phooey. Should I appeal to a higher level?

Former PFC Fairweather

DEAR FAIREY: You could, but you'd be better off studying for the E-2 board which meets next month.

DEAR SERGEANT CERTAIN: I had been trying to get into the PX ever since payday. Finally, last week, after spending three days and four nights in line, I was able to get in. It took me another 14 hours to gather up all the supplies I needed. Then, of course, I had to wait in the checkout line. I don't know how many days I waited, but when I got up to the counter, the girl-san told me that C-day had been declared and that none of my MPC was valid. When I tried to leave the PX to get my old MPC exchanged, the courtesy guard wouldn't let me out because my ration card hadn't been stamped indicating I had exchanged my MPC. When I tried to explain this to the guard, he told me he had to follow orders and I could not leave the PX without a stamped ration card. I am writing this letter from the PX manager's office. It is now 1 a.m. and I am the only one here—except for the ever-present courtesy guard. Can you help me?

Private Entrance

DEAR ENT: If you had been alert, you could have secured plenty of the new MPC three days earlier from any mama-san at Cu Chi.



UP AND OVER — Specialist 4 Kenneth Moreland, livens up Moon Harvest Festival for the children of Dinh An Village (Photo by SP4 Eugene Dehtiar).

Small Fry Harvest Food, Fun

King-Sized GIs Charm Kids

By SP4 FRANK MORRIS
DINH AN — Members of the 25th Division's 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor, helped to make "Moon Harvest Day" in Vietnam a little brighter for local children

here.

The children, who live on the outskirts of a nearby rubber plantation, were visited by a gang of Dreadnaughts who played games with them, brought food, and observed their singing program.

The GIs got things rolling with jump rope, tug-of-war and football games. The kids took up the American games quickly and, from then on, it was Katie bar the door.

Some of the children watched with wonder as the seemingly king-sized GIs boomed the football high into the air while others attempted to catch it.

In the midst of the festivities, a light observation helicopter buzzed overhead and zoomed down to land on the edge of the village. In it was battalion commander, Lieutenant Colonel Birtrun S. Kidwell, Jr., who had

come to join the festivities.

After the children sang some songs for him, the Dreadnaught leader skied up and away.

Forming neat rows in the schoolyard, the kids then welcomed the district chief, Lieutenant Colonel Ta-Trung-Quan, their guest of honor.

Singing Vietnamese national songs for the chief, the children were loudly applauded. After the show there were fruit, grab-bags and kool-aid for the happy youngsters.

As the Americans got ready to leave, the children gathered around them. Although there was little verbal communication between the GIs and the Vietnamese this day, another kind of communication took place which will last much longer.

An Olympic Hopeful Runs Cu Chi Roads

By SP4 J. D. DRURY

CU CHI — "Running is a release, a momentary escape from the day's activities and small frustrations."

With these words captain William A. Matheson of the 25th Division excused himself and headed for his hootch to don track shoes and red shorts.

Twice daily between 5:30 and 6:00 p.m., and between sets of calisthenics, the executive officer for Headquarters and Company A, 25th Medical Battalion, hits the blacktop for a sprint around his improvised track: Oahu Road to Lanai Road to Hawaii Road to Taro Road and back up Oahu Road to the medical battalion area.

But there is an ulterior motive to this daily ritual, for Matheson is a member of the Army Pentathlon Team and a US Army nominee to the Olympic trials.

"My interest in track started in high school where I was motivated by a coach," said the Eagle Rock, Calif., athlete. While in high school he placed second in the City Championships in nearby Los Angeles which earned him a track scholarship to California State College where he still holds the school record for the 440.

After coming into the Army in 1964, Matheson was sent to Stuttgart, Germany, where he was made director of the American Youth Association, Kelly Barracks, Seventh Corps Headquarters. Four months after his arrival he applied for, and was accepted by, the Army Pentathlon Team, training at Bad Tölz in the Bavarian Alps.

In competition between teams from Switzerland, Austria and the US he placed second in pentathlon events: weaponry, throwing hand grenades, running a 500 meter obstacle course, swimming a 50 meter obstacle course and running five miles.

After his tour in Vietnam, which he finds a "needed break after four years of steady training," Matheson plans to "make a try for the '72 Olympics."

But until then he will keep on working out, adding to his 108,000 leg raises, 18,000 push-ups, 6,000 chin-ups, and 1,600 miles of running.



AHHHH... We were just wandering in the boonies behind the PX when we came upon this young lady doing her wash. Of course we offered to help. (Photo by SP4 Howard Lavick)

On The Road

Engineers Bridge The Gap

By SP4 RICH WERNER

DAU TIENG — The steaming jungle, primeval and thick with bamboo, is not the most ideal place for building a bridge. But recently, the 65th Engineer Battalion's Alfa Company was assigned such a task.

Needed Means

The 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry, operating in the area northeast of Nui Ba Den, needed a means to get their heavy trucks across a small stream.

