



the CHARGER



196th LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE (SEP)

Vol. 1 No. 2

Tay Ninh, Vietnam

November 11, 1966

'COL. CONATY BIDS FAREWELL

Through your understanding effort the last fourteen months have been the most rewarding of my career. As I look back at what we accomplished together, I am exceedingly proud to have been your commander. A finer group I cannot imagine. No task was so difficult nor challenge too great. Whatever I asked or suggested, you did.

I regret being unable to say "Goodbye and Thank you" to each one of you personally. You have, as individuals and as a group made the 196th Light Infantry Brigade "Ahead of the Rest." Good luck and Godspeed to you all.

Francis S. Conaty Jr.
Col. Infantry

"GINILETS" find V.C. camp

On a search and destroy mission in thick jungle south of Tay Ninh, Co. C, 3rd Bn., 21st Inf., 196th Lt. Inf. Bde., found and destroyed a recently abandoned VC campsite.

The camp, concealed from the air by trees bent into an arch, was carefully wired with explosives as a defense against intruders.

After disarming the VC explosives, the "Gimlets" used C-4 explosives to destroy the camp, which included a building, a stone well and some pottery.

2/1st Finds Huge Cache

Those ear-shattering sounds which fill the air over Tay Ninh lately aren't sounds of artillery and air-strikes. They're the rumble of hunger pains coming from the stomachs of Viet Cong operating in the area.

"Charlie" left his sanctuary in a heavily wooded area recently in search of Americans operating nearby. To his surprise, troopers from the 196th Light Infantry Brigade bypassed him along the way and retreated into the enemy sanctuary themselves.

What they found there was a crude but gigantic supermarket stocked with more than 800 tons of rice, 25 tons of salt, 455 gallons of tar and 440 gallons of fuel. It was one of the largest caches ever located in the jungles of Vietnam.

Within minutes after their arrival in the dense undergrowth, infantrymen from Company A, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, took control of the area. Business at the rice market was slow the first day until the troops from the 196th arrived on the scene.

It was like bargain days at Macy's as the infantrymen raced up to the first cache and began carrying the rice out of the undergrowth to the landing zone for evacuation to their Tay Ninh command post. They quickly located a second cache, then a third and a fourth until they soon discovered the area was loaded with rice and salt and other free gifts—waiting only for the taking. And they did just that.

By the end of the day, the shelves had been cleared of more than 420 tons of rice. The shopping spree was extended another two days to accommodate the bargain hunters and by the end of the third day, their shopping carts were filled with 800 tons of rice.

CH-47 "Chinook" helicopters had several field days as they dropped into the area to carry goods back to Tay Ninh for distribution to the Vietnamese.

READ

AND

PASS

ON

Because of the limited number of copies of "The Charger" available, personnel are asked to please pass your copy on to a buddy after reading it.

Once the word got back to base camp, additional troops boarded helicopters and headed for the VC shopping center.

The only interference during the shopping spree came on the second day when several disgruntled store keepers tried to retrieve their stock. One was killed and the others decided to turn in their time cards.

The supermarket was stocked with enough rice to keep a 6,000-man VC division going for nearly six months.

"Ga-Go" Patrol Fools "Charlie"

The night was hot and sultry. The ambush patrol from the 196th Lt. Inf. Bde's "Go-Go" Company-Company A, 4th Bn., 31st Inf. had set up its L-shaped trap two hours before and was now waiting silently for the Viet Cong.

Except for the wind gently swaying the elephant grass, and an occasional frog or lizard breaking the stillness, all was quiet.

Suddenly a new sound was heard. It was like the clicking of a cigarette lighter. The patrol leader, Sgt. Robert Teal of Detroit, Mich., knew the enemy was all around them.

The clicking increased. Then a grenade came in, flinging deadly fragments, on the patrol. Sgt. Teal sprang the ambush and the patrol opened up. Enemy small arms fire sprayed in from all directions. Realizing his patrol had been outflanked, Sgt. Teal yelled "Go-Go!" It was the signal for the patrol to break contact and return to their perimeter.

Swiftly his patrol moved out. Two men, Specialist Four Brinn Underwood of Buckannon, W. Va., and Private First Class Mike E. Carey of Weston, W. Va., remained behind, throwing grenades and spraying the enemy wherever they saw the flash of his rifle. When they were sure the patrol had reached safety, they withdrew leaving "Charlie" with just another frustration.

