

HUGE VC SALT CACHE FOUND

By SGT Mark L. Wolf
5th Bn., 46th Inf.

LZ GATOR—5th Bn., 46th Inf. soldiers have gouged deeply into Viet Cong salt supplies, capturing 235 tons to date—with more still being found—in what is believed to be one of the largest caches ever discovered in Vietnam.

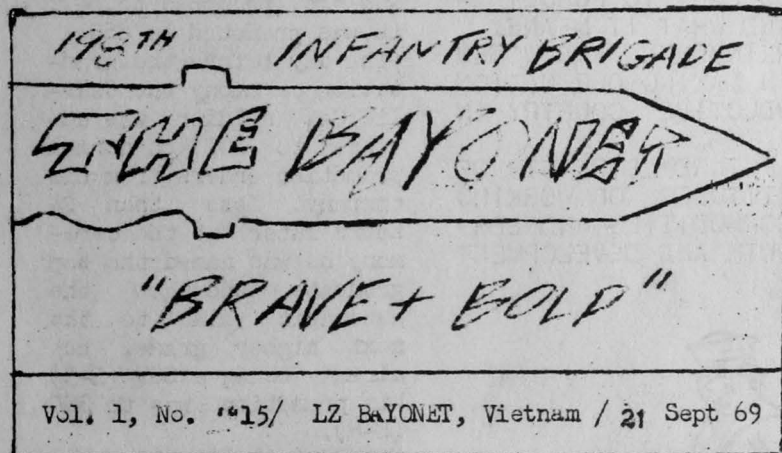
The salt is a vital part of the Communists' diet, is used extensively as a preservative, and at times is used for bartering.

"I've been in Vietnam for 16 months now, and anything I can do to hurt the Viet Cong is fine with me," said CPT Steven Schopp (Eldon, Mo.), commander of the battalion's cache-finding Bravo Co.

The stores were found in a series of caches on the Batangan Peninsula 10 miles northeast of Quang Ngai City.

"We're distributing it to refugees in our area through CAP teams (joint U.S. Marine-South Vietnamese Combined Action Platoons) and Vietnamese district and province headquarters," said CPT Anthony Phelps (Smithtown, N.Y.), civil affairs officer of the 5/46.

Bravo Co. had been conducting normal search operations along the Southern edge of the peninsula, looking for VC by day and returning sniper fire by night. On the third day 1st Plat. Leader 1LT Gary Ryler (Parsons, Kan.) reported that his early afternoon patrol had found a four-foot-high structure.
(Cont. on Page 6)



1/52 CHANGES COMMANDER

By SFC Herb Nesmith
198th Brigade PIO

LZ Bayonet — Homeward-bound LTC Reed E. Davis Jr. (Omaha, Neb.) handed over the reins of command of the 1st Bn., 52nd Inf. to LTC Arthur E. Brown Jr. (Savannah, Ga.) in change of command ceremonies at 198th Brigade headquarters here.

At the same time, Americal Div. Commander MG Lloyd B. Ramsey presented Col. Davis the Legion of Merit with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster, Bronze Star for valor and Purple Heart.

The Legion of Merit was awarded to Davis in recognition of his work first as 198th Brigade Executive Officer and later as 1/52 Battalion Commander. The Bronze Star came as a result of Davis' actions when LZ Stinson came under intense sapper attack in May. The Purple Heart was awarded for wounds received in action last November.

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MOUNTAINS DISCLOSE ENEMY BASE AREAS

By PFC Bill Eftink
198th Brigade PIO

LZ FAT CITY—Searching an area 12 to 15 miles southwest of Chu Lai, men of the 1st Bn., 6th Inf. uncovered a series of enemy basecamps, hospital facilities and resupply stations.

Delta Co. was first helicoptered into the rugged mountain area after Echo Co.'s Recon Plat. reported suspected sites in the general vicinity of Hill 1362, where the "Regulars" had found a battalion-sized NVA basecamp only two months before.

After three days of climbing up and sliding down the steep mountains that make up the area, pointmen of the 3rd Plat. spotted two elevated bamboo aqueducts carry-

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Partners for Progress

LABOR DAY, ESTABLISHED 75 YEARS AGO AS A DAY TO HONOR THE WORKING MAN, PASSED FOR THE MOST PART UNNOTICED HERE IN VIETNAM.

IN THE 198TH BRIGADE WE WORK ALL DAY EVERY DAY, AND IT'S OFTEN DIFFICULT TO TELL ONE DAY FROM ANOTHER. (AT TIMES WE KNOW IT'S SUNDAY ONLY BECAUSE OF AFVN'S PROGRAMMING THAT DAY OR, AT A BASECAMP, BECAUSE WE HEAR THE CHAPEL BELL RINGING.)

SO IT'S ALL TOO EASY TO FORGET ABOUT LABOR DAY AND WHAT IT MEANS.

TENS OF MILLIONS OF WORKING MEN AND WOMEN HAVE PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN MAKING OUR NATION THE RICHEST AND MOST PRODUCTIVE COUNTRY IN THE WORLD.

THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE STRENGTH OF THE COUNTRY IS IN THE MULTITUDES OF WORKING PEOPLE WHO PRODUCE THE COMMODITIES AND SERVICES ESSENTIAL TO THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATION.



WE IN THE MILITARY SHOULD REMEMBER THE HELP THE WORKING MAN HAS GIVEN US. SOME HAVE LAID ASIDE THEIR TOOLS AND JOINED OUR RANKS HERE IN VIETNAM AND IN OTHER PLACES AT OTHER TIMES; OTHERS ARE PROVIDING US WITH ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT.

THE AMERICAN WORKING MEN AND SERVICEMEN ARE STRONG PARTNERS IN MAKING OURS THE MOST PROGRESSIVE, SAFEST AND GREATEST NATION IN THE WORLD. (AFPS)

5/46 MAN WINS FAST STRIPES

CHU LAI — SP4 Melvin Schoch (Pottstown, Pa.) of the 5th Sq., 46th Inf. entered the Americal Combat Center's reconnaissance course with hopes of being the top graduate and receiving the automatic promotion that goes with it.

But when he completed the two-week course he was not promoted to SGT; he was promoted to SSG.

The day before the graduation ceremony the Charlie Co. soldier was advanced to SGT on normal promotion orders from his company. Less than 24 hours later at the ceremony he was named the top graduate and got the automatic hike to the next higher grade, but already being a SGT (E-5) his promotion was to SSG (E-6).

EG Edwin L. Powell, assistant division commander, presented Schoch an engraved plaque noting his accomplishment. LTC Julian Wagner, 5/46 commander, was a guest at the graduation, which marked the second successive Unit Recon Course in which a man from his battalion won the top honors.

This was the fifth class to graduate from the recon course since it began. Students are selected by their unit CO's to attend the classes, which are designed to train leaders in reconnaissance elements. (Spt Comd IO)

PFC KNOWS 'MYSTERY SOLDIER'

WASHINGTON — An unidentified soldier was challenged as to why he had served in Vietnam by a member of the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) at a Chicago parade in June. He answered, "So that you can stand here on this corner and shoot off your mouth."

Because, as Army News Features (ANF) puts it, "an occupant of the White House" wants to commend him, ANF published his picture under the headline "Mystery Soldier—Front and Center" and requested that anyone knowing him contact the Army Chief of Information in Washington.

An answer was received from a PFC at Ft. Campbell, Ky., who "knows" the man. This is the letter written by Stuart P. Hanson of Co. C, 51st Engr. Bn.:

"Regarding the 'Mystery Soldier' ... I regret that I cannot identify the soldier you are seeking. However, I feel strongly that his reply could have been spoken by any man in the Armed Services. Not only should his courage and sacrifice be recognized, but those same qualities are not uncommon among all the enlisted men in the Army. Therefore, I can confidently say that I know this man."

READY RIFLES EARN SILVER STARS

LZ BAYONET — Two Delta Co. men of the 1st Bn., 52nd Inf. were decorated with Silver Stars by MG Lloyd B. Ramsey, commander of the Americal Div., in separate ceremonies here. CPT Brian H. Chermol (Warminster, Pa.) and SGT Ronald R. Barth (Culbertson, Neb.) were presented the nation's fourth highest award for their gallantry in action with the "Ready Rifles" of the 198th Bde.

CPT Chermol, now with the Bde. S-3 Section, last February as Delta Co. Co was moving his unit to assist a sister company which had engaged an enemy force near LZ Young. As his men were crossing an open area they came under heavy automatic weapons fire from a well dug-in Communist element. The 1st Plat. found itself no more than 40 yards from the enemy position, and subjected to point blank machinegun fire.

Chermol worked his way through the close-up hostile fire, maneuvered to within hand grenade range, and destroyed the machinegun emplacement. In silencing the position he prevented it from causing any further injuries to his men.

SGT Barth was with elements of Delta Co. searching a complex of bunkers and tunnels near LZ Stinson on August 23rd when they received intense automatic weapons and small arms fire from a well entrenched NVA force. Locating one of the enemy positions, Squad Leader Barth crawled through a barrage of hostile fire until he was close to the emplacement, and then lobbed hand grenades in on the enemy.

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FARMER TURNS IN HIDDEN VC ROCKET

By SGT Alfred Anthony Jr.
198th Brigade PIO

KY SANH — 198th Brigade psychological operations (PSYOPS) inspired an elderly Vietnamese farmer to turn in to 1st Bn., 6th Inf. troops a deadly 122mm rocket apparently planned for use against Americal Div. Hq at Chu Lai, five miles east of here.

Brigade PSYOPS men have concentrated their Voluntary Informants Program (VIP) efforts to undermine Viet Cong strength in this susceptible village, a hamlet of which was recently the scene of a VC terrorist bombing which killed 9 civilians, critically wounded 18 and caused injuries to more than 30 others.

"There had been three different leaflet drops dealing specifically with rockets just before this one was turned in," said CPT William D. Hyde (Merced, Calif.), 1/6 civil affairs officer.