Normally, an armored vehicle launching bridge (AVLB) would have been used, but the only road leading to the site was festured with land mines and the enormous weight of the AVLB precludes transport by air.

Decision

After reconning the area, it was decided that a

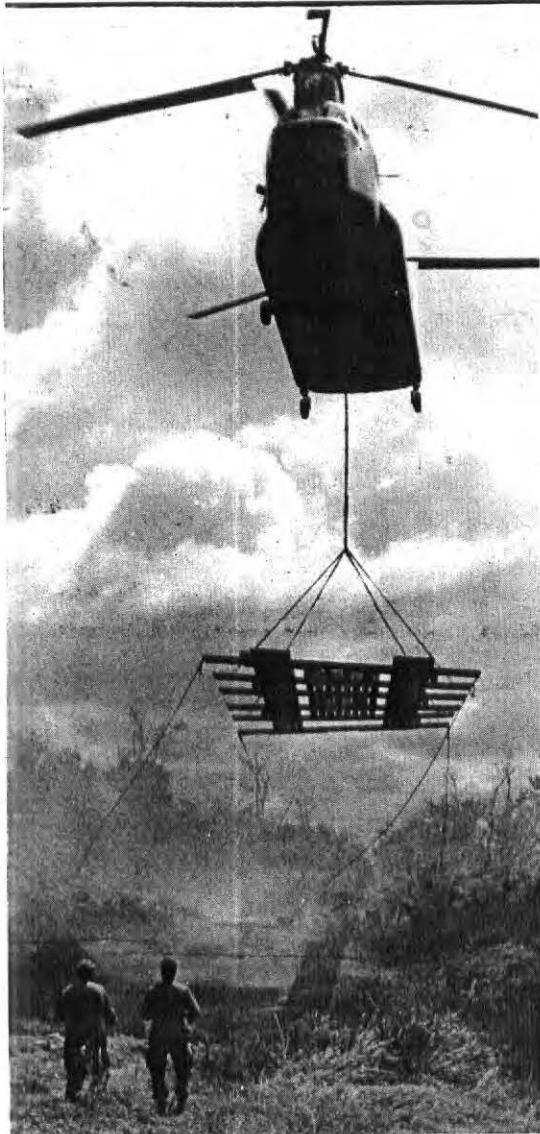
38-foot dry span bridge was needed. The frame, built here, and five tons of balk (flooring for the bridge) were flown via Chinook to the site where the engineers were waiting.

Working in the stifling heat, the 2nd Platoon Savages lugged the balk, each piece weighing 225 pounds, into position on the bridge frame.

Speed, Teamwork

Speed and teamwork are essential to the combat engineers. This task pointed up the necessity of these tenets. Without a break, they completed the bridge in only two hours.

As the first Sheridan tank rumbled across the span, the tired Savages tacked up a sign bearing their motto: "Bridging the Gap on the Road to Peace."



DUST IN — A Chinook in support of the 25th Infantry Division lowers a bridge frame over a stream, as members of the 2nd Platoon, Alfa Company, 65th Engineers look on.



FINISHING TOUCHES — Members of Alfa Company, 65th Engineers, display their cornerstone sign after completing a 38-foot dry span bridge northeast of Nui Ba Den.



BRIDGING THE GAP — Members of Alfa Company, 65th Engineers construct a 38-foot dry span bridge, eight miles northeast of Nui Ba Den. The frame and the five

tons of balk flooring are flown in by Chinook, and then assembled.

The
Break of

Aidman Is Comedian Is Bard

This Groucho Leaves Marks

By SP4 FRANK MORRIS
DAU TIENG - Take one part comedian, add some poetry, season with medical training and let simmer with a deep sense of brotherhood and you have quite a unique individual known to his

25th Division buddies as "Groucho."

He is Specialist 4 William H. Clamurro or Nutley, N.J., a senior aidman of Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor.

Nicknamed Groucho because of his resemblance to the famous comedian, Groucho Marx, and because of his ever-present cigar, he has brought a sense of levity to the serious job of conducting a war.

Grimey tankers form lines to tell Clamurro of their ailments, such is the renown of his medical knowledge. But after one particularly long and elaborate list of symptoms from a loquacious patient, he finally told the man to "take two aspirins and call me in the morning."

There is a serious side to the man, however. He has obtained a master's degree in English literature from the University of Washington and taught at the graduate level there. He also regularly corresponds with American poet, Archibald MacLeish, who was his mentor for his four years at Amherst College.

He has had poetry published in the *Upstart* of Princeton University, the literary magazines of Amherst College and the University of Massachusetts.

A conscientious objector, Groucho is armed only with a medical aidbag and an ever-present book. He is looked upon by Bravo members as a very competent medic whose main prescription for their woes is a heavy dose of humor tempered with a spot of medicine.



WHAT'S THE MAGIC WOOD? - They call Specialist 4 William Clamurro "Groucho" in the 2nd of the 34th. And for obvious reasons. (Photo by SP4 Frank Morris)

Modern Dog Houses Have Running Water

CU CHI - The 25th Division's 44th Infantry Scout Dog Platoon recently held a leash cutting ceremony here marking the opening of the new Hartsock Kennels.

