



# The CHARGER

Ahead of The Rest

VOL 1 NO. 3

CHARGER

Feb. 21, 1969

## CHARGERS BLAST ENEMY

### GIMLETS KILL 165 UNCOVER VC CAMPS

LZ CENTER--Maintaining constant pressure and pursuit on the enemy, a battalion of "Chargers" from the 196th Infantry Brigade killed 165 enemy during January and uncovered several weapons and rice caches in the process.

"Gimlets" of 3rd Bn., 21st Inf., utilized three line companies that continuously probed through thickly foliated mountains and marshy low-land rice paddies to keep the enemy off guard and unable to mass their forces.

The battalion captured 52 tons of enemy rice and lost only one man in combat for every 83 enemy deaths. The 83 to one ratio has been maintained for nearly three months since missions began in the Oregon Area of Operations.

"Our battalion has had great success primarily because our units are becoming intimately familiar with the area--more so than the guerrillas operating there," said LTC Richard M. Gecoma (Pittsburg, Pa.) 3/21 battalion commander.

The "Gimlet" area of responsibility is quite large--over 150 square miles of widely varying terrain. Through constant patrolling the enemy has been kept consistently on the run.

"We operate with small unit saturation type tactics," said Gecoma, "and have used a lot of early morning and early evening patrols when the enemy is more prone to carelessness and relaxation.

"Through interrogation of detainees, both VC sympathizers and civilians, we have developed comprehensive black lists of enemy occupation in certain areas, which has enabled us to constantly eliminate the VC infrastructure."

On two separate days Bravo Company discovered two enemy base camps and uncovered 29½ tons of rice and found a rucksack full of Chicom blasting caps and detonators.

The discoveries began 15 miles west of Tam Ky when a platoon of Bravo Company (See GIMLETS on Back Page)

### ENEMY WEAPONS FOUND 2/1 CONTINUES SEARCH

LZ ROSS--Elements of the 196th Infantry Brigade discovered large caches of enemy ammunition and weapons hidden in well concealed caves while on search and clear missions in a mountainous NVA stronghold area, located 25 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

One of the biggest prizes unearthed by "Legionnaires" of the 2nd Bn., 1st Inf., was a 12.7mm anti-aircraft machine gun with 2,000 rounds of ammunition.

Two heavy and four light 7.67mm machine guns were also found along with 100 RPG rounds with launcher, 82mm mortar rounds (20), bangalore torpedoes (14), nine SKS-44 and four AK-47 rifles.

There were four new Chicom radio sights, nine landline sets and two Chicom telephone switchboards discovered along with 4,300 pounds of rice and 550 pounds of rock salt.

The caches were discovered in caves within a kilometer of each other on the rugged slopes of Hill 953. They were only a short distance from where "Legionnaires" killed 218 enemy and destroyed two large enemy base camps with the aid of air and artillery support the week before Christmas.

It was the biggest find yet in Operation Fayette Canyon, now starting its eighth week in the long time NVA mountain sanctuary.

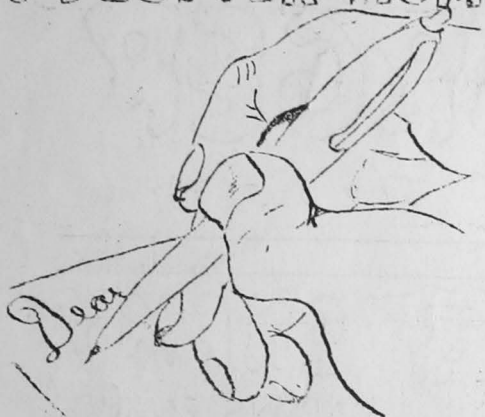
Delta Company, led by 1LT James R. Sanders (Arvada, Colo.) discovered the first of the week's big finds early on the morning of January 15th near a hootch-bunker complex near their night laager. It was to be only one of many reports in a successful day-long treasure hunt.

Within minutes of the discovery, elements of the 2nd platoon, led by 1LT Aubrey Shelton (Texas City, Texas) engaged two NVA killing them and capturing two AK-47's.

Meanwhile, Charlie Company, commander (See WEAPONS on Back Page)

## EDITORIAL

## A LETTER HOME



How many times have you seen the over-  
seas "mail call" where the postal clerk  
hands out letters until only a few de-  
jected men stand by--those who didn't  
get one?

This isn't a scenario from a movie. It  
happens quite often for various reasons.  
Mainly, it's because addresses have  
changed by constant moves and the letter  
is somewhere in the pipeline.

However, let's reverse the situation.  
Family addresses back home seldom change.  
Yet, there are sometimes weeks and even  
months when they, too, become dejected  
waiting for letters.

Writing, between family members, is  
not always a matter of exchanging news,  
but of thoughtfulness and caring. Just  
a note to mom and dad, wife or sister  
means that you care--merely by sending a  
few words.

Chaplains very often hear from parents  
and families who plead for word of their  
loved ones. In most cases, it's found  
that the "forgotten" letter home was  
only negligence.

Words from home bring a personal feel-  
ing of pleasure that only the reader un-  
derstands. Remember, writing is a two-  
way street, and a letter means love and  
affection--whether you are 50 or 5,000  
miles away.

And, your letter brings you home--even  
for a moment, or two. (AFPS)

## PIASTER PROBLEM

One of the biggest problems the strife  
torn Republic of South Vietnam encoun-  
ters is financial instability.

Rapidly increasing inflation caused in  
part by American spending is becoming a  
serious threat to the Vietnamese economy.  
Help keep American spending in Vietnam  
to a minimum. Patronize your PX for  
personal purchases and don't spend more  
than \$10 worth of piasters a month.

The Charger is an authorized periodic  
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SAIGON (MACV)--All Servicemen should  
be aware of the possibility of an in-  
creased number of "ralliers" under the  
Chieu Hoi program during the Tet holi-  
days, according to a spokesman for Civil  
Operations and Revolutionary Development  
Support (CORDS).

Because Tet is a period of personal  
reconciliation, many VC during past Tet  
holidays have returned under the Open  
Arms program to begin a new life under  
the legitimate government of South Viet-  
nam.

American servicemen who have the op-  
portunity to receive Hoi Chanh (ralliers)  
during the Tet period should be aware of  
the proper method of doing so. The  
method is as follows:

1. Give voluntary defectors courteous  
Chieu Hoi (not PW) treatment.
2. Segregate Hoi Chanh from PWs.
3. Treat the returnee with respect.
4. Give him a receipt for all weapons he  
brings in.
5. Deliver him safely to the unit intel-  
ligence officer for prompt debriefing.



MONDAY = /MONDAY

NAKED

LIGHTER SIDE



LZ WEST--The staff at battalion headquarters was more than startled when they saw the stark naked man jump off the helicopter and come charging toward them with his arms flailing in the air.

He hadn't just come from a love-in and he wasn't a nudist enthusiast or a nudnik. He was however, the first naked Chieu Hoi the 196th Infantry Brigade has ever gotten in Vietnam.

A "Charger" unit from 4th Bn., 31st Inf. had surprised the young VC male while he was bathing in a river in Hiep Duc Valley, 35 miles northwest of Tam Ky. The youthful enemy soldier seemed quite pleased with the fact that he had been captured. He was quickly extracted by helicopter--so quickly in fact that he didn't have a chance to retrieve his clothes.

The 4/31 staff didn't know whether to run for foxholes or the clothing supply when he came running toward the BTCC. Interrogation later revealed that the young man was a VC medical unit squad leader.

He said that he had heard broadcasts urging all VC to Chieu Hoi. He explained that he and several of his friends wanted to Chieu Hoi, but the VC cadre had watched them too closely to escape. The VC medic was also worried about reprisals against his family.

Enthusiastically he told the "Polar Bears" that he knew the location of more VC, as well as the hiding places of some of their weapons. That afternoon he returned to his hamlet and produced his own SKS rifle.

Early the next morning, SGT Kenneth Herrmann (Buffalo, N.Y.) of the 4/31 Civil Affairs Section returned to the hamlet as part of a combat assault element under the command of 1LT Haze McDougal (Limestone, Maine) of Bravo Company.

This element provided security while the now clothed Hoi Chanh broadcasted to the local populace over a portable loudspeaker. He urged all VC to Chieu Hoi and asked all non-VC to become refugees and leave the area in order to deprive the VC of their labor force and their source of tax revenue.

With great enthusiasm and a magnetic personality he handled the job like he had been trained for it. By afternoon, 20 refugees had come out of hiding and were evacuated to Tam Ky. The former VC medic's family was among this number. They no longer feared the VC. Later he

found a .30 caliber carbine belonging to a VC.

The family of the Chieu Hoi father was extracted to LZ West, while he continued broadcasting in the field. They received haircuts, hot chow and medical attention.