The two men later remarked that no one asked them to stay behind and cover their buddies withdrawal. They felt it was a necessary thing to do, and that anyone else in the "Go-Go" Company would have done the same thing for them.

20 TRADE IN GOLD FOR SILVER

Twenty new Lieutenants were recently promoted in the 196th Light Infantry Brigade. While they are new in rank, the men are neither new to the Brigade nor strangers among themselves. All were classmates of Class 6-65, Inf. Officer Candidate School, Fort Benning, Georgia.

Two of the OCS graduates, 1st Lieutenants James G. Armstrong of Alhambra, California, and Edwin J. Church, Jr., of Seattle, entered OCS under the College option program. Lieutenant Armstrong was graduated from the University of California while Lieutenant Church is a graduate of Washington State.

The other new first Lts. are: Paul E. Cahill, Schaffner, Minn.; Joseph Cavallero, Jr., St. Louis, Mo.; Edward T. Dappen, Laurenceville, Ga.; James C. Dicks, Westfield N. J.; Robert W. Duffey, Shelter Island, N.Y.; James R. Galliher, Newcastle, Ind.; Larry E. King, Chicago, Ill.; Frank W. Lawson, Keyport, N.J.; Robert N. Lee, Trenton, N.J.

Also, Nicholas W. Leopoldus, Denver, Colo.; Andrew Y. Nakata, Waianne, Oahu, Hawaii; Raymond J. Novotny II, Tacoma, Wash.; James J. Pollock, Columbus, Ga.; Paul E. Reaume, Corn-

ing, Calif.; Thomas J. Ruffing, Pittsburgh, Pa.; James B. Reynolds, Rochelle, N.Y.; Ambrósio Sarmiento, Jr., Honolulu, Hawaii; and James A. Smith, III, Fort Worth, Texas.

Except for Lt. Sarmiento, all of the former OCS classmates were sent directly from Fort Benning to the 196th Brigade at Fort Devens, Mass. Lieutenant Sarmiento was sent to Great Lakes, Ill., for a tour with the U.S. Navy. He joined the 196th in Vietnam in October.

The men sent to Fort Devens helped make Army History. They were grouped with other officers and non-commissioned officers into the nucleus of the newly formed 196th Light Infantry Brigade. Their job was to train and retain several thousand new recruits who would make up the brigade. The recruits were taken directly from reception processing centers to the 196th where they completed the entire cycle of infantry combat training. In training the men through Basic Combat Training, Advanced Inf. Training, Basic Unit Training, and Army Training Tests, training areas of both Fort Devens and Camp Drum, N.Y., were used.

The brigade arrived in Vietnam in August.

"THE CHARGER"

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CG...Brig.Gen. Edward H. deSaussure Jr.
OIC....Captain Marshall B. Randall Jr.
Editor....Lt. Richard A. Steinhause Jr.
Assoc. Editor....PFC Robert J. Mc Intyre
Staff Artist.....PFC Brian C. Bardwell

PACIFICATION

CAR DISCOUNT

The struggle of freedom against enslavement and communist domination in Vietnam involves far more than anti-guerrilla warfare; it includes a far-reaching program of pacification to make the life of the people perceptively better than that of a peasant in an area controlled by the Viet Cong.

In practice, it is a many faceted thing.

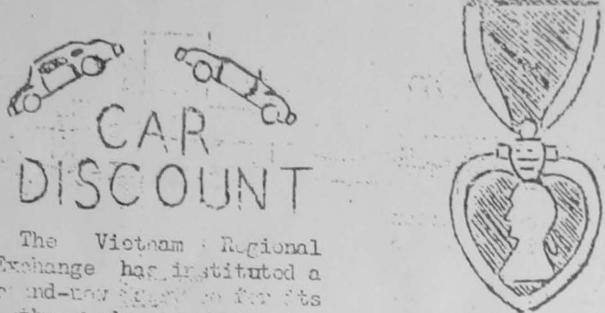
It is building roads and schools, providing medical attention, teaching the people how to build defenses and protect themselves.

