

1ST 146TH THE PROFESSIONALS



VOLUME I NO 11 DEC. 3

FACT
OR
WISH??

BATTALION
WELCOMES
LTC FOSS

"What did you do in Vietnam?"

"Uh, well I worked at the PX."

"And you?"

"Me? I, well, I was a life guard."

"What about you?"

"Sir, I was an infantry soldier!"

Why is it that over here no one wants the job the infantry soldier performs, but when they return to the United States, everyone was an infantry soldier or wishes they had been? . . .

You can hear the best adventure stories involving the infantry soldier from any support unit. They have a rough tour.

This issue of THE PROFESSIONALS hopes to point out a few of the facts. The editor and staff, along with the men in the trains area proudly salute the "Professional" INFANTRY SOLDIER.

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Who says a forward fire support base is no place for formality? Spit shined boots and starched jungle fatigues were the order of the day, Saturday, November 8, as Landing Zone Professional hosted the Change of Command ceremony of the 1st Battalion 46th Infantry, 196th Infantry Brigade.

Receiving the battalion colors from "DEROSING" CO, LTC Craig G. Coverdale (Manhasset, N.Y.), was LTC Peter J. Foss (Framingham, Mass.).

LTC Foss comes to the "Professionals" from the 1st Battalion 508th Infantry, 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division where he served as battalion commander. LTC Foss was graduated from West Point Military Academy in 1951, and recently received his Master of Arts degree in Journalism from the University of Wisconsin. During previous tours in Korea and in Europe the new CO was awarded the Bronze Star with second Oak Leaf Cluster and the Army Commendation Medal with first Oak Leaf Cluster, and since being in Vietnam has received his second Combat Infantry Badge, the Cross of Gallantry, and Vietnamese Jump Wings.

Accepting the responsibility of leadership from LTC Coverdale, LTC Foss promised, "I'll devote my full efforts

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to maintaining the standards that LTC Coverdale has established while serving as battalion commander. I look forward to being with you and seeing you in battalion operations and assisting you in the field."

The ceremonious occasion went smoothly as the mortar squads ceased their roaring fire and the nearby helicopter gun ships completed their mission. The event commenced on the VIP "chopper" pad as Commander of the Troops Maj. John T. Moore (Chatham, Mass.) called the color guards and guidon bearers, plus the other participants to attention. The colorful Americal Division Band, perched atop the sandbagged roof of the medical aid station, added a touch of revelry with renditions of "Old Comrades," "Army Goes Rolling Along," and "Auld Lang Syne."

BG Howard H. Cooksey (Brentsville, Va.), acting commander of the AMERICAL DIVISION, presented the outgoing battalion commander the Legion of Merit, the Silver Star Medal with first Oak Leaf Cluster, the Bronze Star, and the Air Medal with first through sixth Oak Leaf Clusters. In previous tours in Vietnam and in Germany LTC Coverdale was awarded the Army Commendation Medal, the Air Medal, the Bronze Star, and the Purple Heart.

In a brief address, Gen. Cooksey stated, "Much of the credit of this battalion goes to its outgoing commander. He is the epitome of your name....a true professional."

LTC Coverdale who will serve in Washington, D. C. with the D.I.A., has commanded the 1st Bn 46th Inf. since June 14.

The ceremony was followed by an informal reception where high ranking representatives from units throughout the AMERICAL sampled decorative platters of some of the Army's finest cuisine. Later a farewell party for LTC Coverdale took place at the NCO Club in the Blue Star trains area. (See Story, Page 6.)

FREE FOR THREE

Eating C-Rations that change in taste only by mixing the peanut butter in with the Chicken and Noodles, changing clothes every other week, fighting ants, mosquitos, leeches and freakish weather is the infantry soldier of the 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry. For three days every two months, he takes a needed and deserved trip to the 196th Stand-down area in Chu Lai, where he forgets the pains of the past days and lives

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THE ALPHA "D"

Alpha Company uncovered an idea that, to Platoon Sergeant Robert Andreas (Seaside, Calif.), is the best idea since sliced bread....or even the wheel!

Knowing the enemy many times enters a night defensive position after a friendly element moves out, Alpha Company had set in motion a plan to curtail this.

On Nov. 7, the ambitious "Dirty Dozen" waited under the hazy, cloud hidden stars of the Southern Cross for "Charles" to scavenge garbage in the night defensive position Alpha Company had previously occupied.

