

TROPIC LIGHTNING NEWS



Ready To Strike.... Anywhere, Anytime

92.000

Allies Sweep South from Xuan Loc

Nationals, Tomahawks Kill 56

By PFC MIKE ROBERTS

XUAN LOC - Troops of a 25th Division mechanized unit, teaming with Regional Forces (RFs) of Xuan Loc District, recently killed 56 enemy during a combined operation four miles south west of here.

The RFs and Bravo Company of the 4th Battalion (Mech), 23rd Infantry, were operating in thick jungle where the Regionals had made contact the previous day. The Tomahawks set up a day laager position from which the friendlies were sweeping the area.

Minutes after several units of RFs began to move through the jungle, the Bravo laager site began to take a barrage of enemy mortar fire. At the same time, RF elements came under

heavy small arms fire.

Tomahawks of the 3rd platoon opened up on the suspected enemy mortar positions with .50 caliber and M-60 machine gun fire after spotting smoke from the Communist guns.

"All of us heard the 'hoops' of the rounds being dropped and we saw the smoke from the tubes about 150 yards out," said Specialist 4 Tom Redmond of Dwight, Ill.

The laager position was also receiving sniper fire, but couldn't answer it because of the RFs operating to their front. However, once the RFs moved back to the laager site, the allies began to lay down an overwhelming barrage of their

own.

Meanwhile, on the opposite side of the area, another group of nationals were fighting aggressively and charging the enemy positions.

"At one point I saw them charging the enemy and firing their weapons at the same time," said Specialist 4 Rich Jimenez of Tucumcari, N.M., a track commander. "They really did a good job."

After the enemy broke contact, artillery and gunships pounded the area unmercifully.

As a result of the allied teamwork and fire power, 56 enemy dead were found. Of these, 47 were credited to the Regional Forces and nine to the US troops.

11-11-1965
To the Officers and Men of the 25th Division:

On this day of Giving Thanks, all Tropic Lightning Soldiers should pause and reflect on the blessings of the past year, and for this, our last Thanksgiving together as a Division in Vietnam.

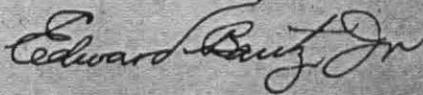
During this past year, we have served far from our homes and loved ones. We had not the privilege of sharing a traditional Thanksgiving dinner with our families, nor a chance to enjoy at first hand the warmth of our Country. Instead, we found ourselves manning a perimeter of freedom, offering a helping hand to other peoples.

And what have we accomplished during the past four-plus years? For what can we give thanks? We can commemorate the completion of the bulk of the 25th Division's mission in Vietnam made possible through your Dedication, your Service, and the Sacrifices made by you and your predecessors during these past years. Not only have you helped attain a condition of economic stability and freedom from aggression for the Vietnamese, but you have given them an understanding of our Thanksgiving day, a desire for an attainment of freedom, a freedom we have always known.

The first Thanksgiving was an expression of gratitude by the Pilgrim fathers for survival and of appreciation for the freedom they had found in a strange new land. Their determination to preserve that freedom and their resolve to overcome the dangers which confronted them formed a heritage which Americans have preserved at all costs throughout our Nation's history.

To every Soldier of the 25th Infantry "Tropic Lightning" Division, I express appreciation for the vital contributions you are making to the preservation of peace at home and the struggle for peace here in the Republic of Vietnam.

God Speed,



EDWARD BAUTZ, JR.
Major General, USA
Commanding

Regulars And Ghosts Spend Night Together

By SP4 KRIS PETERSEN

OPERATION BASE LYNCH - In the boonies there are many nights when sights and sounds send chills up and down GI spines. This was the case recently with Alfa Company, or the 25th Division's 3rd Battalion, 22nd Infantry.

Discovery

While conducting a company-size RIF (reconnaissance - in - for) of heavy jungle, one of Alfa's

platoons discovered the body of an enemy soldier killed on an earlier mission.

The platoon had then continued on to further search the area and returned later that evening to set up their NOP (night operations position)

It was then that a point man, Private First Class Michael Karaberis of Manchester, N.H., noticed that two figures were covering up the dead body.

"I thought they might be ARVN's because of the green ponchos they were wearing, so I hesitated to open up," he said.

However, a few of the other Regulars noticed that under the ponchos were black pajamas.

At that moment, the enemy spotted the Regulars. A brief fire fight then ensued.

Not Sure

"I thought that I had hit one, but" I wasn't positive, said Sergeant Dan Whittaker of Ewing, Mo.

The monsoon rains then began to fall heavily and with darkness quickly approaching, the men set up in their NOP.

During that night the Regulars could hear the ghostly moaning of a dying enemy.

Ghostly

The next morning a small unit was sent to the site where the sounds had been coming from. But all they found was the same dead NVA.

"I've never believed in ghosts before," said one wary Regular, "but after that night's experience I'm not so sure."



KNEE DEEP - This trooper of the 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry is finding the going a little wet during an operation in and about the Boi Le Woods. (Photo by SP4 Howard Lavick.)

