

# 4/21 GIMLET

September 15, 1970

Vol 2, No 7



## Kill Two, Detain 1

An intelligence report indicating the presence of a squad of Viet Cong in the vicinity of Phu Khuong hamlet soon brought the response which, for the GIMLETS' Mini-CA team, has been of a routine nature for the past 7 months. Air-assaulting with a contingent of SRRPs from Bravo Company, Intelligence Sergeant Cecil Zachry and Civil Defender Nguyen Pho were inserted into the rice paddies 3 miles south-west of LZ Debbie. Soon after the insertion the team came under an intense barrage of enemy automatic weapons fire from a hedgerow 20 meters from their position. Enemy grenades added to the urgency of the situation.

Zachary, leading the patrol, and two other Americans were immediately

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## KCS Returns Home, Leads GIs to Cache

Phan Van Binh, from Quang Ngai City, was "drafted" into a local Viet Cong sapper company in August, 1969. Three months of life with the 1st platoon of Bravo Company was enough for Binh, who, with three comrades, slipped away from his company's mountain sanctuary and allied himself to elements of the 2nd ARVN Division garrisoned near Quang Ngai City.

Following the customary short period of confinement in Quang Ngai, Binh, then 18, volunteered his services as a scout for the Americal Division. In July, 1969, after 4 weeks of intensive instruction in English at the Kit Carson Scout School at the Combat Center in Chu Lai, he became a fully accredited KCS.

On February 26, 1970, Phan Binh was assigned to Alpha Company, 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry, where his cheerful personality and companionable nature quickly won the friendship of the entire unit. In his 7 months of service, Binh has performed

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## 4/21 Wrap-Up

August 19...While patrolling an area north of Song Tra River, 34 miles north-west of FSB Bronco, elements of Delta Company discovered a mortar round rigged with a trip device. The round was set in a hedgerow, with a trip wire placed along the trail.

Later, the 4th platoon came in contact with two VC/NVA who engaged their patrol with small arms fire from 100 meters. The point element returned fire with small arms and M-79s. An after-action sweep of the area was negative. No friendly casualties were sustained.

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# The U.S. Army's Human Mortar'

FT LEWIS, Wash. (ANF)—Sp5 Ed Morland's strong right arm has received considerable attention since he's been in the Army. The Viet Cong fear it, javelin throwers respect it and pro baseball teams may want it.

Whether Morland is handling a hand grenade, a javelin or a baseball, he can throw it about as far, straight and fast as anyone around.

A 22-year-old native of Atchinson, Kansas, Morland has long excelled in throwing the javelin.

## Enemy Loss Status

8 July-10 September

Viet Cong/NVA Killed in Action	40
Viet Cong/NVA Killed in Ambush	7
Weapons Confiscated	11
Viet Cong/NVA Detained	8
Rice Confiscated (pounds)	39,100
Salt Confiscated (pounds)	475

## the Gimlet

LTC Robert A. Witter-Bn Commander

1LT David A. Lange.....S1 Officer

PFC Joseph F. Alward.....Editor

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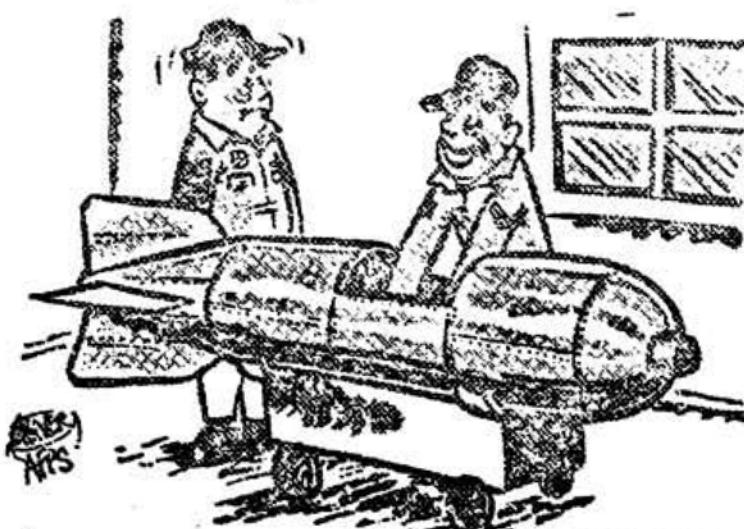
He entered the Army in 1967 holding the junior collegiate record with a throw of more than 230 feet. After basic and advanced individual training, the powerful hurler was assigned to the Republic of Vietnam.

