

The CHARGER

"Ahead of the Rest"

Vol. 1, No. 76

CHARGER

November 1, 1969

"After six months as the commander of the finest infantry brigade in Vietnam, it is with sincere regret that I now depart. I am sure that you will give your new commander the same high standards of performance you have always shown me. I wish each member of this command continued success during his tour in Vietnam and a safe trip home."

*196th Salutes
Departing Charger*

by 1LT DAVID H. COFFMAN

I2 Hawk Hill--On November 10, 1969, Colonel Thomas H. Tackaberry will complete his tour as commanding officer of the AMERICAL Division's 196th Infantry Brigade. After a short R&R he will go to Headquarters, AMERICAL Division, where he will serve as chief of staff.

Col. Tackaberry's stay at the 196th has been highly eventful. A high point was the Battle of Hiep Duc Valley which began in mid-August. In three weeks of bitter fighting the "Chargers" inflicted a shattering defeat upon the 2nd NVA Division.

However, there have been many high points in Col. Tackaberry's career. He is a veteran of two wars. His many awards include the Distinguished Service Cross with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Silver Star with three Oak Leaf Clusters (a fourth is pending), the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Vietnamese Cross of

Gallantry and the first and second awards of the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

Col. Tackaberry entered the US Army in 1943. He was commissioned on August 30, 1945, upon graduation from the Infantry School at Fort Benning, Ga.

Col. Tackaberry served in Korea, first as a company commander. Later he was assistant G-3 with the 2nd Infantry Division.

Between Korea and his first tour in Vietnam, Col. Tackaberry received a Master's Degree at Tulane, graduating in 1960.

In 1966, Col. Tackaberry began his first tour in the Republic of Vietnam. He served as commanding officer of the 1st Cavalry Division's 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry. Later he was assistant G-5.

Col. Tackaberry assumed command of the 196th on May 6, 1969. Soon he will be leaving. We now the rest of the Brigade will join THE CHARGER in wishing him the best for the remainder of his tour.



SECRETARY LAIRD.. DEFINES

Vietnamization

Vietnamization means a lot more than modernization of the South Vietnamese armed forces to permit their continuing assumption of more military responsibility. Vietnamization means the progressive transfer for all aspects of war and management of their affairs: stronger government, stronger economy, stronger military forces, stronger police for internal security. This apparently is not generally understood. Too many people refer to Vietnamization only in terms of an increased combat role for the armed forces of South Vietnam.

Our deployments thus far have been based primarily on progress in the military aspects of the Vietnamization program. We hope that the momentum we have achieved so far in the military portions of Vietnamization will be coupled with additional progress on the other important fronts. (MF)

FROM AN ADDRESS AT THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB, WASHINGTON, D.C., SEPTEMBER 25, 1969.

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"Mr. 91B20"

CHARGER

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Almost Important Man

By ~~Sp4~~ James

Tannessen

LZ HAWKHILL** No one in Vietnam feels the hot deadly, uncertain immediacy of jungle warfare more cogently than the field medic--"Mr. 91B20."

Specialist 5 Pete Martinez (Pueblo, Colo.), an AMERICAL Division medic, received his fiery introduction to lifesaving in Vietnam last spring.

Martinez was Army-trained but had never experienced the frantic helpless need of a soldier lying in head-high elephant grass, cut down by enemy fire.

He was with his unit, Company B, of 2/1, on a sweep 15 miles west of Tam Ky in the 196th's area of operations.

"We were pushing across the floor of Happy Valley," recalled Martinez. "The elephant grass was over our heads."

The explosion came abruptly. Three men slumped to the ground, their faces agony-torn. Martinez rushed to their aid.

"I just started doing things automatically," Martinez explained. His fingers performed almost without his direction. The sucking chest wound...the fractured thigh bone...the entry and exit wounds. But no plastic dummies this time.

In the few critical minutes and seconds that followed, Martinez patched up the three men. They lived to rejoin their unit and later returned to the United States. Martinez was a field-trained medic.

"You can't really learn how to be a medic in the classroom; not anymore than an 11Bravo can learn to be an infantryman in Advanced Individual Training," insisted the Sp5. "You have to go out there yourself. When I first came into my company, another medic gave me my medicines, a short lecture and a chopper ride into the field."

"There is no one beside you out there to tell you what to do. It scares you at first, but you learn fast, because you have to. I did."

Martinez has learned many things--things not included in medical journals.

"You react-well-almost with reflex swiftness. You got to know

the men real good. When a man is hit, you talk to him, try to calm him down. Talk about his home town, or his girl...just anything to keep him from thinking about his injury."