It is a Special Forces team paving roads, or setting up electric generators and wiring village homes.

It is an American soldier sharing his food in a remote village, or donating part of his pay so that orphans might be fed and clothed.

It is the magic appearance of bridges and dispensaries in villages that never knew such conveniences.

It is a job in which every American in Vietnam is involved, whether he realizes it or not. It is a job that will win the war, by winning the hearts, minds, loyalty and affection of the people.



"PURPLE HEARTS"

The Vietnam Regional Exchange has instituted a brand-new service for its authorized patrons... now, with a minimum \$250.00 deposit, the servicemen can order an American automobile for stateside pickup.

Most experts here feel the most convenient way to handle the payment is by saving a maximum amount of money during your tour through the Uniformed Services Savings Deposits, which pay 10 per cent interest compounded quarterly.

A major point brought out by the Exchange is that each of the three factories represented in the new car concessions give a 15 to 20 per cent discount (depending on the size of the car) to command personnel.

With contracts now signed with American Motors, Chrysler and Ford Motors, the VNRE expects similar arrangements to be firmed soon with General Motors.

Each FX patron ordering a car through this service will be able to specify exact details of his automobile.....color, trim, etc.

Exchange officials, enthusiastic over obtaining this service for Vietnam patrons, anticipate extensive transactions in it.

Seven Promoted At 8th Support

Seven enlisted men of the 196th Lt. Inf. Bde's 8th Support Battalion, were recently promoted in ceremonies at Battalion headquarters.

Heading the list was newly promoted SSGT. Mikel W. Yarmon of Denver, Colo.

Promoted to Sp5 were Harvey G. Brochu of Sanford, Maine, Harold D. Hyde of Los Angeles, California, Johnnie W.

Chandler of Clay, Miss., Thomas L. Jamison of Cincinnati, Ohio, Raymond L. Jung of Vienne, Calif., and J.D. Minshaw of Nashville Tenn.

LTC. Graham M. Sibbles, battalion commander, presided over the ceremony and offered his congratulations to the men.

SGT Herbert C. Evans, C-3/21
PFC Mike E. Matlock, C-3/21
PFC Tom E. Johnson, C-3/21
SP4 Jim N. Dolmore, HHC3/21
PFC Francis Reno, C-3/21
PFC Chandler Sykes, C-3/21
PFC John B. Bates, C-3/21
PVT Terrence King, B-3/21
PFC Richard Paczewski, C-3/21
SSG William E. Boyd, C-3/21
SP4 Roger D. Bailey, C-2/1
PFC Bob Whiney, B-2/1
PFC John Rivard, B-2/1
SP4 Curtis Thompson, 175th
SP4 Robert Mosack, C-2/1
PFC Eugene Hughes, C-2/1
PFC John Lesiner, B-2/1
PFC James Mc Nab, C-2/1
PFC Joe Mejias Falcon, C-2/1
PFC Roy Napier Jr., B-2/1
PFC Alvin Patrick, B-2/1
PFC Sheldon Propst, B-2/1
PFC Robert Whitney, B-2/1
PFC Larry Williams, C-2/1
SGT Willard Keys, C-2/1
SGT Ralph Manning, C-2/1
SP4 Danny Ashmore, B-2/1
SP4 Robert Gartz, C-2/1
SP4 John Herron, B-2/1
SP4 John Huffran, C-2/1
SP4 Phillip Holmes, C-2/1
SP4 Anthony Martin, B-2/1
SP4 Bill Schnieder, C-2/1
PFC George Bailey, C-2/1
PFC Layman Fisher, B-2/1
PFC Lionel Hewitt, B-2/1
PFC Donald Miller, C-3/21
CPT Ardon Schmidt, HHC, 196
SSG Clyde Dunn, C-2/1
SSG Clement Hicks, C-2/1
SSG Clyde Wainwright, B-2/1
SSG Harry Woodman, A-2/1
SGT Joseph Jiles, B-2/1
MAJ Leguillou Rogelio, 8th SPT
MAJ Royal Fyfe, 8th SPT
PFC Harry Mallany, C-3/21
SP4 Dwight Green, C-3/21
PFC William Garbade, C-3/21
2LT James Mikesell, C-3/21
PFC Ronald Mandell, C-3/21
PFC Joe Mrzlock, C-3/21
2LT Clement Meaux, HHC-3/21
CPL Alvin Minnis, A-2/1
SP4 Harvey Contee, C-2/1
PFC John Rivard, B-2/1
SSG Eddie Jones, B-2/1
PFC Martin Dockal, C-2/1
SP4 James Haesler, HHC, C-2/1
PFC Charles Ripp, B-3/21
1SG Lewis Cole, A-3/21
SSG Robert Horne, C-3/21