After the family was relocated in Tam Ky, 1LT Robert Mocarski (Holyoke, Mass.) head of the Civil Affairs Section at LZ West, accompanied the Hoi Chanh to see his family. A joyful reunion took place.

The naked Chieu Hoi later expressed his desire to serve his country as a Kit Carson Scout.

He will be assigned to 4/31 upon completion of his training as a Kit Carson Scout.

5 Within 10

LZ ROSS--At least five infantrymen in the 196th Infantry Brigade will not have far to look when that nostalgic feeling strikes and they want to talk to someone about the folks back home.

The five, all of Alpha Company, 2nd Bn., 1st Inf., live within 10 miles of each other in their home state of North Carolina.

PFC's Ernest Campbell and Jackie Clark (Morgantown, N.C.), Paul Barnes, Jerry Gauge, and Dennis Hawkins (Marion, N.C.) met each other April 18, 1968 at the Army Induction Center in Morgantown.

They took their basic training together at Ft. Bragg, N.C. and went on to Advanced Individual Training at Ft. Polk La. Following AIT, they were assigned to Vietnam, all five on the same set of orders.

The quintet drove home together for their 30-day leave and then found themselves aboard the same Vietnam bound plane from Ft. Lewis, Washington.

From Cam Ranh Bay, the five headed north for a week of intensive in-country training at the Americal Division's Combat Center in Chu Lai.

Much to their pleasure and surprise, at the end of their training all five were assigned to the same company in the 2nd Bn., 1st Inf., 196th Inf., Bde.

There is no one in Alpha Company now who dares knock North Carolina.



# CHARGER ROUNDS

## SANTA'S READY FOR TET

LZ ROSS--If the NVA and VC decide to launch a new Tet offensive, a battalion of "Chargers" from the 196th Infantry Brigade are ready and waiting, but they would like to observe the Lunar New Year with their Vietnamese Allies in a spirit more appropriate to this ancient traditional holiday.

With that idea in mind, the Civil Affairs Section (S-5) of 2nd Bn., 1st Inf., at LZ Ross, 20 miles northwest of Tam Ky, is filling some 4,000 gift bags for holiday distribution among the people of nearby Que Son refugee village. The bags will contain rice, soap, candy and sundry articles.

"The idea got its start this Christmas when we filled and distributed almost 3,000 two-pound bags of rice," said 1LT Edward R. Suits (Palatine Bridge, N.Y.) the battalion S-5. "We included a card with Christmas greetings from the battalion to the Vietnamese people with each bag, and GI's distributed them throughout the GVN-controlled area."

The project went over so well that the S-5 decided to repeat it for the major Vietnamese holiday, Tet.

## HEROIC COMMANDER

LZ WEST--Lieutenant Colonel Robert L. Wetzel received the Silver Star recently for gallantry in action from COL Frederick J. Kroesen Jr., 196th Brigade commander during battalion change of command ceremonies at LZ West.

Wetzel was awarded the Silver Star for his courageous leadership, when as commander of 4th Bn., 31st Inf., he personally directed his men to victory against an estimated regimental-size NVA force.

The action took place when Delta Company was operating in the southwest portion of Hiep Duc Valley, 26 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

When Delta Company's lead elements received heavy fire from the well-fortified enemy positions, Wetzel flew over the area in his command and control helicopter and directed artillery and air strikes on the enemy positions.

While he was maneuvering the remaining elements to the battle area he received word that the company commander and first sergeant were wounded.

He ordered the pilot to land and took command of his beleaguered ground forces. Under his leadership the "Polar Bears" completely overtook the enemy forces.

## BACK TO SCHOOL AGAIN

LZ WEST--School has begun for a battalion of "Chargers" from the 196th Infantry Brigade.

Initiating the "Polar Bear Proficiency Program," 4th Bn., 31st Inf., has been teaching the soldiers at LZ West all the latest advances and techniques of Infantry warfare.

"Each infantry company rotates on a five day basis to provide security for the fire support base," said CPT John Wolfe (Mayberry, Mich.) 4/31 operations officer and proficiency program supervisor.

The first day is spent with small arms training and zeroing all weapons. Forward Observer procedures, including capabilities and application of mortars and artillery are also taught. Practical exercises on the initiation of a fire mission and necessary adjustments conclude the day's training.

The next day land navigation, techniques of fire and maneuver, small arms maintenance and defensive tactics are reviewed.

The third day includes classes in communications procedures, techniques of fire and tactics and combat intelligence.

Use of M-26 grenades and M-72 Light Anti-tank Weapon (LAW) are taught the next day along with a critique of all previous training.

The last day the men pull equipment maintenance and get issued rations. Then they pack their rucksacks and start the long trek down into the Hiep Duc Valley to put their training to work. School is officially closed for "Charger" units --for awhile anyhow!

## LTC LONGINO NEW CO. AT WEST

LZ WEST--LTC Robert B. Longino assumed command of the 4th Bn., 31st Inf., 196th Infantry Brigade in ceremonies conducted in the "Polar Bear" Memorial Chapel recently at LZ West.

COL Frederick J. Kroesen Jr., brigade commander, presided over the ceremony and transferred the battalion colors to Longino.

Prior to taking command of 4/31, Longino had served as executive officer of 4th Bn., 31st Inf., and later as operations officer for the 196th Infantry Brigade.

Longino replaced LTC Robert L. Wetzel who had been the "Polar Bear" commander since July 1968. Wetzel will begin a new assignment as Civil Affairs Officer of the Americal Division.

# AND SOUNDS

## CHAPELS

LZ BALDY--Arching 30 feet into the sky on a high slope overlooking part of LZ Baldy is a new interdenominational chapel that took over four months to complete.

The combined efforts of Vietnamese workers, volunteers from the 196th Infantry Brigade and a company of engineers completed the 60-foot long and 30-foot wide A-framed construction in time for a Christmas day dedication.

The chapel contains a diamond-shaped plexiglass window behind an altar of granite.

"It provides the men of the brigade with a center of worship comparable in design and atmosphere to that which they had been accustomed to at home," said MAJ Donald L. Bartley, brigade chaplain.

"My specific idea and dream was to create something for the fellows like back in the world. I figured a worship center would be an inspiring thing in more ways than one."

Primary construction of the 100-seat chapel was done by Co. D, 9th Eng., Bn. The interior is an exposed A-frame with red mahogany walls. From the walls hang the brigade flag and one from each of the battalions.

A large plaque states "To the glory of God and in honor of members of the 196th Infantry Brigade who died while serving their country in South Vietnam".

The chapel at LZ Baldy is another outstanding addition to the number of completed interdenominational churches in the Americal Division.

## WEST

LZ WEST--The 4th Bn., 31st Inf., of the 196th Infantry Brigade recently constructed a battalion chapel on LZ West. The dedication ceremony was held on Christmas Eve, and the principal speaker was the Battalion Commander, LTC Robert Wetzel.

The Brigade Chaplain, MAJ Donald Bartly delivered the invocation. Also in attendance were Brigade Commander, COL Frederick J. Kroesen Jr. and CPT David Lovelace, battalion chaplain.

The chapel will be known as the "Polar Bear Memorial Chapel" and is dedicated to the members of the battalion who have died while in service in the Republic of Vietnam.

The chapel serves as a multi-purpose building on "LZ West", being used as a class room, a PX, and a theater, as well as for regular worship services.

## COVER YOUR EARS AND START SCREAMING

LZ WEST--Kenneth Herrmann wasn't trying to break any continuous broadcasting records when he aired a 14-hour marathon broadcast to the Vietnamese residents of The Hiep Duc Area.

Instead it was a persistent and successful attempt to encourage local VC in the valley to surrender in the Chieu Hoi program.

Working for the Civil Affairs Section from the 4th Bn., 31st Inf., of the 196th Infantry Brigade, SGT Herrmann broadcasted at 15-minute intervals in the vicinity of LZ Karen. The program was aired through a portable loud speaker system with an effective range of 4,000 meters when utilized in an elevated position.

The program consisted of tape recordings urging the VC to Chieu Hoi as well as using pleas to the local populace to cooperate with 196th Inf., Bde., troops operating in the area.

Some of the tapes even went so far as to call known VC by name and urge them to renounce their affiliation with the VC. Another innovation of the battalion program is to play the National Anthem of the Republic of Vietnam in the hope of arousing a spirit of nationalism among the people in favor of the Saigon Government.

There have been tangible results from the battalion program under the direction of 1LT Robert Mocarski (Holt, Mass.). Ten VC recently surrendered and admitted they were prompted by the nightly broadcasts originating from 4/31. The VC also delivered four weapons when they surrendered and received cash rewards for them.

