

# Thais, ARVN, Americans Flush Out the Enemy



ALL TOGETHER NOW, LAND - Choppers drop into staging area for allied combined operation. Thais, ARVN and Americans wait at left to board. (Photo by SP4 Todd Weber)

XUAN LOC - Two allied armies and the 2nd Brigade over a fifteen day period, combined forces here to kill 43 enemy and an NVA battalion commander.

The 18th ARVN Division, three ARVN Ranger Battalions, the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the Royal Thai Volunteer Army's 2nd Brigade, had joined with Tropic Lightning's 2nd Brigade to force an NVA battalion out in the open.

Three ARVN Ranger Battalions were inserted into the center of the Allied surrounded zone to "stir things up."

As a result, the 2nd of the 33rd ARVN Ranger Battalion on the morning of the eighth day 9 clicks northwest of Fire Support Base (FSB) Sqartz spotted five enemy and engaged them with small arms fire. The engagement lasted about one minute, but on a sweep of the area one enemy KIA was located with papers to indicate that he had been

a battalion commander.

Just six days later, the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, Royal Thai Army 15 miles southwest of Xuan Loc engaged an estimated battalion size force for two hours. An initial sweep of the area uncovered 25 enemy killed. A more detailed search in the double canopy jungle revealed 14 more enemy dead for a total of 39 enemy killed.

In other action, Charlie Company and the Reconnaissance Platoon of 3rd Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regulars accounted for seven enemy killed over a five day period during the operation.

Charlie Company saw first action seven clicks northwest of Operation Base (OB) Lynch where they engaged five enemy, killing two and capturing one detainee. One AK 47 rifle was evacuated along with 210 pounds of ammo.

Reconnaissance platoon followed with an early morning engagement of ten enemy with their riflemen, a Light Fire Team and artillery, killing two in the heavy jungles seven clicks southwest of Fire Support Base Sqartz.

Delta Company, later the same morning, detonated a claymore mine killing two enemy. Two rucksacks and miscellaneous clothing were evacuated.

Charlie Company Regulars wound up the tally for US units by engaging three enemy with organic weapons 14 clicks northeast of OB Lynch resulting in one enemy killed and no US casualties.

## TROPIC LIGHTNING NEWS



Ready To Strike.... Anywhere, Anytime

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TROPIC LIGHTNING NEWS

November 9, 1970

### Charlie Sets a Fire; Bobcats Get Enraged

By SP4 JOHN CORBIN

BEARCAT - A bunker complex and two dead enemy were netted by combined elements of a 25th Division mechanized battalion and a local Regional Forces (RF) unit recently on operations southwest of here.

The two-day search mission teamed the 1st Battalion (Mech), 5th Infantry's Alpha Company and the 283rd Regional Forces of Long Thanh Province.

#### Through Jungle

The Bobcats and RFs were chopping their way through some very thick jungle when one GI noticed some smoking bushes.

"I pushed aside the bush and there was a smoldering fire-place made of logs," said Specialist 4 Forrest Killian, of Washington.

Ind. The allies quickly posted security and carefully searched the area.

Six well-used bunkers built into the side of a hill were uncovered. Inside were found 200 pounds of rice, cooking utensils, water cans and a bamboo flashlight. There was also a note which was translated as a shopping list for a local store.

"We were obviously only minutes behind Charlie," said Specialist 4 Patrick Harding, of Portland, Ore. "We could still smell the nuc mam sauce in the air."

#### Bunkers Destroyed

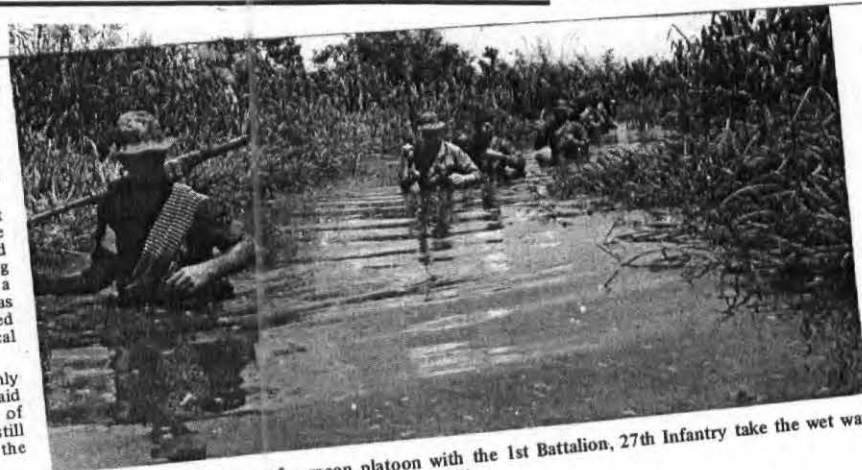
Before moving on, the bunkers were destroyed with demolition charges.

The next night, about two miles away, the Allies spotted the enemy himself.

"We saw a small group of VC coming down the trail towards our position," said Sergeant Eriberto Martinez, of Long Beach, Calif. "Everyone alerted and then we popped them with small arms, machine guns and a few grenades."