Once in combat, his tossing talent was put to good use. As Morland recalls: "It all started when a sniper began taking pot shots into our base camp. Problem was, he was too close for mortar attacks, and the first Sergeant said he was too far away for grenades. I asked him if I could give it a try anyway."

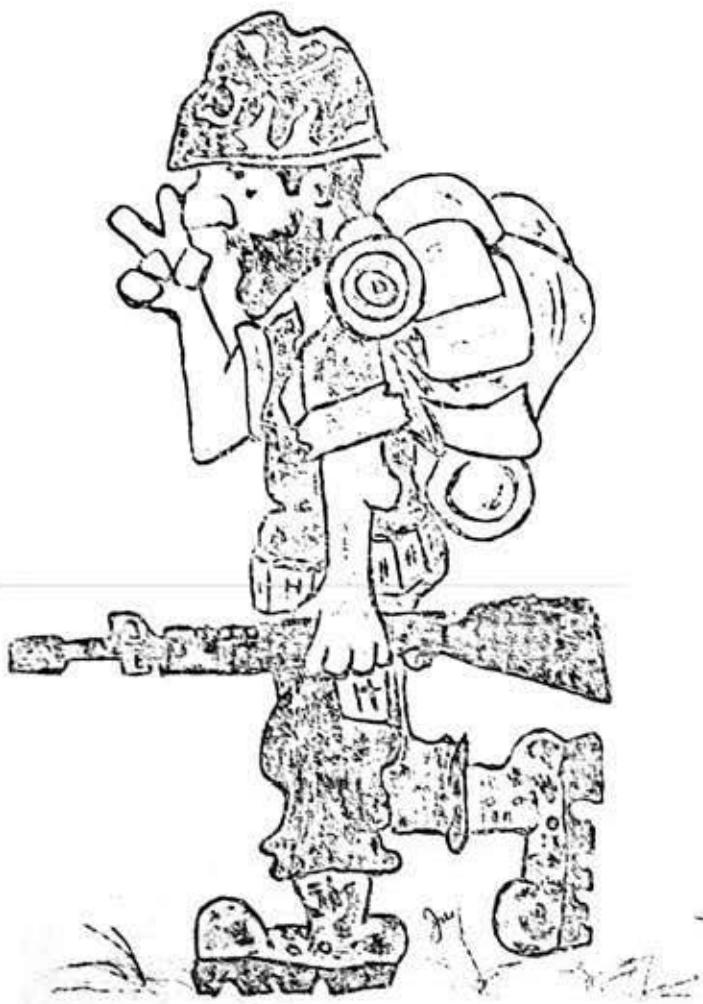
Getting the go-ahead, Morland picked up a grenade and heaved it the length of a football field, scoring a direct hit. Immediately, Ed Morland was dubbed the "human mortar".

Since returning to the States, Morland has turned his attention back to the javelin as a member of the All-Army Track and Field Team. Recently, he upped his junior college record by more than 20 feet, claiming a toss of 254 feet.

Morland is assigned to post Special Services at Ft Lewis.



"MY FOLKS WANTED ME TO BE A SURGEON, BUT  
MY HANDS ARE TOO SHAKY!"