"We made plans to remain in this position for three days, while the rest of our company continued moving southwest, sweeping through the valley, and finally, to its prospective night defensive position," said PSG Andreas.

Along with PSG Andreas was SSG William R. Marks (Athens, Ala.), SGT Richard Gross (Hutchinson, Kan.), SP/4 Jan Brown (Bountiful, Utah), SP/4 Dwight S. Dirk (Bismarck, N. Dakota), PFC Jimmy L. Campbell (Wagoner, Okla.), PFC Foster Davis (Nashville, Tenn.), PFC Norman Miller (Kingston, N.C.), and PFC Henry Norris (Paris, Kentucky). These men were hand picked by PSG Andreas for the three-day ambush team because of their outstanding, smooth performances on previous ambushes.

"The first day and night, two enemy soldiers came near the perimeter, but not close enough for our claymores, and we didn't want to open up with small arms fire, because we felt that if we waited, there would be more coming," said SSG Marks. He continued, "However, the two soldiers came no closer, and instead of advancing forward, they turned away, and were gone in a split second. We never spotted them or any other enemy activity during the remainder of our mission."

After seventy-two hours of intense quietness and hopeful waiting for the enemy, the small element was air lifted from their ambush sight to LZ Professional. They joined the rest of Alpha Company which had walked upon the hill a few hours before.

Even though there were no enemy KIAs, CPT William B. Thetford (Columbus, Ohio), Alpha Company's commanding officer said, "There will be other times, and we will definitely continue missions involving the "Dirty Dozen." He feels very confident the ambush squad will make its "grave" marks on the enemy battle ground.

"MEDIC!!"

The Combat Medic.....

The mere mention of the man commands the highest respect of every infantryman in combat. With him rests the confidence and security of each soldier who steps into the perilous role of the fighting man. He must fill the capacity as a hard core combat troop, as well as in treating wounded comrades under fire. "I consider it a privilege to serve as a medic," said "Doc" Jerry Boward (Lincoln, Ill.). "I know I'm counted on when the time is crucial, and I like the feeling of responsibility."

Besides acting in emergency situations, the medics must also oversee the day to day health care of the "GI" to insure that he is always in top physical shape. "It's my job to get the resupply, see that the malaria pills get out to the men and whether or not a bird comes in for a medevac," states Bud Gantney (Merced, Calif.). "I enjoy being in a headquarters element, as I find out what is happening and can make a better informed decision; yet, I enjoy being a grunt."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

THE RTO

"Dust Off four zero, Dust Off four zero, this is Boom Atlas six niner Juliet, over."

Boom Atlas six niner this is Dust-Off four zero, go."

"Uh....roger four zero, this is six niner. I've got you in sight now. Our Lima Zulu is between the large hotel to your November, and about five zero miles from the big blue."

"Roger six niner. I have you now. Pop smoke."

"Roger four zero, smoke out."

To the average soldier, this conversation probably sounds like "Greek," but to the radio-telephone operator, better known as the RTO, it's simple, everyday language. "At first I had a difficult time using correct radio procedure," said Mike Brewer (Smithton, Ill.) "but I caught on pretty fast. Now I have a hard time speaking normally."

In addition to humping the usual rucksack and basic load of ammunition, the RTO must carry almost 40 pounds of additional equipment in the form of a PRC 25 radio (24.7 lbs), 1 spare battery (5 lbs), 1 speaker (4 lbs), and 4 to 6 smoke grenades (5 lbs). No other infantryman carries more weight than the RTO. SP4 Bill Conley (Philadelphia, Pa.), headquarters RTO for Delta Company said, "It took some time to get used to hump-

ing all that weight, especially going up 497, and the vines always got caught on the antonna, but I don't have much trouble anymore. I have a very important job to do and am proud to be an RTO."

There are two types of RTOs in an infantry company, a battalion net RTO who maintains contact with the TOC on LZ Professional and the company net RTOs who have commo with the command post and between the platoons. Duties performed by the RTOs include calling for resupply helicopters, dust offs, hot "As" and fire support.

"Being an RTO is a very demanding job and requires quick thinking. I know I've improved as a man since taking over my job," says Steve Harness (Denver, Colorado).

Wally Leibold (Plattoville, Wisc.), Charlie Company RTO stated, "Among the most difficult tasks is having to code and decode messages in a matter of seconds and calling in a dust off while under fire."

Great responsibility is placed with those men who under many adverse conditions continue to function properly in their duties. They possess a dedication that is unique within the infantry..... they are the RTOs.