Once contact was broken, Bobcat 81mm mortars illuminated the sky, enabling the men to sweep the contact area.

The sweep revealed the bodies of two VC and their field packs and rifles.



WAIST DEEP - Members of a recon platoon with the 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry take the wet way during a recent operation. (Photo by SGT Dan Davis)

### Squad of Seven Eliminated

## Wolfhounds Ambush VC Unit

By SGT JACK STRICKLAND

CU CHI - A seven-man enemy squad was annihilated recently by 25th Division Wolfhounds of the 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry, near here.

The operation began when Alfa Company was inserted by helicopter into an area of recent Communist activity. Moving just inside a woodline to a suspected enemy supply trail, the Hounds set out mechanical ambushes. Then they moved off to cover another area.

"We were coming up the trail when we saw some clothes lying in a heap," said Private First Class Ted Misuraca, of Rockford, Ill. "We stopped and surveyed the area, spotting two VC."

The enemy tried to evade the Wolfhounds, but a quick barrage of M-16 fire nailed one and winged the other. Following in hot pursuit of the wounded man, the Hounds caught up at their mechanical ambush site.

There they found the bleeding survivor and five of his comrades who had perished the night before, victims of the mechanical 'bush'. Besides the enemy personnel, the Wolfhounds discovered two AK-47 rifles, several full magazines, 264 pounds of rice, 15 rice bowls, several bags of sugar and salt, 24 pairs of pants and 13 fatigue shirts.

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# SOFT CORE

Myco



## Treatment Not Punishment

# Amnesty—The Safe Way Back

As if a troop didn't have enough problems with the three B's (bullets, broads and blackmarket), the fourth B, barbituates and other drugs, will give him more trouble than the other three combined.

A lot of drugs are easily obtainable in-country and today's young GI is curious about the effects and is willing to experiment. When he does, he sometimes finds himself hopelessly dependent upon those drugs.

### Amnesty Program

The Army has an amnesty program to help men who want to quit the drug habit. To take

advantage of the program which gives treatment and not punishment, a soldier cannot have drugs in his possession nor have a narcotics charge pending against him.

Take the guy who needs the program to the company commander, chaplain or surgeon. They will get him into the right channels. The Army deals harshly with drug users. A user can get up to five years at hard labor and a dishonorable discharge.

### Security Risk

Think about it. A GI on the perimeter or on a guard post who is experiencing space and

time distortion from use of marijuana puts you and your unit at a serious disadvantage. The security you expect him to provide is non-existent.

Below are listed five categories of drugs. It tells what they are, what they're called, what they do to a user and the dangers involved. Check it out:

**MARIJUANA** - Commonly known as "Pot, tea, grass, weed, Mary Jane." It affects your sense of time and frequent users have lapses of memory. A person finds it hard to make decisions. The user thinks he is ridding himself of problems; however, he is adding to them. None of his anxieties and tensions have been relieved and it leads to deeper and more serious frustrations.

**HEROIN** - Commonly known as Horse, H, Smack. A man becomes warm and peaceful after shooting. He and more confident. When the user gets "hooked," his body requires repeated and larger doses.

### AMPHETAMINES

Commonly known as Pep Pills. Makes the individual more confident and supposedly more aware of their surroundings. Produces a sense of well being. Heavier doses cause jitteriness, irritability, unclear speed and tension. The body runs down when a person is "up" and the user is susceptible to diseases. There is no physical dependency on the amphetamine but severe depression is the most danger to the person. He gets suicidal depression.

**LSD** - Commonly known as "Acid." Brings on hallucination. Reality perishes and the "tripper" is presented with varieties of colors and vibrations storm through his head. The unpredictable state of this drug causes it to be dangerous. It can cause: (1) panic-The user cannot stop the drug reaction; (2) paranoia-He becomes suspicious, feeling someone is trying to harm him; (3) recurrence-any time after the individual has quit using LSD, the things he saw or felt while on a trip, may recur; (4) accidental death-caused by feelings the users have, such as they can fly, so they jump out a window.

## Tropic Lightning Tots

The Commanding General Welcomes The Following Tropic Lightning Tots To The 25th Infantry Division—As Reported By The American Red Cross. Born To:

Oct. 7  
SP4 Richard J. Lang, 187th Avn. Co., boy  
SP4 William Morehead, C Btry, 2nd Bn, 32 Arty, girl

Oct. 9  
PFC Michael Thomas, HHC 65th Eng, Boy  
SFC Ben Murry, C Co 125th Signal Bn, boy

Oct. 10  
SP5 Hugh West, B Trp 3/4., boy

Oct. 14  
SSG Frankie Catler, A Btry 2/27 Arty, girl  
SP4 Rick Baker, Co B 2nd Bn 14th Inf., girl

Oct. 20  
PFC Randy L. Sedelneier, 25th Admin Co., girl  
or Howard Abendorth, HH Btry 2nd Bn 77th Arty, boy