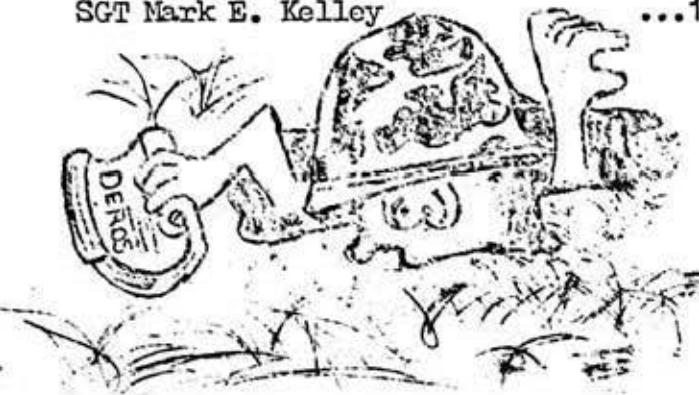
# Short and Safe

## Headquarters and Headquarters Company

1LT Richard Astle.....	26Sep
CPT John W. Hawbaker.....	26Sep
SSG Edward W. Hawkins.....	26Sep
MAJ Roy E. Lindquist.....	23Sep
Sp5 Terry L. Mayhood.....	30Sep
Sp4 Emmett A. Pins.....	15Sep
Sp5 John E. Johnson.....	19Sep

## Alpha Company

SGT Martin J. Baddick.....	23Sep
Sp4 Thomas Bernhard.....	17Sep
SGT Thomas G. Dowdy.....	17Sep
SGT Mark E. Kelley.....	15Sep



## Alpha Company

SGT Kenneth Klanica..... 15Sep

## Bravo Company

SGT Gerald K. Albeck..... 23Sep  
Sp4 Lawrence Robertson..... 20Sep

## Charlie Company

PW2 James E. Bloodsaw..... 20Sep  
1LT Carl E. Boyce..... 29Sep  
Sp4 Emil S. Flander..... 20Sep  
Sp4 James K. Gannon..... 15Sep  
Sp4 Robert L. Heck..... 18Sep  
Sp4 Richard J. Jackson..... 29Sep  
PFC Rudolph C. Lee..... 22Sep  
Sp4 Paul S. Moran..... 27Sep  
Sp4 John Wallace Jr..... 30Sep

## Delta Company

Sp4 Stephen L. Gothman..... 23Sep  
Sp4 Jerry E. Hagens..... 21Sep  
Sp4 Rodney Moyher..... 20Sep  
Sp4 Burnell E. Sammons..... 20Sep  
Sp4 Gary R. Turner..... 24Sep

