

**"EIGHT ON A BRIDGE"**

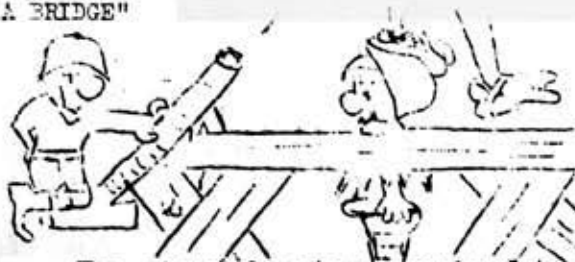
If one day you are driving south down Highway one, and you come to a big wooden bridge, with a perimeter of bunkers and fighting positions surrounding it, you are then crossing Bridge 104. This bridge is being secured by a combination of Vietnamese Soldiers and American Troops.

These G.I.'s working with the Vietnamese, are from the Mortar Platoon of D Company, 4th Battalion 21st Infantry, Americal Division. This program is part of the Pacification Project the Company has been involved in since the end of last October. The American team is comprised of eight men, one squad, to man the 81mm Mortar Tube and assist in reconnaissance and combat patrols, and ambushes with the Vietnamese Troops.

The group's NCOIC, Sergeant Raymond Olsson (East Paterson, New Jersey), explained exactly what the objective of the program is. "We were placed here to work along side the Regional Forces so they may have a better understanding of how the American Soldier operates", said Olsson. He went on to say, "I myself or a couple of my men go out on the patrols with the Vietnamese elements". Olsson told of how well the RF's are learning and cooperating with his men on the joint operations.

Specialist Four Ringo Bixby (Revere, Massachusetts), and Specialist Four Paul Steele (Indianapolis, Indiana), the two men who usually attend the patrols with the Vietnamese, agreed that they both had complete confidence in the troops. "When we first began working with them", said Steele, "we were a little unsure, but now they pull perimeter guard, while we man the mortar tube."

Recently a Revolutionary Development Cadre Group moved onto the bridge to work in the surrounding Hamlets and fields with the Civilian Population. This will also add to the security of the bridge. The individuals are from the 39th EDC Group, who recently were named the best group in Vietnam, and awarded 77,000 piasters as a prize.



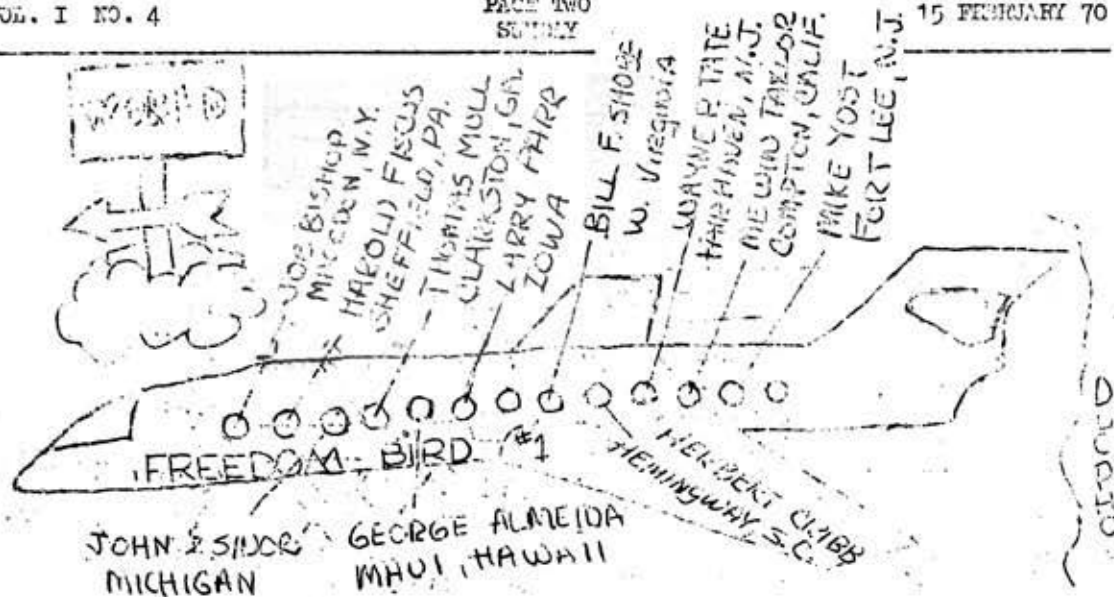
The group of mortarmen assigned to the bridge, are also provided with a medic, Private First Class William D. Edge (Farmersville, Texas). He explained how he treats the entire group of Soldiers, American and Vietnamese, and also the surrounding villagers bring their minor injuries to his aid. Edge admits, "with only eight G.I.'s to care for, my work is light, but the Vietnamese people keep me pretty busy". He also instructs the Regional Force medics in some of the different medical procedures.

