



the

# CHARGER

(196<sup>th</sup> LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE (SEP))



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Tay Ninh Vietnam

January 7, 1967

## "Gimlet" Receives DSC

A sergeant who with machine gun blazing charged a VC machine gun bunker and killed nine of the enemy, has been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the nation's second highest award for valor.

Presenting the medal to Sgt. Armstrong of Morden, Mo., was General Harold K. Johnson, U.S. Army Chief of Staff, who at the time was visiting the brigade.

Sgt. Armstrong was cited for action during a search and destroy operation with Co. C, 3d Bn., 21st Inf.

His company had come under heavy enemy fire while trying to assist another unit pinned down by an estimated VC battalion. Blocking Sgt. Armstrong's platoon was a bunker with three VC armed with a machine gun and protected on both flanks by six VC in dug in positions.

The dense jungle undergrowth made movement almost impossible. In the maze of vines and roots, Sgt. Armstrong's machine gunner became entangled and could not move forward with the rest of the platoon. Realizing the importance of the weapon, Sgt. Armstrong rushed through enemy fire toward the soldier, picked up the gun, and with another member of the platoon assaulted the bunker.

Hit in the arm and leg by the burning fragments of a grenade, he only increased his fire, and totally wiped out the six VC scurrying for cover. Then, concentrating his fire on the machine gun bunker, he quickly knocked out the three VC in position.

Sgt. Armstrong's action allowed his platoon to continue without further casualties.

## 175'S ROAR AT TAY NINH

When Battery C, 2d Bn., 32d Arty., moved into the base camp of the "Chargers" on September 19, a few people were immediately aware of the big 175mm guns. But when the first of those 147-pound high explosive projectiles blasted off into the night, on a rendezvous with Charlie somewhere out in the jungle, people took notice. Most of them ran for the bunkers, thinking one of Charlie's mortar rounds had landed in the next tent.

Formerly comprised of four 175mm self-propelled guns, Battery C now boasts two 175's and two 8-inch self-propelled howitzers, which have the largest bore diameter of any of the Army's conventional cannons.

Commanded by Cpt. Bernd Pasler (Toledo, Ohio), Btry C provides general heavy artillery support and reinforcement for the Brigade's infantry units anywhere within 20 miles of the base camp. Since arriving in Vietnam in October 1965, the

"general support" has added up to the tune of 15,000 rounds fired by the battery. And since the barrels on the guns last less than 1,500 rounds, the battery itself needs a lot of support in the form of replacement barrels.

Not the least of Btry. C's jobs is the training of replacements for departing members of the 13-man gun crews. Section chiefs, who are staff sergeants, all have considerable experience on the big guns. But in many cases the newer members of the crews have never before worked with anything larger than a 105mm howitzer. The new personnel learn rapidly under the pressure of combat fire missions, however, and the crew's efficiency does not suffer.

The 2d Battalion, 32d Artillery, was the first self-propelled heavy artillery battalion to arrive in Vietnam, and since coming to the "Chargers" base camp, has continued being the "first with the most."



## Combat Streamer to "Polar Bears"

The 4th Bn., 31st Inf., adding to its colorful array of battle awards, the Combat Infantry Streamer, became the first unit within the 196th Light Infantry Brigade to receive the coveted streamer since entering the Vietnam conflict in August this year.

The "Polar Bear" Battalion, named in recognition of its Siberian campaign, was awarded the streamer after meeting requirements of having at least 65 percent of its personnel strength awarded the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

Commanded by Lt. Col. James P. Coley (El Dorado, Ark.), the "Polar Bears" is a three-time winner of the Distinguished Unit Citation for their participation at Luzon, Bataan, and the defense of the Philippines. Other combat awards include the Philippine Presidential Unit Citation, two Navy Presidential Unit Citations and a Navy Unit Commendation streamer which were awarded the battalion for its fighting in Chosin Reservoir and Panmunjon. Few Army units have been so recognized by the Navy.

From its birth in 1916, through a half century of fighting, and to the present day Vietnam conflict, appropriately enough, the regimental motto is: "Pro Patria" - "For Country."



## VC COW TURNS TO CHIEU HOI

The battle of man and beast is ever present, even here in Tay Ninh, Vietnam. Such a battle is currently being fought by Major Edward Stevens (Providence, R.I.), S-3 of the 2d Bn., 1st Inf., "Guardians."

