

FAST DRAW WINS GUNFIGHT

By PFC Marshall Rowland
1st Bn., 52nd Inf.

LZ STINSON — A 1st Bn., 52nd Inf. soldier reminded his fellow infantrymen of the legendary Jesse James recently by rivaling the gunslinger's "two-gun draw" with good results.

SP4 Carlton Webb (New Richmond, Ohio) was a bit

surprised when three Viet Cong popped up only 20 meters away from his position.

"I was carrying my M-16 and an M-79 grenade launcher for a wounded buddy, and I didn't have time to choose between them," he said.

So he fired both, killing one of the enemy soldiers and wounding an-

other.

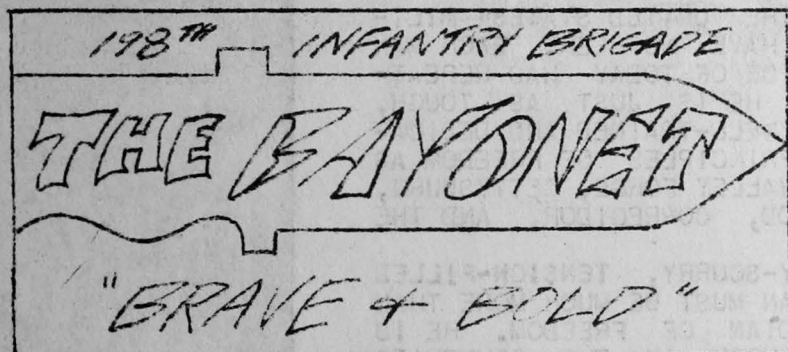
Just at the crack of dawn the three VC had been flushed from their field-expedient beds by gunships softening up an LZ for an air assault by elements of the 198th Brigade.

The enemy's efforts to avoid contact with the incoming troops led them right into the sights of Webb and his partner, SP4 Darrell J. N. Bolden (Belton, S.C.), both of whom were part of a Co. blocking force.

"We were scanning the terrain around our position, when I saw the three of them with AK-47s suddenly come out of the elephant grass," Webb said. "I alerted Bolden, grabbed both of the weapons and opened up."

Watching one VC fall under their fire, the two soldiers rushed up to find one dead and blood trails leading off through the grass. Webb and Bolden pulled back this time a little further into the woodline at the edge of the tall grass.

"I sure am glad we did this, because a VC used the trail to flank our (Cont. on page 6)



Vol. 1, No. 10 / LZ Dayonet, Vietnam / 20 July 1969

VC SHOW FLOPS

By Sgt. Alfred Anthony Jr.
198th Brigade PIO

LZ STINSON—A Viet Cong psychological operations team picked the wrong audience for its music recently and was applauded by a barrage of artillery rounds.

After putting a stop to an attempted VC ambush, Delta Co. of the 1st Bn., 52nd Inf. settled into its night encampment near here.

"It was around nine o'clock when we heard a voice call out to us on a loud-speaker," said PFC Charles H. Nichols (Houston). "He was about 400 meters outside our position, but we didn't fire because I guess everyone was curious as to what he would say—we figured it was a battle assessment of our earlier fight."

In broken English, the Viet Cong began his message to the "Ready Rifles": "GI and officers, show us a light and surrender."

Then—what soon became a fleeing melody to the blasts of artillery rounds fired by Btry. D (1st Bn., 14th Arty.) from LZ Stinson—the enemy began its rendition of "Where Have All the Flowers Gone?"

"They stopped singing each time the (Continued on page 6)

HAMLET LEARNS SELF-SECURITY

By SFC Herb Nesmith
198th Brigade PIO

TRI BINH (1)—Not so long ago the Viet Cong liked to visit the hamlet of Tri Binh (1) near Chu Lai.

It was the most prosperous hamlet in the area, and the VC could walk in at night and extort money, rice and other foodstuffs, or just about whatever they wanted.