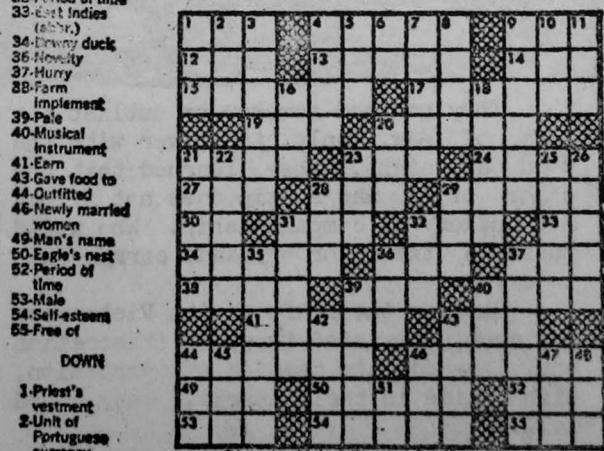
ANSWERS

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ON

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EDITORIAL PAGE

-SALUTE TO A MAN-

THE INFANTRY SOLDIER

YOUTH ARE DYING

WRITTEN BY CAPTAIN WALLACE P. BROWN

Teenagers, the generation gap—has the question "What is happening to our youth?" entered your mind recently?

Books, movies and "authorities" on youth have tried to give an answer. But for what it's worth, consider mine:

I say our youth are dying—not in body, but in mind.

During the latter part of my tour in Vietnam I served with a replacement company. There I saw a great many young men entering and leaving the country. For the most part, they were a part of the war. They were no longer looking in from the outside.

The young troopers' first reaction was that the war was not as they had imagined. They realized that fellow soldiers did not randomly kill civilians, their effort was of and for the people.

Following this realization they needed little help in standing on their own feet. They accepted advice from those who had been in country longer than they. Their minds grew sharp and their muscles strong from the endless search for an elusive enemy and from the ruck-sacks strapped on their backs.



They managed somehow to outlast the heat of day, only to shiver with the cold at night. They learned that the color of a man's skin does not affect his bravery or companionship. Who would question the color of hands carrying one to safety?

Sharing their food with Vietnamese children, they shed tears of frustration and learned the meaning of compassion. With pride in their hearts, they stood tall.

As I watched the young men's transformation, my answer to the "youth problem" became clear; our youth are dying

at an alarming rate, and are reborn men.

Colonel Gordon R. Davis, recently a unit commander in the 101st Airborne Division, took time to talk with the division's young troopers:

"Yesterday I talked to a group of over a hundred replacements. Standing in formation I could see their youth and could not help wondering at their size, all standing nearly six feet tall. Today as I talk to you going home, it saddens me to see no youth among you. While some of you are not yet twenty, all I see is men."

The blond, freckled-faced skinny "boys" are dying, and from that mass of blood and flesh emerge men, proud and strong. Let there be no question of our youth. Whether or not they have had the opportunity to serve their country, they will carry our banner as high, if not higher, than the "old men"—the "old men" who once themselves battled the charging enemy and gave their lives for freedom.

Let us give thanks, and be proud of our youth, and criticize less. For our youth can stand as well as any man.

(AFPS)

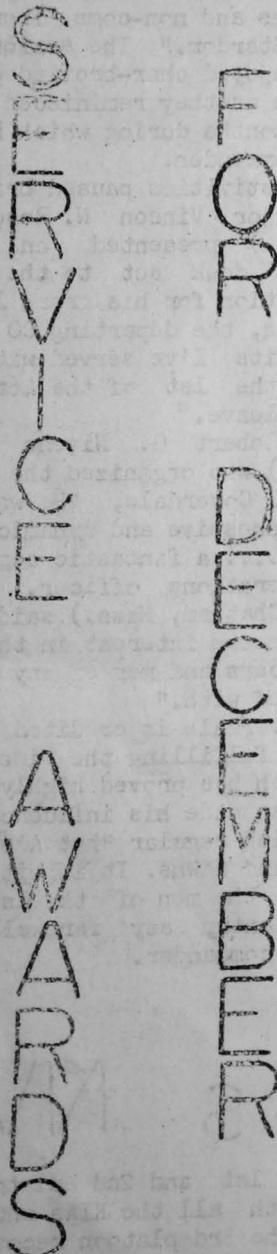
NOW 19, VETERAN FIGHTS TO REACH 20

Just imagine....Most of the guys over here are 18 and fighting to make 19. The average age of the combat soldier in many units is 18½ and what a man he is! A pink-cheeked, tousled-haired, tight muscled fellow who, under normal circumstances, would be considered by society half-man, half-boy, not yet dry behind the ears and a pain in the unemployment chart.