Oct. 21  
SP5 Harold Many, B Co 1/5th Inf., boy

## DECORATIONS

### BRONZE STAR

CPT James V. Hargis, Co C, 2d Bn, 27th Inf  
CPT Russell J. Houck, Co D, 4th Bn, 9th Inf  
CPT Paul A. Pickett, Co C, 4th Bn, 9th Inf  
CPT Paul A. Rohde, Co B, 1st Bn, 5th Inf  
CPT Sammie D. Simmons, Co B, 4th Bn, 9th Inf  
1LT George A. Gauthier, HHC, 1st Bn, 5th Inf  
1LT Charles M. McNulty, Co E, 2d Bn, 3d Inf  
1LT Richard Simmons, Co E, 3d Bn, 22d Inf  
1LT Charles B. White, Co A, 4th Bn, 9th Inf  
1LT William Yonushonis, Co B, 4th Bn, 9th Inf  
SSG Richard K. Brenner, F Co, 75th Inf  
SSG Joseph E. Howell, Co C, 2d Bn, 22d Inf  
SSG Danny Justice, Co B, 4th Bn, 9th Inf  
SGT Charles W. Clarke, Co E, 2d Bn, 3d Inf  
SGT Carvel M. Cook, Co C, 4th Bn, 23d Inf  
SGT William Fanguy, Co E, 2d Bn, 12th Inf  
SGT Gary W. Fernandes, Co D, 4th Bn, 9th Inf  
SGT James R. Hall, Co E, 2d Bn, 3d Inf  
SGT Marshal B. Klock, Co A, 4th Bn, 9th Inf  
SGT Danny B. Owens, Co E, 3d Bn, 22d Inf  
SGT Felix L. Ugale, Co C, 4th Bn, 23d Inf  
SP4 Elmer M. Bryant, HHC, 1st Bn, 5th Inf  
SP4 Raymond H. Hartness, Co A, 4th Bn, 9th Inf  
SP4 Edward T. Johnson, Co D, 4th Bn, 9th Inf  
SP4 James F. Modlin, Co D, 4th Bn, 9th Inf  
SP4 Edward Oliver, Co E, 2d Bn, 12th Inf  
SP4 Wendell G. Setters, Co E, 2d Bn, 12th Inf  
PFC David A. Benton, Co A, 4th Bn, 9th Inf  
PFC Ronald M. Forche, Co A, 4th Bn, 9th Inf  
PFC Charles R. Griffin, Co D, 1st Bn, 5th Inf  
PFC George E. Harrison, Co D, 4th Bn, 9th Inf  
PFC Frank Jacob, Co D, 4th Bn, 9th Inf  
PFC Michael P. Johnson, Co A, 4th Bn, 9th Inf  
PFC Kenneth J. Laperna, Co C, 1st Bn, 5th Inf  
PFC Steven J. Malosh, Co A, 4th Bn, 9th Inf  
PFC Ernal W. Richardson, Co C, 1st Bn, 5th Inf  
PFC Dale J. Sansegraw, Co C, 1st Bn, 5th Inf  
PFC Harold D. Wilson, Co A, 4th Bn, 9th Inf

## TROPIC LIGHTNING NEWS



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SGT Mike Conroy . . . . . 3/4 Cav	SP4 James Duran . . . . . 3/13
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SGT Dan Davis . . . . . 1/27	SP4 Phillip Maslin . . . . . 2/27
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SP5 Doug Sainsbury . . . . . 2/77	PFC Doc Polls . . . . . 269th
SP4 Frank Salerno . . . . . 2/22	PFC Dan Danley . . . . . 4/23
SP4 Tom Benn . . . . . 7/11	PFC Mike Roberts . . . . . 4/23
SP4 Greg Duncan . . . . . 2/27	PFC Richard Haley . . . . . 1/8



**LEVELING UP** - SP4 Robert Ramos of Modesto, Calif., uses a flashlight to see the leveling bubbles on his 81mm mortar tube. (Photo by SP4 John Corbin)

## When Time is Tight

# Bobcats Deliver in a Hurry

By SP4 JOHN CORBIN  
BEARCAT - "Fire mission! Get on the guns," yells Platoon Sergeant Elwood Dixon of Fallentimber, Pa.

Immediately, the men of the weapons platoon, Alfa Company, 1st Battalion (Mech), 5th Infantry run to their 81mm mortars.

The squad leader of the second squad, Sergeant James Schryer of Milwaukee sits in his gun track by the radio waiting for the data from the fire direction center (FDC) track.

In a few seconds, the required information comes from Sergeant Larry Rohling of Lawrence, Kan., computer.

"Deflection 5802, 10 rounds HE (high explosive), charge four, elevation 1271. Give me a readback."

The squad leader repeats the

information then relays it to his gunner.

The gunner, Specialist 4 Gary McCain of Elyria, Ohio begins spinning the base plate to put the data on the tube. His head bobs up and down systematically, looking through the site at the aiming stakes and checking the leveling bubbles.

In a few seconds the stovepipe had been juggled into the correct position.

"Up," yells the gunner.