Tankers Outflank Enemy

By SP4 EUGENE DETHAIR DAU TIENG - While

reconning south of a nearby rubber plantation, an element of the 25 Division's 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor, foiled an enemy ambush recently and killed one NVA in the process.

As Headquarters Company tanks neared a woodline, the recon tracks came under sniper fire.

The Dreadnaughts advanced toward the sound of the firing until the company commander, Captain John A. Buckley III of South Portland, Me., noticed that they were being drawn into an ambush.

Buckley immediately ordered the tracks to positions at the flanks of the enemy force.

When the smoke had cleared the tankers claimed one NVA killed and an AK-47 rifle captured.

SOFT CORE



DECORATIONS

SILVER STAR

SGT James E. Boone, Co C, 1st Bn (Mech), 5th Inf
 SGT Jack Hollingsworth, Co C, 4th Bn, 9th Inf
 SGT Jackie Steinman, Co C, 4th Bn, 9th Inf
 SP4 John R. Miles, Co C, 1st Bn (Mech), 5th Inf
 SP4 Carl R. Smith, B Trp, 3rd Sqdn, 4th Cav
 PFC Robert Jackson, Co C, 4th Bn, 9th Inf
 PFC Ronald T. Leno, Co B, 4th Bn (Mech), 23d Inf

BRONZE STAR

LTC Marvin Rosenstein, HHC, 1st Bn, 27th Inf
 CPT John H. Maddox Jr, HHC, 1st Bn, 27th Inf
 1LT David A. Decker, Co A, 1st Bn (Mech), 5th Inf
 1LT Ralph L. Gazaway, Co C, 4th Bn, 9th Inf
 1LT John W. Thompson Jr, B Trp, 3rd Sqdn, 4th Bn
 1LT Charles B. White, Co A, 4th Bn, 9th Inf
 1LT William E. Williams, Co A, 2nd Bn, 27th Inf
 SFC Roger L. Jackson, Co A, 1st Bn (Mech), 5th Inf
 SSG William H. Herbert, Co B, 4th Bn (Mech), 23rd Inf
 SSG Lawrence P. Sydow, Co B, 4th Bn (Mech), 23rd Inf
 SSG Calvin Taylor, Co C, 4th Bn, 9th Inf
 SGT Jack Buchanan, Co C, 1st Bn (Mech), 5th Inf
 SGT Joseph Christopher, Co C, 4th Bn, 9th Inf
 SGT Merrill Clark, Co E, 2nd Bn, 12th Inf
 SGT Richard Emm, B Trp, 3rd Sqdn, 4th Cav
 SGT Richard Fanguy, Co E, 2nd Bn, 12th Inf
 SGT Eugene Hess, Co C, 4th Bn, 9th Inf
 SGT Bobby LaPrairie, Co C, 1st Bn, 27th Inf

SGT Richard Mitchell, Co C, 4th Bn, 9th Inf
 SGT John A. Sotnick, Co B, 4th Bn (Mech), 23rd Inf
 SGT Gregory Yahn, Co C, 4th Bn, 9th Inf
 SP5 Frank G. Cain III, Co B, 1st Bn (Mech), 5th Inf
 SP5 Larry D. Jones, B Trp, 3rd Sqdn, 4th Cav
 SP4 Daniel J. Cathcart, Co B, 1st Bn (Mech), 5th Inf
 SP4 Billy J. Connor, B Trp, 3rd Sqdn, 4th Cav
 SP4 Dennis L. Dayton, Co B, 2nd Bn, 27th Inf
 SP4 Louis C. Espinoza, B Trp, 3rd Sqdn, 4th Cav
 SP4 Dalton Goodrich, Co C, 4th Bn, 9th Inf
 SP4 Chris F. Iden, Co D, 1st Bn (Mech), 5th Inf
 SP4 Ronald L. Jones, B Trp, 3rd Sqdn, 4th Cav
 SP4 Robert McCusker, Co E, 2nd Bn, 12th Inf
 SP4 Salvatore Misurace, B Trp, 3rd Sqdn, 4th Cav
 SP4 Edward Oliver, Co E, 2nd Bn, 12th Inf
 SP4 Joel W. Patton, B Trp, 3rd Sqdn, 4th Cav
 SP4 Fazza M. Saleh, B Trp, 3rd Sqdn, 4th Cav
 SP4 William R. Swilling, B Trp, 3rd Sqdn, 4th Cav
 SP4 Samuel R. Yates, Co C, 1st Bn (Mech), 5th Inf
 PFC Phillip A. Annunziato, B Trp, 3rd Sqdn, 4th Cav
 PFC Robert J. Eder, Co C, 1st Bn, 27th Inf
 PFC Harvey D. Gardner, Co C, 1st Bn, 27th Inf
 PFC Kary N. Lynch, Co C, 4th Bn, 9th Inf
 PFC Terry J. Nadaus, Co C, 1st Bn, 27th Inf
 PFC Larry J. Putman, F Co, 75th Inf
 PFC William G. Taylor, Co A, 4th Bn, 23d Inf
 PFC Floyd D. William, A Trp, 3d Sqdn, 4th Cav
 PFC Stanley Wyzientek, Co C, 1st Bn, 5th Inf

Medical Clearing Stations

A New Idea In Medical Care

By SP4 J. D. DRURY

CU CHI - An integral part of the 25th Medical Battalion's mission is the operation of forward clearing stations or dispensaries. Two such operations are now supporting 25th Division troops, one at Dau Tieng and another at Xuan Loc.