But here and now he is the beardless hope of free man. He is, for the most part, unmarried and without material possessions, except for an old car at home and a transistor radio here. He listens to rock-and-roll and 105-millimeter howitzers.

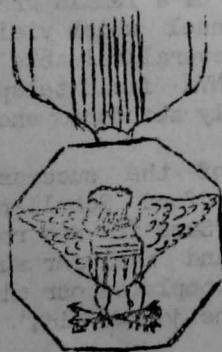
He just got out of high school, received so-so grades, played a little football and had a girl who promised to be true. He has learned to drink beer because it is cold and "it is the thing to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



 SERVICE FOR COUNTRY

AWARDS



NHC

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

PSG Elmon E. Nobles (Sumpter, S.C.)
 SP/5 Ernest Campa (Belle Glade, Fla.)
 SP/4 Chun D. Leo (Long Island City, N.Y.)

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

SP/5 George M. Enders Jr. (West Palm Beach, Fla.)
 SP/5 Robert C. Gonsalves (N. Dartmouth, Mass.)
 SP/5 Gerald M. Johnson (Lester, La.)
 SP/4 Jimmy W. Barnett (Collins, Ark.)
 SP/4 Lawrence A. Kilburg (Warrensville Hts., Ohio)
 SP/4 Artis L. Pryor (Spearsville, La.)

ALPHA

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

SGT Gary L. Ash (Salem, W. Va.)
 SGT Paul D. Huffaker (Ogden, Utah)
 SGT Anthony T. Melino (Hudson, N.Y.)
 SGT Franklin L. Philpott (Georgetown, Ind.)
 SP/4 Fred A. Barnhart (Remsen, N.Y.)
 SP/4 Don G. Jernberg (Bremerton, Wash.)
 SP/4 Gerald D. Smith Jr. (Portland, Ore.)
 PFC Elvin M. Brown (Portsmouth, Va.)

BRAVO

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

SGT John M. Dexter (Folsom, Pa.)
 SGT David G. Lynch Jr. (N. Hollywood, Ca.)
 SGT Frederick Peoples (Mariba, Ken.)

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

SP/4 Louis M. Attena (Suffern, N.Y.)
 SP/4 Arthur D. Borne (Gruetli, Tenn.)
 SP/4 Vernon E. McKenzie (Austin, Tex.)

CHARLIE

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

SGT Donald M. Brei (Astabula, Ohio)
 SGT Robert A. Rocchi (Kenmore, N.Y.)
 SP/4 Clarence I. Moore (Rock Hill, S.C.)

DELTA

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

SGT Michael Franz (Greene Bay, Wis.)
 SGT Elliott C. Moratore (Kenilworth, Ken.)

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

SP/4 Willie A. Jackson (Mathews, Ala.)
 SP/4 Donald Mostella (Greenville, S.C.)

ECHO

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

SGT Hubert S. Garner (Houston, Tex.)
 (CONTINUES ON PG. 3)

do." He is a private first class, a one year veteran with one or possibly three years to go. He never cared for work, preferred waxing his car to washing his father's, but now he is working or fighting from dawn to dark, often longer.

He still has trouble spelling, and writing letters home is a painful process. But he can break down his rifle in 30 seconds and put it back together in 29. He can describe the nomenclature of a fragmentation grenade, explain how a machine gun operates, and use either if the need arises. He can dig a foxhole, apply first aid to a wounded companion, march until told to stop, or stop until told to march. He has seen more suffering than he should have in his short life. He has stood among hills of bodies, and he has helped to build those hills. He has wept in private and in public and has not been ashamed at doing either, because his pals have fallen in combat and he has come close to joining them.

He has become self-sufficient. He has two pairs of fatigues, washes out one and wears the other. He sometimes forgets to brush his teeth, but not his rifle. He keeps his socks dry and his canteen full. He can cook his own meal, fix his own hurts, and mend his own rips—material or mental. He will share his water with you if you thirst, break his rations in half if you hunger, and split his ammos if you are fighting for your life.

He can do the work of two civilians draw half as much pay as one of them and see the ironic humor in it all. He has learned to use his hands as weapons and his weapons as his hands. He can save a life or most assuredly take one.