One of the rarely mentioned decisions that a medic is sometimes confronted with controls the balance of life itself.

"When several men are hit, some may not live," Martinez pointed out. "If you knew you can't save a man, you have to aid another man who has a better chance."

Being a medic has changed Sp5 Martinez's outlook on life.

"I want to live more," he said. "You appreciate life and people more when you've seen death."

Grenade-Tossing GI's

By Sp4 Charles Hancock

LZ HAWKHILL** Tossing smoke grenades and firing M-16 rifles, two AMERICAL Division infantrymen from the 196th Infantry Brigade, crept to within 10 meters of enemy bunkers.

SSGT Michael Wallace (Rockwell, Texas) and Sp4 Donald F. Chalmers (Detroit) destroyed enemy positions and marked helicopter gunship targets with red smoke grenades.

SGT Jack W. Johnstone (Los Angeles), a squad leader from the 1/46 PROFESSIONALS, was moving his men out on patrol. Alert machine-gunner, Sp4 Gerald Smith (Portland, Oregon) spotted an NVA unit to his left. He opened up with deadly machine-gum fire killing three of the NVA.

Johnstone then called in gunships to pound the entrenched enemy with rockets.

Following the air strikes, Alfa Company assaulted the enemy.

Sp4 Chalmers began lobbing grenades at the fortified bunkers. He crawled towards the enemy. At one point, he observed an NVA firing down on his squad. He raised his M-16 and killed the aggressor with a quick burst of fire. Grabbing a red smoke grenade, SSGT Wallace also crawled towards the bunkers.

CONT. ON PAGE 10

FORMER C.O. SAVES CO.

by Sp4 Bill Crawford

LZ HAWKHILL**Accounts of an American-NVA clash 18 miles west of Tam Ky flooded into the Air Operations Office.

CPT John Whittecar (Salina, Kans.), air operations officer, listened intently as the radio crackled a distress message from Company D, 4/31. The ~~4/31~~ unit had engaged a battalion of NVA, and their commanding officer was wounded and had to be airlifted to medical aid.

"I couldn't just sit there and listen while Delta got riddled," said CPT Whittecar. "I caught a resupply chopper going out to the fight."

Whittecar was the former C.O. of Delta Company.

The men were happy to see him back with them once more.

The NVA were attempting to encircle the outnumbered unit. RPG and machine gun fire laced the air as the enemy tried to keep the company immobilized.

"Fire was coming from three sides," related the Captain. "I knew we had to exit before they closed in. But night was coming on, so I decided to set up a defensive perimeter and wait."

The enemy began to move in the dark. American Blue Ghosts pounded the creeping NVA. Hearing the choppers coming, the enemy opened up on the besieged company with RPG's and machine gun fire.

Whittecar directed the gunship fire to within 25 meters of Delta's perimeter. The NVA were close.

"The captain was calm all the time," recalled PFC David Roland (Bellingham, Wash.). "He talked to the chopper's pilot as if he were back in the states talking to his next-door neighbor."

At one point he talked to the TOC.

"I've got the enemy right where I want them," he quipped. "They are all around me in a complete circle."

The next morning, Whittecar set up his CP in an old French building, continuing to direct defensive fire. An RPG smashed through the room. The blast wounded several men, including CPT Whittecar.

Undaunted, Whittecar helped the medics treat the wounded and "talked in" a MEDEVAC chopper to remove the seriously wounded.

The impromptu reunion with its old commanding officer was a real lifesaver for Company D.

RE-UP

ARTILLERYMEN CLUB SAPPERS IN MELEE

by Sp4 Carl Ekengren

LZ HAWKHILL**Artillerymen at an AMERICAL Division firebase 15 miles west of Tam Ky were recently engaged in a rifle-swinging eye-gouging hand-to-hand melee with NVA sappers. Fifty sappers stormed the firebase bunker during a light rain.

The men from Battery B, 3/82, received a late warning from an excited tracker dog as the enemy neared the defensive positions.

For Cpl. Ross Johnson (Devils Lake, N.D.), it was a night to remember.

"I came out of the bunker and was standing a few feet away, when I suddenly turned to see an NVA soldier on top the bunker," related Johnson. "I had my M-16 with me. Before he could shoot, I hit him over the head with the weapon. He fell off the bunker dead."

"When I leaped into my bunker for cover," Johnson continued, "three other NVA rushed me. One grabbed my shirt and pulled me to the ground. With my firing arm free, I opened up on the other two. Then I struck the one atop me with my fist, knocking him against the bunker where he lay unconscious."