During all this, Specialist 4 Halie Caldwell of St. Louis and Private First Class Calvin Hornick of Cudahay, Wis., the ammo bearers, have been there to make the rounds. 81mm round, so five charges must be removed to make a charge of four.

The rounds are handed to the gunner as they are readied.

Everyone places their hands to their ears.

"Stand by," someone shouts. Then comes the "whop" of the round hitting the firing pin. In jig time, ten rounds are on their way to the target.

The end of the mission is announced over the horn and Schryer and his men sit back and take a break.

## When Big Brother is Watching

# Charlie Changes His Mind

By 1LT RICHARD HARRIS  
Regiment: While the fighting and suffering extreme hardship, at times you probably think of your home and family so far away. When will you see or get news from them again? Hope is dim because you may die before you can see your families again... Then why hesitate? Rally to the Government of Vietnam so that your families don't have to worry about you..."

Every week, hundreds of

thousands of these and similar operations by the S-5 section.

The S-5 team flies at least two missions a week in a specially-equipped helicopter, dropping leaflets and broadcasting tape-recorded messages over a 1000-watt amplifier.

The messages are directed towards both civilian and military targets and towards both general and specific audiences. Civilians are

bombarded with health leaflets

as specific as possible, mentioning the enemy unit's designation and the names of personnel in the unit.

A good example was a recent leaflet drop near a rubber plantation and was directed at a VC women's mortar platoon. The leaflet had a picture of the 10-woman unit taken last December and asked, "Where are your sisters now?" to the two still alive.

## Hawaiian Native Acts In Hollywood Movies

By SP4 KRIS PETERSEN  
FSB LYNCH - If someone were to yell "Lights, camera, action" at this operation base, no doubt Staff Sergeant Wilfred Aki of Haaula, Hawaii would come running.

Aki, a veteran of 19 years in the Army and four tours in Vietnam, is also a veteran of two Hollywood movies.

"I got a part in the film version of James Michener's 'Hawaii' while I was part of the cadre of the 25th Division's jungle training school in Hawaii," Aki said.

"They needed native Hawaiians for the picture. Because of my size (6' 4", 275 pounds), I was a natural for the part of the village chief."

Aki admitted that the motion picture industry was more demanding than he thought before he took the part.

"We spent a lot of hours on the set. I remember one scene that we shot 11 times in one day."

He also noted that the movie's stars Julie Andrews and Charlton Heston are just "people."

Aki said that he enjoyed working with them because they "were always friendly and helpful, even after a long day on the set."

Aki had a small part in an earlier motion picture in the late fifties. "It was called 'Rampage' and starred Robert Mitchum," he said.

"Mitchum both directed and starred in it." Aki's talents do not end with a modicum of acting ability. He has been involved in music since his days in high school. During a tour in Germany, he headed a group that appeared in officer's and enlisted men's clubs throughout Europe.

"The group I have now, called the 'Hawaiians,' is made up of several of my cousins and myself," he said. "We play mostly around my home town and for family get-togethers."

During his 1966 Vietnam tour, Aki was on the first R & R flight and I got a kiss from Miss Hawaii."



**READY, AIM** - A gun crew from Alfa Battery, 7th Battalion, 11th Artillery prepares for the command to fire. (Photo by SP4 Tom Benn)

## IT'S HAPPENING

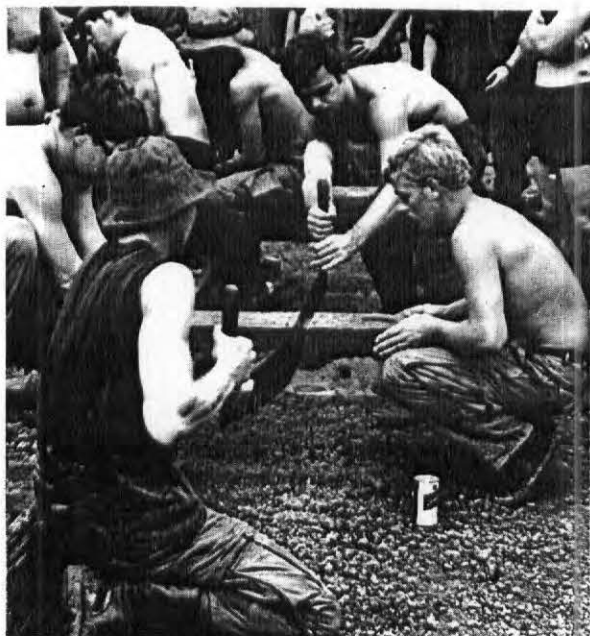
**SEND YOUR VOICE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS** - If you happen by the Service Club any day between the hours of 1 p.m. and 4 p.m., you will have the opportunity to record a message for your home town radio station. Specialist 4 Bill Baily and Specialist 5 Steve Kroft of the division information office will be there with their tape recorders to capture a Christmas greeting from you. Then they'll dispatch the tape to a station near your home for play during the holiday season.