He is now 19, a veteran, and fighting to make 20.
NORTH AMERICAN NEWSPAPER CHIEF, USMC.
DA NANG, SOUTH VIETNAM

"VIP" PARTY

On the cool evening of November 8, the robust sound of partying "Professionals" rose above the roar of the sea, as departing battalion commander LTC Craig G. Coverdale, (Manhasset, N.Y.) was honored with a farewell celebration.

The battalion NCOs sponsored the event which was attended by virtually all officers and non-coms from throughout "Blue Stardom." The senior "Professionals" enjoyed char-broiled steaks and free drinks as they reminisced about the last five months during which LTC Coverdale was commander.

The festivities paused briefly when Sergeant Major Vinson N. Rose (Clarksville, Tenn.) presented an engraved clock radio desk set to the "Old Bull" in appreciation for his great leadership. In accepting, the departing CO said, "Of all the units I've served with in the military, the 1st of the 46th is the hardest to leave."

Capt. Robert G. Nivens (Harpersville, Ala.) who organized the function, said of LTC Coverdale, "He was one of the most impressive and dynamic men I've ever known..... a fantastic commander."

S-3 Operations officer, Maj. John T. Moore (Chatham, Mass.) said, "He had the most sincere interest in the welfare of the officers and men of any commander I have worked with."

LTC Coverdale is credited with initiating and fulfilling the idea of PRO-SERVCO which has proved highly successful. He also made his influence felt in the field with regular "hot A's" and more frequent stand downs. It is with sincere regret that the men of the 1st Battalion 46th Infantry say farewell to an outstanding commander.

BRAVO OUT VCS NVA

Operating seven days without resupply in the dripping triple canopy jungle of "Dragon Valley" southwest of LZ Professional, Bravo Company, commanded by Capt. James R. Bradley (Miami Springs, Fla.), recently killed seven unsuspecting NVA regulars and captured valuable documents, six weapons and even Chicom telephones from the enemy.

Refusing resupply helicopters and maintaining strict noise discipline to prevent the Communists from learning its location, the "Long Range Company" taught "Charlie" a lesson in his own techniques.

Bravo's 1st and 2nd platoons were credited with all the KIAs and five AK 47 rifles. The 3rd platoon recovered the abandoned pack of a female graves registration personnel which yielded a 9mm pistol and several valuable documents. Earlier, four NVA field telephones were found in a newly abandoned enemy encampment.

Speaking of the successful operation, RTO Bredford Schuller (Luling, Tex.), said, "Sure it was rough, going without chow and mail for such a long time, but we completed our mission and are proud of the job we did."



HHC

LTC Peter J. Foss (Framingham, Mass.)
 Maj Charles Buttermore (Pittsburgh, Pa.)
 CPT Joseph D. Mott (La Jara, Colo.)
 1LT Robert G. Osborne (Lincoln Park, N.J.)
 2LT Edward H. Robertson (Mt. Pleasant, S.C.)
 SGT Frank Seegal (Lackawanna, N.Y.)
 SP/4 Donald L. Ferry (Denver, Colo.)
 PFC David A. Sutter (Kent, Wash.)

ALPHA COMPANY

2LT Timothy B. Keating (Indianapolis, Ind.)
 PFC Henry F. Blue (Fayetteville, N.C.)
 PFC Oscar L. Garland (Beaumont, Fla.)
 PFC Pablo M. Rodriguez (Sanger, Calif.)

BRAVO COMPANY

SFC Wonnie Harris (Sectury, Colo.)
 SSG Joseph Horseman (Louisville, Ky.)
 SGT Elmer R. Perry (Leesville, La.)
 SGT Edlun M. Thomas (Sioux City, Iowa)
 PFC Robert W. Boyd (Indianapolis, Ind.)

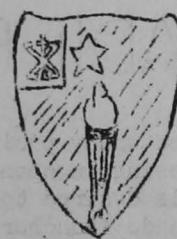
CHARLIE COMPANY

SSG David R. Batchelder (Howland, Maine)
 SGT Bobby M. Swanger (Hazelwood, N.C.)
 PFC William M. Kowar (Toledo, Ohio)

DELTA COMPANY

Sgt Ronnie Gipson (Washington, Mo.)
 PFC Stanley D. Pigge (Flint, Mich.)
 PFC William R. Thompson (Beach, N. Dak.)