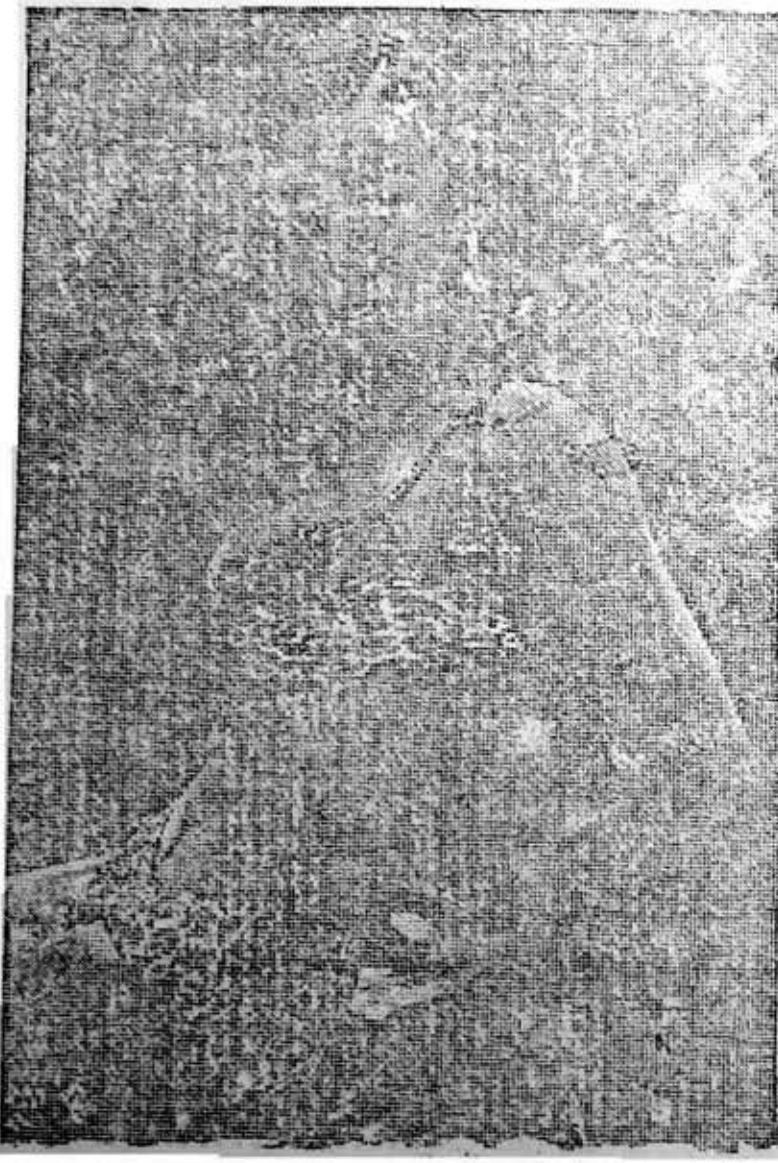
## Echo Company

SGT Randall A. Ball..... 28Sep  
SGT Michael T. Dolan..... 23Sep  
Sp4 Larry W. Hardin..... 19Sep  
Sp4 Barrie A. Heffner..... 21Sep  
Sp4 Kenneth D. Hurt..... 28Sep  
Sp4 James E. Morgan..... 15Sep  
SGT Beryl Reasor Jr..... 25Sep  
Sp4 Eugene W. Shepherd..... 23Sep

# HighLites in GIMLET History

## 'Battle of the Triangle'

Responding to a series of intelligence reports of heavy NVA infiltration into the area surrounding Quang Ngai City; the 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry reestablished and rebuilt Fire Support Base Buff, located 9 miles north-west of Quang Ngai City. On the morning of 20 January 1969, GIMLET Companies Alpha and Bravo conducted a combat assault into four landing zones around the triangular shaped hamlet of Chau Ngai(2). The ensuing battle will be remembered as the most significant pre-Tet actions in the I Corps and the demise of an entire NVA battalion. Contact with enemy waged the entire day. By nightfall, companies Bravo and Charlie of the 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry were placed under the operational control of the GIMLETs and the village was completely cordoned.



On the 21st of January, B Troop, 1st Cavalry and H Troop, 17th Cavalry entered the fight—again under the operational control of the GIMLETs. The Battle of the Triangle was fast becoming a conversational piece in the Americal Division.

After 4 days of heavy contact, continuous battlefield illumination at night; 2,000 rounds of artillery and 648,000 pounds of aerial bombs, the hamlet of Chau Ngai was again quiet. Captured documents and POWs confirmed the enemy as the 9th Battalion, 22nd NVA Regiment. The tight cordon had prevented the NVA's escape and the "Battle of the Triangle" had destroyed the preponderance of the 9th Battalion.

For it's valorous action the 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry was recommended for a Presidential Unit Citation.

# Medic Wins Silver Star

Company A, 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry. On that date, an element of the company came under heavy enemy fire and sustained casualties. Upon arriving in the area of contact, Private Johnson, ignoring the intense enemy fire directed at him, shielded the wounded men with his own body. Hearing that a fellow medic had been wounded, Johnson rushed across 200 meters of open terrain to his injured comrade and carried him to safety. Despite the hostile barrage impacting all around him, he again moved out into the open as he carried another wounded comrade to safety. His timely and courageous actions were instrumental in saving the lives of several of his comrades. Private First Class Johnson's personal heroism, professional competence, and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflect great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army

## Cache

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creditably as a scout with the GIMLETS and has been awarded the Bronze Star for service.