**TIME IS RUNNING OUT** - That \$675 in Savings Bonds being awarded to soldiers who enter the USARPAC re-up poster contest is still up for grabs. Make your entries on plain white paper or poster board not less than 8 by 10 1/2 inches. Posters may be in black and white or not more than three colors. You don't have to be a great artist to enter. All USARPAC is looking for is original, creative ideas. Mail your entries to: USARPAC Poster Contest, APO 96558. The contest ends on November 30.

**YOUR TYPE OF CLASS** - The Cu Chi Education Center is offering continuous typing classes to anyone wishing to learn from scratch or merely to increase his speed and accuracy at the keyboard. The classes are conducted every Monday and Thursday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. No, you don't have to register. For further information, call extension 5143.

**PORT ASIDE...Gripin**, an inalienable right of every GI, does not apply just to soldiers of the American army. While operating a few miles west of Dau Tieng recently, members of the Aero Rifles recon platoon of Delta Troop, 3/4 Cav, found a note affixed to a tree. They asked their Vietnamese interpreter to let them in on the little NVA secret. Translation: "Haiphong Sucks."

**BEDTIME STORY**...Private First Class Jesse Albritton had just finished a hard day's shift as a mechanic with the 1st of the 8th at Operation Base Lynch. He shuffled back to his bunker, took dead aim on his bed, and crashed. He immediately uncrashed. "I had the feeling that something was around my neck," Albritton said. "I guess I got scared and jumped and that's when he bit me." "He" was a snake. Albritton grabbed his M-16 and gave his slithering friend a vertical buttstroke. Minutes later, the mechanic was being dusted off, and two days later he was back performing his duties with Bravo Battery. We don't know if the snake was dusted off or not.



**SAWING** -- During a Log Sawing contest, two members of the 65th Engineer Battalion give it all they've got, at the 43rd Birthday Celebration and Organization Day. (Photo by Joe Loper)

By SP4 JAMES D. STOUP

CU CHI -- From the impressive formation to the highly spirited engineering and sports competition to the good food and entertainment, the 65th Engineer Battalion will long remember their 43rd birthday and Organization Day 1970.

Only a minor flood attempted to mar the day's activities, but the engineers, who you might say are use to the rain, remained undaunted and even seemed to enjoy competing in the mud. The Battalion's Alpha and Bravo Companies were brought in from the field to participate in and enjoy the day long stand down.

The day got underway for most with a Battalion formation and awards ceremony. Guest of honor for the formation was the 25th Infantry Division Commander, Major General Edward Bautz, Jr., who reviewed the troops and presented the awards. Both he and the 65th Engineer Battalion Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Forrest T. Gay III, made remarks about the proud heritage and accomplishments of the 65th Engineer Battalion and lauded its performance, both past and present.

Immediately following the formation the highly spirited sporting and engineering competition

# 65th Engineer Anniversary



**CONSTRUCTION** -- Members of the 65th Engineer Battalion take part in their celebration of the Battalion's 43rd Birthday. (Photo by Joe Loper)



**TUG-OF-WAR** -- "Aw Right you guys, win this thing or everyone gets an Article 15." (Photo by Joe Loper)

The results of the competition are as follows:

	VB	BB	30'DS	AF	LC
HQ	15	35	5	12	6
A	25	20	35	20	18
B	35	10	20	8	3
C	10	15	15	4	12
D	20	25	10	16	15
E	5	5	25	24	9

(Code for the above events is as follows):

VB-Volleyball; BB-Basketball; 30'DS-30' Dry Span  
Sawing; SD-Spike Driving; PD-D Handle Picket Driving;  
Alfa Company was overall competition winner.

# Engineers Celebrate With Sweat



**HAMMER** - Symbolic of the legend of Maxwell's Silver Hammer, this member of the 65th Engineer Battalion does his thing during a D-Handle Spike Driving Contest as the Engineers celebrate their 43rd Birthday and Organization Day. (Photo by Joe Loper)

between the companies began.

The monsoon rains fell most of the afternoon, and by the time the competition was completed there was hardly a person who was not soaked from head to foot. The final event of the competition, the tug of war, ended with a broken rope (a 3" thick rope at that) and just about every company commander swimming in the specially prepared mud hole.

With the rain still falling and the troops still soaked, the cookout prepared by company mess teams went into full swing (fortunately the food was protected under a full canvas cover). There was plenty of good food and drink for all.

After a good meal, with the rains finally subsiding and the troops in dry clothing, the engineers converged on the 65th Engineer EM Club for an evening of floor show entertainment. Before the shows got underway, the Battalion Commander presented trophies for the events of the days competition, with Alpha Company winning the overall competition.

Organization Day 1970 will long be remembered by the 65th Engineer Battalion, just as the 65th Engineer Battalion will long be remembered for its accomplishments in the annals of the history of the United States Army.



attalion compete in constructing a 30 foot dry span bridge during  
to by Joe Loper)

LC	LS	SD	PD	TW	TOTAL
6	9	18	15	15	130
18	12	3	12	30	181
3	3	12	3	30	119
12	6	15	9	15	101
15	15	9	12	15	137
9	18	3	6	30	125

Span Bridge; AF-A Frame; LC-Log Chopping; LS-Log  
Driving; TW-Tug Of War.