The VC hierarchy is also disturbed about the success of these broadcasts. Captured enemy documents reveal the local VC have definite instructions to take any measure in an attempt to make the broadcasts less effective.

These include lying on the ground, covering their ears and making so much noise by yelling and screaming that they drown out the intended messages.

Herrmann, a native of Buffalo, N.Y. said there is more to the program than meets the eye. "We not only deliver effective propaganda, but we cheat the VC out of a lot of sleep."

# ON THE WAY UP

HHC 196th INF BDESERGEANT FIRST CLASS

Milton Lindsey Jr.

SPECIALIST 4

Terry Byrner  
David Cantrell  
Joe Carroll  
Stanley Goff  
John Green  
Norman Haynes  
Charles McKinney  
Gregory Putman  
Richard Ramirez  
Robert Reifert  
Robert Spude  
Thimony Stollard  
Vernice Trogdon  
David Tuttle  
Clifford Webb  
Charles Wilson  
Ronald Wilt

F TROOP 17th CAVSTAFF SERGEANT

Robert Bauer

SERGEANT

John Bernardo  
Michail Boehner  
James Daly  
Larry Mornain  
Danny Renolds  
Charles Rhodes  
Joseph Schaefer Jr.

SPECIALIST 4

Jonathan Elanton  
Garry Davis  
Donald DeLong  
Philip LePorte  
Donald Schultze  
William Tsikans

3rd BN., 82nd ARTYSTAFF SERGEANT

Leroy Patrick

SERGEANT

Issac Chambers  
Alferd Smith

SPECIALIST 5

Gregory Krause  
James Moss  
Daniel Neal  
Bruce Wallace

CORPORAL

Clarence Monk  
Larry Rickman  
James Shembarger

SPECIALIST 4

Calvin Behrends  
William Bentley  
James Berry  
James Chellin  
Geroge Ciararis  
Little Cox  
Robert Garrett  
Peter Hartwig  
Garwood High  
Edward Johnson  
Celedon Lafebre  
William Lindley  
Wilburn McDaniel  
Paul McQuarrie  
Robert O'Brien  
David Pierfont  
Herbert Rosey  
Ernest Rothgeb  
Robert Schneider  
David Sepulveda  
Robert Sheen  
Eddie Tinsley  
Kenneth Turner  
Ronald White

4th BN., 31st INF.STAFF SERGEANT

Allan Burrow  
Freddie Lewis  
William McNair  
Tim Pererson  
John Rathmann  
Jack Strayer  
James Wilson

SERGEANT

John Anderson  
Daniel Barola  
Daryl Bass  
Wayno. Bowen  
Robert Bowman  
Patrick Bridge  
Rolf Brinckmann  
Jerry Brown  
Luis Calbo  
Delbert Collins  
Leslie Collins  
Gerald Day  
Larry Earls  
Thomas Fickerson  
Billy Gillispie

Bufford Hale  
George Hawkins  
John Jagard  
James Kilgore  
Robert King  
Roger Kinne  
Harold Large  
Antonio Leal  
Douglas Lomberg  
Revaldo Madina  
Ramon Mantoya  
Rubon Marquez  
Ramon Martinez  
Rito Martinez  
James McGrady  
James Moghant  
Eliseo Nino  
Edward Patenaude  
Gerald Patrick  
Ramon Perez  
James Peterson  
John Pfamdtner  
Billy Prater  
Ignacio Rivers  
Raniero Sandoval  
Sherman Smith  
Donnie Spivey  
William Sproveri  
Dale Swanson  
Aaron Walker  
Gary Walston  
Vernon Whittaker  
Kenneth Wilson

SPECIALIST 4

Carlos Acevedo  
Edward Anderson  
Loyd Badley  
William Birkner  
James Britton  
Cornelius Brown  
Erasmus Carvajal  
Robert Cavanaugh  
Fred Chenzo  
Samuel Cutrall  
Walter Davidson  
Alfred DeLa Rosa  
Edward Doyce  
Albert Gontery  
Larry Glowors  
James Grass  
Hugh Greene  
Charles Groh  
Mark Grow  
David Hathaway  
Alexander Haugh  
Richard Hitt  
Jimmy Hudson  
McCoy Gummings



# ON THE WAY UP

4/31-SP4 Con't

Linden Kane  
Joseph Kirkland  
Bobby Layton  
Charles Lewis  
Haden Porterfield  
Charles Plummer  
Vernon Robinson  
Thomas Sears  
Bernard Shannon  
Leslie Tippens  
Richard Todd  
Joseph Wade  
Bobby Walker  
Archie Williams  
Frank Wing

3rd BN., 21st INF.FIRST LIEUTENANT

Lynn McCullough

SERGEANT FIRST CLASS

Gerald Dunbar  
Claude Edwards  
Jack Hurd  
Ray Moore  
Edward Podgornoff

SERGEANT

Kim Almondinger  
Travis Andrews  
Juan Ayra  
Kenneth Bauer  
George Bernsten  
James Biddy  
Stephen Bingen  
Curtis Bleacher  
Kenneth Bricker  
Douglas Cannon  
Terry Carlon  
Tribon Carter  
Jerome Cichock  
David Cirnor  
Paul Commer  
William Cruse  
Harrold Cunningsg  
Sergo Gutierrez  
Stephen Davis  
Daniel Bebras  
Daniel Dinklage  
David Dupuy  
Larry Evans  
Lawrence Evans  
Garry Fawcett  
Lawrence Fitzmaurice  
Michael Foreman  
Glenn Gardiner  
Richard Garigan  
Herman Gaynor  
Michael Geezil  
James Groer  
Archie Gurn  
Fred Hanes  
David Hart

James Henderson  
Lawrence Jones  
Hillary King  
Bruce Lahey  
Pedro Lopez  
Ernest Marshall  
Robert Martins  
Craig McFarland  
Joe Mendoza  
Boyd Morris  
James Moye  
Frank Multari  
Robert Nevers  
John Nonemaker  
Richard Norman  
Santiago Pabon  
Charles Pace  
John Palacios  
Richard Pegrum  
James Pierce  
Joseph Pinckney  
Terry Preslar  
Benjamin Purser  
Ted Reed  
Paul Reese  
Henry Rejlek  
William Rybak  
Terry Sawyer  
Raymond Schmitt  
Dennis Schneider  
Betros Shaheen  
Ray Shorb  
Jack Smith  
Donald Staley  
Alcoba Storer  
Sandy Sykes  
Charles Taylor  
Carl Tedder  
Jose Topacio  
Adolph Truschka  
James Vidmar  
James Warren  
Morris Wingate  
Marvin Woolcott

SPECIALIST 4

John Alcaras  
Eligio Aponte  
Pedro Arrondondo  
Stanley Babuls  
Fredrick Bagwell  
Jerome Barlow  
William Basaraba  
William Beasley  
Arthur Belsha  
Kirk Blackmon  
James Blaker  
Everett Flowers  
Herbott Bolden  
Carl Boling  
Ronald Baca  
Lloyd Boshor  
Roy Bowling  
Moses Braggs  
James Brandt

Roger Brant  
Ronald Brooks  
Weldon Brooks  
John Brower  
Thomas Brown  
William Brown  
John Bullman  
Will Campbell  
Lamont Chapman  
Jerry Christiansen  
Vern Collins  
John Colwell  
Robert Conley  
Ronnie Cook  
Jerry Craun  
Duffy Curry  
Irving Deap  
Raymond Delisle  
Roger Dennis  
Melvin Derolf  
Richard Edwards  
Joe Elix  
James Givens  
Robert Goff  
Edwin Gonzalez  
John Hoozen  
Richard Heming  
Manuel Herrera  
Joseph Hill  
John Hoag  
Patrick Holmes  
Ronald Hudson  
Gary Hulsey  
Willie Jackson  
Matthew James  
Ronald Kenoe  
Clarence Kibby  
Ira Kimm  
Edward Latham  
Jack Lee  
Billy Light  
Robert Lindenberger  
Cecil Long  
Jeffery Lutz  
Russell May  
Morales Maldonado  
Donald McGraw  
Kenneth McFarland  
Joe Mena  
Joseph Middendorf  
Willie Otis  
Thomas Parton  
John Racho  
Ronald Reese  
Abraham Rice  
Grady Rich  
Santos Rivera  
John Rodrigues  
Rigual Rodriguez  
Ronald Roller  
David Rummy  
William Schenck  
Richard Shore  
Albert Smith  
Jeffery Smith

# ON THE WAY UP

3/21-3/24 Cont.