"I'm determined to ride Elmer," said Major Stevens, "as soon as his leg is healed." Elmer is suffering from a tubercular joint in his left hind leg. Battalion doctors are treating him with two shots of penicillin per day.

## Bronze Star to Heroic Medic

Specialist 4 James W. Credle, a medical aid man with the mobile aid station of the 2d Bn., 1st Inf., "Guardians", has been awarded the Bronze Star Medal with "V" device for heroism.

The battalion's Co. C had taken casualties in a fire fight with VC elements. Moving along through the thick jungle, the aid station came upon the company's wounded. Credle immediately began to administer aid to the men, despite VC sniper fire. As Specialist Credle attended the casualties he was hit seriously in the leg, but he continued to assist the wounded.

Only after ensuring all the wounded had been treated did he allow himself to receive medical aid, but refused to be put on a litter. He insisted that he walk beside the litter patients to continue his aid of the other wounded.

With the number of mascots on the upsurge in units throughout the brigade, the 2d Bn., 1st Inf., can boast having the first mascot of this kind. The battalion likes to work within the framework of its motto, "Always First!" So when the opportunity presented itself on a recent operation, Elmer, the lone survivor of a destroyed VC household, was confiscated by the battalion. The men thought Elmer would be a nice present to take back to the kids of their newly adopted orphanage. So on one of the re-supply runs back to the base camp, Elmer was slung to the belly of a Chinook helicopter and flown back to Tay Ninh.

Giving the limping bull his daily shots is by no means an easy task, for he still hasn't gotten used to the "strangers of good will." Still, Major Stevens likes to think of Elmer as part of the unit's Chieu Hoi Program. Who knows? This, too may be the first of its kind in this Vietnam Conflict.

### "THE CHARGER"

The "Charger" is an authorized publication of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade, APO 96256. It is published weekly for personnel of this command. Editorial views and comments expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army.

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# Seventeen Receive Crosses

Seventeen officers and men of the "Chargers" who distinguished themselves in Operation ATTLEBORO, have been awarded the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry. The Crosses were presented by Vietnamese Lt. Generals Le Van Thueu, Chief of State; Nguyen Huu Co, Defense Minister; and Le Nguyen Kanh, III Corps Commander.

Heading the list of awards recipients was Brig. Gen. Richard T. Knowles, Brigade Commander, who received the Cross of Gallantry with four palms. Lt. Col. Charles E. Weddle, brigade executive officer, was awarded the Gallantry Cross with one palm.

Gallantry Crosses with Gold Stars were presented to Lt. Col. Charles K. Nulsen, 3d Bn., 21st Inf. commander; Lt. Col. Graham M. Sibbles, 8th Support Bn. commander; and Lt. Col. James H. Leonard, brigade S-3.

The twelve men who received the Gallantry Cross with Silver Star were: Maj. Cedric L. Blackwell, former brigade S-2; Cpt. Clyde W. Roan, Troop F, 17th Cav.; 2Lt. George Kovac, Jr., Battery A, 3d Bn., 82nd Arty.; SFC Patrick Campbell, Co. C, 2d Bn., 1st Inf.; SSgt. Dennis E. Bird, Troop F, 17th Cav.; SP/5 James J. Mariano, Headquarters Company, 196th Brigade; SP/4 Robert H. Teall, Company A, 4th Bn., 31st Inf.; SP/4 Johnny B. Brownstead, Co. C, 3d Bn., 82d Arty.; PFC Charles E. McIntosh, Co. A, 4th Bn., 31st Inf.; and PFC William R. Sheridan, Co. C, 3d Bn., 21st Inf.

On hand for the ceremony were General William C. Westmoreland, CG-USMACV; Lieutenant General Jonathan O. Seaman, II Field Force Commander and Major General Fred Weyand, 25th Inf. Div. Commanding General.

## FOUR CITED FOR DARING RESCUE

Four men who moved through intense VC mortar and small arms fire to evacuate casualties from an exposed forward position have been awarded the Army Commendation Medal with "V" device.

Sgt. Albert Bradford (Philadelphia, Pa.), PFC William Kells (Brooklyn, N.Y.), PFC Robert S. Liszcz (Hempstead, N.Y.) and PFC Kenneth D. Nelson (Beloit, Wisc.), all of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2d Bn., 1st Inf., were honored for their actions during Operation ATTLEBORO.