**TUG-LEFT** - "Aw Right you guys, win this thing or everyone gets an Article 15." (Photo by Joe Loper)

## Reporter Asks, 'What's It Like?'

# Convoy Gunner—No Easy Job

By SGT DAN DAVIS

CU CHI — I approached one of the men in charge of escorting the convoy for the 1st Battalion 27th Infantry, Wolfhounds between Dau Tieng and Fire Support Base Kien, and asked him, "What's it like?"

He answered with one question of his own: "Can you fire an M-60 machine gun?" At a nod of my head, he said "Hop in," and grinned slyly.

The funny look on his face should have been a tip off, but I

didn't catch it. I was soon to find why there are actually very few people who have a genuine desire to ride as a gunner on a 1/4 ton vehicle that is used for convoy escort.

Shortly thereafter we were headed out the gate leading a convoy of six or eight other vehicles.

The road between Kien and Dau Tieng is quite different from the highways in the states. It is full of holes that would pass for swimming pools back in the

world. The water buffalo and motorcycles try to compete with the convoy. This, in addition, to the dusty debris covered road, makes it obvious why the ride is so breath taking.

Suddenly our vehicle hit the first hole in the road, and everything was thrown upward and forward, including me.

In the same moment, everything that went up, came down. My steel pot, which I hadn't noticed when it bounced off, came crashing down across the bridge of my nose, and I noticed a lack of blood in my fingers which were wrapped very tightly around the M-60 machinegun's handles.

Each successive bump was like the first, until I started to get the knack of wrapping one leg around the gun mount and wedging the other in between the wheel-well and the ammo can on the bottom of the jeep. But even with this, by the end of the trip, you feel as though your insides have been rearranged and that most of you is now located in your feet.

The rest of the trip was for the most part uneventful. We were lucky considering the number of times that these convoys have been ambushed mortared and sniped at by the enemy. Not to mention the accidents caused by poor visibility, and bad road conditions.

Anyone need a job?



**SMALL FROSTIE** — Private First Class Leroy Gas of Chicago, serving with Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry, takes a man sized gulp of a cold beer after just returning from a long operation in the field. (Photo by SP4 Gary Peterson)

## Artillery-Infantry Work Along Together

By SP4 TOM BENN

FSB WARRIOR — Artillery and infantry are the king and queen of battle. Or so recruits are told in basic training. But, it's not until they get to a combat zone, that soldiers grasp the full meaning of the teamwork that is necessary between the two branches.

Often fooling goes beyond more teamwork to mutual admiration. So it is at Fire Support Base Warrior, located about eight miles northeast of Nui Ba Den.

Units from the 7th Battalion, 11th Artillery and 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry are unstinting in their praise for the other.

"I feel for them," Private First Class David Hart from Charlie Battery, 7/11 said of the infantry. "They really have it rough."

"I don't think Arty gets enough credit, but, then again, the grunts work harder and go through more."

"We get along pretty good," said a 7/11 gunner. "They even eat in our messhall sometimes."

The praise doesn't go just one way. "We had Arty with us in Cambodia," said Private First Class Dave Sheriff of Greenville, S.C., a rifleman with Delta, 2/12. "It was really nice to have them around."

## Cold Beer is No. 1

By SP4 GARY PETERSON

DAU TIENG — What is a cold beer?

As the weary grunts of the 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry break out of the last woodland before reaching this 25th Division base camp, a grimey machine gunner wipes his brow and says to his buddy, "Wow, man, one more click to a cold beer."

To a Golden Dragon, a cold beer means that he can put his feet something besides where Charley may be waiting for him. To many GIs in the field, its

not so much the taste of beer that they look forward to as the mere thought of it. Many prefer soda, but sodas often come out to them on resupply.

With a tall, cold one (beer) in his hand, however, a man knows that he's kept himself together out there and has made it back to enjoy one of the base camp's rewards. Cold beer, you see, doesn't come out to the field.

God bless you Joseph Schlitz, Mr. Miller and Augie Busch; you're the grunt's kind of people!

## Epidemic Spreading; Army Has No Cure

By SP4 DENNIS LEBLANC

CU CHI — There appears to be a strange disease running rampant on a world-wide scale. It has no official name as yet, but is generally known as the "Gap".

It is especially hard to isolate because it appears in so many differing strains. The most persistent types are Generation, Credibility and Information Gap. The latter type, unfortunately, has appeared in the ranks of the 25th Division's 2nd Battalion (Mech), 22nd Infantry.

Acting quickly, Triple Deuce made a preliminary survey of the men afflicted with the disease and made some discoveries that enabled them to effectively cope with the problem.

**Strikes in the Field**

First, the disease had a tendency to strike men in the field more often than those working in the rear.

**Hits Short GIs**

Second, there were far more cases in men with 90 days or less to go in-country. The newer men seemed to have some sort of natural immunity that wore off as their days in-country increased.