"He's led us to several enemy rice caches, forestalled enemy ambushes and detected numerous booby traps since he's been with us," remarked SGT Keith H. Harwell, 2nd platoon leader from Memphis, Tennessee. "He's also accounted for one NVA KIA in that time."

In late August, Binh returned with Alpha Company to the familiar surroundings of his home for the first time since becoming a Hoi Chanh. In response to intelligence reports of heavy enemy troop movements, the 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry established LZ Ann in the flatlands near Binh's home, 25 miles southwest of Chu Lai.

The monotony of four contact-free days was alleviated on the afternoon of the 27th when Alpha Company unexpectedly came upon an enemy cache—one and a half tons of polished rice.

"Binh knew that area like the back of his hand," recalled Sergeant Harwell. "I think he had become a little bored

just sitting around helping secure the day laager. He was excited about being so near his home, and he couldn't keep still. Shortly before dark, Binh walked outside the perimeter and called back for some of us to follow him."

Members of the 2nd platoon, led by SGT Kenneth Bosc from Terre Haute, Indiana, followed their KCS to an abandoned hootch area where Binh began using the "thump" method on the ground, listening for the hollow sound which would signal the presence of something buried.

"He seemed to know there was rice there, even before we arrived at the location," explained Bosc. "After Binh uncovered the first barrel, buried under 10 inches of dirt, we intensified our search and found eleven more."

"Eight of the barrels had been recently emptied," added Harwell. "Binh found signs indicating that a platoon of NVA soldiers had been recently drawing their rations from this cache. The four remaining barrels, however, were full of polished rice—about 2500 pounds total. We were unable to evacuate the rice so we destroyed all but a small portion which Binh kept to eat that evening."

# Wrap-Up

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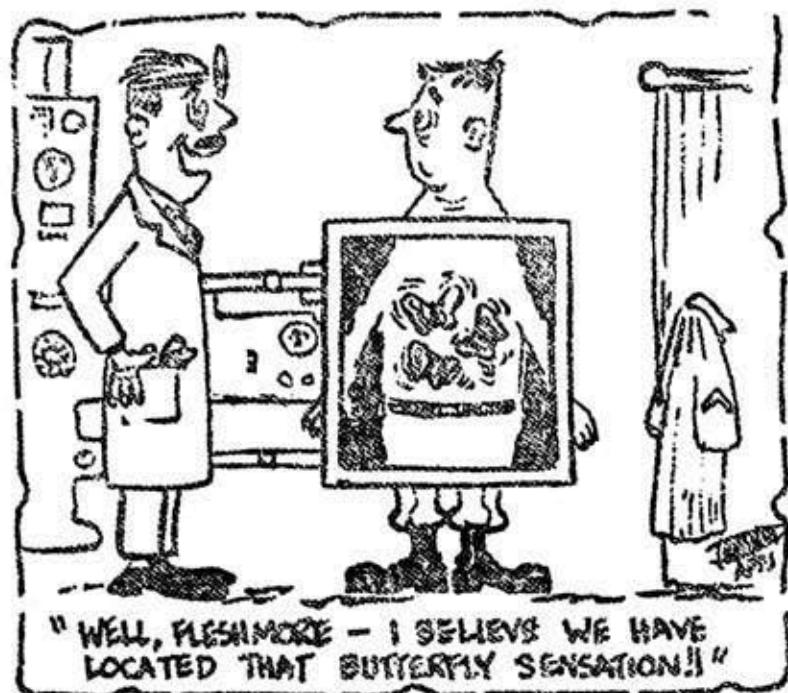
The day's action came to an end for Delta Company as alert pointmen uncovered three more booby traps in the same vicinity as the first. Each of them was constructed with 15 pounds of plastic explosive packed inside a metal cylinder. The booby traps were placed within holes with trip wires over the tops.