The 25th Infantry Division is implementing a new concept in division level medical care.

"Before, all maneuver battalion's had their own surgeon assigned to them, but because of rapid helicopter evacuation, the battalion Medical Corps officer, once located in the field, is now no longer as necessary there," stated Major Robert Fulton, MSC, of Amaha, Neb., executive officer of the battalion.

And so the Division Surgeon's Office has initiated a policy of brigade level medical support, setting up clearing stations wherever Tropic Lightning brigades establish their headquarters.

The facilities at the clinic in Xuan Loc, which cares for Tropic Lightning 2nd Brigade troops, are similar to those at its sister institution in Dau Tieng. Both have treatment rooms, a pharmacy, laboratory, X-ray facilities, wards, and a medical supply office. Both facilities also have dental and optometry services.

The 25th Med operates each clearing station in conjunction with another unit. At 1st Brigade headquarters in Dau

Tieng, medics of the 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry help run the aid station, while in Xuan Loc, battalion corpsmen share the facility with their counterparts in the II Field Force's 5th Battalion, 2nd Field Artillery.

For several years 25th Med's Delta Company operated a major medical facility in Tay Ninh. The battalion also supported division operations in Cambodia with doctors and corpsmen at forward aid stations at Katum and Thien Ngon.

Much of the treatment at both aid stations is routine: suturing cuts, lancing boils, changing dressings, giving shots, and doling out medicines for ringworm, rashes, runny noses and the like.

"But the routine is quickly broken when a Dustoff comes in," stated Private First Class Greg Garvin of Bakersfield, Calif.

What may seem like "organized chaos," as Roswell, N.M., medic Specialist 5 Jim McClanahan puts it, "is often

medics quickly performing life-saving actions."

"We generally average between 75 and 100 patients per day," stated Specialist 4 Angel Juazer of Long Beach, Calif., one of Xuan Loc's laboratory technicians.

"Another part of our mission," said Sergeant First Class Benjamin Stewart of Ogden, Utah, NCOIC of the Dau Tieng Clearing Station, "is a preventive medicine program. Our medics help in inspecting the living and dining areas of troops on the base camp."

Overall, the brigade level approach to health problems seems to be working well.

"Air mobility makes this approach possible," commented Lieutenant Colonel David Arbiter, MC, 25th Division Surgeon and 25th Medical Battalion Commanding Officer. "Few of the brigade troops operate more than 15 minutes by chopper away from one of the clearing stations," he added, "and the doctors and medics admirably handle all but the most seriously injured patients."

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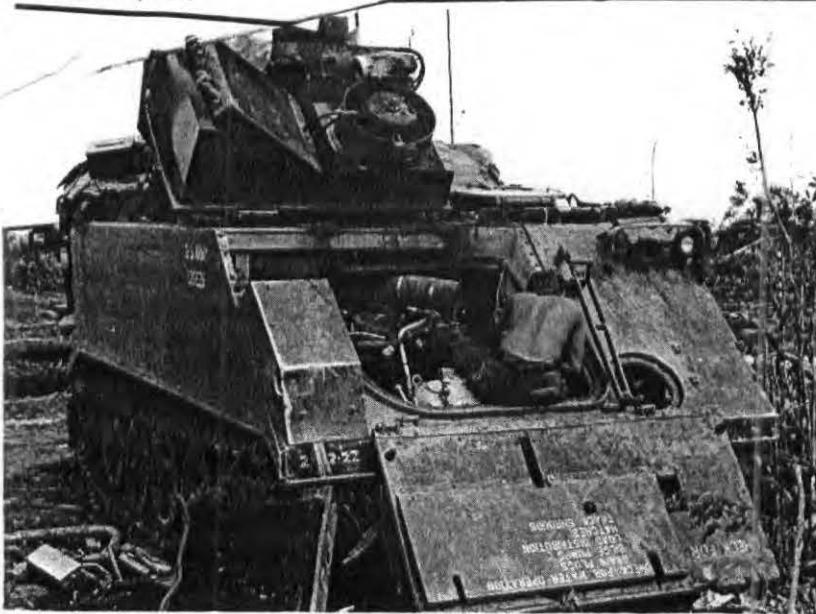
CHANGE OF COMMAND - Colonel William R. Todd of Manchester, N.H., recently took command of the 3rd Brigade. Col. Todd comes to the 3rd Brigade from Military Assistance Command (MACV), where he served as Secretary of the Joint Staff and special assistant to the Chief of Staff (MACV).

