

# EARLY BIRD SQUAD PASSES UP NORM, GETS CHARLIE

By PFC Bill Eftink  
198th Brigade PIO

LZ GATOR — A 198th Brigade infantry squad and a small element of Vietnamese provincial forces surprised two Communists with an early morning visit near this 5th Bn., 46th Inf. basecamp, killing both of them and capturing their weapons.

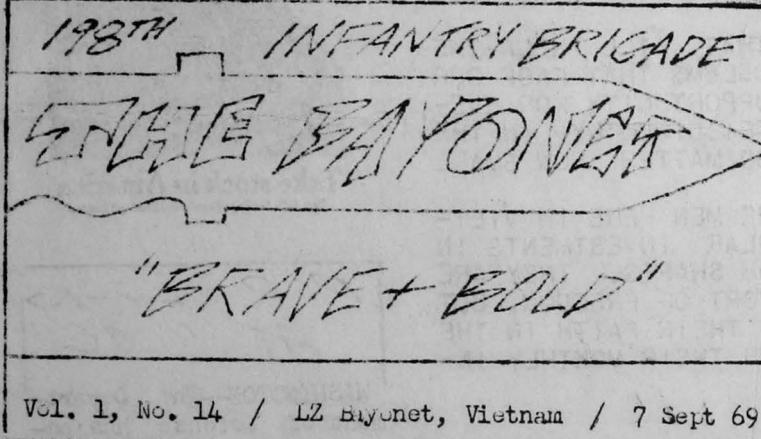
"It was pretty dark and we relied heavily on the Vietnamese who knew the area well, and they really came through," said SGT Eli Ring (Yakima, Wash.), the squad leader of the 5/46 element.

Combing an area near a village which was suspected to contain Viet Cong, the Americans and Vietnamese prepared to search the village as daylight broke.

After arriving at the village, SGT Steve Ewing (Wichita, Kan.) set his men up as a blocking force to catch anyone trying to sneak out the back way. When the search began, the blocking squad was alerted to a small number of Communists on a high ridge behind it. They opened fire and killed two, one NVA and one VC. One of the two was shot out of a tree he had climbed, evidently to better observe the area.

SGT Ewing said, "I believe that they were behind us all the time and just didn't see us. They were probably using the high ground for observation."

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Vol. 1, No. 14 / LZ Bayonet, Vietnam / 7 Sept 69

## FOG IS BULLDOZER'S BEST FRIEND?

(Related story on Page 3)

QUANG NGAI CITY—"Toby" was trained well for his job, says the leader of the 60th Inf. Plat. (Scout Dog) now working with the 198th Brigade.

And a pair of engineers from Bravo Co., 26th Engr. Bn. today may owe their lives — not to mention a \$35,000 bulldozer — to that training.

SFC Percy L. Gardner (Jacksonville, Fla.) was walking in front of a bulldozer driven by SP4 Davis D. Lane (Syracuse, Kan.) at the site of a land clearing operation along the Tra Khuc River west of Quang Ngai City, when "Toby" — a German Shepherd — uncovered a triggered artillery round buried in the track paths of the 24-ton machine.

"The sergeant and 'dozer' both would have gone right over that mine," said 1LT Robert Mocarski (Holyoke, Mass.), whose engineer platoon, as well as a company of the 1st Bn., 52nd Inf. and ARVN engineers are clearing land along the river in the southern tip of the brigade operational zone.

(Cont. on Page 6)

## BUDDHA, BELL, BN. MEN STAR IN QUANG NGAI PARADE

By 1LT Josef Hebert  
198th Brigade PIO

QUANG NGAI CITY—A 4-foot, 200-year-old temple bell and a 3-foot yellow Buddha marked the return of proper religious worship for the more than 2,000 Vietnamese refugees of Son Loc Village near this provincial capital recently.

And the 1st Bn., 52nd Inf. soldiers who brought the items back to their rightful owners after four years of absence were greeted with a heroes' welcome.

"We surely didn't expect anything like this," said LTC Reed E. Davis Jr. (Omaha, Neb.), battalion commander, as he and six other "Ready Rifles" found themselves the honored guests in a two-hour-long Buddhist parade through the streets of Quang Ngai City to the nearby hamlet of Son Loc.

The reason for the parade, said a South Vietnamese interpreter, was the return of the religious articles, found a few weeks earlier by members of Delta Co., 1/52 in an abandoned pagoda.

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# KEY TO YOUR FUTURE

EDITORIAL

UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS AND FREEDOM SHARES ARE THE KEYS TO YOUR FUTURE, AND THE FUTURE OF AMERICA.

IN THE SAME WAY THAT THESE BONDS STRENGTHEN THE FUTURE OF YOUR FAMILY, THEY HELP STRENGTHEN AMERICA AND FURTHER THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM.