Nestled in low hills between two U.S. LZs, it was also an ideal place for the VC to slip across Highway 1 and enter other villages, unseen by Americal Div. (Continued on page 6)

DON'T KNOCK CHANGES

EDITORIAL

NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE STATIONED IN THE MILITARY YOU WILL QUITE OFTEN HEAR SOME OLD-TIMERS SAYING, "THE SERVICE JUST ISN'T WHAT IT USED TO BE." THIS IS CERTAINLY TRUE. THE ROLE OF THE MILITARY MAN HAS UNDERGONE MANY CHANGES DURING THE NEARLY 200 YEARS OF OUR COUNTRY'S EXISTENCE AS A NATION.

HOWEVER, THE PRIMARY MISSION OF THE MILITARY MAN IS STILL TO DEFEND THIS NATION "AGAINST ALL ENEMIES, BOTH FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC."

IN THIS, THE UNITED STATES' MILITARY FORCES HAVE NO PEER. EACH MAN IN THE SERVICE OF TODAY HAS REPEATEDLY SHOWN HE IS JUST AS TOUGH, COURAGEOUS, WELL-TRAINED AND DEDICATED TO THE PRINCIPLES OF FREEDOM AS THE MEN OF VALLEY FORGE, GETTYSBURG, BELLEAU WOOD, CORREGIDOR, AND THE PUNCH BOWL.

BUT IN TODAY'S HURRY-SCURRY, TENSION-FILLED WORLD, THE MILITARY MAN MUST BE MUCH MORE THAN A COMBAT READY GUARDIAN OF FREEDOM. HE IS DIPLOMATIC AND LOOKED UPON IN THE COUNTRIES WHERE HE IS STATIONED AS A DIRECT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES. HE MUST ALSO BE A TEACHER, HUMANITARIAN, SCIENTIST AND PUBLIC RELATIONS MAN IN UNIFORM.

IN THESE CAPACITIES, AMERICA'S SERVICE PERSONNEL HAVE PROVEN EXTREMELY CAPABLE OF MEETING AND ACCOMPLISHING THE TASK LAID OUT FOR THEM. WHETHER SEEKING MARAUDING VIET CONG, GIVING MEDICAL CARE IN A DISASTER-STRICKEN TOWN, TEACHING A CLASS IN ENGLISH OR DOMESTIC PRINCIPLES, THE MILITARY MAN OF TODAY SERVES HIS NATION WELL. (AFPS)



AN UNUSUAL pair of shoes is worn by Janine Reynaud in the Trans American Films shocker "Succubus"—if you happen to notice them.

AMERICAL USAR, NG UNITS TO DEPART

SAIGON—Five Americal units are among the 20 Army Reserve and National Guard units scheduled to leave Vietnam for demobilization in the next two months, according to a recent MACV announcement.

Personnel in these units are part of the 2,000-man group of Reservists and Guardsmen included in the 25,000 troops to be replaced by Vietnamese armed forces in July and August.

The four USAR and one NG units redeploying from the division are the 312th Med. Evac. Hospital (Semi-Mbl.) from Winston-Salem, N.C.; 305th Med. Det. (Orthopedic) of Philadelphia; 378th Med. Det. (Neurosurg.), Memphis; and 889th Med. Det. (Surg.), Richmond, Va., all

USAR; and the 126th Sup. & Svc. Co. (DS from Quincy, Ill., NG.

Men who came to Vietnam with their organizations will return to the United States as "packets." Those who did not arrive with the units will nonetheless be released from active duty at the same time as the units.

The Reserve and Guard elements will move first to an Army post near their home station for processing, and then to their home reserve center or armory for demobilization.

This procedure for return to the U.S. will reestablish unit integrity, and insure arrival in their home towns with their organizational colors. (ANF)

THE NOSE KNOWS

LZ BAYONET—A 198th Brigade scout dog apparently put a group of Viet Cong in their superiors' dog house recently and helped to find a booty of 23 mortar rounds in the process.

It began when a 90-pound German Shepherd named "Dix" sensed something strange while he and his handler, PFC Roger M. Collins (Mt. Airy, N.C.) of the 57th Inf. Pltn. (Scout Dog) were on a night ambush patrol with the 1st Bn., 6th Inf. near LZ Bayonet.