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SGT Bryan Fites	4/23	SP4 Ed Toulouse	2/2
SGT Mark Rockney	2/12	SP4 William McGown	Divartry
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SGT Daniel House	4/9	SP4 John Johnson	2/2
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SP4 Tom Bonn	2/2	SP4 Dan Danley	4/23
SP4 Greg Dunane	7/1	SP4 Mike Roberts	4/23
	2/27	SP4 Richard Haley	1/8



EATEN BY WHAT? - A Regular from the 2nd Battalion (Mech) 22nd Infantry, appears to be swallowed up by his track as he takes out the last remaining screws prior to removing his blown engine. Triple Deuce's new maintenance program has eliminated the delay in sending the tracks to rear areas to be repaired. (Photo by SP4 Dennis Leblanc)

Breakdowns Reduced

Maintenance Program Started

By SP4 DENNIS LEBLANC

CU CHI - The men of the 2nd Battalion (Mech), 22nd Infantry, would never deny the advantages in mobility and firepower provided by their armored personnel carriers. However, on occasion, the vehicles have been a mixed blessing.

In an effort to avoid as many breakdowns and delays as possible, Triple Deuce has initiated a comprehensive field

maintenance program.

First, each driver has a list of items he must check daily. He is issued a checklist for the items and his platoon leader is held accountable if the work is not completed.

Second, there are periodic inspections of the tracks by trained mechanics (maniacs) to insure that proper maintenance is being pulled on each track.

Third, facilities for major

overhauls have been set up right in the field. Previously, if a track had need of a new engine or transmission, it had to be towed to Cu Chi. Now there are few major overhauls that cannot be done right in the field.

Teamwork is the key to Triple Deuce's maintenance program. It takes the drivers, mechanics and resupply personnel all working together to personnel a mechanized infantry unit at full strength.

Reunited By 65th Engineers

Two Brothers Get Together

By SP4 JAMES D. STOUP

CU CHI - Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the 65th Engineer Battalion has reunited two brothers from Illinois, both serving in the Republic of Vietnam.

James Veasey, age 22 re-knotted the family ties with his brother Willie, age 21, when the latter arrived to the 65th

Engineers on August 20th. The Veasey brothers hail from Rock Island, Illinois.

James, better known around HHC as VC, entered the Army in December 1969 and completed basic training at Fort Campbell, Ky., and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Polk, La., where he acquired a 76A10 MOS in supply. He arrived in Cu Chi on

May 14, and has worked in S-4 and R & U for the 65th Engineers.

Willie entered the Army in March, 1969 and took his basic training and AIT at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., where he received his cook's MOS. He served as a cook at Fort Sill, Okla., for 14 months before coming to Nam. He arrived in the republic on May 31, and was assigned to the 199th Light Infantry Brigade. Willie served in this capacity as a cook both at his unit's base camp at Long Binh, and in the field at Fire Support Bases Mace and Trap.

After two months in country, Willie decided to put in for a transfer to his brother's unit, the 65th Engineer Battalion. His transfer was approved, and he arrived in Cu Chi on August 20. The younger Veasey is now a cook for HHC, 65th Engineers.

Willie described his stay in Long Binh as compared to Cu Chi in this manner: "In Long Binh there were more places to go, but it was also more stateside. I like Cu Chi better. I haven't had to go out into the field, and because I can be with my brother."

James said that he had talked to his brother on the phone when he arrived in Vietnam, and from that time on they started planning on their eventual rendezvous.

Motor Pool Resident Leads A Dog's Life

By SP4 Ed Roulouse

DAU TIENG - Rumors around this 25th Division base camp have it that the longest member in residence with the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry, leads a dog's life.

This veteran Warrior has fraternized with the men of the battalion's motor pool for almost two and a half years, yet he's never worked on an engine, repaired a flat tire nor indulged in any of the tasks typical of a repair shop.

In fact, most of his time is spent sleeping under a bunk, or perhaps taking an occasional ride in a jeep-industrious he's not.

Despite his shortcomings Snoopy (that's his name) is easy to get along with-unless one happens to be another dog. He's rather reluctant about canine visitors in his repair shop.

Unlike his comic strip namesake, Snoopy makes no pretense at fame-he has never flown a Sopwith Camel, nor played hockey. But notwithstanding his lackadaisical attitude, this Warrior quadruped has proven himself.

"Every time we have incoming, Snoopy can be counted on to start barking and head for the bunker before the first round hits," said Sergeant Charley (Brown) Schaub of Muskegon, Mich. "Apparently he can hear the rounds as they fly through the air."

IT'S HAPPENING

WELL, WELL NOW...We were leafing through a sheaf of civic actions material one afternoon recently in search of a story, when we happened on a tidbit that snapped us out of our somnolence. A civic actions officer was presenting paper reasons why a certain bridge should be built from one side of a body of water to the other. He had about 10 pros and only one or two cons recorded on his tally sheet, so it would appear that there was some merit to the project. What caught our eye, however, was con number two. "If the bridge is built," he said, "it will put two fairy operators out of business." That seems a rather queer statement to make.