A Bravo Company air assault from LZ Alice into an area 17 miles north-west of FSB Bronco resulted in one NVA KIA. Sharks from the 174th Aviation Assault Company spotted and engaged the enemy while orbiting the LZ. A sweep of the area turned up one more wounded NVA. It was later determined that the NVA were members of the 2/44th Transport Battalion attached to the 2/40th NVA Regiment.

August 22....Another day, another discovery for Delta Company near LZ Alice...one more booby trap, found by members of the fourth platoon...similar in construction to the ones found on the 19th.

Three NVA soldiers forfeited assorted food and medical supplies, a ruck and several AK-47 and pistol rounds after engaging members of Delta Company positioned in their day laager near LZ Alice. Intensive return fire scared the enemy away, one of whom dropped his ruck.

A small patrol around Delta Company's day laager interrupted three NVA soldiers' dinner. The enemy soldiers were armed and carrying rucks. All three were scattered into the bushes as the patrol opened up with small arms fire. The action netted one NVA



ruck, 70 pounds of corn and 300 pounds of unpolished rice.

August 23...Delta Company closed out a week's action with the discovery of yet another booby trap. This one was again a plastic explosive charge rigged with a trip wire. However, underneath was a mortar round set to explode simultaneously. In the same vicinity, the 2nd platoon found 250 pounds of unpolished rice, buried under 10 inches of dirt.

August 26...Neither side sustained casualties during a Bravo Company engagement with two Viet Cong south of My Trang village, two miles south of FSB Bronco. Bravo received about one magazine of small arms fire. Retaliatory fire silenced the enemy activity.

August 27...While on a search and clear operation south of Lam Binh village, the 4th platoon of Alpha Company uncovered a 55-gallon drum with a false bottom serving as a tunnel entrance. Inside, the tunnel expanded into a 4x4x3 room. Alpha's Kit Carson Scout determined that six Viet Cong had very recently evacuated the tunnel.

# 4/21 Wrap Up

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Close call for SGT Roger Covington of Bravo Company who almost found a booby-trapped artillery round the hard way...the round was

placed in a hole with a vine attached to act as the trip device. Covington found the device by stepping on the edge of the hole.

August 28...Lonnie Whittington of Charlie Company is credited with the discovery of a booby-trapped rocket while on a search and clear mission north of Hai Mon. The rocket was 2 feet long and 5 inches in diameter.

August 29...The 2nd platoon of Alpha Company while on patrol found a tunnel consisting of a 55-gallon drum with a false bottom leading into a 6x6x4 room. Two separate entrances into the tunnel were concealed in a hedgerow approximately 10 meters apart. The tunnel was braced with steel beams and 4x4s coated with a substance to prevent decay. Another entrance was discovered inside which led to a room capable of accommodating 5 individuals.



## Ambush

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downed by an enemy-thrown hand grenade. Quick thinking on the part of one of the men may have saved the day as SGT Charles Aggertt, momentarily grounded by the grenade's concussion, spotted a Viet Cong with an AK-47 taking aim on him and the wounded. Aggertt recovered and, rising instantly on one knee, immediately cut loose with a burst of M-16 fire, killing the enemy before he could fire.