Third, it seemed that there was a period of peak vulnerability. The disease was more likely to be contracted just prior to an expected leave or R&R. There were also an abnormally large number of cases just prior to DEROS dates.

Fourth, it was clear after talking with the medics, that the conventional pills and ointments were going to be of no help in treating this particular disease.

Now that the symptoms were clearly defined, a study was made of areas with few, if any, cases of Information Gap. With a few exceptions, it was found that these areas had an information program which made extensive use of bulletin boards.

Bulletin boards in the rear areas were then conveniently placed and were kept up to date with the latest information on leaves and R&Rs. They also had information about the unit and dates of upcoming events.

The subsequent success of the bulletin board program in curtailing "Information Gap" has led Triple Deuce to believe that the program will work in the field.



**A WELCOMED RE-RUN** — Our choice for this week is lovely Claudia Jennings. Though you've seen her before in Playboy, we doubt of anyone would pass up the chance for a second look.

(Courtesy of Playboy Magazine)

## Add New Meaning to Old Word

# Wolfhounds Train Vietnamese

By SGT DAN DAVIS  
CU CHI - For the 25th Division's Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry and the members of the 170th Regional Forces, "Vietnamization" is more than just a word. It has real meaning.

The men are engaged in a pilot program testing whether

the average GI can, with a minimum of special training, instruct Vietnamese soldiers and improve their methods of operation.

The program began recently at the 25th Division's Tropic Lightning Academy. In this five-day course, the Americans were taught methods of

instruction, use of interpreters and Vietnamese customs.

As soon as they completed the course, the Wolfhounds used their newly acquired skills to teach several local RF units.

Some of the subjects covered were ambush techniques, field fortifications, weapons maintenance, dustoff procedures and first aid.

"Our basic problem, of course, is communication," said 1st Lieutenant Charles Dixon, of Washington, D.C., "because everything must be done through an interpreter.

"The Vietnamese do catch on fast to the things we are teaching them. All they needed was for someone to show them how and why things were done. That's all. They're aggressive and eager to learn."

At the end of the instructional phase, the combined companies went on a search and clear mission in the vicinity of a French-owned rubber plantation north of here.

Using one element as a blocking force and another as a sweep team, the Wolfhound-Tiger unit employed their newly-learned skills. At one point a Vietnamese member of the sweep team discovered a well-concealed enemy booby-trap.

Sergeant Nguyen Van Than, a South Vietnamese interpreter for the Wolfhounds, is encouraged by the program.

"The South Vietnamese people used to be afraid of the VC and NVA so they helped them," he said. "Now that people can see the RF growing stronger, they are openly opposing the Communists."



**SPIKE** - Regional Forces soldiers take on their advisors in a game of volleyball during respite from instruction.



**FIRST AID** - Sergeant Nguyen Van Than repeats, in Vietnamese, directions in first aid given by the Americans in English.



**FINAL PHASE** - Combined elements of the 25th Division's Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry and the Vietnamese 170th Regional Forces Company work

together on an operation near a French-owned rubber plantation. RF cadre were in charge of the operation; Americans acted as coaches.



**HIDE AND SEEK** - The game played here is played by many, but enjoyed by few. This man, a member of C Company, 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry, is searching the two-way rifle range in search of the enemy.

(Photo by SGT MARK ROCKNEY)

## The Triple Deuce Navy

# River Patrol Checks Enemy

...up Communist might have seen was true. Recently, while on operations 19 miles northeast of here, a 25th Division mechanized unit took to the water to patrol the Saigon River on an armored personnel carrier (APC).

"The purpose of this

company commander of the 2nd Battalion (Mech), 22nd Infantry, from San Rafael, Calif. The men and their APC traveled up and down the river on a raft which was provided by Echo Company, 65th Engineer Battalion. The raft was actually a pontoon bridge propelled by several small motor boats.

semiautomatic weapons. There was also a radar set aboard so that, if the men couldn't see the enemy, the electronic device could at least detect their movement.

"It certainly was an unusual operation for a mech unit," said Specialist 4 Jerry Smith, of Woodbridge, N.J. "Just call us the Triple Deuce Navy!"

When things in the field get hairy, Moreno, of Waipahu, Hawaii.

TOC is also the crossroads of a variety of communications traffic.

"We call for artillery, dustoffs, resupply, gunships and anything else needed," said Specialist 4 Lawrence Jackson, of Atco, N.J. "And just last week we even made a call to the field telling one guy that his wife had a baby boy!"

His future plans are well-defined.

"Three and a half years ago I was in uniform and today I still am. I've traveled a lot during this time—now all I want to do is settle down somewhere, probably in Maine."

\$500 reward for whereabouts of Wayne Olson, 15 yrs, 5 ft. 6 in. blue eyes, blond curly hair, phone Van. B.C. collect 731-6672.

## In His Second Army

# Czech Serves Tour in 'Nam

By SGT ED TOULOUSE  
DAU TIENG - In 1968, Miroslav Syrucek, pulling the greatest escape of his life, slipped through the Iron Curtain to freedom.