In a fire fight with the VC, Co. C, 2d Bn., 1st Inf. had sustained casualties. Bradford, Kells, Liszcz and Nelson volunteered to move the 400-meters from the command post to Co. C's forward position to evacuate the wounded, despite the great risk that they themselves could become casualties.

Carrying litters for the wounded, the men moved out from the command post in the pitch black night. With exploding mortar rounds lighting their way, they arrived at Co. C's position, placed the wounded on litters, and returned through the 400-meter gauntlet of fire. Sustaining no casualties themselves, they were then able to evacuate the wounded to a landing zone in the rear, from which they were flown to safety.

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# SILVER STAR TO "GIMLET" SQUAD LEADER

General Harold K. Johnson, U.S. Army Chief of Staff, presented the Silver Star Medal, the nation's third highest award to SP4 Robert P. Dozer (Roseville, Ohio) of Co. B, 3rd Bn., 21st Inf.

Specialist Dozer was cited for gallantry while on



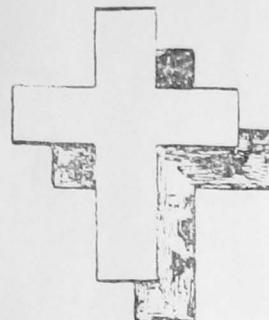
a mission of destroying a VC base camp. Arriving at the base camp area, Specialist Dozer's squad was sent north to form a portion of a defensive perimeter while the base camp was being prepared for demolition. After moving approximately 75-meters, the squad came under intense automatic weapons fire from seven VC in fortified positions.

Specialist Dozer, who was the squad's point man, was hit in the face with the initial burst of automatic weapons fire. Ignoring his serious wound, he grabbed his weapon and painfully moved to a position where he could fire on the enemy bunker. He continued to place effective suppressive fire on the enemy position, enabling his fire team to maneuver to better positions and eventually overrun the enemy emplacement.

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CLEAN UP YOUR SPEECH

by Chaplain (LTC) John F. Russell

Throughout the day, one meets many characters and hears many things. However, I believe that there is nothing that turns a person's stomach quicker than to hear how people abuse the power of speech that has been given to them. It is really a shame to see and hear how the wonderful power of speech with which we are to praise and honor God and our neighbor is often used instead to defame and curse God and our neighbor. You know at times there are those who when they hear the type of language that goes on around them, think that it might be a very good idea if God would take away from us the wonderful gift of Speech. However, why should all of us suffer because of the ignorance of a few? Thank God that He does not believe in "Mass Punishment."

Why is it that the name of God- so holy and deserving of respect is not always honored and revered? Among all the names on history's pages, the name of Jesus is most abused. It is used as an expression of explosive anger, is employed to punctuate the lurid story, or is used disrespectfully out of dull habit. Is it that people have lost all reverence? I wouldn't say this but I do think it is because the reverence is not deep enough; or, rather, the abuse of the name of God and profanity proceeds from carelessness or thoughtlessness.

What I am going to say now I know is not going to be liked by some. When people go around taking the name of God in vain; using profane and obscene words, in my humble opinion they show they have very little upstairs and that their heads are merely to hang their hat on. They call themselves men and yet they lack that which makes a man a man-- control of one's self. Their limited vocabulary also lets people know how many smarts they really have.

These people are the ones who say they cannot stop and yet they will have to do just that in the very near future especially when they are around their loved ones. It is not uncommon to hear someone say that he can tell the nationality of someone by the language they use and Americans are identified by the way they abuse the name of God and their vulgarity in speech.

Listen to the way people speak and this can be applied to all, young and old, men and women; and you will have to agree that something should be done and there is no better time than to start "right now" and no better person to begin with than "one's self."

CLEAN UP YOUR SPEECH AND YOU WILL CLEAN UP THE ATMOSPHERE AROUND YOU.

# Opportunity Knocks

The biggest bargain in education today is the armed forces' education program. It gives almost any individual on active duty a chance to continue his former education, regardless of his present educational level or duty location.

The program is one of the finest tools available to build a solid foundation for a career, either military or civilian.

What are you doing to take advantage of the program? Are you using your free time to earn your high school diploma or college credits?

Or, are you one of the many who have fallen prey to procrastination and talk about "enrolling in that course next month" or "starting that class next semester?"