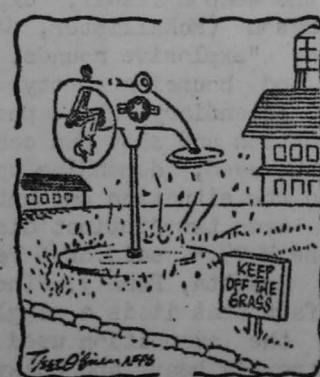
BATTALION



WELCOMES NEW MEN

ECHO COMPANY

SGT James Morrissey (Yonkers, N.Y.)
 PFC Virgil L. Spear (Lakeland, Fla.)
 (CONTINUED ON PAGE 9)



MEDIC (CONT. FROM PG 3)

Caring for the health of the men is sometimes longer hours than the ones receiving it. Says "Doc" Alan Johnson (Missoula, Montana). "When the guys are taking 'five,' my job is just beginning. Salt has to be distributed, small problems hampering movement, and the overall status of the platoon must be checked. The 'Old Man' will want to know if we're capable of making four clicks, and I have to come up with the correct answer."

Recon medic, Ernest Campa (Belle Glade, Fla.) showed the spirit of his job after a trying mission when he stated, "I remember moving 7½ hours that day and I was working every inch of the way. But after it was over, I knew I did a good job and the self satisfaction was worth the perspiration." It is this attitude that the men of the 1st Battalion 46th Infantry so proudly acknowledge.

- GRENADEIER -

When suspected enemy positions are ahead or while crossing an open field or rice paddy and it is desired to recon by fire, the M-79 grenade launcher is used. When fired upon by a sniper whose location is not known, but general area is, the weapon used is again the M-79.

Why would this stubby-barreled, thick-stocked weapon that looks like it comes out of the Civil War era be used? It is employed because it is a very effective and efficient weapon used by the infantry soldier, when reconnaissance by fire is utilized or a point or area-type target is engaged.

"The primary advantages of the M-79 are the numerous rounds that can be used by this one weapon without making any changes on the weapon itself," explained George Thomason (McKallister, Okla.). He continued, "Explosive rounds, point detonated and bouncing Betty types, smoke, gas, incendiary, white phosphorous, illumination and shot gun cannister rounds can be used, depending upon the terrain and the situation encountered."

"There are two distinct disadvantages to the M-79," said SP/5 Pete Sebastianelli Rosetta, Penn.). "They include the fact that it is a single shot weapon and the ammunition used by the M-79 is extremely heavy and bulky." He went on, "These are minute however, when the advantages are considered." Besides the many types of rounds it can fire, the HE rounds of the M-79 have a five meter casualty bursting radius, the weapon is easy to care for and clean, and it is the only weapon in the small arms arsenal carried by the infantry

soldier that can effectively fire over a hill or tree line and bring a known but unseen enemy under fire.

"It was very hard getting used to carrying the grenade launcher," said SP/4 James Green (Johnstown, Pa.), grenadier for Alpha Company. "It was aggravating trying to keep the ammo situated around my waist so the weight of the rounds would not feel so awkward while walking; however, I would not give it up. It is a great weapon to use."

The work of the M-79 grenadier, like that of any infantry soldier is an arduous one. He performs his duties with a determination and skill that reflects courage in himself. Through his continuing effort, the M-79 grenadier is recognized in the important job he performs.

THE RIFLEMAN

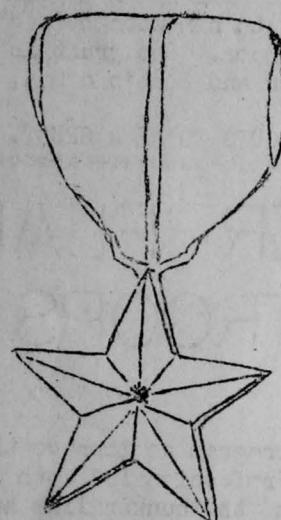
The M-16 A-1 rifle was designed and developed for use in a climate and terrain like the one found here in Vietnam. This remarkable piece of equipment has time and time again proven its superiority over other weapons of a similar nature.

The United States soldier who fights here in Vietnam was trained for the job through a selective teaching process that has made him thoroughly proficient in the duties he performs. He always shows the ability to accomplish the numerous and difficult tasks assigned to him.

When the M-16 rifle is coupled with the United States infantry soldier, there is formed an unbeatable team of determination and confidence that the enemy fears and respects. "I feel my weapon is a part of me," stated SP/4 Tom O'Donnell (Philadelphia, Penn.). "I know it is a dependable weapon and if I take care of it, it will take care of me." The rugged light weight, highly accurate weapon has become a friend of the infantry soldier he will never forget.