"We were heading toward our first check point when the dog started to lead us off to the side," recalled SP4 Rudy Lopez (La Puente, Calif.), the patrol leader of the HHC squad.

The dog led the squad to the edge of a sand berm, where they saw 19 82mm mortar rounds scattered around two freshly dug holes. An additional four rounds and an assortment of fuses and charges were later found in the holes.

"I guess we interrupted someone from digging up these rounds and using them," said Collins.

But the communists which the "Regulars" element had interrupted continued to lurk nearby and it was "Dix" who again sensed something awry.

REGULARS FIND NVA BASECAMP

By PFC Bill Eftink
198th Brigade PIO

LZ FAT CITY — SP4 William Carsons (Detroit) took a long look at the steep cliff-like slopes of Hill 1362.

It was this mountain which Co. B. of the 1st Bn., 6th Inf. walked, slid and slipped down recently to uncover a battalion-sized NVA basecamp nestled on its slope.

"It was harder coming down that hill than it is going up. It's so steep you have to hang onto something every step of the way or you just start crashing downhill," Carsons said as he glanced up the hill through dense foliage.

On the hill was the basecamp which Capt. Richard Jessop (Knightstown, Ind.), Bravo Co. commander, knew was "somewhere in the area."

Four days after finding the encampment, the "Regulars" began to blast a primitive landing area, for the first time making it accessible by helicopter. Before the LZ was established the only way to get into the

area was on foot through rugged terrain or from a chopper by being lowered on a rope through the jungle's triple canopy.

The NVA camp was first spotted by LRPs. Two of them then went with Bravo Co. when it was airlifted to the top of Hill 1362, about 15 miles west of Chu Lai.

As Bravo moved down the hill, Alpha and Charlie companies, along with elements of the 6th ARVN Regt., searched other portions of the thick jungle—long a sanctuary for the communists.

On the second day the company's forward element came across the horseshoe shaped camp. They closed in carefully.

"We didn't receive any fire while approaching the camp," said PFC Tom Mateg (Hammond, Ind.). The NVA had vacated. "Apparently they had moved out at least a week before."

But what the communists had left behind was a well hidden, highly strategic encampment comprised of numerous hooches—the largest of which was a three-level 15-by-75 foot structure—storage areas and stock pens.

(Cont. on page 6)

"This time he's telling us there are people around," his handler advised the patrol, and the men took what cover there was at the base of the sand berm.

"We were in a bad position to move forward, since 'Charlie' was on the high ground and we hardly had any cover," Lopez said.

But the men held their position and the Viet Cong moved from the area.

"The dog sure was a big help," Lopez added. "We probably wouldn't have found those mortar rounds without him."

THE BAYONET

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The Bayonet is published weekly under the supervision of the Information Officer, 198th Infantry Brigade, APO 96219 as an authorized publication. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily represent those of the Department of the Army. AFPS material is used.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

SINCE THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF U.S. TROOP REDEPLOYMENT IN SOUTH VIETNAM, USARV AT LONG BINH HAS RECEIVED NUMEROUS QUERIES AS TO THE REDEPLOYMENT AND ELIGIBILITY FOR JOINING ONE OF THE REDEPLOYED UNITS.

THE BAYONET HAS LISTED SOME OF THE MORE FREQUENT QUESTIONS AND USARV ANSWERS IN THE FOLLOWING ESSAY. FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT YOUR UNIT COMMANDER OR PERSONNEL OFFICER.

THE FACTS ON TROOP REDEPLOYMENT

Q: Will any troops being redeployed have served less than one year in Vietnam?

A: The majority of personnel redeploying will be within 60 days of their DEROS, although some reserve component personnel assigned to redeploying reserve units may have served less than a full tour.

The personnel in units going to Hawaii will have widely varying time in country. The deployment criteria for these personnel specifies that an individual must have more than 90 days to ETS but not have completed 10 months in RVN as of the unit departure date. Exceptions to these criteria may be made if an individual volunteers to serve a full tour in Hawaii.