Willie Smith  
Kenneth Sorenson  
Paul Spidel  
Peter Sumter  
Robert Surmont  
Raymond Swank  
David Thomas  
Tommy Tucker  
Johnnie Underhill  
Robert Vanderviet  
Frank Ware  
Joseph Way  
Robert Wiegand  
Charles Willick  
Danny Wyatt  
Paul Yanlum

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS  
Roy Tilmon

1st BN., 46th INF.

STAFF SERGEANT  
Virgil Ard  
Charles Crosswhite  
Gilbert Redoond  
Fred Williams

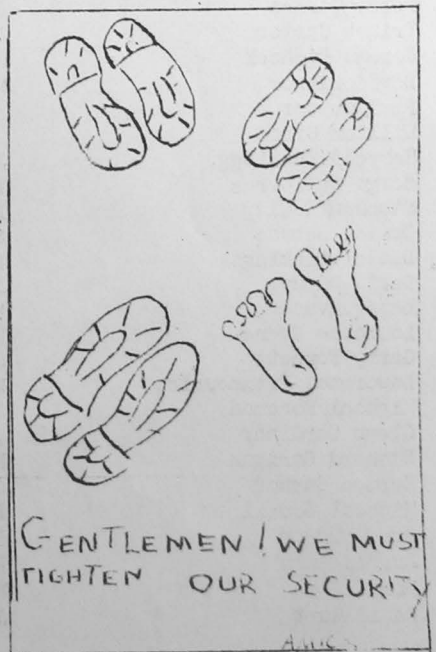
SERGEANT  
William Allen  
John Barrow  
Anthony Bove  
Robert Brown  
David Bylund  
Ivanhoe Christian  
Leroy Clark  
Byron Clussen  
Robert Coladonato  
Ramihlz Comacho  
Jimmy Cook  
Joseph Costa  
John Crivello  
Henry Davis  
Edward Daw  
Roger Denny  
Gerald Devlaeminck  
Jimmy Fenner  
Dan Galloway  
Michael Getz  
Richard Gilbert  
Evan Gollan  
Perronio Gonzales  
Brooke Greer  
Harry Grimes  
Norman Hall  
Gary Hansen  
John Harper  
Frank Hawkins  
Michael Heffley  
Melgids Hernandez  
Jon Holman  
Darrell Horath  
Richard Hovis  
Bennie Johnson  
Richard Johnson

Robert Johnson  
Steven Jones  
Steven Karl  
Robert Kern  
William Lambert  
John Landon  
Stephen Lear  
William Lehman  
Dennis Loper  
Michael Medlin  
William Mihbauer  
Charles Nelson  
Richard Nelson  
Allen Neuhaus  
Gary Nugent  
Arthur Obie  
Gary Ono  
Timothy O'Toole  
Richard Pace  
Eddie Palmer  
Richard Pfile  
William Phillips  
Herbert Pierce  
Bernard Pine  
Robert Pottridge  
Richard Pruett  
Donald Reaser  
George Rideout  
Thomas Robinson  
David Saunders  
Jerome Shalfeld  
James Shepard  
Donald Sidwell  
James Sowers  
Dommley Stokes  
Wayne Strum  
George Sutherland  
Kenneth Threatt  
Thad Ussery  
Phillip Walker  
William Washington  
James Webb  
Philip Wilber  
Terry Wilmot  
Charlie Wilson  
Ronald Zelonskas

2nd BN., 1st INF.

SERGEANT  
Jacki Austin  
Michael Bartel  
Chester Black  
Lee Blackmore  
Eugene Bowen  
Dale Brach  
Robert Briggs  
John Burton  
James Carter  
Paul Clark  
Albert Collier  
Thomas Compton  
Robert Cross  
Thomas Cunningham  
Curtis Dean

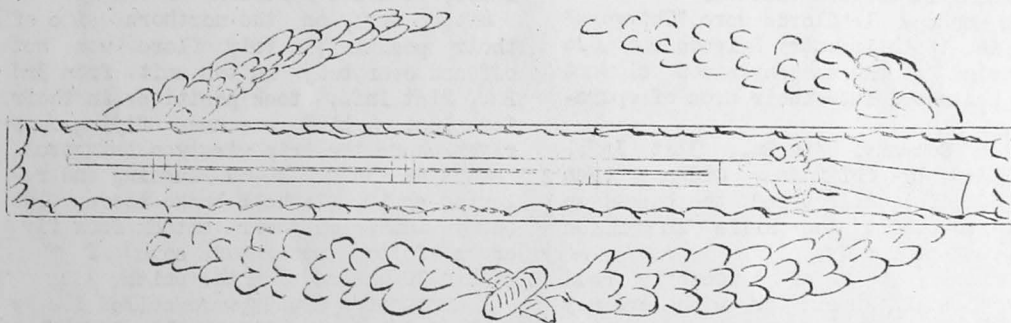
Jo Duke  
John Ellis  
William Evans  
Fredrick Feko  
Roger Griffin  
Joel Herrington  
Manuel Hidalgo  
Rodgers Hill  
James Hoskins  
Michael House  
Larry Hubanks  
Jerry Jeter  
David Kennedy  
Clayton Lesl  
Athward Masters  
Malcom Mau,  
Patrick McDermitt  
Alex McKinny  
Paul Myers  
Rayford Moore  
Bruce Nelson  
Edward Nicholson  
Nygaard Olav  
Danny Potter  
William Pringle  
John Reinard  
Theodore Risty  
Floyd Robinson  
Ruben Rosado  
George Russel  
Nilbert Salamanca  
Leroy Stevenson  
Lawrence Surma  
Daniel Tatum  
James Terski  
Thomas Williams  
Keith Wilson  
Larry Wilson  
Keith Wood





# CHARGER COMBAT

(Pages 9-15)



| RAYETTE CANYON TOTALS              |                     |                     |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| December 15, 1968-January 17, 1969 |                     |                     |
|                                    | MONTH OF<br>JANUARY | OPERATION<br>TOTALS |
| VC KILLED                          | 24                  | 91                  |
| NVA KILLED                         | 11                  | 228                 |
| IND. WEAPONS CAPT.                 | 33                  | 56                  |
| CREWSERVED                         | 10                  | 11                  |
| TONS OF RICE CAPT.                 | .63 (T)             | 19.17 (T)           |

| OREGON AREA OF OPERATION           |                     |                     |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| November 17, 1968-January 17, 1969 |                     |                     |
|                                    | MONTH OF<br>JANUARY | OPERATION<br>TOTALS |
| VC KILLED                          | 270                 | 844                 |
| NVA KILLED                         | 7                   | 124                 |
| IND. WEAPONS CAPT.                 | 42                  | 105                 |
| CREWSERVED                         | 2                   | 8                   |
| TONS OF RICE CAPT.                 | 67.9 (T)            | 594.51 (T)          |

## NVA Tax Collectors Pay The Big Price

... Rent was overdue at an NVA base camp and when the collectors came, the NVA were forced to evacuate into a lower rent district deeper into the mountains in western Vietnam.

The unhappy landlords were "Chargers" from the 196th Infantry Brigade who were disturbed at the company-sized element that had moved into their area of operation.

Delta Company, 4th Bn., 31st Inf., commanded by CPT Sidney Ordway, (Van Nuys, Calif.) discovered the base camp while searching the hills 26 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

"Initially we found a recently used company sized perimeter with freshly camouflaged automatic-weapons positions," said Ordway.

"Whether it was used by NVA because of the numerous Ho Chi Minh sandal tracks in the area," he said.

Realizing they were not too far behind a good-sized element of NVA, the "Polar Bear" company quickened their pace hoping to catch the NVA before they could establish an ambush.

Delta Company was only a few steps behind the NVA element when they moved into their well-camouflaged base camp.

CPT Ordway's CP group was among the first elements of his company to come into contact. They spotted about ten NVA moving into a trenchline. A ten minute fire fight ensued.

The CP group moved to the trenchline after the firing ended and found five dead NVA soldiers with packs and AK-47's.

Delta pulled back while Cobra helicopters fired rockets and machine guns at the enemy bunkers. Phantom Jets dropped 500-pound bombs along the ridgeline north of the enemy base camp to thwart a retreat.

After the air strikes, Delta platoons made a search of the base camp and found a Chicom RPD machine gun, 120 NVA packs, small arms ammo, 82mm mortar rounds (30) Chicom communications telephones and thousands of feet of commo wire connecting the bunkers and fighting positions. Twenty camouflaged huts were also found in the area.

The "Charger" company from the 196th keeps a close eye out for any new tenant in their AO and if they are NVA, (not very acceptable) they either are forced to evacuate or pay a high price--in lives.

## For the Bird's

... May the Bird of Paradise fly down and trip your ill-fated flares. May the light from the flare expose a company of camouflaged enemy soldiers surrounding your night laager position.