4/31 1968

"Singing grenadier"

When PFC Mike Timmerman of New York City goes to the field with the 19th Lt. Inf. Bde's. Company A, 4th Bn., 31st Inf., he carries an M-79 grenade launcher.

But when he's back at base camp, he trades his weapon for a guitar to serenade his buddies in the second platoon.

Known to his fellow Infantrymen as the "Singing Grenadier," Mike has been entertaining audiences since he was eight years old. Appearances on the Jules Stone Talent Show and the Ted Mack Amateur Hour won him prizes and job offers at the age of 12.

During high school he appeared at record hops and dances, with occasional appearances at New York night clubs like the El Dorado and Frank Vaccaro's Night Spot.

In 1963, with his popularity rising, he recorded his first record, a ballad called "Patricia." The record sold well locally, but lost out in the hit parade circuit because of financial reasons.

So he decided to try something different. He got a job with a brokerage firm in the Bronx. He worked with the firm until he received his induction notice from the Army.

Since donning the Army Green, Mike has competed in several talent shows, faring well in all. On the Vietnam situation he commented, "I figure we're here to help somebody out. If we can defeat communism here, we can prevent its spread. We'll win here. There's no way they can defeat us."

Mike's future plans include returning to his job with the brokerage firm, and perhaps attending the New York Institute of Finance. And, of course, to go right on entertaining people with his voice, but only as a hobby.



HOW SOLID IS YOUR FAITH?
by CPT. (Chap.)
Ardon O. Schmidt

How solid is your faith? Someone said, "The creed of today becomes the deed of tomorrow." In other words, what you actually believe is demonstrated in the way you live. Or, the thing we really believe is the thing we believe in enough to act upon it. Your deed is your creed. The problem with too many is that they have no basic assumption for life. If you have no starting point you'll have no ending point. The only result will be confusion and futility.

Where do you start? What is your viewpoint of life? Belief does matter in life. It is often the making or breaking factor in one's life when the chips are down. Therefore it's imperative that man builds a strong, firm faith, one to live by day to day.

Another value is that faith makes a healthy contribution to just ordinary living.

One gains a wholesome perspective in life that assists his greatest potential. Faith further shapes man's attitude toward his fellow man which in turn is passed on. Hence one can see the value of a strong, solid faith. How strong is your faith? Is it solid enough to live by? Remember faith can be the adhesive quality of your life.

B. J. Schmidt

U.S. BONDS

JEEP NETS FOUR V.C.

Of the many jeeps in the 196th Lt. Inf. Bde. Troop F, 17th Cav. motor pool, one in particular stands out from the rest. For on its sides are painted the silhouettes of four little men.

These little men represent four VC killed by the crew of the 106mm recoilless rifle-mounted jeep.

It all happened while Troop F, was on an operation conducted by the "Chargers" near a Viet Cong stronghold around Nui Ba Den in Tay Ninh Province. The cavalry unit's recoilless rifles were to support an assault around the bottom of the mountain. Staff Sergeant Dennis E. Bird, of Hot Springs, Va., was in command of the jeep.

Moving along the base of Nui Ba Den as part of a motorized column, they were ambushed by heavy machine gun fire from the mountainside. A claymore mine was set off and jeep driver, Specialist David E. Sartore, of Belford, New York, wasted no time getting the vehicle out of the killing zone. "The only thing I was thinking about was speeding up and getting the vehicle behind cover."

Just then a VC recoilless rifle opened up, missing the jeep behind Sgt. Bird but still shaking up its crew. Sartore, meanwhile, had raced his jeep to a concealed firing position. From there SP4 Ralph Ordway, of Providence, R.I., the jeep's gunner, spotted the cave from where the VC were spewing deadly fire.