YOURS FOR THE  
~~ASKING!~~  
DOING!



The armed forces' education program affords the opportunity to further your education at a fraction of what it would cost as a civilian.

No matter where you are in the world, United States Armed Forces Institute (USAIFI) courses are available. On-campus classes are available at colleges and universities near many military installations. High Schools offer adult education during the evening hours, making it easier for you to get your high school diploma.

Talking about the educational program won't get you your high school diploma or earn college credits. An interview with your education officer, class enrollment, hard work and long hours of study can get you that diploma.

The opportunity is there. It's yours for the doing.

stay Alert... stay Alive  
DRIVE SAFELY



1. Ever since the illegal pitch called the "spit ball" was outlawed, there has only been one pitcher ever penalized for throwing it. Who was the pitcher.

2. Players on the winning team in January 1967 American National Football League championship game will get \$15,000 each. Can you name the previous one-game high in team sports?

3. In 38 runnings of the \$100,000 Flamingo Stakes at Hialeah only foreign-bred horses were victorious. Who were they?

4. The fastest nine-inning game in the history of big league baseball was played on Sept. 28, 1919. What was the game time?

5. The National League's most valuable player awarded to Roberto Clemente was his first in a 12-year major league career. Can you name the first national league award and who won last year?

## ANSWERS

1. 1965 winner was Miller. Franklin Frisch in 1931. The 1965 winner was

2. The first winner was 5. The Giants won it 6-1.

3. They were "Tom-Tos", a Canadian-bred colt in 1954, and Northern Dancer, in 1964.

4. The game took 51 minutes. It was between the Philadelphia and Giants.

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# "Gimlet" Medcaps Bring Joy To Villagers

When the "Gimlet" medics of the 1st Bn, 1st Inf., were on their 30-day voyage to Vietnam, they had all sorts of visions of what they would be doing for a year in the combat zone. Their dreams, or perhaps nightmares, were filled with pictures of men being rushed into the aid station with gaping, bloody war wounds. For the like medic who spends his days in the field on operations, these pictures have been all too true. For the medic assigned to the aid station, the situation is different.

The aid station medic has found a different type of activity, with new maladies to care for. The activity is the MEDCAP (Medical Civic Action Program), and the maladies are the ills that plague the local Vietnamese populace.

About three times a week, the "Gimlet" medics, under the supervision of the battalion surgeon, Captain Richard J. Rose (Jamaica, L.I., N.Y.), grab their medical supplies, hop in the jeep, and take off for a hamlet on a MEDCAP. There is no doubt in the villagers' minds why the jeep with the big red cross on its side is there. Within minutes a crowd forms. The young, the old, all come with the hope that maybe the bac-sai (doctor) has a pill that will cure their ailments.

There is much joy and satisfaction to be gained from this type of work. The medic knows that he is doing a humanitarian thing, that he is bringing a people a little way out of the failing of their ex-

istence. It may be a simple thing like showing a mother how to wash a baby's head to keep it from getting scabies, or it may be a small box of aspirins, which will relieve an old man of his headache.

There are heart breaks too, however. More than once there has been the cute little girl, stricken with polio as a baby, who is now paralyzed from the waist down. In the United States, there would be hope. The child would get

braces or physical therapy. Unfortunately, in Vietnam there are only the words "I'm sorry. There is nothing we can do."

The "Gimlet" medic has learned to face this reality, and perhaps has found a new dream. Perhaps some day, what was started here on a MEDCAP will grow into something big—a clinic, or a hospital with the latest in equipment and specialists. Perhaps someday the diseases and the familiar "I'm sorry...." will be things of the past.

## BOWL GAMES

### GATOR BOWL

Tennessee 20 Syracuse 12

### COTTON BOWL

Georgia 24 SMU 9

### SUGAR BOWL

Alabama 24 Nebraska 7

### ROSE BOWL

Perdue 14 USC 13

### ORANGE BOWL

Florida 27 Ga. Tech. 14

### EAST WEST SHRINE

East 45 West 22

### NFL CHAMPS

Green Bay 34 Dallas 27

### AFL CHAMPS

Kansas City 31 Buffalo 7

\* Green Bay VS Kansas City in Pro Football in "Super Bowl" Jan 8.



"I know damned well that transfer request said 'Special Services!'"



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**RE-UP**