Q: Will personnel departing with their units be given credit for a full Vietnam tour even though they have completed less than a year?

A: They will be given credit for a completed tour in Vietnam only if they have completed 10 months as of the date of redeployment.

Q: Are the redeploying units being filled with soldiers who have virtually completed their tours in Vietnam?

A: Yes. When personnel are required to bring these units up to authorized strength they will be selected from men who have virtually completed a normal tour in RVN.

Q: Does this mean that people who have completed normal tours may be assigned to 9th Div. elements departing and that some of these division units will be acting as "carriers" for men going home on normal rotation?

A: Yes. Individuals from other USA units who are within a few days of their regular DEROS may return to the U.S. with the 9th Div.

BAYONET ESSAY

Q: What about newly arrived personnel that are now assigned to a unit going back to the States?

A: In general, they will be reassigned to other units in USARV.

Q: How much passenger baggage can redeploying personnel take with them?

A: Per individual, 66 pounds. They are encouraged to ship their unaccompanied baggage to their homes or their next duty stations.

In relation to the redeployment of Reserve and Guard personnel mobilized in the spring of 1968, these men are asked to contact their unit personnel officers and notify them of their status.

PHOTO LAB OPENS AT BDE, LZ

LZ BAYONET—The Special Services Photo Lab located in the 1st Bn., 14th Arty. area here is now in operation.

The photo lab, housed in a trailer parked near the battalion's Headquarters and Service Btry., is open daily except Monday from 1300 to 1730 and 1830 to 2200.

The lab offers an individual the opportunity to process and print his own black and white photographs. Equipment, chemicals and instruction are all available now at the newly opened photo lab.

BAYONET PHOTOWRITER SCORES TOP IN AMERICAL CONTEST

CHU LAI — PFC Arthur R. Noel Jr. (Lynchburg, Va.), photo columnist of "The Bayonet," won a first, second and third place in the Americal Division preliminaries of the 13th Annual Inter-Service Photo Contest.

Noel won top honors in the Action category with his photograph "Walk in the Park." He garnered a second place in the People classification with "Papa-san," and his picture of a young Vietnamese child "At Thought" was awarded a third in the Children category.

Noel, who is aiming for a career in photography, has studied in Los Angeles toward a degree in the field. Originally a combat photographer, he once spent the better part of an afternoon pinned down in a rice paddy under enemy fire. Although his camera was soaked with water, a few pictures were salvaged and were printed in several publications.

He now runs the Special Services Photo Lab at LZ

THE ZEANS IS MY WORLD

BY PFC A. R. NOEL JR.

If you haven't already learned to process your own black and white film now is a good time to get started. The process is not difficult and can be learned easily. This will add one more control to your picture taking.

Have you ever wondered how shots with reduced tonal range and contrast are made, or how super contrast shots are created? The key usually lies in varying your exposure and development. But before giving you a basic guide for doing this, there are a few things you should keep in mind.

Tests should be run to determine exactly what results will occur with your film-developing combination.

Remember that density is the amount of exposed silver built up in your negative. It can be thought of as how transparent or non-transparent your negative is. Dense negatives are very dark, and non-dense negatives are very thin. Contrast is the proportion of light to dark tones in your negative. A negative with a lot of contrast has very light whites and very dark blacks with few middle grey tones in between.

Now that we know just what contrast and density are, let's look at ways to vary them to get a more interesting picture:

To increase contrast and density, increase exposure and development; conversely, to decrease contrast and density, decrease exposure and development.

To increase density but reduce contrast (as in glamor shots), increase exposure but develop the film less; or to reduce density but increase contrast, decrease exposure and develop the film more.

Try a couple of rolls of film each way. It will help you to add versatility to your pictures if you have control of contrast and density.

PENANG R&R CHANGED

CHU LAI — A late post script to the recently halted R&R flights to Malaysia has been added by the USARV Special Services R&R Section attached to the Americal Division.

As "The Bayonet" reported recently, flights to Kuala Lumpur have been

canceled, and the previously suspended Penang flights have not been renewed.