He fired two spotting rounds, then cut loose with the big gun. Four VC and their recoilless rifle went flying into the air.

"We didn't have time to think," recalled Sgt. Bird after the battle. "The training had made us react automatically. The crew functioned as a well trained team."

TROOP "F" SUPPORTS CIDG MOUNTAIN ASSAULT

Nui Ba Den is a Viet Cong mountain stronghold northeast of the City of Tay Ninh. At its summit is a U.S. Army Special Forces "A" Team camp.

Recently, the VC domination of the mountain was put to the test by the 196th Light Infantry Bde., this time by the brigade's Troop F, 17th Cavalry, and units of the Civilian Irregular Defense Group.

Troop F and the CIDG forces spent the night prior to the operation at Nui Ba, a village at the base of Nui Ba Den, which is also a Special Forces camp. At daybreak the forces boarded armored personnel carriers and rendezvoused in the village with two platoons from

Meanwhile at the summit, another CIDG company prepared itself for its sweep down the ridge toward the northwest as airstrikes and artillery fire pounded the enemy emplacements.

Taking its cue, the combined F Troop and CIDG forces moved in along a dirt road close to the northern slope of the mountain. As the column progressed, it was hit by a claymore mine, immediately followed by small arms and recoilless rifle fire.

Quickly marshalling his forces, Troop F commander, Capt. Clyde W. Ream, directed a 106mm recoilless rifle on a VC cave position on the mountain slope. The 106mm rifle fired two spotting rounds, then let

loose, killing four VC.

By now the full fire-power of Troop F's recoilless rifles and machine guns smashed into the VC positions, netting another VC.

As the fire slackened, the CIDG forces began moving up the mountain as a diversionary force for the CIDG unit moving down from the summit.

Later in the day, F Troop moved by road to the eastern slope of the mountain, coming under small arms and 60mm mortar fire. Immediately, F Troop's 106 returned the fire, resulting in the destruction of a VC 60mm mortar and more enemy casualties.

The CIDG forces sweeping the mountain netted four VC kills.

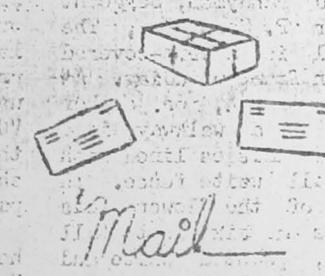
Chargers Cheer Martha Raye

"Really great!" that was how one 196th Light Infantry Brigade soldier expressed his enthusiasm over Martha Raye's Oct. 20. performance at Tay Ninh.

The feeling was clearly unanimous as the "Chargers" were wild with applause for the great comedienne. Backed by guitarist Louis Jaray and drummer Mike Bryan, Martha was equally exceptional as a songstress in several Bosa Nova tunes. It was the first show held in the Brigade's new "Rice Bowl."

During the show, Martha wore a stunning red dress which contrasted sharply with the Special Forces fatigue uniform she had worn earlier in the day while visiting the brigade units.

She visited several companies of the 4th Bn., 31st Inf., its bunker line, and had dinner with delta company. Wherever she went, she was mobbed by camera operators, autograph seekers, and well-wishers.



POLAR BEARS SCORE WELL

Christmas Parcels shipped by surface carriers now are too late to reach addressees in time for the holidays. As previously announced by postal authorities, the deadline for surface mail was Nov. 1st.

Postal officials also stress that packages must be airmailed prior to 13 December to insure delivery by Christmas Day.

Parcels which weigh less than five pounds and measure no more than 60 inches in length and girth can be mailed at ordinary parcel post rates and will be transported by air on a space available basis between the Republic of Vietnam and the West Coast. On arrival in the United States, however, they will travel as surface mail. Mail now.

In a battalion size operation eight miles west of Tay Ninh, elements of the 196th Lt. Inf. Bde., killed two VC and captured a huge cache of arms, equipment and supplies.

Operating in dense jungle, the "Polar Bears" of the 4th Bn., 31st Inf., uncovered a total of 5,000 pounds of rice. They also uncovered a 300-foot multi-layer tunnel, the largest tunnel complex yet found by the brigade. It had evidence of occupancy within 48 minutes of the unit's arrival. Found in the tunnel were cooking and eating utensils and fresh leaves.