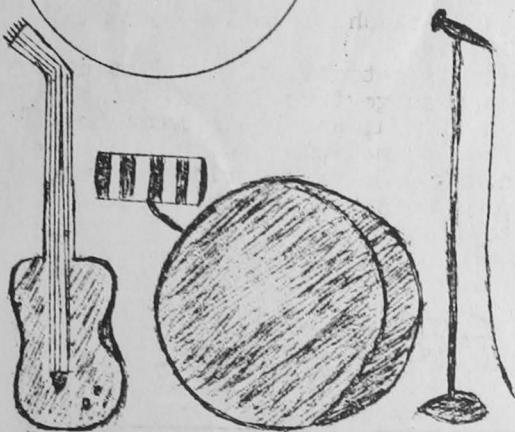
"All along the bunker line, other defenders were clubbing at invaders."

The fray lasted for an hour. Cpl. Johnson killed two more NVA. The invaders were driven off with a total loss of 27 killed.

Cpl. Johnson's heroic effort won him the Silver Star.

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Rock Typist

September 1967," said Miller. "We practiced at night for five months before we cut our first single. It was number one three weeks after its release."

"I Love You" dominated the record charts for weeks after its release in the early spring of 1968. It was number one for three weeks and sold over a million copies.

"The People" was billed along with the Doors, Big Brother and the Holding Company with Janis Joplin, and the Jefferson Airplane at the Santa Clara Rock Festival in April of that year.

The rockadelic success balloon burst with the arrival of Glenn's "Greeting" in June 1968.

"My hair was down to shoulder-length and they cut it all off in basic training," wailed Glenn. "I miss wearing bell bottoms and love beads, the concert tours, the record sales, the girls..."

Well PFC Miller could have gone on and on, but about that time he was called "off stage" to type a letter for his C.O.

"I'm going to form my own group when I get out of the Army," Glenn assures us. "Then I can do my own thing!!"

BUY BONDS

U.S. Savings Bond belong on everyone's Christmas list. They increase in value through the years and are always safe and secure.

Charlie in The Lens

By Sp4 Charles Hancock

LZ HAWKHILL**During a recent mission in the mountains southwest of Tam Ky, Alfa Company platoon leader 1LT Francis J. Davis (Muncie, Ind.), of 1/46 PROFESSIONAL's, was admiring the beauty of his jungle surroundings.

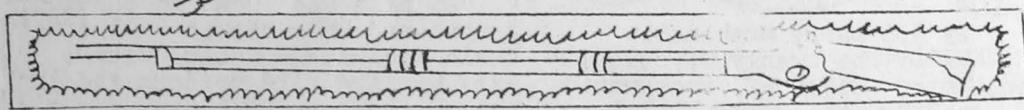
The AMERICAL Division infantryman decided to capture the jungle beauty on film. He uncased his camera and commenced to cast about for a suitable subject.

He detected movement through the viewfinder. Straining his eyes, Davis saw NVA soldiers moving out of the woodline into a valley below.

Quickly plotting a grid coordinate, he had artillery called in on the unsuspecting enemy.

Chalk up another score for that master of serendipity, 1LT Davis, a real pro.

CHARGER BOMBAR



FREDERICK HILL TOTALS March 18, 1969-October 29, 1969	
OPERATIONS TOTALS	
VC KILLED	1192
NVA KILLED	1888
IND. WEAPONS CAPT.	469
CREW-SERVED	101
TONS OF RICE CAPT.	70.997 (T)

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CIDG and PFS AUGMENT ACTION

By Sp4 Charles S. Hancock

LZ HAWKHILL**"Knowing the terrain helps. But knowing people who know the countryside is even better," asserts Sp4 Lin Richnizter (Escondido, California) Company C, 1/46.

Sp4 Richnizter is an infantryman with an AMERICAL Division unit patrolling mountainous areas near Tien Phuoc with members of the Vietnamese Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) and Popular Forces (PF's).

"To these people, the location of a temple or rockpile means more than a whole sheet of grid coordinates," said Richnizter. "Working with them was extremely rewarding."

Richnizter ticked off the rewards.

During sweeps 11 miles southwest of Tam Ky, a Hoi Chanh, who had rallied to the allied cause, volunteered to lead Company C and the CIDG and the PF's to a VC cache hidden near his village.

The booty included ten AK-47 rifles, one Thompson machine gun, two 82mm mortar tubes complete, a 60mm mortar tube complete, two AK-40 rifles and a .30 caliber machine gun. A thorough search uncovered forty-nine B-40 rockets, sealed in plastic bags, complete with detonating charges.