THE PURCHASE OF SAVINGS BONDS AND FREEDOM SHARES IS MORE THAN JUST A SAFE INVESTMENT FOR YOUR MONEY. IT IS AN INVESTMENT FOR A FUTURE THAT CAN MEAN A NEW HOME, A NEW CAR, A COLLEGE EDUCATION OR A HUNDRED-AND-ONE OTHER THINGS FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY.

IT'S ALSO AN INVESTMENT THAT WILL HELP THE UNITED STATES MEET THE PROBLEMS THAT FACE OUR COUNTRY. IT'S REALLY AN OPPORTUNITY FOR EVERY AMERICAN TO PARTICIPATE DIRECTLY IN THE AFFAIRS OF OUR NATION, NO MATTER HOW SMALL THE SHARE MIGHT BE.

A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF THE MEN HERE IN VIETNAM TODAY ARE MAKING REGULAR INVESTMENTS IN SAVINGS BONDS AND FREEDOM SHARES. THEY ARE NOT ONLY FIGHTING IN SUPPORT OF FREEDOM, BUT ALSO FURTHER DEMONSTRATING THEIR FAITH IN THE PRINCIPLES OF FREEDOM WITH THEIR MONTHLY INVESTMENTS IN BONDS.



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## POD LOOKS AT ROTC

WASHINGTON--The Department of Defense has established a special committee of academic and armed forces representatives to appraise ROTC programs.

Headed by Dr. George C. S. Benson, president of Claremont Men's College in California, the joint study will cover determination of level of uniformity required in administration of ROTC by the armed services.

Results of the survey are expected to be available before the next scholastic semester begins in the fall. (AFN)

Elements of the 9th Div.'s 2nd Bde. departed Vietnam last month in the first part of the President's "Vietnamization" program. The 3,500-man brigade returned to the Continental U.S. for deactivation.

At the same time, the plan called for the 1st Bde. and Div. Hq. element to move to Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

Instead, personnel of those now deactivated units will either be reassigned or discharged, the Army said. (AFPS)

## 9TH DIV. DEACTIVATES

Washington --- Immediate inactivation instead of redeployment is now set for Hawaii-bound units of the 9th Inf. Div.

The inactivation is being made to lower fiscal year 1970 expenditures, according to a recent announcement by Acting Secretary of the Army Thaddeus R. Beal.

About 6,000 personnel of the division base and 1st Brigade will be affected by the change in plans.

Expected to save the Army about \$40.4 million in FY 70, the inactivation is part of continuing efforts to reduce expenditures and minimize personnel movement, Secretary Beal said.

# ENGINEERS SMASH NVA SUPPLY ROUTE

(Related story on Page 1)

LZ STINSON—From the ground it is almost impossible to comprehend the size of the massive land clearing operation.

It takes a six-minute helicopter ride over the area to really bring home just how much the powerful D-7 bulldozers have changed the landscape along the banks of the Song Tra Knu west of Quang Ngai City.

The river, which marks the lower boundary of the 198th Bde. operational zone, serves as an important transportation route as it snakes its way deep into the mountainous jungles of South Vietnam. The brush covered foot trails along its banks have long served as a route for North Vietnamese supplies coming through these mountains.

"The trails, leading from one bamboo patch to the next, were covered enough so that it was difficult to detect them from the air, and the numerous bunkers in the area offered reasonable security from artillery and air strikes," said team leader SFC Percy L. Gardner (Jacksonville, Fla.) of Bravo Co., 26th Engr. Bn., which along with an engineer platoon from the 6th ARVN Regt. is manning the project.

"What we are doing is just clearing everything from the riverbank inward for 1,000 meters," said Gardner.

Clearing everything includes crushing well built camouflaged bunkers, toppling deep-rooted willow trees and crashing into dense thickets or giant bamboo that presented a special problem to the engineers.

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# 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. All material is used.



## HHC TAKES IT AGAIN WINS 3RD "BEST MESS"

By SFC Herb Nesmith  
198th Brigade PIO

LZ BAYONET—HHC 198th Mess Hall again this month rolled up the top score, and took an unprecedented third straight win in the brigade "Best Mess of the Month" competition.

HHC cooks broke a two-consecutive-wins tie with the 5th Bn., 46th Inf. Mess in ringing up their three-in-a-row mark to set a new record.

August results in the cafeteria contest showed HHC posting a 91.75 percentage score, while the 1st Bn., 6th Inf. edged past the 1st Bn., 52nd Inf. by a slim one-fourth of one per cent, 89.50-89.25, in a tight runnerup race. The 5th Bn., 46th Inf. followed with 78.75.