The "Polar Bears" also captured 10 2.75-in rounds of ammunition, 1 mortar rounds, one rifle, two grenade launchers, 250 rounds of .45 caliber ammunition, 312 rounds of 7.62 ammunition and 45 rounds of .30 caliber ammunition, and one typewriter.

ONCE SERVED AS EM NOW COMMANDS UNIT

"I don't think too many people can be as lucky as I," says CPT. Antonio Sola of the 4th Bn. 31st Inf., 196th Lt. Inf. Bde.

The CPT. was referring to Delta Company of the 31st Inf., a unit he once fought with in Korea and now commands. He was first assigned as an ammunition bearer in the heavy weapons section. Later he became section sergeant, and rose to the grade of E-6.

Following his tour with Delta Company, then Sgt. Sola was assigned successively to the 82nd Airborne Div. and the 101st Airborne Div. In 1958 he was graduated from Officer Candidate School.

While in Korea with his old company, CPT. Sola received his first Combat Infantryman's Badge. Now as Delta Company commander located at Tay Ninh, Vietnam, he has earned his second CIB.

A native of Caguas, Puerto Rico, CPT. Sola assumed command of Delta Company in November 1965.



The Great Race

A race is now under way between Alpha and Bravo Companies of the 2d Bn., 1st Inf., to see who becomes the first "mobile company" in the 196th Lt. Inf. Bde.

The heated contest was prompted by events which took place during the search for the enemy, they found the VC were quick to abandon their bicycles and flee on foot through the jungle at first sight of the advancing Americans. Result: captured enemy bicycles that can be kept by the capturing unit as war trophies.

At last report, Bravo Company appears well into the lead with its 18 bicycles compared to Alpha's three. "The Charge of the Light Brigade?"

NEW CHAPEL STANDS TALL V.C. TROUSERS COME IN HANDY

AT TAY NINH

Men of the 196th Lt. Inf. Bde's. 2d Bn., 1st Inf., worshipped in their own chapel recently. Built by men of Co. D, it is the only such chapel in the Brigade. It is used for services of all denominations. The 196th, is located 65 miles northwest of Saigon.

The chapel has also played host to an official visitor, the Right Reverend Mr. Lewis, who visited the battalion while touring the 196th Brigade's base camp at Tay Ninh, presented a service in the chapel. He later complimented the men on their "splendid job."

Built under the guidance of Delta Company's all-around handyman, Sergeant Arthur P. Sousa Jr., The chapel is a tent-covered wooden frame building. At its entrance, on either side of a walkway, is a bed of daisies lined with a small white fence. In one of the flower beds stands a six foot tall cross, painted white and trimmed in bamboo.

Although the interior lacks many of the furnishings usually found in the more permanent type chapels, its simplicity still offers much to the combat soldier in search of a house of worship.

There is a confessional for the Catholic services, neatly arranged wooden ammunition boxes for pews, an alter with a large cross, and even a pump organ and a tape recorder for music. Ventilation and lighting are provided by having the sides of the tent drawn up.



Thanks to the VC, PFC Alan Miller, of Versailles, Ohio, now has a new pair of pants.

Miller, a radio telephone operator (RTO) with the operations section of the 2d Bn., 1st Inf., 196th Lt. Inf. Bde. "Chargers," literally walked out of his pants recently. It happened while he was on an operation with his unit, moving through some heavy undergrowth. The unit was moving at a good speed despite the thickness and density of the brush. In his haste Miller caught his trousers in the undergrowth and they were ripped from his body.

The unit moved on and Miller moved along with them minus his pants. It looked as though he would suffer the embarrassment of returning to camp without any covering for his lower limbs when the VC provided the answer. The unit uncovered a cache of VC clothes and the first thing Miller did was to go shopping for a pair of pants.

The day ended and Miller headed back with his unit. He had avoided embarrassment, picked up a war trophy and gained a story that will bring many a chuckle when he relates what happened to family and friends.

LATE FLASH

Troopers from the 196th Light Infantry Brigade uncovered more than 1000 tons (more than 2 million pounds) of enemy rice in a huge storage area south of War Zone C. The cache was the largest ever discovered in the Vietnam war, enough to feed an entire VC division for 222 days. (See next week's "Charger")