

# The

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# Chronicle

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## Recon Flush 7 From Cave

The versatile 4/21st Recon platoon, in a July 4th effort with members of S2, routed 7 Viet Cong during an encounter in an elaborate cave complex five miles south of Duc Pho. Subsequent investigation established that the individuals captured were members of a 19 man party organized for attack on Chi Trung, a fishing village two miles south of LZ Debbie.

Reliable Vietnamese sources supplied the information which led to an early - morning combat assault to the Pho Hiep hamlet area north-east of Debbie. "We departed at 0700 hours", recalled 1LT Brien DeMary (S2), Beaumont, Texas. "The second squad of Recon, led by 1LT Jerry Webster, (Eden, N.C.), established a blocking force due north of our position. SGT Kim, my interpreter, and I moved with the first squad toward LT Webster's location".

While pushing north to the blocking force the men picked up a government official of Pho Hiep who directed them to a suspected enemy encampment on the north-east slope of Hill 164. The guide led the small force up a dried stream bed studded with elaborate rock formations. "Here we found numerous caves which were ideal for concealment", continued DeMary. "We suspected one of them was occupied, so we called in for CS to drive

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## Charlie's Cash Cache

A small, highly efficient element from battalion S2 is meeting with continuing success in its efforts to neutralize small pockets of communist influence in the hamlet areas near Duc Pho. These "Jungle Warriors" are taking the guerrillas closer to financial ruin, too.

S2 makes efficient use of the "mini-CA" to drop in uninvited on the Viet Cong. 1SG Cecil Zachary (Calispell, Mt) has been on 32 such combat assaults in the past four months. "We usually hear from the village chiefs when the unwanted visitors show up, and we can drop down on them at any time", said Zachary.

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## Commander Leaves 4/21

A very superior soldier has vacated the 4/21st commanders post fifty days prematurely. LTC Robert L. Harper narrowly averted death while conferring with members of Bravo Company in their "Rice Bowl" day laager. A well-aimed sniper round passed through his helmet and lodged in his helmet liner, leaving a five inch crease in the back of his head. The steel pot undoubtedly saved his life. "He was constantly preaching the use of them", commented CPT David Franson.

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## Commander -continued from page 1

In his four month tenure with the battalion, the ubiquitous commander consistently displayed the highest degree of combat leadership and bravery. This energetic period witnessed his participation in 170 flights, including 40 combat assault missions during which he personally directed troop movements.

His leadership produced successes unprecedented in the battalion. (See "Enemy Loss Status" page 4). Colonel Harper's conception and initiation of the daring "mini-CA" has significantly added to the list of the battalion's more conspicuous achievements. He is perhaps proudest of his role as architect of the "Rice Bowl Harvest", an undertaking which deprived the VC/NVA of more than 100,000 pounds of rice.

His profound understanding of the problems of the men in the field brought the respect and gratitude of all those under his command. Grateful troops now receive well-earned rests on LZ Debbie, thanks to the Colonel's prohibition of the burdensome detail on the hill. Support for "PFC Marvin C. Blivett" was his primary concern. "Before he would commit a force, he would make certain that everything was in their favor...that every advantage was there", explained CPT George Pejakovich.

"He is unquestionably the finest commander I've ever met", added CPT Franson. "He gives his undivided attention to the needs of the commanders in the field. He is the commander's Commander".

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them out. Soon after it arrived, SGT Ken Hurt (Lincoln, Neb) and SSG John Helms (Denver, Colo) slipped through the opening with the CS grenades. It was tight for them, uncomfortably so, since they expected to meet unfriendlylies. They made a hurried exit after throwing the grenades, and three minutes later we could hear coughing and hollering from inside. The interpreter instructed the men inside to come out, and they would not be harmed".

The result: seven teary-eyed Viet Cong happy, more or less, to be in the open air once again.