The job of the infantry rifleman is arduous and strenuous. He must take the most dangerous job the infantry has, that of walking point. He is the man up front whose responsibility it is to foresee any danger, alert the rest of the element and thus prevent casualties. He must rely on his nerves of steel, cautious manner, alert style, keen eye sight and the ability to surmise any unexpected situation suddenly placed before him. "I know my responsibilities while walking point," said PFC Terry Churchill (Niles, Mich.). "I also know when someone else walks point he understands his responsibilities. This knowledge and trust placed in each other makes everyone's task easier."

AWARDS FOR DECEMBER



(BRONZE STAR)

CONTINUED

ECHO COMPANY



| | |
|---|---|
| SGT Lonnie C. Good (Roseburg, Ore.) | SP/4 Michael F. Bowers (Salem, N.J.) |
| SGT Lee V. Hatmaker (Whiting, Ind.) | SP/4 Roger D. Bullard (Lumberton, N.C.) |
| SGT Stanley Minniear (Rocky Ford, Colo.) | SP/4 Charles M. Huff (Portland, Ore.) |
| SGT Peter A. Sebastianelli (Roseto, Pa.) | SP/4 James E. Leatherman (Keiser, W. Va.) |
| SGT Gaylord L. Spurrier (Hollansburg, Ohio) | SP/4 Terry Lopez (Las Lomas, Puerto Rico) |
| SGT Trevor V. Fisk (Lake Oswego, Ore.) | SP/4 Nelson Rameriz (Hato Rey, Puerto Rico) |
| SP/4 Edward R. Ballington (W. Columbia, S.C.) | SP/4 Steven B. Wempe (Breese, Ill.) |
| SP/4 Robert Goodard (Scottsbluff, Neb.) | |
| SP/4 Milton D. Zirlott (Coden, Ala.) | |

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

2LT Craig C. Taylor (Columbus, Ohio)
PSG Celedonio Fabon (Brooklyn, N.Y.)

THE "PIG"....

THE MAN

The M-60 machine gun, often referred to as the "pig" by the infantry soldier, has proven it is an indispensable part of the light weapons arsenal. Due to the many advantageous characteristics of the M-60, the gunner is able to react quickly to any situation that may develop. The "pig" is always capable of unleashing maximum fire power, despite inclement weather, dense foliage or mountainous terrain.

As the print element slowly moves down the jungle-covered trail and suddenly breaks into an open area, the word is automatically passed back, "Bring up the 'pig'."

When contact is made with the enemy the "pig" is immediately placed in a strategically beneficial location enabling fire support to be gained and perimeter security established.

When an ambush is set up, the "pig" is carefully positioned so it can cover the largest possible area in the kill zone and most effectively engage the enemy. Stopping for a break or setting

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-PSP-

OUR SKY PILOT

BY: CHAPLAIN FRANCIS LEINEN

They call him "GRUNT"—THE INFANTRY SOLDIER. A grunt, because his mess hall is in a tin can...A grunt, because his vehicle is a pair of battered jungle boots...A grunt because his shower is called "Monsoon" and his latrine, "Cat-hole"...A grunt because his quarters are a poncho, air mattress and jungle shared with mosquitoes and leeches.



G-F-U-N-T spells "HELL" for the 11-B whose pad for the year is a jungle floor. But it also spells "man" because he becomes a man as he humps through "HELL"...Because the name of the game is survival and it takes the qualities of a man to make it.

G...

He's GENUINE...No plastic phoney trying to impress people "just don't mean nothin'" over here so he does his thing--honestly. If mad, he swears; if glad, he laughs; if scared, he jokes or complains. He's what he is without apology and that's a man.

R...

He's READY. Yes dirty.. sweaty.. smelly...sloppy...grubby beard...tired. He seems inattentive and bored, but when the action gets hot he's all there... ready to do his job and do it well... and that's a man.

U...

He's UNITED. It's all for one and one for all because he depends on the other guy for survival. No time for racial difference, or educational difference or social difference. It's all the same--the color is grunt, the education is grunt, the society is grunt. That makes him united and that's a man.

N...

He's NOBLE. It's true he doesn't want to be here.. doesn't like to be here... sometimes he doesn't understand why he's here. He hates his job, but he does it anyway because he knows somebody has to. So he does what he has to do despite the way he feels. That's nobility...that's a man.

T...

He's THOUGHTFUL. He cares about the other guy because they're grunts together. It's carry a buddy's pack when he's sick, share a LPRP or a "care" package, listen to him when he's got bad news from home. One grunt is a brother to another and that's a man.