"The CIDG and Popular Forces are accomplished soldiers," said PFC Bruce Klingman (Elizabeth, N.J.), after a week of coordinated missions. "Their knowledge is immensely helpful. They encourage VC to "Chieu Hoi" with great success. Our combined know-how makes each unit more confident."

Future joint drives are being planned for elements of the 196th Infantry Brigade and units of the Vietnamese CIDG, PF and Regional Forces (RF's).

CHILDREN'S TET CELEBRATED

By Sp4 Bill Crawford

LZ HAWKHILL**Children's Tet was celebrated September 25 by some 1,500 youngsters at the American supervised Hiep Duc Refugee Center, located 17 miles west of Tam Ky.

Festivities were not spoiled in the aftermath of the grim battles waged near the settlement in late August. Infantrymen of the AMERICAL Division had killed more than 1,200 NVA Regulars, mainly from the 2nd NVA Division, in the Hiep Duc Valley during a fortnight of continuous enemy contact. The refugee center was one object of the massive enemy offensive; it was saved.

For the celebration, infantrymen of the 196th's Polar Bears gave 60 pounds of candy to the children of the refugee settlement.

"I feel that it was extremely important that the children be given the opportunity to hold their celebration in spite of the recent heavy fighting," said 2LT Michael Dononoe (San Francisco), the civil affairs officer of 4/31. "It definitely had a positive effect on the morale of the people, and the children really had a ball."

CHARGER NOTES

Members of the "Chargers" 4th Bn., 31st. Inf., were dubbed "Polar Bears" in recognition of the units' service during the Siber-

ian Campaign from 1918-1920. Its crest bears a picture of a seated Polar Bear with the words "Pro Patria".

WHAT'S ON THE WORLD

71,500 Trained

GI's Train For Civilian Jobs

From Associated Press

FT. DIX, N.J.**Servicemen returning to CONUS from Vietnam can train for a civilian occupation through Project Transition.

Linemen, computermen and hotel managers are being trained at Army posts throughout the continental United States. As of June this year, 71,500 GI's had received training.

Peter Montovani, director of Project Transition at Fort Dix, New Jersey, explained various facets of the program.

"About 18 per cent of job-seekers are retiring personnel. They're often the most bewildered about what to do in civilian life because they're the farthest removed from it," Mr. Montovani said.

Project Transition is, in fact, a civilian apprenticeship program. The GI's who finish courses, with, for example, the telephone company

FELICIANO! BY Feliciano
At this point, what is there left to say about Jose Feliciano? He is one of the best talents to come along in pop music in several years. He is a terrific musician, with a style and performing manner that are completely his own. The absolute sincerity of his work is notable at a time when many performers are smothering themselves in arrangements, vocal tricks and gimmicks.

His super-hit LIGHT MY FIRE is included on this tape, but don't think he's a one hit artist. He does fantastic jobs on SUNNY, CALIFORNIA DREAMIN' and the Lennon-McCartney tune IN MY LIFE.

Altogether there are eleven cuts on this tape, and no matter how, when or where you have an opportunity to hear this tape, you're bound to enjoy it.

It is available on RCA reel to reel recording; RCA TP3 1002.

TAKEN FROM STEREO REVIEW

are referred to phone companies in their home areas for immediate placement.

"Realistically, we try to get a guy \$100 a week and in the door," said Montovani. "They start at the entry level of the firm, not any higher."

Project Transition, which encompasses career counseling, was begun in 1967 under former Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara.

Courses usually do not last longer than six months. Some trainees never get beyond the counseling stage for a variety of reasons. Some already have the skill needed for civilian jobs. Others applied for training to get out of regular Army duties.

"But even the counseling can be valuable in easing a departing serviceman into civilian life," Montovani said.

"The guy learns a little more about himself after the counseling sessions," he said. "If he gets to talk three or four times with a counselor who can give him some instruction and direction, it does a lot for him."

CCONTESTANT FOR QUEEN
275-LB MAN

HONOLULU (AP)**One of the contestants for homecoming queen of the University of Hawaii has measurements of 52-44-52.

Bruce Bikle, a 275-pound senior, says he entered the contest because he believes its exclusion of males violates the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

Bikle, whose friends call him "Buddha", says the idea came to him while he was taking a bath.

U.S. Savings Bonds make the ideal Christmas gift--for young and old alike. They're indestructible, never go out of style, don't require watering or feeding, and are easily obtainable at your bank, and increase in value with the years.

196TH MOVES HQ.

By 1LT Kenneth S. Mikulski

LZ HAWKHILL**A line of five-ton flatbed trailer trucks hauling metal conex containers tore a path through the muddy road as they departed AMERICAL Division's Landing Zone Baldy.