GOING HOME: PART 1....There are several little items you'll not be allowed to ship home in your hold baggage. Porno for one. Nice folks at customs told us that GIs can get by with an issue or two of Playboy, however. Or the "Tropic Lightning News." Among the prohibited items are several you already know about: fire arms, grenades, dope-stuff that. But did you know that you can't take home liqueur candy? Or articles originating in Communist China, North Korea or North Vietnam? Or goods made by convict labor or indentured labor under penal sanctions. Also, you can't send home an unaccompanied plant. And if you want to give someone in the world the bird, you can't do it from Vietnam. No birds. No fatigues either. You'll fly home in your underwear unless you can scrounge some khakis.

WHAT IS THE ARMY HOLDING IN RESERVE FOR YOU?...When you say goodbye to Vietnam, DERSOS and ETS you'll still have a reserve commitment...but not as stiff a one as the guy who has never been to riceville. You see, you won't have to attend weekly or monthly meetings. The only hang up is that for two years, you may have to go to summer camp and play Army for two weeks. After that, you have two years of inactive reserve during which time you cannot be called up except to fight in a declared war or national emergency declared by Congress.

The Army will likely assign you to a unit within 90 days after your ETS. But, be careful. Don't try to elude the Great Green Machine. Because if they catch you trying to skip out on the reserve commitment, they'll call you to active duty to serve out the remainder of your six year obligation.

Alfa Company Wins Inter-Battalion Test

By SP4 Gary Peterson

DAU TIENG - "We've got the best mortarmen in the battalion."

So said 25th Division Platoon Sergeant Bobby Seals of Fayetteville, N.C., and Alfa Company 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry, after his platoon won an inter-battalion mortar test here recently.

All of the battalion's companies were involved in a week of review as the mortarmen practiced what they had learned in advanced

individual training (AIT).

The men attended classes in the mornings and ran practice fire missions in the afternoons.

Enthusiasm ran high for the training as the winning gun squad was to receive an in-country R & R.

After it was announced that Alfa had won, the winners let everyone know it by placing several rounds on a nearby hill in rapid succession.

Some of the men swore the white smoke from the rounds spelled ALFA in the sky.



OUTGOING - Mortarmen of the 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry, plug their ears in anticipation of the round about to go off. Weapons platoons of the "Golden Dragons" recently underwent a week long review of skills they learned in Advanced Individual Training. (Photo by SP4 Gary Peterson)



GETTING IT TOGETHER - Sergeant Frank Cossick of Coalpoint, Pa., Sergeant Norm Shirley of Jamestown, N. D., Sergeant Glenn Graft of Columbus, Ohio, and Sergeant First Class Jerry Harris huddle and sketch out in the mud positions for a night defensive position. Conference took place during an airmobile operation east of Xuan Loc.

Remember

When We
Humped

By SGT BOB LODI

BEARCAT - A mechanized unit rarely leaves its armored personnel carriers except for a few three day hikes which are fondly recalled over a beer as "remember when we humped."

The recent mission of the 25th Division's Charlie Company, 1st Battalion (Mech), 5th Infantry was one of those memorable jaunts. The objective was to check out some thick jungle terrain inaccessible by tracks.

The landing zone was a clearing in the jungle just large enough for one chopper to get in at a time.

"As we came down, I noticed piles of dirt in the midst of the green to our right," said Sergeant Norm Shirley, Bobcat squad leader from Jamestown, N.D. "My thoughts were that we were going to get a greeting from Charlie."

The insertion went without incident, however, although indications were that two days earlier, about 20 enemy had dug in at that location.

The Bobcats regrouped and headed out on the first leg of their three-day walk.

As the first day came and went, the mechmen adapted the routine of living out of the infamous rucksack.

"I never was a Boy Scout, but I had a shelter up in time," said Private First Class Fred Davis of Valdosta, Ga. "It must have been incentive stirred by threatening skies."

The tall grass became jungle and the jungle became hill forest as the second day became into the third. There was still no trace of the enemy as the final grid square was covered.

"After three days of rain, I felt like a sponge," said Davis. "We met no enemy though, which wasn't a bad consolation."

"Walking wasn't as bad as I expected," said Private First Class Bob Michaels of Berkley, Mich. "But as I approached the larger site, those tracks looked like heaven." Michaels opened his track's ice chest, pulled out a soda and took a good cold slug. "Yep," he said, "there's no place like home."





READY AND WAITING - As the last lift of his air mobile hits the jungle LZ east of Xuan Loc, PFC Russ Jones of Napa, Cal., an M-60 gunner with Charlie Company, 1st of the 5th, keeps his eyes peeled and his weapon ready.



MOVING OUT - Carrying a shovel in one hand and an M-16 in the other, SFC Jerry Harris of Fort Campbell, Ky., a platoon sergeant with Charlie Company, 1st of the 5th, leads his squad out of a chopper aid to cover.