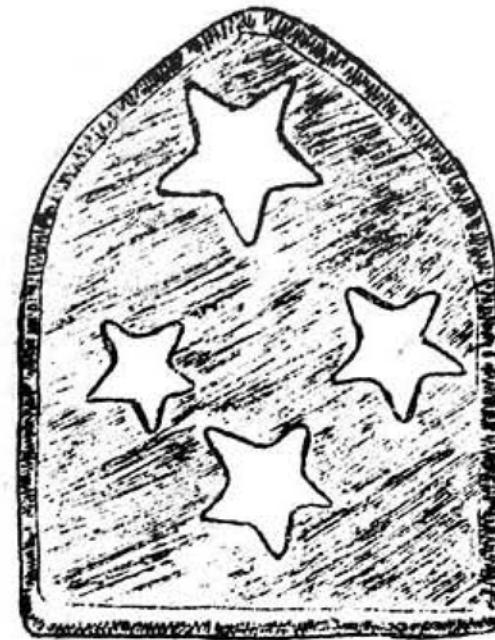
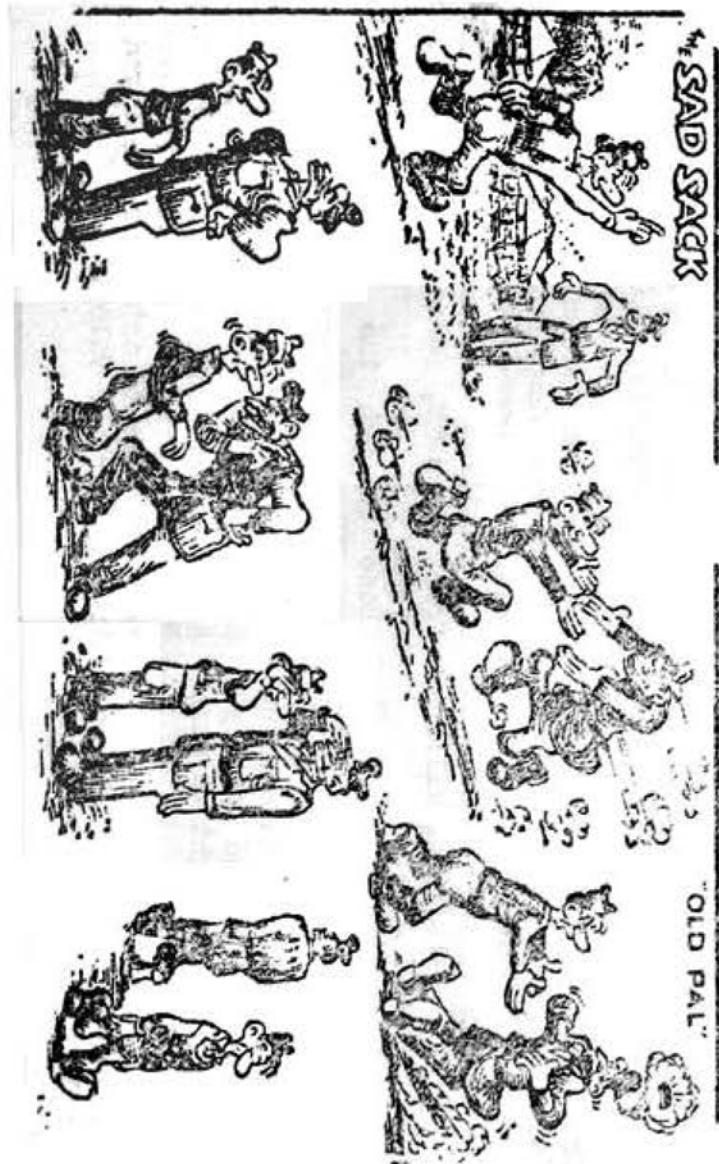
First Sergeant Zachary also observed the poised Viet Cong: "I couldn't believe that Aggertt had managed to open up before the VC did," recalled Zachary. "When I heard the burst I thought we were done for."

Although wounded, Zachary continued to lead his patrol in pursuit of the re-

mnining enemy and killed one more VC carrying an SKS.

Orbiting in a command and control (charlie-charlie) Dolphin Utility ship, MAJ Ralph L. Sorenson, battalion XO, observed the action and ordered the helicopter down into the hot LZ to extract the wounded and dropped off 1LT Brian DeMary, Intelligence Officer from Beaumont, Texas, who assumed leadership of the patrol and pressed the chase through the hedgerows where one more VC was apprehended.

For their personal heroism, First Sergeant Zachary and Staff Sergeant Aggertt were awarded the Silver Stars. For his personal heroism and devotion to duty, Lieutenant DeMary received the Bronze Star for Valor.



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