The old-timer, and squad leader of the group, Sergeant Andolpho Delos Santos (Dominican Republic), has witnessed great improvement in the abilities of the Vietnamese troops. "They are all very alert at all times, and on patrols they seem to know exactly where the enemy will be hiding," said Delos Santos.

The bridge assignment offers water sports for recreation. A fresh water stream runs beneath the bridge, and the Vietnamese and American men swim and bathe in the cool water. They also need very little clothing resupply, thanks to the availability of laundry facilities in the stream. "It's nice," says Specialist Four Jerry Hagen (St. Paul, North Carolina), "to come in after a hot, tiring patrol and be able to cool off in the clean stream."

During Tet, the Vietnamese showed their thanks and appreciation to the American troops by presenting them a special dish, cooked with rice and crushed peanuts, rolled in corn husks. Specialist Four James Woodward (Houston, Texas) and Specialist Four Michael Fobbe (Apple Lake, Minnesota) commented as they tried the Oriental Dish, "It's not exactly a McDonalds Cheeseburger, but I guess each to his own taste."

15 FEBRUARY 70



"MEMORIES"

As the warm rubber rises from the hot blacktop runway at the Cam Ranh Bay Airport, and you, with 12 long months of Vietnam life worn into your body, an experience is felt, one perhaps that will never be felt again. One may find this short five minute experience a climax to what was seemingly a never-ending year.

As the big "freedom bird" soars from the coast of this war-torn land, across the blue waters of the South China Sea, the coils of 160 minds unwind the experiences of a years time. Trying to forget, and allow the thoughts of home, wives, friends, and families become a reality.

You sit with clammy hands, and a dry mouth resulting from uncontrollable anxieties. You look from side to side at all the other men, who may appear quite different, but at this moment you all are identical. You've anxiously waited for one year, and now these few remaining 20 hours become a lifetime and so important.

You gaze out the window, but only to see a smooth chalky layer of clouds below. They are all the same, but then you notice one odd looking dark one. It takes you back to that stream bed in the mountains. It was such a hot day, and as you bent to cool your face in the clear running water, an image of yourself appeared. That was the first time you saw yourself in Vietnam, and you realized the existence was true.

This dark hazy cloud has now reflected this same image; but it now displays a bright background, which includes home and friends, you finally realize you are on your way home, and yet some sorrow is present. You were also leaving many

friends, with whom you'd shared a year of your life, a life somewhat different from that at home. But now you must break away with joy. This year had carved some great changes, and you know the life on the other side of the world would come much easier and you would be easily pleased and understanding.

The big bird finally penetrates the thick layer of clouds as it begins its decent into your year-long dream of America. You see millions and millions of lights, blue, red, green, even black, as the inflated cold rubber screeches onto the pool white cement. Your dreaming is over, but as you step from door of the huge aircraft, a warm gush of wind slaps you in the face, a gush of wind that has seemed to be drug by the tail of the aircraft, the wind possibly filled with everlasting memories.....

WELCOME 4/21 NAM HEN

SGT Robert Mussin -C- Detroit, Michigan
PFC Sheldon Harris -A- Salt Lake City, Utah
PFC Jose Saavera -C- Los Angeles, Calif.
PFC Phillip Terrel -C- Okla. City, Okla.
PFC Joseph Alward -A- Sacramento, Calif.
PFC Brian Thomas -A- Sag Harbor, N. Y.
PFC Clifford Stepp -A- Morristown, Tenn.
PFC Floyd Reel -A- Dman, Oregon
PFC Chester Moore -HHC- Campitz, La.
SGT Barry Anthony -HHC- Int'l Falls, Minn.
PFC Andrew Merchant -HHC- College Station, Tex.
SP4 John McGuire -HHC- Buffalo, N. Y.
PFC James Beamon -E- Milwaukee, Wis.
PFC Floyd Townsend -A- Campton, Kentucky
PFC Ronald Gray -B- Thompson Falls, Mont.
PFC Dennis Degroot -A- Arcadia, Calif.
2LT Henry Skeczalek -B- Philadelphia, Pa.
2LT John Iappini -A- Cambridge, Mass.
2LT John Murphy -D- Portland, Oregon
2LT Jerry Webster -B- Eden, N. Carolina



- COMMAND INFORMATION -

WAR TROPHIES

Would you like to take one of those war trophies back to the states with you? You can, you know, if you go about it the right way. Of course, there's always the wrong way too. You can try to sneak an unauthorized war trophy out of Vietnam but if you get caught, like most do, you'll be in real trouble....if not in jail.

WHAT IS A WAR TROPHY?