Commenting on the new best mess record set by HHC, COL Jere O. Whittington, brigade commander, observed, "They put a lot of effort into getting their first win, and they haven't let up on that effort."

With H Troop, 17th Cav. cooks bolstering the HHC mess staff, the brigade's top kitchen has a powerful starting lineup. HHC Mess Steward SFC James A. Roberts (Mena, Ark.) outgoing H/17 Mess Steward SFC O. H. Hubbard (Sherman, Tex.) and incoming Cav. stewards SFC Arthur W. Johnson (Gulfport, Miss.) and SSG James E. Ingram (St. Louis) have between them a total of 74 years' experience in food service.

# CREDIT UNIONS--THE NEW CHANGES

## DoD DIRECTS

### ..."FULL SERVICE" TO ALL RANKS

A clear-cut policy change that requires credit unions chartered for and serving Defense personnel to operate on a "nondiscriminatory" basis has been announced by the Department of Defense.

In revising two previous directives and publishing a new single, consolidated directive, DoD has called for credit unions to provide "full service" to their members.

Among the changes to past policies outlined in the revised directive are:

1--A requirement to offer "full service" (nondiscriminatory in nature) by extending equal service to all ranks and grades.

2--A requirement to provide personal counseling service to all members, without charge, to solve money problems and to help them plan a budget.

3--A requirement for both on- and off-post credit unions to adhere to the recently passed Truth-in-Lending Law (Public Law 90-321) and to the Department's own Standards of Fairness.

Six other changes covered different aspects of credit union status and policy, many concerning those credit unions operating in overseas areas.

While making changes, the new directive continues to encourage the credit union

movement within the Department, describing them as cooperative associations "created for the purpose of stimulating systematic savings and creating a source of credit for provident and productive purposes."

The directive nonetheless explains that credit unions which evidence a policy of excluding certain ranks, grades of classes of personnel from their loan services will be deemed discriminatory in nature and inconsistent with the recognized spirit of the movement.

It states that lending policies will be as liberal as possible and still be consistent with the interests of both the credit union and the individual member.

To be avoided, DoD said, are unnecessarily restrictive, unreasonable or out-of-date rules on the size of loans, types and amounts of security, or waiting periods before loan eligibility can be granted.

## BAVETT ESSAY

Also, special attention will be given to assisting military members in pay grades E-1, E-2 and E-3 who apply for loans for provident purposes.

Personal interest had been expressed by former House Banking and Currency Committee Chairman Wright Patman in credit union operation as a service, especially to younger servicemen.

(AFPS)

## ENGINEERS RIP

(Continued from Page 3)

"These large bamboo poles really gave us a lot of trouble when we were using our regular bulldozer blades. When we pushed them over they would frequently just spring back up," Gardner explained.

To overcome the problem the engineers have equipped their bulldozers with special shear-type blades which cut the bamboo off at ground level instead of trying to push it over.

The grinding advance along the river has done more than make the area unsuitable for a future supply route. As the heavy machines uncover enemy tunnels, the number of enemy supply and rice caches continues to rise. More than 16,000 tons of rice have been found as the retreating Communists are pushed farther back into the mountains.

Predictably, the project isn't very popular with the enemy, and a company of riflemen from the 1st Bn., 52nd Inf. form a security perimeter around the engineers while they work.

## NVA ROUTE

Although enemy contact has been light, the steel helmets and flak jackets of the equipment drivers serve as a constant reminder of another danger--booby traps.

"We just take it for granted that every well is booby trapped, and check each one carefully. If it is, we never mess with trying to disarm it; our motto is just to blow it in place," Gardner said.

With the project running about a month ahead of schedule and the resupply situation described as "really great" the engineers plan to just keep pushing on.

After the tunnels, bunkers and other enemy cover is destroyed, the Vietnamese farmers will be able to move back into the fertile area along the riverbank from which many of them were driven in the past years by Viet Cong harassment.

And the North Vietnamese soldiers will find it pretty risky walking along the banks of the Song Tra Khu, now that their cover has been plowed under.

# IDEAS IS MONEY

## BY PFC A.R. NOEL JR.

Why do some people constantly come up with new and creative picture ideas, while others find it difficult? Perhaps the answer is that some of us try too hard.

The unconscious mind is the center of creativity; this is where those "great" ideas originate. We all have them, but most of us repress them out of fear of failure or being laughed at.

To be creative as a photographer means to be yourself. Each of us is an individual, unlike any other person. Our ideas can be original and can be carried out along original lines, as long as we keep outside opinions from inhibiting us.