THROUGH THE RUBBER - SP4 Fred Davis of Valdosta, Ga., forms one link in the leg column working its way through a rubber plantation east of Xuan Loc. Davis is with the 1st Battalion (Mech), 5th Infantry.



'War Correspondence-I'm Hooked On It'

By 1LT RICHARD HARRIS

DAU TIENG - "War can become a narcotic for some people--after a while, they can't do without it. Perhaps I'm one of those people."

Derek Wilson is the Saigon correspondent for Agence France Presse and British Broadcasting Corporation, and has been a foreign correspondent since 1959. In 1961, he covered his first conflict, the East African Mutinies involving the armies of Kenya and Tanzanika. Since then it has been one war, revolution, and coup-d'état after another.

Since the Cambodian operation, the Vietnam War correspondents have been more concerned with the political and economic situation in Saigon than with the actual fighting. For Wilson, however, the excitement and anxiety of war are chiefly to be found on the ground with the combat troops--the "grunts."

In the field, though, Wilson looks conspicuously out of place. A small, slender man in his late 30s, he is armed only with a camera and notebook.

With the Aero Rifle Platoon of the 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry on a recent search of an enemy bunker complex, Wilson walked stooped over, as if ready to hit the ground at the least sign of trouble. When startled by M-60 fire from the platoon, he did hit the ground and covered his Pentax camera. At the cry of "fire in the hole," he was invariably the first and the closest to the ground.

"I don't like bangs," he would explain.

Nevertheless, he is compelled by combat and drawn to it.

"Under the stress of combat, life becomes so



BANGS - Correspondent Derek Wilson, who doesn't like "bangs," readies himself at the cry of "Fire in the hole."



CHECKING THE ACTION - While the Aero Rifle RTO tries to find out what's happening, Wilson watches for a good picture.

intense, and so highly-charged--I think that men become somehow more human under the extreme conditions. There is a tension between life and death out there which makes you more aware of what it means to be alive--it's hard to become complacent about life once you've seen war. Men's character traits become intensified--friendship, love, determination, fear... Don't get me wrong, I'm not for war, I don't love war--I'm just moved by it."

He considers himself extremely privileged to have been a war correspondent.

"When I'm in Paris I see my friends there who have never seen a war. Doctors, lawyers, government workers--their lives seem so incredibly tame. They have a house and a wife and children and cars, and it all seems so regular, so dull.

"Many people read my stories and experience the war vicariously. I think people like to read about wars and riots and hijackings and all that, and many probably identify with the guerrillas and rioters and hijackers. It's a way of escaping the routine of their lives, like going to a movie but better, because this war is really happening."

There is obviously some of this perverse, Walter Mitty-ism in Wilson, but instead of reading or watching a movie, he needs to be where the action is--in person.

He doesn't claim to know why people have this fascination with violence and death--"perhaps it's a need carried over from our animal background."

Wilson was a lieutenant in the British Army Intelligence, stationed in Germany in the late

1940s. His specialty was tracing the movements of Russian troops in East Germany by identifying the laundry tags from uniforms sent him by behind-the-border contacts. After his two years of National Service, he got out and studied at Oxford, where he took a degree in Modern Languages. He speaks German, French and Italian.

During his 10 years as a war correspondent, Wilson has covered the East African Mutinies, the Congo, the Cypress conflict, the massacre of the Ibos in Northern Nigeria, the Indo-Pakistani War, the coup-d'état which overthrew Algeria's Ben Bella, the "six-day War" between Egypt and Israel, the massacres of communists in Indonesia and Vietnam.

He finds the Vietnam conflict "a very accessible war" because of the powerful position of the press in American society.

"Israel and Egypt are very security-conscious, and they won't let the press into many areas, but the Americans give us access to almost everything." He thinks this is good, but that it probably hurts the American cause in a strictly military sense.

Wilson recently completed two years in Vietnam, and has returned to AFP's Paris headquarters for reassignment. But after about six weeks in Paris, he says he'll want to get back to a war somewhere.

"I couldn't be happy doing anything besides war correspondence--I can't seem to do without it."



LOOKING ON - Correspondent Derek Wilson looks on as Aero Rifle Platoon leader Jim Dunham (center) prepares his troops to clear out an enemy bunker complex.

Three Enemy Killed By Aero-Rifle Team

By SGT MIKE CONROY

CU CHI — The Aero-Rifle team of the 25th Division's 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry, guided by a Light Observation Helicopter (LOH), killed three enemy, captured one, and uncovered a vast amount of enemy supplies and ammunition north of here recently.

Delta Troop, the air arm of the 3/4 Cav, had a LOH working in the Citadel region when the crew spotted enemy movement. Immediately the call went out to the Aero-Rifles waiting on stand-by at Dau Tieng. After a quick insertion they began moving toward the enemy position.

"As we were approaching the area we saw some movement in the heavy brush to our front," said Private First Class Steve Barkman, a machine gunner, of Niles, Mich. "We immediately sprayed the area with M-60 machinegun and M-79 fire."