This bizarre set of circumstances occurred recently when a "Charger" company of the 196th Infantry Brigade established a night laager position in the flatlands, 16 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

After dark, on the northern side of their position, a trip flare was set off and everybody in the unit from 3rd Bn., 21st Inf., took positions in their foxholes. A bird was seen flying away right where the trip wire was triggered.

Just as the men began laughing and relaxing again, all hell broke loose. The enemy initiated their attack from five areas of the perimeter, some of them within 30 meters from the unit.

Illumination rounds were called for by forward observer, 1LT Charles G. Miller III (Virginia Beach, Va.). The light revealed movement of camouflaged enemy toward the 3/21 positions. Ten enemy were moving toward 2LT James V. Gordon's (Columbia, S.C.) section of the perimeter.

Another platoon leader, 2LT Randall Hain of San Jose, Calif. saw what he estimated to be a "whole enemy platoon moving towards our sector." Minutes later, Hain and SGT Paul Mona (Pratt, Kansas) crawled outside the perimeter to retrieve a mortally wounded soldier and his weapon.

They called for a dustoff. The helicopter came into the area, but the rotor blade hit a tree while trying to land and had to leave. Another dustoff was called. Gunships accompanied the second medical helicopter.

The 3/21 soldiers directed gunship fire all around the perimeter wherever movement was detected.

The four and a half hour struggle was believed initiated by one enemy platoon. "We figure possibly another two platoons were attempting to close in on our perimeter," said CPT William Donsbach (Mason, N.J.) the company commander.

"The attack probably started prematurely when the bird set off the trip flare."

The next morning a search of the perimeter uncovered numerous blood trails, but the VC effectively recovered all their dead and wounded.

Even though the "Charger" unit didn't consider it a fly by night affair, one small bird--a Bird of Paradise--definitely flew away with the top individual effort of the night.



. . . . The NVA forgot to put "no trespassing" signs up, but a company of "Chargers" from the 196th Infantry Brigade got the message rather quickly while searching an apparently abandoned enemy base camp.

Delta Company from the 4th Bn., 31st Inf., was on a search and clear mission in Hiep Duc Valley, 26 miles from Tam Ky, when they came under enemy fire from an unknown-size enemy unit.

Within a few minutes after the fire fight began, SP4 Jessie Harris (Fitchburg, Ohio) the RTO for Delta Company found himself directing his unit during the contact.

The company commander and first sergeant were badly wounded. The CP group was cut off from the other company elements. Harris immediately called LTC Robert Wetzel, battalion commander, and informed him of the casualties. Wetzel was flying in his command and control helicopter and maintained radio contact as much as possible.

Harris then called in a medevac helicopter with sling because of the triple

canopy jungle and lack of suitable landing zone to evacuate the wounded.

As the medevac neared Delta's location Harris directed Blue Ghost gunships on to the enemy target despite being pinned down under heavy NVA fire.

A jet airstrike followed the gunships and again Harris gave directions on where to bomb the enemy positions.

"The hardest thing I had to do was drag my CO to safety," said Harris, "because he was completely exposed to the heavy enemy automatic weapons fire."

"When I got to him there were bullets zinging all around," said Harris. "When I finally got him to safety I felt relieved."

After contact was broken later that day Delta found 10 dead NVA soldiers, four AK-47's, one Chicom machine gun, twenty-nine 82mm rounds and hundreds of yards of commo wire in the area.

The "Charger" unit of the 196th forgot to put "no trespassing" signs up too, but the NVA got the message pounded to them so thoroughly the notice probably wasn't necessary anyhow.

# BLOOD

# TRAIL

## Leads to Action

. . . . When an enemy blood trail branched in two directions, SP4 Juan Lopez, on a hunch, picked the route to his left and led his three-man fire team to where the action was.

Lopez, from Los Angeles, Calif., is a grenadier with a company of "Chargers" from the 196th Infantry Brigade. He was patrolling with Co. D, 4th Bn., 31st Inf on combat operations, 26 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

As they moved up the trail, Lopez and his fire team came under intense automatic weapons fire. Lopez took a concealed position and fired a number of M-79 rounds on the bunkers. He succeeded in destroying three heavily entrenched positions.

As Lopez moved back, he discovered his platoon leader was pinned down by enemy fire. Lopez ran to a position ten meters from him before enemy fire checked his advance. Diving behind a boulder, the young grenadier planned his next move.

Lopez threw his M-79 to the lieutenant and then repeatedly exposed himself to get ammunition to him.

After all his M-79 ammunition had been used, Lopez went back to the machine gun team, which had been brought up to the contact area. While Lopez helped feed bandoliers of ammo to the M-60 machine guns, he pointed out the enemy bunkers where heavy fire was coming from.

After all the enemy bunkers had been destroyed, Lopez walked over to retrieve his M-79.

"I really didn't feel too bad about not having my weapon," he said. "My platoon leader was in a more serious situation than I was, and besides that I've always wanted to be on the machine gun team anyway," laughed Lopez.

Lopez and the rest of his platoon held off a force of 40 NVA for nearly an hour before reinforcements arrived.

A search of the battle area produced two AK-47's, one Chicom machine gun and five dead NVA.



# ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUN SILENCED

... Pilots of American aircraft can breathe a little easier now after a company of "Chargers" from the 196th Infantry Brigade did them a big favor recently during an intense fire fight, 35 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

On a search and clear patrol in a mountainous region, Co. C, 4th Bn., 31st Inf., came under sporadic small arms fire. Reacting quickly, the company attempted to fire and maneuver against what they estimated to be several enemy snipers.

When this was attempted the point element came under extremely heavy automatic weapons fire.

"The weapon was above us on a terrace near a village," said SGT Carol Coy (Sheldon, Mo.). "I had never heard anything like it before—it gave off a strange sound—not like an AK-47 or the usual Chicom machine gun."

To make matters worse a 60mm enemy mortar located on a nearby hill top began to add its devastating fire to the hail of bullets which was already spitting around the exposed "Charger" element.

"The machine gun fire probably saved us from the mortars," declared SGT David Gray (Danville, Va.). "It kept us on the ground and when the mortar rounds landed right in the middle of my squad, nobody was killed by the shrapnel spraying through the air."

Charlie Company had to make a fast and decisive move. The company commander, CPT John Long (New Bloomfield, Pa.) detected movement several hundred yards from his stricken unit. Calling in artillery, he directed a first round hit that silenced the mortar and set off three secondary explosions.

The forward element of the company, meanwhile, directed their attention to the source of the automatic weapons fire. 1LT Jerry Josey (Bishopville, S.C.) joined his forward element and directed M-60 fire on the enemy position above them.

"The M-60 got off one burst when enemy fire skimmed the top of the helmets of both the gunner and his assistant," said Josey. "The men turned and grinned at me and then kept right on shooting."

SP4 Charles Smith (Deep Water, Mo.) succeeded in knocking the overhead camouflage from the enemy machine gun position with a well placed M-79 round. The previously hidden position now became exposed to a barrage of hand grenades and weapons fire from the "Polar Bears".

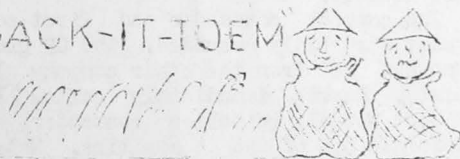
After the machine gun was silenced the forward element conducted an on-line as-

sault against the enemy position. 1LT Tim Peterson (Toledo, Ohio) was the first to reach the position. He leaped into the hole with his M-16 blazing away. Three NVA were killed. The remaining NVA apparently had retreated when the machine gun was knocked out.

The "Polar Bear" elements later discovered why the machine gun sounded strange. The weapon was a 12.7mm anti-aircraft machine gun, complete with an aerial sight. It was capable of being rotated 360 degrees to bring effective fire on any aircraft flying at a fairly low altitude.

The weapon's presence also explained the persisting reports from pilots that their aircraft had received heavy ground fire while operating in this area.

## "SACK-IT-TO-EM"



... Because of a new tactic called "Sack it to em" a "Charger" platoon from the 196th Infantry Brigade is creating some sleepless nights for the enemy.

Operation "Sack it to em" was initiated by 1LT John Garrett (Bedford Heights, Ohio) a reconnaissance platoon leader from 4th Bn., 31st Inf.

It is a new form of a guerrilla tactic that 4/31 has been using with great success during combat operations in Hiep Duc Valley, 23 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

The recon platoon moves out at ten o'clock at night toward a village or hamlet they had observed during the day. They drop their heavy gear outside the village and silently begin searching the huts. Three or four men will cover the front and rear entrances while two men search the hootch for "overnight guests."

"I was searching one hootch about midnight and shined my flash light at someone sleeping on a hammock," said Garrett. "He had on a khaki NVA uniform and an NVA belt. My platoon sergeant, Ramos Fields, (Augusta, Ga.) nudged him with his M-16 and woke him up."