You should already know, by now, that five pounds of C-4 is not going to be considered a war trophy. In the same respect, neither is a communist 122mm rocket complete with launcher. Rather, a war trophy is "any small item of equipment or material taken from hostile forces in armed conflict". The item must have no intelligence value, not prohibited from importation into the U.S., not be prohibited as a war trophy by pertinent laws or directives, and must be authorized and/or registered in accordance with the provisions of MACV directives.

Regardless of what you have heard many items are not war trophies, and cannot be taken back to the U.S. This applies to all automatic and crew-served weapons including the M-47, regardless of modifications to alter their serviceability (including welding the bolt shut). In addition, munitions of any type, cartridge cases, primers, destructive devices (including mines and grenades, regardless of whether they are inert or not), explosives, incendiaries, poison gases, or any type of propellant powder designed for use in any firearm, cannot be taken back to the U.S. as war trophies.

The only U.S. weapons captured from the enemy, which can be considered as legal war trophy firearms, are the following: U.S. Rifle Cal. .30, M1903 Series; U.S. Rifle, Cal. .30 M1917; and British Enfield, Cal. .30, M1917.

THE LEGAL WAY

As we said before, there are two ways to go about taking that war trophy back to the states. The illegal way can and usually does result in serious disciplinary action.

Now that you have decided to keep that war trophy

you can start the paper work for keeping non-firearms as war trophies. First you must complete three copies of DD Form 603-1 for each item. Then each item must be screened. This screening must be completed within 30 days after obtaining the article, so it's important to start the paper work as soon as possible.

Once your war trophy is screened and authorized you can have it mailed, shipped, included in authorized baggage, or carried personally to the U.S. Articles not accepted as war trophies will not be returned to you.

WAR TROPHY FIREARMS

War trophy firearms must be screened and authorized in the same manner as non-firearms. In addition two more forms are requested: DD Form 603 and an RVN Export License.

After screening you must complete four copies of DD Form 603. These, and the already authenticated duplicate DD Form 603-1, will then be forwarded to the appropriate registration activity. One copy will be returned to you, retain these forms permanently.

Persons stationed outside the Saigon/Cholon area may obtain an RVN Export license by submitting a request (Annex D MACV Directive 645-2) in duplicate along, with your authenticated DD Forms 603 and 603-1, to the nearest U.S. Consulate, such as: U.S. Consulate Marshall, APO 96413.

All requests for export license should be submitted at the earliest possible date, but not later than 90 days prior to your departure from Vietnam. The licenses will be mailed to persons outside the Saigon/Cholon area if requested.

In exceptional cases when a war trophy firearm is acquired 60 days prior to your departure the local area Provost Marshall will issue a temporary license.

THE GILLET

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"A RAZOR FOR A RIFLE"

It was back in the summer of 69 that David E. Hess left his Indiana home in Fort Wayne, headed for the sunny beaches of South Vietnam. He was told to put down his razor and scissors, barbering was his profession, and issued a new M16 rifle. It wasn't long before he felt the huge aircraft descending into the Da Nang airport, where he was met by representatives from E Company, as reconnaissance would be his duty for the next 12 months.

He was fitted into a pair of camouflage fatigues, issued a Huey, all the necessities, and on his way to the bush. Three long months drag by before he caught word that the Battalion was in need of an M1 qualified to cut hair. The old barber was in the process of decommissioning and would need a replacement.

Hess, while humping in the hot, sweaty field, notified his Platoon Leader of his qualifications, and from there word was sent on up the line, until the Battalion Commander received the word, and immediately called for an extraction helicopter, and had Specialist Four Hess brought to the rear.

Here Hess began work, trimming, shaving, cutting, clipping. His work

continued steadily for days and nights, and finally he completed his task. He had given every man in the Battalion a neat hair cut. "Ah", sighed Hess as he fell back into his chair to finally relax after all those days of work. Now for a few days rest before returning to the bush.

As he was sleeping quietly, with the thoughts of hair off his mind, the door flew open, and there stood the first head of hair he cut several days ago. The man's hair had grown out, and was ready to be cut again. In fact, he found that all the men were returning for another hair cut.

Specialist Hess was stuck with a never ending job, but this meant he wouldn't be returning to the field. In fact he was transferred to Head Quarters Company, and now in his own little shop on LZ Debbie. His working hours are all day, every day, even Mondays and Sundays. One can't miss his neat little shop, it displays the familiar red-stripped barber pole at the door.

Hess enjoys his work very much. He welcomes everyone in need of a haircut to step in. Disregard the old cliché, "shave and a haircut two bits", Hess charges nothing.....