"These new kennels will help keep the dogs healthy," said 1st Lieutenant Russell Murphy, platoon leader. "Last month half of the dogs were on medical hold." There are 23 dogs in the platoon.

Different

"The new kennels are quite different from the old shipping crates in which the dogs had been quartered," Murphy said. "It took just 29 days to construct them."

The Kennels consist of 28 brick cubicles with electric lights and running water in each.

Highlighting the ceremony was the cutting of the leash by Division Chief of Staff Colonel Thomas Hanifen.

In Memory

The kennels are named in honor of Staff Sergeant Robert Hartsock who received the Congressional Medal of Honor posthumously while serving with the 44th Scout Dog Platoon.

Hartsock was killed after throwing himself on a satchel charge during an attack on a 25th Division base camp at Dau Tieng on February 23, 1969.

After suffering initial wounds, Hartsock crawled about five meters to a ditch and provided heavy suppressive fire, allowing his platoon commander to crawl to safety. Hartsock kept the enemy infiltrators pinned down until he died.



NEW HOME - Duke, a German Shepherd with the 44th Infantry Scout Dog Platoon, is let into the new Hartsock Kennels following a leash-cutting ceremony. Duke's handler is Specialist 4 John Wagner, Wis.

Dustoff Unit Serves Division

Flying Ambulances Respond

By SP4 J. D. DRURY

CU CHI - The 25th Division, known for its rapid reaction, has no offspring more responsive to an urgent call than its foster child, the 159th Medical Detachment, Dustoff.

This helicopter ambulance unit, part of Long Binh's 58th Medical Battalion, provides medical evacuation for much of the Tropic Lightning Division's area of operations.

The Call

"Cu Chi Dustoff, Cu Chi Dustoff, this is..." begins the continuous ritual in the Dustoff Control Room in the 25th Medical Battalion's operations center.

"Problem, location coordinates, call sign, security of the landing zone, and other bits of information are quickly and accurately gathered; then the first up AC (aircraft commander) is immediately called," stated Dustoff radioman Private First Class Stanley Siempruch of Chicago.

Airborne

"Within five minutes after we are first called we can be airborne," said Warrant Officer Cecil Howard, an Independence, Mo., AC nearing his thousandth Dustoff flight hour.

"Each crew - AC, pilot, medic, and crew chief - is on for a 24-hour period, with the first up crew having a five minute reaction time," explained Dustoff Flight Operations Officer, Captain Bruce Nelson of San Antonio, Texas.

"The second up crew," he continued, "flies transfers from Dau Tieng to Cu Chi, or to hospitals in Long Binh or

Saigon, while third up is a standby status."

Specialist 4 James Coverick, a Dustoff crew chief from Chicago, added that "the crew in Dau Tieng picks up anyone in that area and takes them to the 25th Med Aid Station there."

Cambodia

"During the Cambodia Campaign we operated two ships instead of just one at Tay Ninh," said Detachment commander Captain Vincent Eitler, Jr., of Steelton, Pa. "But now since the Division's 1st Brigade has moved its headquarters to Dau Tieng, we have our standby ship and crew there."

"We were the first medical evacuation team to fly into Cambodia," responded Captain Donald Kaveny, one of Dustoff's twelve evacuation pilots.

"During the campaign we gave Dustoff coverage to the Angel's Wing, the Fishhook, and points between," added the Pawlet, Vt., officer.

Busy

The entrance into Cambodia was indeed a busy time for 159th Dustoff.

"The number of patients evacuated jumped from 1,530 in April (about average) to 2,632 in May and 2,121 in June," stated Warrant Officer Thomas Landis of Wheaton, Md., another Dustoff evac pilot with 1,000 flight hours. Flight hours rose too, from April's 478 to 761 and 610 for May and June, respectively.

War Stories

And the Dustoff crew has their share of "war stories" too. "Night missions can be hairy, and so can hot LZs,"

commented Specialist 4 Larry Armstrong, Hampton, Va.

However, among war stories, Specialist 4 Mikel Wilson's should earn at least an honorable mention. The Philadelphia, Miss., medic delivered a baby-san in flight. After picking up the pregnant mother in Cu Chi, the

chopper proceeded on to a Saigon hospital, but midway, midwife Wilson added another passenger to the manifest.

Why go Dustoff?

"Too many John Wayne movies," joshed Specialist 4 Michael Warner from Albany, N.Y.

"It's interesting and its worthwhile," said an Oak Creek, Wisc., medic, Specialist 4 Robert Ceph, who agreed with Warner that, "In Dustoff, you often feel like you're doing that little bit more."

Satisfaction

Self-satisfaction is high on the list of factors motivating what Eitler calls "a topnotch, dedicated crew."

The spirit of the unit was succinctly captured in a remark by one of the medics, Specialist 4 Edward (Chili) Ianuccilli of Hope, R.I.

"When there's nothing that you won't do to save a life, that's when you're doing your job."