"He knew his beauty sleep was over when he saw that gun barrel pointing at his face," added Garrett.

A thorough search of the NVA and the hut produced an NVA pack, web gear, and an extra khaki uniform. The prisoner's I.D. card labeled him as an NVA guerrilla leader from the 90th NVA Regiment. Another searching element later discovered three VC in another hut.



# ELIOT NESS

PFC BILL CROWFORD

LZ WEST—"Chargers" of the 196th Infantry Brigade are conducting midnight raids in the prohibition era style of Eliot Ness.

Operating on a night search and clear mission, 32 miles northwest of Tam Ky, a "Charger" platoon of Co. A, 4th Bn., 31st Inf., encountered a lone VC who was apparently on sentry duty.

The enemy was subdued without a struggle, but he began yelling loudly, obviously trying to alert somebody about the presence of the 4/31 unit.

After securing the VC, 1LT Eddie Zuleger (Avondale, Arizona) led his platoon down a trail for a distance of about 500 meters. At this point they detected loud laughing and talking to their front.

Figuring it was a sizeable congregation of people, Zuleger split his platoon into two elements. The two elements formed a half-circle around the hamlet and advanced through the shadows in the direction from which the uproar was originating.

Striking swiftly, the platoon leader and his men entered the hamlet where they found over 30 VC having a boisterous party. At this point the VC noticed the party crashers and scattered in an attempt to escape.

In the melee that followed, one VC was killed and a second enemy soldier was wounded. A total of 14 VC were captured.

In typical "Roaring Twenties" fashion 30 gallons of rice wine was discovered—nobody knew if it was made in a bathtub or not, but everybody was sure it was the main source of the VC's merriment.

A further search of the area revealed 20 VC packs still wet with perspiration. The packs contained rice, candy, candles

kerosene, silk, dehydrated food and binoculars.

The perspiration soaked packs indicated that the VC had probably traveled a great distance along their route to resupply an unknown VC/NVA force.

"We definitely ruined what was obviously a wild time," said Zuleger.

Several days earlier a different platoon of Alpha Company had surprised an unknown number of VC late at night in a small hamlet four miles from the rice-wine party.

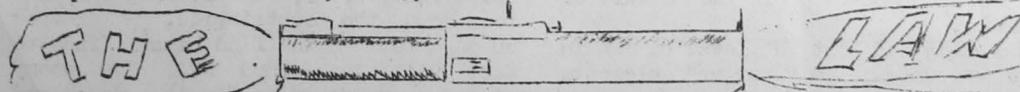
The unit was on a search and clear mission in Que Son Valley when they spotted the hamlet. Under the command of 1LT Barry Brandon (Huntsville, Ala.) the platoon split into two elements. One element was used as a blocking force while the other searched the hamlet.

Utilizing artillery rounds, the "Polar Bears" quickly moved into the village and came under immediate fire from the VC. When the platoon returned fire the enemy scattered in all directions.

Three VC were killed and one was wounded in the ensuing scramble. The "Charger" unit captured a VC cadre officer and destroyed a 50-meter long tunnel that was located within the hamlet.

A secondary explosion resulted from the tunnel blasting indicating it was probably used as an ammunition storage place.

The "Chargers" have been untouchable so far since they've been enforcing their own prohibition act. The enemy is going dry in the 196th Area of Operation and its a good bet the VC/NVA will "speak easy" from now on when they have a party while this unit is near.



LZ WEST—When you have a bunker full of angry NVA with automatic weapons firing at you, its nice to have the law on your side.

SP4 Jack Walker (Newark, N.J.) a "Charger" from the 196th Infantry Brigade, took the law into his own hands and settled the case, although nobody knew for sure what legal issues were involved.

Walker, a rifleman from Co. D, 4th Bn., 31st Inf., grabbed an M-72 Light Anti-Tank Weapon (LAW) when his squad

received a heavy volume of machine gun and automatic weapons fire from a bunker position located in an enemy base camp.

He maneuvered close to the enemy bunker, noticed a slight opening in the front of it and fired the LAW.

Seconds later, four NVA dropped their side of the argument and Walker and his squad took the contested bunker, along with three AK-47's and a RPD Chicom machine gun.

This "Charger" will probably stay on the good side of the law from now on—at least when dealing with enemy bunkers.



# FAYETTE CANYON

SR4 Jim Bruce

... Inching forward through thickly tangled undergrowth, beneath triple canopy jungle and along precipitous mountain slopes, "Chargers" of the 196th Infantry Brigade are scoring decisive victories over quickly retreating elements of the 2nd NVA Division, 25 miles west of Tan Ky.

Starting the ninth week of a new operation called Fayette Canyon, three "Charger" battalions have killed 310 enemy, captured 56 individual weapons and nearly 8,000 rounds of small arms ammunition.

"The Fayette Canyon Operation is designed to drive enemy forces from a base camp area which he has been able to use for many months because of the rugged, almost inaccessible terrain," said COL Frederick J. Kroesen Jr., 196th Brigade commander.

"To date, in addition to making contact with major elements of NVA forces, we have discovered and subsequently destroyed four large bunker complexes, two hospital areas and in general have driven the enemy from a long used mountain haven," he said.

Operation Fayette Canyon began on December 15, after intelligence reports indicated an estimated 1,000 NVA were securing a hospital complex and supply depots atop hill 953.

The estimated total number of NVA was probably bolstered by enemy that escaped northward during the week long battle for Nui Chom Mountain in the middle of November.

The enemy had lost at least 65 men in that encounter with "Charger" elements from 4th Bn., 31st Inf.

B-52 bombers pounded hill 953 the night before Operation Fayette Canyon began. At dawn elements of 2nd Bn., 1st Inf., who have seen the heaviest action so far, began the arduous trek up the eastern and southern slopes of the mountain. Each company was reinforced by a Vietnamese Regional Forces (RF) platoon.

Patrols found no trails leading upward on the eastern face of the mountain, but there were many trails with fresh footprints going down the other side.

Initial contact came early on the fourth day of the operation when elements of Bravo Company, led by CPT John R. Malpass (Larchmont, N.Y.) spotted what he thought was about 40 NVA with packs and weapons moving along the steep cliff of a lower ridgeline.

"As we watched, they just kept coming and coming until there must have been close to a hundred of them," said Malpass.

Bravo first called for artillery and gunships and then opened up with a barrage of plunging machine gun and small arms fire, dropping many of the NVA headlong from their precarious cliffside perches.

As the last gunship broke station, Bravo called for an emergency resupply of ammunition. Then came the slow, tortuous move down the mountain, into the enemy base camp, over rocky cliffs, thick undergrowth and along jungle trails spewn with debris from the B-52 bombs.

"There were no acts of heroism up there on the hill," said Malpass. "Coming down it was all individual effort clearing them out from bunker to bunker!"

Alpha and Charlie Companies blocked ridgelines to the north and west, while Bravo swept into a base camp of 75 bunkers. They encountered sporadic fire from defending NVA who were making a last-ditch effort.

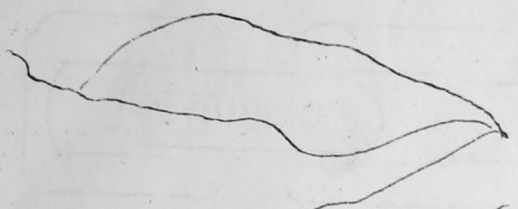
During the action LT Dwight D. Sypolt (Reesville, W.Va.) was leading his platoon down the mountainside. He leaped up on a boulder to find himself face to face with two armed NVA. The enemy stared openmouthed at Sypolt. He stared right back at them. Quickly he fired and killed both of them.

The total number of enemy dead kept rising as scattered fighting continued within the "Legionnaires" wedge. The B-52 raids, gunships, airstrikes and artillery missions made a large contribution to the total NVA killed.

Search elements of the fifth and sixth days discovered dozens of fresh graves--a mute testimony to the effectiveness of the big bombers.

(See CITATION on Page 15)





# OPERATION

(Continued From Page 14)

One enemy soldier ran away from Bravo elements and fled directly into an Alpha Company position. He prudently shouted "Chieu Hoi" when confronted by Alpha. He told them that the NVA column the "Legionnaires" had engaged on the fourth day of action, had been the rear element of a 400-man main force moving toward Hoi An.

On the same day, Charlie Company, commanded by CPT Charles A. Slaybaugh (Lakeview, Ohio) reported a second base camp approximately 1,000 meters west of the first camp.

This more elaborate enemy fortress included 80 bunkers, a large hospital surgical ward, two recovery wards, kitchens, and mess and rest areas made up the complex.