Enroute to the new home of the 196th Infantry Brigade at Hawk Hill, the convoys ploughed slowly but deliberately along. The mammoth task of moving the major portion of the brigade and its components was completed within four days.

Because of a well coordinated move plan initiated by the brigade staff officers, all of the administrative sections remained operational throughout the move.

More than 171 bunker complexes were constructed within 60 days by members of Alfa Company, 26th Engineers. However, heavy monsoon rains temporarily put a damper on the constructive efforts. "The biggest problem we had was water seepage into the buildings," recalled 2LT Jesse Daugherty (South Bend, Ind.) 1st platoon leader, Company A. "We solved that by placing rubber matting on the roofs. Then we swept out the ankle-deep water and continued to work."

Artillery from the 3/82 was shuttled to the new location by Chinook helicopters. The available firepower of the guns was never lost since each gun was displaced singly and put into operation before another gun was moved.

A great deal of credit goes to the men of the 196th for their tireless efforts. "The men did an outstanding job considering the adverse weather conditions and the short period of time they had to move," related LTC Edwin Kennedy (Gulfport, Miss.), Brigade Executive Officer. "We continued our move even though the roads were washed out, by hauling more than 17 conex loads to Hawk Hill with Chinooks."

During the coming months a few finishing touches will be completed at Hawk Hill. LZ Baldy will only remain as a distant memory to the men of the 196th Infantry Brigade.

MAIL BY DEC. 10
TOKYO (S&S)**To insure delivery of Christmas mail on or before CHRISTMAS DAY, postal authorities have announced the following mailing deadlines:

Personnel in "Vietnam and Thailand should mail surface articles by Nov. 15.

All Pacific Command airlift mail to the Continental U.S. should be mailed no later than as follows: Airmail, Dec. 13; Space Available Mail (SAM) Dec. 10; SAM parcels Dec. 4; Parcel Airlift (PAL) mail Dec. 10.

Packages for PAL require an additional \$1 fee beyond normal postage charges.

Packages must be well secured and clearly marked; all cardboard boxes must be tied with strong cord and a list of contents should be enclosed with the parcels.



*MAIL BY
DEC. 10*

PLATOON OF GODFATHERS

Go Adopt Viet Boy

by Sp4 Bill Crawford

LZ HAWK HILL**Hai is a Vietnamese lad of 13. He used to be an orphan. For several weeks now, men of the AMERICAN Division reconnaissance platoon have been virtual godfathers to Hai.

The Americans, from Echo 4/31, met little Hai in his native village of Thuoc Son where he was being cared for by neighbors. Like most Vietnamese children he was endeared to the GI's at once when they offered him candy and sodas from their packs.

The next morning, when the American platoon moved out, they had acquired a new member--Hai. He was firmly attached to the unit, refusing to go to the refugee center at Biop Duc.

The men fed and pampered Hai, and he was with them for two days of march. On the third day he was gone.

CAPTURED BY VC

"VC found out that he was captured by the VC," said 1LT Barry Brandon (Huntsville, Ala.), platoon leader. "They knew he had been friendly with us, so they imprisoned him."

Hai's place of confinement was a trench dug out beneath a hooch. The VC guard dozed, but Hai wasn't sleeping. He crept past his sleeping country and into the jungle--a jungle he knew like the back of his small brown hand.

AIDS IN VC'S DEATH

"He staggered into our camp about noon," said Brandon. "He was really beat. The VC hadn't fed him, but we soon took care of that. When he was feeling better, he told us exactly where his VC captors were located."

Acting swiftly, the Americans moved to intercept the unsuspecting guerillas. Four NVA Regulars, probably an observation squad for a larger unit, were surprised by the American unit. The enemy ran, but M-16 fire cut down two of them. The infantrymen found two AK-47 rifles and Chicom grenades on the bodies of the dead enemy.

The next day, during a sweep of the area, a VC province leader was killed. He carried a .38 revolver.

Hai was now a full-fledged scout.

Recently, Hai accompanied Brandon to LZ Baldy, a fire base.

"Hai will stay with me until the paperwork has been completed making me his guardian," said Brandon. "Then he will go to school."

Does this mean Hai's days in the field are over?

"Yes it does," concurred Brandon. "I plan to send Hai to college in Saigon someday. He said that was what he wanted to do when he gets old enough."

Grenade-Tossing GI's

(cont. from p. 3)

He popped smoke for the nearby choppers, and they began strafing the area. When the ships finished Alfa made a sweep and found eight dead NVA with packs and weapons.