Now, two years later and many miles away from his native Czechoslovakia, the 25th Division infantryman is in Vietnam helping to counter the oppression he grew up under.

Born in Hradec Kralove, Mike (as he is called by his buddies) experienced the inequities of Communism at an early age.

In 1952, his father, the proprietor of a gas station and motel, lost control of his business to the Party. Six months later, the elder Syrucek, a non-party member, was convicted of certain ill-defined crimes in connection with the use of Radio Free Europe. Shortly after, he was killed—the victim of a freak prison "accident."

Subsistence became the way of life for Mike's mother and her three children. Jobs were hard to find in the politically oppressed country.

"Good jobs are usually only given to party members," said Syrucek. "My mother took in boarders and did laundry to keep us going."

Graduating from a trade school at 18, Mike was soon drafted for a twenty-six month tour as a sentry on the

Czech-Austrian border.

It was during this time that Communist indoctrination reached a climax. Obligated to attend daily party-oriented classes, Syrucek underwent a concentrated barrage of propaganda. As a member of the army he was compelled to sign a pledge to fight for the

Communist cause in Vietnam, if the need arose.

Party pressure kept increasing until one day in January, 1968, Syrucek was informed that the time for him to sign up with the "people's party" had arrived.

"I wanted nothing to do with an organization that was responsible for my father's death and my family's suffering."

Desperation provided the initiative. Taking advantage of the situation while on guard duty, the young Czech opened the gate and made a running bid for freedom across a seemingly endless limbo dividing Czechoslovakia and Austria.

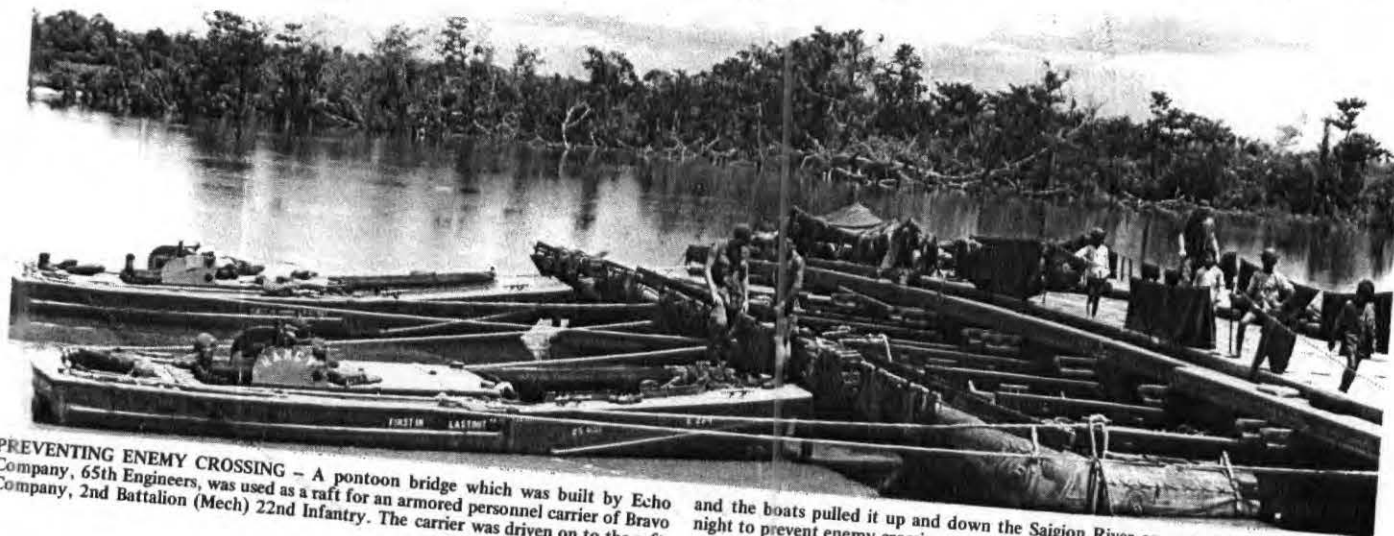
"All I remember is running hard and praying as I went."

The deep snow and sub-zero temperatures made going difficult, but Syrucek's determination prevailed. Within an hour Austrian officials were processing the happy refugee.

Several months later, at about the same time Soviet tanks were rumbling through his homeland during the famous Czech rebellion, Mike came to the United States. With the help of a fellow countryman he became a machinist in South Paris, Maine.

"I really enjoyed the state. The people were very friendly and eager to help me adjust and learn the language."

However, his stay in Maine was interrupted a year after his arrival when he was drafted. Now Syrucek is a member of a point element with the 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Wolfhounds. He has eight months left in this, his second



**PREVENTING ENEMY CROSSING** - A pontoon bridge which was built by Echo Company, 65th Engineers, was used as a raft for an armored personnel carrier of Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion (Mech) 22nd Infantry. The carrier was driven on to the raft,

and the boats pulled it up and down the Saigon River on a roving ambush patrol at night to prevent enemy crossing.