GOD GIVE HIM THE GUTS TO BE A GRUNT.

BOOSTER PLAN FOR TROOPS

A battalion program to improve the incentive of the "Professionals" both in the field and on the bunker line has gone into full swing recently. Following the guidelines set by Maj. John T. Moore (Chatham, Mass.), competition between the companies in such categories as KIAs, captured weapons, POWs, captured documents, adequacy of landing zones, and improvement of the bunker line has been initiated.

Points are tallied every twenty days and the winning company receives an engraved plaque. In addition, liaison jobs in the trains area are given to that company for the next twenty-day period. A number of three-day in-country R&Rs are also awarded.

Cpt. Michael K. Lee (Rapid City, S. Dak.) who led Delta Company to the first plaque said of the new program, "The incentive award is already showing great signs of success. It will be an important morale booster and will make a hesitant person more inclined to do a good job."

The number of points given is determined by the importance of the achievement. For example, a POW is rewarded with more points than a KIA since the former is more valuable for intelligence purposes. In this way, the soldier will have a special interest in doing what is most beneficial to the war effort.

In view of the enthusiasm already generated by the companies of the 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry, the incentive award program promises to take its place as another Blue Star success.

M-60 (CONTINUED FROM PG 9)

up a day or night defensive position, the M-60 is placed in such a manner as to afford the best protection for the rest of the element.

The machine gunner is the backbone of any element. He possesses stamina and strength and performs his duties unhesitatingly. "The 'pig' seemed more of a challenge, but I wanted to carry it," said SP/4 William Stewart, gunner for Bravo Company. "Now the hump is well worth it. It's a great weapon and I'm going to stick with it."

A machine gunner has many disadvantages and extra duties not faced by other members of a line company. "You have to want the machine gun," said Bob Spence (Philadelphia, Penn.), "and be willing to carry the extra load that goes along with it."

The M-60 machine gunner continually performs a magnificent job, and many times works far beyond his call of duty. Not only is he proud of his job, but his comrades realize his function and sense admiration and security with the "Pig Man."

X STAND-DOWN (CONTINUED FROM PG)

like a human being.

Stand-down is the infantrymen's island of paradise in a sea of trouble. It is to the infantry field troop like Christmas is to the six year old. The last battalion stand-down was true joy where the call was cold beer and soda, showers, clean clothes that did not become mud splattered or sweat soaked the same hour, all the hot food a person could eat, and all the cold milk he could drink, cook outs on the beach with an endless supply of steaks cooked to order, a trip to the PX for personal items, floor shows with the fairer sex represented and movies until the early hours of morning.

These numerous activities were improved for the soldier, for upon arriving at the stand-down area, weapons were checked in, ruck sacks and steel pots put away. A freedom of movement that the field troop seldom experiences is attained. All this was topped off with a night of sleep in a bunk, with no rain falling in his face, and without the proverbial whisper of.... "Hey Frank wake up, it's your guard," repeated ten minutes later by "Frank, you awake?"



QUICK-KILL ON LZ PRO

"In recent months it has been noticed that the enemy has been engaged at close ranges with negative results," stated Captain James R. Bradley (Miami Springs, Fla.), Bravo Company Commander. To correct this problem, Cpt. Bradley used an idea he employed in a previous tour in Vietnam. "I have been confronted with this problem before," he continued, "and found that a quick kill range was the most effective remedy." The Bravo CO went on to say that the program had almost eliminated close range misses.

Capitalizing on the idea of a quick kill range on LZ Professional, Maj. John T. Moore (Chatham, Mass.), S-3 Battalion Operations Officer, went to work organizing construction of two ranges on the edge of the old 101st pad. These courses employ fifteen pop up targets to be engaged at distances from ten to forty meters.

Maj. Moore feels that the basic trainee does not take the techniques concerning quick kill seriously enough. Then after he has come to Vietnam and lived in the field he understands its significance but does not have the opportunity to practice it.

The Battalion Commander, LTC Peter J. Foss, (Framingham, Mass.), who was first to use the new range, stated, "It is my hope that retraining in the use of quick kill will add another edge in our favor." He continued, "Each time a line company comes on the "Hill" the riflemen will go through the course."

Quick kill has been proven very effective when properly used. With the LZ Professional quick kill ranges the idea will stay refreshed in the minds of the infantry soldier, thus giving him the advantage over the enemy in a quick kill situation.

THE PROFESSIONAL

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