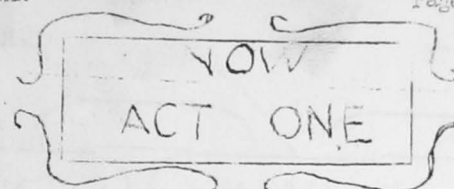
"It's hard to say how long ago the camp was built," said Slaybaugh, "but we figure at a minimum of six years and possibly it dates back to World War II days."

"Probably the biggest thing we found as far as my men were concerned," laughed Slaybaugh, "was some bras which indicates some of the NVA medical helpers included women. We are still trying to figure out where their powder room was located--must have been the only hootch with doors."

Later, Alpha Company found a printing shop, complete with a 400-pound press and a propaganda leaflet set in type.

Demolition men from the 26th Engineers began destroying the enemy bunkers with help from the infantrymen. More than 3,000 pounds of TNT and 1,000 pounds of C-4 destroyed the NVA's well camouflaged camp.

The total number of enemy soldiers killed so far in Fayette Canyon will probably never be known exactly, but the unmistakable stench of decaying bodies far from the gravesites areas, probably indicate places where mountains of flying dirt from huge bombs covered an uncountable number of NVA in instant graves.



## NOW ACT ONE

Thickly vegetated triple canopy jungle wouldn't seem to be a likely stage for a promising acting career to begin.

The performance of SP4 Billy Gillespie (Huntsville, Ala.) however was received with full impact by two NVA soldiers in a bunker and won rave notices from members of his own squad.

The curtain rose as Gillespie, a rifleman with Delta Company, 4th Bn., 31st Inf., and four other members of his squad began following a blood trail in Hiep Duc Valley, 26 miles northwest of Tan Ky.

Heavy automatic weapons and machine gun fire from an enemy bunker complex immediately pinned the squad down. Gillespie returned fire as his squad found good defensive positions.

Then he began running around the area firing his weapon and yelling at the top of his lungs at the enemy.

"I don't know if they understood what I said," recalled Gillespie, "but I do know they thought there was a bunch of angry GI's out there."

"The enemy bunkers didn't have good fields of fire so they couldn't see me moving around. I was trying to make the NVA think we had them outnumbered," said Gillespie.

When his other squad members began receiving heavy enemy fire, Gillespie charged an enemy position amidst a hail of bullets.

He dived into the bunker firing his M-16 and killed the two NVA soldiers. Gillespie then took up a firing position in the bunker and brought heavy fire on the other enemy positions.

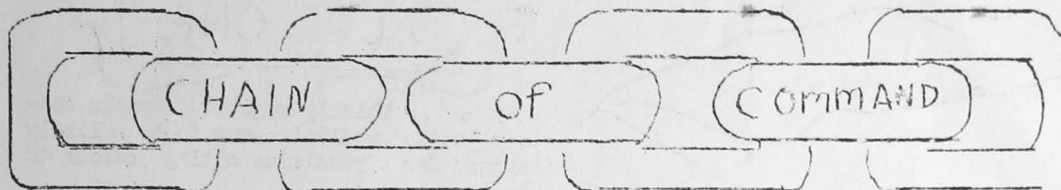
The NVA began bombarding his position with grenades and heavy return fire. He held his position until help arrived 30 minutes later.

"Gillespie really put on a show running and firing," said SP4 Ernest Tambort (Charlotte, N.C.). "He was a squad by himself--really brought smoke on that NVA bunker."

The only thing that hurt the young "Charger" was all the yelling.

"His throat was so sore he couldn't say a word for a couple of days afterwards," said Tambort.

There is always a price for stardom, but Gillespie is in good voice again and ready to prove his first act was not a fluke.

CHAIN OF COMMAND

|                               |                              |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| COMMANDER IN CHIEF            | HON RICHARD M. NIXON         |
| SECRETARY OF DEFENSE          | HON MELVIN R. LAIRD          |
| SECRETARY OF THE ARMY         | HON STANLEY R. RESOR         |
| CHAIRMAN JOINT CHIEF OF STAFF | GEN EARLE G. WHEELER         |
| CHIEF OF STAFF                | GEN WILLIAM C. WESTMORELAND  |
| CINCPAC                       | ADM JOHN S. MCCAIN JR.       |
| CG USARPAC                    | GEN RALPH E. HAINES JR.      |
| CG MACV                       | GEN CREIGHTON W. ABRAMS      |
| DEPUTY CG USARV               | LTG FRANK T. MILDREN         |
| CG AMERICAL                   | MG CHARLES M. GETTYS         |
| ADC-A                         | BG WALLACE L. CLEMENT        |
| ADC-B                         | BG HOWARD H. COCKSEY         |
| 196th INF., BDE., COMMANDER   | COL FREDERICK J. KRCSSEN JR. |

Feb. 21, 1969

Page 17

# A W A R D S

4th BN., 31st INF.

SILVER STAR

LTC Robert Wetzel

BRONZE STAR "V"

1LT Stephen Rice

SP4 Jack Walker

BRONZE STAR WITH  
OAK LEAF CLUSTER

1LT Francis Brown

1SG Harpin Myers

SGT Billy Hankins

SGT William Miller

BRONZE STAR

CIT John Wolfe

1LT Barry Kubler

WO1 Roger Helgerson

SFC Samuel Pinkley

SSG Jimmy Davenport

SGT Steven Hanson

SGT Richard Huffman

SGT Jan Mathiesen

SGT Amos Sheppard

SGT Melvin Whitley

SP5 Allan Burrows

SP5 Anthony Lapalio

SP5 Dynn Lawrence

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

SP5 Paul Bogley

SP5 Peter Watson

SP5 John Weber

SP4 Steven Baker

SP4 Daniel Barela

SP4 Jerry Bearer

SP4 Michael Bell

SP4 Herbert Bolden

SP4 Barry Bolnick

SP4 Rolf Brinckman

SP4 Victor Calderen

SP4 Raymond Clickner

SP4 Delbert Collins

SP4 Leslie Collins

SP4 Francis Connaughton

SP4 Steven Conner

SP4 Frank Dulak

SP4 Arthur Evans

SP4 Carl Floerke

SP4 Billy Gillispie

SP4 Hubert Harris

SP4 Richard Reger

SP4 Dennis Usgaard

SP4 Henry West

SP4 Vernon Whittaker

SP4 Kenneth Widstrom

3rd BN., 21st INF.

SILVER STAR

LTC Richard Gecoma

1LT Erich Weidner

BRONZE STAR "V"

1LT Robert Unger

SP4 Terrance Jackson

BRONZE STAR

CPT Seth Orell

1LT Thomas Reynolds

1LT Erich Weidner

SFC Frank Hazzard

SFC Richard Hoskins

SSG Thomas Brown

SSG Arturo Moya

SGT Paul Coleman

SGT James Hatker

SGT Gerald Leppert

SGT Thomas Rogoshowski

SGT Peter Yukimura

SP4 Leonard Mitti

SP4 Jose Nunez

AIR MEDAL "V"

LTC Richard Gecoma

AIR MEDAL

3 OAK LEAF CLUSTERS

LTC Richard Gecoma

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

SP4 Jon Ostby

SP4 George Robinson

SP4 Guadalupe Villarrea

SGT Anthony Corrado

SGT Orville Batts

SGT Stanley Davis

SGT Lawrence Evans

SGT Michael Foreman

SGT Richard Pogram

SGT Robert Tapp

SGT William Tröwer

SP5 Phillip Terrell

SP4 Arthur Askland

SP4 Diodato Cacace

SP4 Wilfredo Cabballos

SP4 Ruben Garza

SP4 Thomas Gehlhaus

SP4 Michael Green

SP4 James Irwin

SP4 James Lawson

SP4 Danny Liford

SP4 Tobert Nevers

SP4 Stephen Peterson

SP4 Francisco Rivera

SP4 Richard Rudakiewich

SP4 Willie Stovall

PURPLE HEART

CIT Seth Orell

1LT Louie McDade

1LT Erich Weidner

SGT Kenneth Bricker

SGT Robert Lannon

SGT Ted Reed

SP4 Frances Archuleta

SP4 Richard Dukes

SP4 Ronald Dyste

SP4 Ronald Kehoe

SP4 Ira Kimm

SP4 Morales Maldonado

SP4 Carl Mosley

SP4 Daniel Mulholland

SP4 Ken Sorenson

SP4 Abraham Trujillo

SP4 Paul Yankum

PFC William Aronald

PFC Jack Casterline

PFC Jack Dance

PFC Lefry Embrick

PFC Robert Johnston

PFC William Kidd

PFC Allen Miller

PFC Palol Nachemilla

PFC Erine Scarlett

PFC Richard Tuzik

VIETNAMESE GALLANTRY CROSS

LTC Richard Gecoma





# AWARDS

3rd BN., 82nd ARTY.HHC 196thBRONZE STAR

1LT Eugene Bussolati  
1LT Robert Bybee  
2LT Gary Cutler  
SSG Harvey Rivers

AIR MEDAL

CPT Joel Thomason  
MSG Joseph Thompson

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

SGT Thomas Trujillo  
SP5 James Beasley  
SP5 Edward Nestor  
CPT Kenneth Cruise  
CPT Roger McClain  
CPT Wayne Whitehead  
SP4 Michael Bowman  
SP4 William Burkett  
SP4 Russell Core  
SP4 William Dorrington  
SP4 Larry Headley  
SP4 Frank Henson  
SP4 Luther Hunter  
SP4 Elray Pkilen  
SP4 John Rodrigues  
SP4 Miguel Roas  
PFC Lester Heintz