NEW 4/21 LEADERS

During the first part of February, the 4th Battalion 21st Infantry, received four new Officers. Second Lieutenant John P. Lippini, who is now with A Company, is from Cambridge, Massachusetts. Second Lieutenant Jerry D. Webster, from Blain, North Carolina, has been assigned to B Company. Second Lieutenant John A. Murphy, who is now working with B Company, is from Portland, Oregon, and will be going to D Company upon completion of OJT with Bravo. The fourth and final new officer coming into the Battalion, is Second Lieutenant Henry Skoczalek, from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and will be with the Reconnaissance Platoon of E Company.

The Battalion Commander and the men of 4/21 would like to welcome the new officers, and we are looking forward to seeing you in the field real soon.....

** COMBAT LEADERS **

During the first part of February, five men from the 4th Battalion 21st Infantry, successfully completed Combat Leadership School in Chu Lai.

One man represented each of the line companies. From A Company was Specialist Four George Abernathy (Cantersville, Oregon), B Company Private First Class Ramundo Sosa (El Paso, Texas), C Company - Specialist Four Joseph Boissenger (Gallitain, Pennsylvania), D Company - Specialist Four David Hauck (Imber, Pennsylvania), and from E Company was Specialist Four Randall Ball (Key stone, West Virginia).

Congratulations men, from LTC George R. Moxey Johnson and the entire 4th Battalion 21st Infantry.

"77,000 PROVES THEY'RE BEST"

SSRP's (con't from page 3)

If you hear anyone ask, "who's the best R.D.C. Group in Vietnam", you be sure and reply, "Revolutionary Development Cadre Group 39 is, and they have 77,000 Piasters to prove it". Yes, RDC Group 39, working in and around the Duc Pho area, were given 77,000 Piasters and named the best Revolutionary Development Group in all of Vietnam.

Exactly what, and who are the RD Cadre Groups, and their function? The RD's are South Vietnamese organizations, similar to the Peace Corps or VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America), both organizations in the states. Each RD group is comprised of 15 to 30 members, all wearing black uniforms, and broken down into teams of eight. These teams work in the Hamlets with the villagers and their purpose is to advise and assist the people in all ways possible.

Sergeant First Class Adrian Stewart, (Milton, Florida) the American Advisor to the groups working in the 11th Brigade area, explained how the groups will work with platoons of Vietnamese Popular and Regional Forces. The Forces will pull security of the Village or Hamlet, while the Cadre go in and work with the people, rooting out VC and helping the people set up systems of government and education.

An example of the R.D. Cadre's work, is a recent operation north of Duc Pho. The group, under the leadership of Nguyen Thachv, group leader, and Ho Ly, assistant group leader, evacuated 749 villagers from the VC infested village of Quy Tien, on the Southern end of the Gaze Strip, and relocated them six miles south of Duc Pho.

As the RD's managed to relocate the villagers into their new homes, they assisted them in stringing barb wire, building homes, bunkers, bridges, digging wells, and they held elections, allowing the people to choose Hamlet Chiefs and Officials.

The RD's work in a Hamlet with the people until they feel they have complete territorial security, protection of the people from terrorism, and prosperity for all. The RD's roll is urging, organizing and guiding. They work directly with the people urging them to build a standard of living, restore peace, and create a democracy.

The RD Cadre also assist the people in establishment of educational systems and facilities. Building schools, obtaining books and instructors. The Cadre often instruct the children themselves.

The remaining four men were chosen from the recon platoon of E Company. Private First Class John Holland (New, Louisiana), Private First Class Jorge Nieves (Bronx, New York), Private First Class Terry Cieselman (San Antonio, Texas), and Private First Class Roy Victorina (Laton, California).

These 15 men have successfully completed the two week school, and returned to their original units. They work together as a team within the company, and are utilized primarily for short range reconnaissance.

The SSRP's, as they are called, are a great asset to the line companies. They work very tightly together, and the additional training has given them the ability to direct and adjust artillery, give medical aid, in the event of injuries, and assume leadership positions when it would be necessary.....



When the Cadre feel the people and their Hamlet are secure and they have accomplished their primary purpose, they move on to a new Hamlet, helping these villagers to build and maintain a democratic community.

Revolutionary Development Cadre Group 39 has performed their job so well and been so successful, they have been named the best RD Group in all of Vietnam. A large ceremony was held and 77,000 Piasters were awarded to the group.

When Nguyen Thachv was asked what the group would use the money for, he told how they would give a portion to all the mothers whose sons had been killed and now working for the Vietnamese Government as Kit Carson Scouts. Some of the money will also go to the Scouts themselves.

Of course as with any Boss and his employees, Thachv will take a small amount of the prize money and hold a celebration party for his men. The men are very proud, and it is needless to mention how great an honor this is for the Vietnamese Revolutionary Development Cadre Group 39.....