LTC Robert L. Harper

# Shortest of the SHORT

July 13-July 31

## Headquarters & Headquarters Company

PV2 Clifton E. Abraham.....19Jul  
SGT Ronald L. Adams.....15Jul  
SP4 Brett E. Brooks.....22Jul  
SP4 Jimmy C. Compton.....22Jul  
SSG Louis A. Frey.....27Jul  
CPT John W. Hawbaker.....20Jul  
SP4 Michael C. Miller.....30Jul  
MAJ Michael A. Moore.....18Jul  
SP4 Jennings Q. Parker.....28Jul  
CPT George C. Pejakovich.....17Jul  
SP4 Marvin A. Presley.....26Jul

## Alpha Company

SP4 Wilfredo Caraballo.....20Jul  
SP4 Antonio Davila.....20Jul  
SSG Robert J. Selig.....13Jul  
SP4 John Sutton.....20Jul  
SP4 Vincent S. Vasta.....20Jul

## Bravo Company

SP4 Virgil Archer.....24Jul  
SGT William Beard.....25Jul  
SP4 Roy Carroll.....20Jul  
SGT Sammy Ellis.....17Jul  
SP4 Charles Griggs.....19Jul  
SGT James Hamilton.....22Jul  
SP4 John Miars.....31Jul  
SP4 Phillip Sanders.....31Jul  
SP4 Ronald Schramm.....19Jul  
PV2 Eddie Shelton.....13Jul  
SP4 Eric Toledo.....27Jul  
SP4 George Troup.....13Jul  
SP4 Willie Wright.....18Jul  
SP4 James Adams.....20Jul

## Charlie Company

SP4 Richard Avila.....25Jul  
SP4 Joseph L. Beiswinger.....19Jul  
SP4 John A. Brasch.....26Jul  
SP4 Jack J. Fakos.....20Jul  
SGT Richard A. Foos.....20Jul  
SP4 Bruce R. Gibson.....23Jul  
SP4 Jack R. Hallberg.....19Jul  
SP4 Danny L. Hanson.....24Jul  
SP4 Norbert J. Jensen.....26Jul

SP4 Barry L. Jones.....23Jul  
SP4 Vincent A. McNamara.....27Jul  
SP4 Douglas B. Malek.....22Jul  
SP4 Robert . Spencer.....19Jul  
SP4 Glen A. Miller.....25Jul  
SP4 Gary E. Mosher.....26Jul  
SP4 Dennis Ryan.....23Jul

## Delta Company

SP4 Hendrik M. Bakker.....13Jul  
SGT Monte H. Baldwin.....17Jul  
SP4 Ralph H. Bateman.....26Jul  
SGT Gerald W. Brock.....27Jul  
SP4 Herman Brown, Jr.....15Jul  
SP4 Stephen McCool.....13Jul  
SGT Richard D. Throm.....13Jul  
SP4 James E. Woodward.....13Jul

## Echo Company

SP4 Walter L. Chandler.....16Jul  
SGT Ernest L. Davis.....20Jul  
SFC Ulysses S. Freeman.....27Jul  
SP4 Theodore A. George.....25Jul  
SGT Terry G. Gieselman.....25Jul  
1SG Amos C. Green.....29Jul  
SP4 Floyd E. Rittenberry.....20Jul  
CPT John W. Yarborough.....19Jul

the gimlet

LTC Robert L. Harper...Bn Commander  
CPT David C. Franson.....S1 Officer  
PFC Joseph F. Alward.....Editor

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The excursions sometimes lead to something other than weapons captured, or KIAs. On a recent mission the S2 team landed near a fishing village three miles south - east of Duc Pho. Soon after the insertion the men met with the village chief and moved to a hootch known to be used by the VC. After a few minutes of digging the soldiers hit paydirt --GOLD-- 32,000 piasters worth, and 5,000 piasters in cash.

The village chief stated that the money belonged to members of a local VC force, and it was retained by him for use in the betterment of the village.

18Mar-6Jul

KIA.....	111
Ambush KIA.....	27
Prisoners of War (VC/NVA).....	31
Chieu Hoi (NVA).....	1
\$CIA (piasters).....	466,400
Individual Weapons CIA.....	58
Rice (pounds).....	109,020
Salt (pounds).....	450

### THE SAD SACK



### "SUPPLY PROBLEM"