The Tropic Lightning troopers continued moving forward with the chopper providing support from above. A well-used trail was found in the area leading to the first of a series of bunkers.

"We knew the enemy could be anywhere, so we flipped a couple of grenades in the first bunker," said Specialist 4 Winfred Reece, a grenadier from Henderson, Tex. "Later we found two dead enemy in it."

Several enemy were then spotted fleeing the area. The LOH took them under fire, killing one.

A continued sweep of the area uncovered eight more bunkers. Thorough searches of each disclosed a wide assortment of munitions and supplies.

The first structure contained two AK-47s, 18 hand grenades, an M-16 rifle and 10 pounds of medical supplies.

Another bunker revealed 106 rounds each of K-54 and M-16 ammunition, 875 rounds of AK-47 ammunition, four B-40 rockets, six B-40 boosters, 12 M-79 rounds.

A third housed a rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) launcher and an RPG round, one M-26 hand grenade, nine pistol belts, twenty-four rucksacks, seven flashlights and a large amount of clothing and other supplies.

A lingering Communist was spotted in some bushes only fifty yards from the men. Responding instantly to the LOH's warning, the Rifles shredded the position with small arms fire. The frightened enemy then popped up with hands high in surrender.



HELP! — A tank from 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor takes an unwanted mud bath while operating with the 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry, three miles west of FSB Tennessee. (Photo by SP4 Philip Maslin)

Engineers Build New Base

FSB Simmons Replaces Byrd

DAU TIENG — Although little more than a muddy speck in the jungle, a few hundred feet wide and encircled by a mound of reddish dirt, the fire support base stands out as the vital link between the giant base camp and the men in the field.

Recently, the task of carving

out one of these bases was given to the 25th Infantry Division's 65th Engineers, Alfa Company, assigned to the 1st Brigade here.

The objective was to find a better location for the existing Fire Support Base Byrd, which was plagued with drainage problems and overcrowding.

The land was surveyed, culverts positioned, artillery pads laid, the berm pushed up and a field of fire cleared, while troops of the 2nd Battalion,

14th Infantry provided security.

The new base, named Fire Support Base Simmons, was completed in only a few days.

For the time being, the engineer's job is done, but only until the infantry decides to move again, then it will be a return trip to Simmons with dozers and shovels, to push their creation back into the red Vietnamese clay from which it sprang.

Ask SGT Certain

DEAR SGT. CERT.: Each week our office has a small pool bet on the pro football games for the upcoming weekend. Invariably, our OIC wins the pool. He seems to show uncanny skill in choosing the winning teams. It was as if he had an inside track to info about the teams. Last week we discovered his ace in the hole. His grandfather is George Blanda of the Oakland Raiders. Through his grandfather, our OIC was obtaining inside tips on how to play the bets each week. We EM of the office feel our OIC should refund his previous winnings and disqualify himself from future pools. He refuses and has ordered us to continue allowing him to bet in our pools. Can he do this?

PVT Landry

DEAR TOM: Sorry, but you EM must show the proper respect for a ranking officer. Although he cannot order to let him bet, you likewise cannot boycott him. Besides, if George Blanda is providing the tips for your OIC, believe me, the odds will catch up with him and his percentage will drop...like his grandfather's passes.

DEAR SARGE: I became greatly interested in Cu Chi's weekly Friday night boxing matches. In fact, a couple of weeks ago, I entered one of the matches and found myself paired with a slightly overweight soulbrother. He looked E-fish, but definitely not the lifer type. I was shorter than he, but I am stocky and hard to knock down. At least that's what they tell me back in my hometown of Parma Heights, Ohio.

The soulbrother was very light on his feet and kept mumbling something like "move like butterfly, sting like a bee." Sting me he did. And I was only able to land a couple of solid punches. Unfortunately they were on the referee as I continually swung and missed my opponent. Finally, the match was called a TKO. The referee was bleeding too badly to continue.

I wanted to talk with my opponent after the fight because he was one of the best I had ever fought. Mysteriously, he disappeared before anyone could locate him. Then last week, I noticed a strong resemblance between my E-6 opponent and Muhammed Ali when he fought Quarry on TV. I think I was had. I should be declared heavyweight champion of Cu Chi. The chief of staff disagrees. I would like a rematch in New York after I ETS. Unfortunately that is not until 1979. What are my chances?

PFC Oscar Chivago



SEA-WORTHY? — Under most circumstances, a woman on board ship is considered bad luck. However, after a brief inspection, anyone would have to admit that this young lady is quite see-worthy.

DEAR EMMY: To coin a fraize or two: You'll have to wait in line for your turn. Not just any old Joe can get a shot at the heavyweight title.



CAUTION — Caution is the word, as Private First Class George Perotta of Rochester, N.Y., a member of the 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry's "Mackenzie's Raiders" carefully checks out a recently abandoned enemy bunker. (Photo by SGT Mike Conroy)

Informal But Effective

Howie's Newsletter Makes It

By SP4 J. D. DRURY

CU CHI — "Conex Control — Uptight? That's what we should be, but are we? Half empty conexes take up space and waste Army bread. Give us a call and let's condense excess," reads a statement in a recent bulletin issued by the 25th Division's 25th Medical Battalion S-4 (logistics) office.