Men already scheduled for Penang are now being automatically re-booked for Singapore, the R&R people say, unless they specifically request another location.

Whether settling for Singapore or asking for a different site, there is no need to submit another R&R request. The quota is still good, but will be changed to a spot other than Penang or Kuala Lumpur.

Bayonet, where he puts his talents toward teaching, and writes the weekly photo column that appears exclusively in "The Bayonet."

1/6TH NEW TENANTS IN NVA BASECAMP

(Cont. from page 3)

Woven mats laid on top of closely placed poles served as flooring for the upper stories of the largest building. Mats were also used to divide

the dark, musty interior into five-by-six foot rooms. Ten feet to the side of the structure a length of bamboo acted as a water pipe, spurting forth clear mountain water from a nearby pool

for both drinking and showering.

"The camp was a pretty permanent one, and I think there are probably two or three other basecamps in the area just like it," said Capt. Jessop.

So the 198th Brigade men continued to comb the jungle, encountering little enemy resistance but searching for other basecamps like the one on the slope of Hill 1362.

HAMLET LEARNS SECURITY

(Continued from page 1)

infantrymen.

But all that has passed.

Now things are considerably harder for the communists. The hamlet five miles south of Chu Lai is now ringed with a barbed wire fence. There are lookout points all along the fenceline, and roving patrols conduct ambushes every night outside the hamlet. There is also communication with the 5th Bn., 46th Inf. basecamp nearby.

What happened to change the hamlet so much? An idea by the 198th Brigade S-5, and the work of a squad of "Professionals" from Co. D of the 5th Bn., 46th Inf., set the wheels in motion.

Maj. Frederick J. Lynn (Pittsfield, Me.), the brigade civil affairs officer, thought the hamlet should be taught to defend itself, and the squad from Delta Co.'s 2nd Pltn. began the instruction.

"Our biggest problem was that the people lacked confidence," Maj. Lynn said. "They weren't sure they could defend the hamlet themselves. We have to convince them that they can, and then show them how to do it."

This was not the only problem the squad faced.

"We've caught two VC Infrastructure members that lived right here in the village," Lynn said. "There are other suspected VC and their sympathizers, and they are being watched."

But things appear to be going well. The hamlet chief recently told Maj. Lynn that the people are happy. The Viet Cong can't harass them or extort their money and rice, and the people can live peacefully.

The American soldiers are doing more than teaching the people to defend themselves. They are also assisting them in self-help programs. Several near-crumbling wells have been rebuilt, and construction is planned for a 48-meter dam for use in irrigating rice paddies.

The men like their job.

"It's interesting working with the people," said SP4 Lyle Reiner (Fargo, N.D.), a squad member.

"It's also a challenge—sometimes just in communicating with the people," added SP4 Ron Frye (Crestline, Ohio). "But a few of the CDs (Civil Defense personnel) speak some English, so usually we're able to get by to a good degree."

"We get a lot of help from the hamlet chief," Reiner explained. "Recently he told the people to put some lights up, and that night there were kerosene lanterns strung all along the 3,000-meter fenceline encircling the perimeter."

Soon the 1,062 people of the 260-house hamlet will be able to defend themselves without relying on outside help. The U.S. infantrymen then hope to move on to another village.

TWO-GUN MAN

OUTDRAWS VC

(Cont. from page 1)

previous position," Bolden said. "I spotted him only 10 meters down the trail."

Continuing with the two-fisted punch, Webb repeated his new double-barrel technique and again scored with both weapons.

Following the successful dual ambushes, Webb's quick eye spotted two well hidden "Bouncing Betty" anti personnel mines situated along the trail the company might have used later on.

For the two 198th Brigade soldiers it'd been a long morning. For Webb it seemed that two weapons were better than one

VC SHOW FOLDS

(Cont. from page 1)

rounds came in," said Nichols, "and each time they started up again they'd be further off and their voices would sound a little weaker and a little more shaky."

Delta Co. kept steadily plotting Delta Btry. artillery fire, using the sound of the enemy music to gauge their distance, until one final barrage ended the song.