PURPLE HEART

SGT Harold Hock  
SP4 Carlton Robertson

F TROOP 17th CAVBRONZE STAR

SSG Ronald Ames  
SSG Walter O'Neal  
SSG Nick Santini  
SSG Eugene Smith  
SGT Alfred Hill  
SGT William French  
SGT Steven Jarrett  
SGT Charles Rhodes

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

SSG Walter O'Neal  
SSG Nick Santini  
SP4 Jerry Ashby  
SP4 Charles Curtis  
SP4 David Fangrow  
SP4 Michael McDonald

PURPLE HEART

SSG James Sursley  
SP4 Williams Barnes  
SP4 Bernie Meyer  
SP4 Joseph Pagart  
SP4 James Potter  
PFC George Justice

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

SP4 James Hunt  
SP4 Kenneth Barrett

PURPLE HEART

SP4 Michael Graklanoff  
SP4 Ronald Murca

2nd BN., 1st INF.SILVER STAR

SP4 Thomas Cassel  
SP4 Stanley Goff

LEGION OF MERIT

LTC Robert Nelson

SOLDIERS MEDAL

PFC Donald Golden

BRONZE STAR "V"

PSG Norman Jack  
SGT Curtis Dean  
SGT Carl Myers  
ST4 Willie White  
PFC Carl Truitt

BRONZE STAR

CPT Thurlow Dunning  
1LT Gaylord Enbom  
1LT Ernest Wilber  
1LT Anthony Zaccagnini  
SPC William Evans  
SSG James Fink  
SSG Ronald Kolotello  
SSG David Ross  
SSG Rogers Willrich  
SGT Oliver Barthelemy  
SGT Joseph Blandford  
SGT Michael Rieder  
SGT Curtis Dean  
SGT Edward Karr  
SGT John Keller  
SGT Gerald King  
SGT Stanley Porzuczek  
SGT Richard Seybert  
SGT Larry Sherrod  
SGT John Sides  
SGT Robert St George  
SGT Papoose Salazar  
SGT Ivan Tharp  
SP4 George Bradley  
SP4 Michael Clements  
SP4 Williams Daley  
SP4 James Gochring  
SP4 Jimmy Kinnett

AIR MEDAL

PSG William Evans

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

SGT Roger Griffin  
SGT Carroll Martin  
SP5 Lorenzo Noto

SP5 David Sewell  
SP5 Richard Welburn  
SP4 Thomas Compson  
SP4 Geoffrey Davis  
SP4 Larry Furr  
SP4 Martin Johnson  
SP4 George Jones  
SP4 Harold Jordan  
SP4 Walter Lipp  
SP4 David Losey  
SP4 Juan Medina  
SP4 Robert Melton  
SP4 Danny Potter  
SP4 Floyd Robinson  
SP4 Ruben Rosado  
SP4 Steve Sisney  
SP4 Victor Spotts  
SP4 James Stepuncik  
SP4 John Stewart  
SP4 Robert Thurman  
SP4 James Torrain  
SP4 George Walsh  
SP4 Odel Wiggins  
PFC Ronald Baker  
PFC Robert Bomberger  
PFC Drite Dean  
PFC David Goff  
PFC David Howard  
PFC Jessie Jewell  
PFC Grover Morris

PURPLE HEART

CPT John Malpass  
1LT Ernest Wilber  
SGT Oliver Barthelemy  
SGT Carroll Martin  
SGT Robert McCoy  
SGT Richard Sanders  
SGT Frankie Wise  
SP5 Allen Hoe  
SP4 Donald Alexander  
SP4 Lawrence Buchanan  
SP4 James Brooks  
SP4 Herman Carter  
SP4 Virgil Dieterich  
SP4 William Doerr  
SP4 Robert Ford  
SP4 John Hansford  
SP4 Arthur Kemp  
SP4 Donald Keogh  
SP4 Richard Knee  
SP4 Charles Liedner  
SP4 Thomas Orth  
SP4 Osealdo Ortiz  
SP4 Odel Wiggins  
SP4 Marshall Wilson  
SP4 John Bowen  
PFC Bennie Cowart  
PFC Robert Kitek  
PFC Bruce McGuire  
PFC James Moser  
PFC Robert Peters  
PFC Neil Spaid  
PFC Robert Stapleton  
PFC David Swift



# SNAKES

SFC G. TIMMONS

Since very early times snakes or serpents have been considered to be evil and an enemy of man. And while it is true that some snakes will attack people or anything else that they don't like or feel they can eat, most snakes would rather stay away from you, and don't move about very often during the day.

Lets divide snakes into two groups, the poisonous, and the non-poisonous.

Taking the poisonous type first we find they are divided into two types, determined by the type of poison.

The first is called hemotoxic. The poison affects and works in the blood stream. These snakes are generally known as Vipers. They utilize long fangs to drive deep into the flesh of their victims and inject the poison into the blood stream.

A few of these includes the Copperhead Rattlesnake, Water Moccasin, Bamboo Viper, Russels Viper, Gaboon Viper, Bushmaster, Fur De Lance, and dozens of others.

The second type of poison is neurotoxic. As the name implies this type affects and works on the nervous system.

Snakes that fall into this class are, the Cobra, Coral snake, Krait, Mamba, sea snakes and others. Generally the poison of this type of snake works much faster.

Their fangs are shorter, and they only have to chew and break the skin. Both types can be fatal to man with death being caused by the effects of the poison on the lungs. The victim dies from lack of oxygen.

Depending on the type of poison, the amount, and the location of where it enters the body, death can come in a matter of hours, or a matter of minutes.

For all their bad traits even these snakes are of some use to man. Their poison is used to make medicine, their hides are used to make things, and the meat of types such as the Rattlesnake is good to eat. They also kill rats, and other pests and carriers of disease.

The non-poisonous snakes can run from the small garter type snake to the largest in the world, the Regal Python which will exceed 33 feet in length and weigh several hundreds of pounds. In this group you have two general types, constrictors and non-constrictors.

As the name implies the constrictors kill their prey by crushing it to death. Some types are, the Black Snake, King Snake, Racers, Tree Boas, and all the rest of the Boa family to include the

Anaconda or Water Boa and all of the Python family.

In the other group you have many small snakes of the same general type as the Garter Snake, that live off of bugs, beetles and small frogs.

Vietnam is a haven for snakes of all types from the smallest to the largest, and from the most harmless to the most deadly.

If you are bitten there are several things you can do. First stay calm, second, kill the snake, then you or medical personnel will be able to tell if the snake is poisonous and if so what kind of poison entered your body.

Next if it is a Viper such as the Bamboo Viper, open its stomach. If it has undigested food in its stomach chances are good you did not get hit to bad. Call for a medevac and tell them what kind of a snake bit you. That way they will have the proper anti-venom serum on the chopper, or on hand as soon as you touch down.

If the snake is a Cobra or a Krait, if it bites one of your legs or a hand or arm, your chances are still good. As soon as you have killed it and know what it is, call for help, and don't forget to tell them the type of snake, don't try to suck the poison out for it is just as deadly, if not more so in your mouth.

Stay calm and blot as much off the wound as you can. If the snake has hemotoxic poison you can slow down the spread with a tourniquet.

This must be done while you are waiting for the medevac to get there.

The last type you may encounter is the Python. They come in several sizes, mostly big and bigger. If you see one don't chase after it. Leave it alone. If one falls on you or grabs you don't try to play one man hero, but call for all the help you can get as more likely than not you are going to need it to escape. Aside from that if you are hungry they make good food and provide you with a fine source of fresh meat.

Many more people die from bee stings each year than ever die from snake bite. Don't listen to the tales about the no step snake and such as that. If you have a weak heart even a non-poisonous snake may be a no step snake for you.

If you are a normal healthy person, a bite does not mean you are bound to die. I have been bitten twice by Vipers, and I am still around. Just remember to keep cool and act fast to get help.