This and other epigrams are part of the pithy "Chairborne Rangers" newsletter issued by Specialist 4 Curran Howard, medical battalion S-4 clerk.

The idea of a fortnightly, unofficial circular on supply topics, issued to each of the medical companies, was formulated by Captain John Allegrini of Quincy, Mass., 25th Med's S-4 officer, explained the supply clerk, familiarly known as "Howie."

It Worked Before

"The idea's not new," asserted Allegrini, "I published a newsletter at my last assignment and it worked well there, so I thought we'd try it again."

"All you jock straps!" blurts another aphorism, "Athletic

equipment must now be ordered through S-4 on a 2765-1. Check appropriate regs for further information with regard to authorization."

Informal Layout

Howard of McMinnville, Ore., stated that, "because the letter is so informal, it gets more attention, and more importantly, more response."

"FIRE! Ole Smokey says get with the program. Make a real inspection; don't just fill out the report!" says another one somewhat scoldingly.

Howie Hits Everyone

All areas of logistics are subject to Howie's perusal. "Cleaning house?" he asks, "Get your 2407 (TI for serviceability) from the maintenance people," he adds. "Make sure that your '14 is uptight!" is another word to the wise. And, "if you're didi mauing from the Nam," states Howie, "make sure you see 'the man' at S-4 about your TA-50."

Saves Much Work

Colleague Specialist 4 Reese Pratt of Los Angeles, S-4's records clerk, said the newsletter has saved him a good deal of

work lately, but added "I only wish he would have started it five months earlier."

A Real Success

"Reports are coming in on time, and we're getting fewer phone calls," added Captain Allegrini, "so I think Howie's newsletter is a real success."

"There it is folks!" as Howie would say, "catch you next time."

Operation Base Lynch

More Than Meets The Eye

By SGT RICHARD CONNELL
OPERATION BASE LYNCH

— From the air the 25th Infantry Division's Operation Base Lynch looks like almost any fire support base, only bigger. However once on the ground, Lynch turns out to be much more.

Operation Base Lynch is the home of the 2nd Brigade. Inside its bunker lines operations against enemy forces are

Beetle Fan Prefers That They Be Pickled

By SP4 J. D. DRURY

CU CHI — "Cu chi is crawling with belostomatidae, dytiscidae, and cerambycidae," said the 25th Division lieutenant.

Crawling with VC spies? With rare diseases? Or what?

Actually the officer, 1st Lieutenant Miles Haberley, of the 25th Medical Battalion, was speaking of some of the beetles he's collected in and around the Tropic Lightning's base camp, here.

While most people prefer to step on bugs, Haberley prefers to "pickle" them. A graduate of the University of Tennessee, the Medical Service Corps officer has also done graduate work there in zoology and botany.

"I've always been a naturalist," said the Knoxville, Tenn., native. "Even as a kid I had insect, plant, and rock collections." And his collecting has continued in Vietnam.

"The beetle is a fascinating family of insects," glistened Haberley. "Do you know there are more species of beetles (350,000) than all other animal species in the world?" he asked.

I didn't. Other tales and statistics rolled readily from the mouth of this most enthusiastic beetle fan.

The coleoptera (beetle) I had often extinguished with my size 10 regular became, under the entomologist's tutelage, a fascinating creature. Haberley's collection contains many insects indigenous to the Cu Chi area, from June bugs, through giant water bugs, scarabs ("the males generally have the larger horns, the females the smaller ones"), tiger beetles, bombardier beetles ("which make a raspy noise and then emit a puff of acidic smoke,"), wood boring beetles ("whose horns are large in order to attract the opposite sex"), centipedes and numerous others.

Insects aren't the only members of Haberley's "pickled" menagerie though. He also has lizards, frogs, skinks, bamboo pit vipers, Asiatic cobras, geckos, king-sized Asiatic shrews, bats, butterflies and other. Nor does the naturalist exclude plants and rocks from his collection.

An insect (butterfly) net is one of the few pieces of professional equipment he has; the rest is improvised or hand-made.

"The electric light is one of my main suppliers," said the motor officer for the med battalion's Delta Company.

"Teaching and collecting" are foremost in the Tennessee's future plans, "and building an interesting, personal, natural history museum."

"I've gathered some pretty interesting specimens over here," stated the lieutenant, "but I'm still looking for more."

"Bug cans" have been distributed in the medical battalion area, and the officer adds that he's "had a little help from my friends" (the battalion's MEDCAP team, 20th Preventive Medicine's Captain Larry Barton, and others).

But the search still goes on.

"Remember," he said as I left, "if you find any interesting or unusual insects, snakes, animals or flowers around, be sure and let me know."



PROVIDING — Providing fire support for Operation Base Lynch is this battery of 105mm howitzers of Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 8th Field Artillery.

(Photo by SGT Richard Connell)