Along with the fear that someone won't like our ideas, we should overcome the fear of using "clichés." While we don't want to copy somebody else's pictures we should bear in mind that no subject has ever been exhausted to the point that another creative and interesting shot can't be found. Often we get ideas from others, but this doesn't mean we "steal" another's photo; rather, they have stimulated something within us, or given us an idea. From this point on it is ours to work with, seeking to be ourselves through our photographs.

After all, photographs are really an extension of what we think.



## EARLY BIRD GETS CHARLIE

(Cont. from Page 1)

In addition to two rifles captured by the men, a search of the area turned up seven Chinese Communist hand grenades, a pound of explosives, four loaded rifle magazines, medical supplies and a pair of binoculars.



SEPTEMBER — From the cast of "The Sweet Ride" comes our September calendar girl, Miss Corinna Tsopel.

### 3 STRAIGHT FOR HHC - BEST MESS

(Cont. from Page 3)

"The credit goes to the mess personnel," said HHC CO CPT Jimmie L. Blakely (Beeler, Kan.), "and to 1SG (John W.) Hartman (Jr.) (Elizabethtown, Ky.) for construction. They've given a lot of individual attention to the mess

program."

This attention has paid off for HHC.

Mess Steward Roberts puts it this way: "The cooks did it—they're entitled to all the credit."

The current titleholders include on the roster SP4 Anselmo V. Barnes (New York City), SP4 Ivan Vera (Adjuntas, P.R.), PFC

Daniel B. Grochola (Chicago) and PFC Arthur P. Galindo (Salt Lake City) of HHC, and H/17's SP5 Sakae Sueyoshi (San Francisco), SP4 Jimmy E. Martin (El Paso, Tex.), SP4 Victor Cruz Osorio (San turce, P.R.), PFC Pedro Tosado (Camuy, P.R.) and PV2 Brad Curtis (Clio, Mich.).

### DOG + DOZER - FRIENDS?

(Cont. from Page 1)

LT Macarski explained that Viet Cong in recent weeks have been planting mines under existing bulldozer tracks, tunneling in from the sides so as not to disturb the tracks.

"We used to be able to move around in the same tracks without fear of mines, but now we can't do that anymore," he said.

The engineers have had two bulldozers blown up by mines since beginning their job. And they would have lost another one as well as perhaps two lives had it not been for the mine-and-tunnel dog, especially trained for rooting out enemy mines.

"If the dog wouldn't have found the mine we would have gone right over it," SFC Gardner said. "We were only about 40 feet away."

LT Steve Smith (Rochester, N.Y.), commander of the 60th Plat., of which "Toby" and his handler, PFC Joseph Faiivae (Lemon Grove, Calif.), are members, explained that his dogs are trained to detect the powder used in mines or booby trapped munitions.

At times, he said, a dog will find a trip wire, follow it right to the mine itself and sit or stand next to the explosive until someone notices it.

This time "Toby" did his job, and at least two Bravo Co. engineers are extremely happy he did.

### BUDDAH, YEAZ RIDE -- IN QUANG NGAI PARADE

(Continued from Page 1)

The story goes back further than that, however. In 1965 the villagers of Phuoc Loc abandoned their homes on the Tra Khuc River west of Quang Ngai City because of increasing Communist activity in the area. They left behind their pagoda with all the religious articles intact.

Resettling near the provincial capital in the new refugee village of Son Loc, the village elders recently asked for help from Americans and province officials in regaining their religious items.

A few weeks later Delta Co., commanded by CPT James A. Fivin (Ottawa, Kan.), found the articles, including about 10 statuettes, a large replica of Buddha, and a 200-year-old bell.

"I knew they would be happy about the return of these articles," said MAJ Luther Kallan (Columbus, Ga.), battalion operations officer, "but this is really something. They've gone all out."

Going "all out" meant a parade honoring the Americans who had returned the items. More than 1,500 persons, including young boys and girls, village elders and Buddhist monks, paraded through the streets of the city. The Americans, sitting in a small bus in the middle of the parade, were the center of attraction.

As the parade snaked through the city, across the bridge over the Tra Khuc River and up Highway 1 to the village of Son Loc, a band comprised of elderly men sounded out a steady tune. A dozen small busses hauled youngsters in their Sunday best while the lead vehicle carried on its roof the Buddha recovered by the American Soldiers.

Upon arrival at the refugee settlement, the hamlet chief said, "Now we have something from the old village. Someday we will go back."

Their prospects for returning are good, as a joint U.S.-South Vietnamese effort presently is underway to clear the area of Communist fortifications, booby traps and mines. In the future the area is expected to come under the protection of the Quang Ngai Province Chief.

"We were very glad that we could return these articles," said LTC Davis, "and we hope that these people will be able to go back to their old village where they have their land."

With a final round of handshakes, the Americans departed the refugee village, leaving its inhabitants behind to worship as they had not been able to in four years.