The farmer, having read one of the PSYOPS leaflets, told the village PF group of the find, who in turn notified the battalion. Located in a cluster of bushes, the missile was in good condition and had its warhead and rocket motor attached.

"It is inevitable that the rocket would have been used against us if the man hadn't turned it in," Hyde said. "This area is known as the 'Rocket Pocket' because it's a major launching location."

The farmer was paid a reward of 10,000 piasters
(Cont. on Page 6)

THE BAYONET

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NEW 1/52 CO

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The colonel served as Bde. XO from September 1968 until early in March of 1969, and assumed command of the 1/52 on March 9th.

In bidding farewell, Gen. Ramsey told Davis, "Your battalion has done an outstanding job." He noted that Davis had compiled an admirable record with the "Ready Rifles" and pointed out that his accomplishments were "indicative of the spirit of the entire battalion."

Turning to Col. Brown, the Americal commander said, "You bring a fine reputation with you. I want you to know that you now have a fine battalion."

Exhibiting pride in his unit, Davis said, "It's been my privilege to serve with the 198th Bde., and in particular with the 1st Bn., 52nd Inf. It's been the most rewarding experience of my military career." He also remarked that working in conjunction with the 6th ARVN Regt. had brought him much satisfaction. Davis, who has been reassigned to the Office of the Secretary of the Army, concluded by saying, "I wish to express my thanks to the officers and men of this battalion."

Brown, newly arrived from the U.S. Army War College at Carlisle Bks., Pa., told the assemblage, "I accept with great appreciation the command of

NVA BASES FOUND

(Continued from Page 1)

ing water from a mountain stream into the nearby jungle.

"The first aqueduct ran about 550 yards to a large 20-by-50 foot bamboo-and-thatch structure used as a hospital, with another hootch close by serving as living quarters. The second aqueduct continued on into the jungles for about another quarter-mile to another similar setup," said the platoon leader, 1LT Charles J. Gantner (Piscataway, N.J.).

In addition to the structures making up the hospital complex, there were several livestock pens holding 50 pigs and 45 to 50 chickens.

"It was pretty well developed. They had large storage areas under each of the hootches, with medical supplies and other living materials, but they had just enough time to get most of it out before we got there," added 1LT Peter Yatsevitch (Curnish, N.H.).

Searching in the same area the next day the company's point squad discovered a well stocked supply station. A concealed hut was found to contain a ton of corn, 500 pounds of salt, 20 pounds of tobacco, cooking utensils, homemade torches, over 400 rounds of small arms ammunition, NVA uniforms and articles of civilian clothing.

Delta Co.'s commander, CPT Dale Collie (Benton, Ky.), said, "Our Kit Carson Scout estimated that this probably served as a resupply stop for up to 300 men at a time on their way down south." Looking around the area, he added, "Of course, there weren't nearly that many here when we walked up on it. They probably left five or six men to guard the place, and when they saw us coming they took off."

In an area about four miles away the Echo Recon Platoon uncovered yet another enemy complex containing a large structure, bunkers and numerous livestock pens.

Although enemy contact has been scarce 1/6 officials express satisfaction with the results of the mountain operations.

"Anything we can do to destroy the enemy's existing facilities and disrupt his resupply activities forces him to devote precious man-hours to rebuilding them, thus weakening his ability to fight," explains MAJ W. L. Lee (De Ridder, La.), battalion S-3.

Another official was quick to point out that perhaps even more important is the psychological effect of penetrating and destroying what the Viet Cong and NVA once considered safe hiding places.

the battalion, and I look forward to serving with it." Addressing the division commander, Brown said, "Gen. Ramsey, I ask that you understand that the 'Ready Rifles' are ready to accomplish any mission you might assign us."

Among those present for the change of command ceremonies were BG Wallace L. Clement, assistant division commander, and COL Jere O. Whittington, 198th Bde. commander,



THE WORLD IS MY LENS

BY SP4
ART NOEL

Many people in Vietnam working in support jobs are required by duties to spend most of their time on an LZ, and seldom have an opportunity to go out and take pictures. However, with a little forethought and a searching eye you can come up with some good photos right on the LZ.

The key here is two-fold. Always look for picture possibilities, even when working, and always have your camera loaded with film and ready to shoot.

Here are some of the items I've found that can produce good pictures:

1--Interesting composition can be found in many places, even a pile of junk metal.

2--Silhouettes formed by the light coming through

hutch windows against objects between your camera and the windows (including things you've hung in the windows).

3--Portraits of friends taken outside at night with a strobe light or flashbulb.

4--Shots of peeling paint, torn screens, etc., can be creative.

5--Double exposures (two images on the same film frame) can often say more than one may.

6--Shots of friends at work or engaged in some sport.

7--Floor shows can be a real challenge in trying to interpret a performer's personality and capture his (or her) mood in your photo.

8--Pets and animals, if they are around, are good picture material.

9--Vietnamese working on the LZ.

10--Close-ups (when you move close up you enter another world of photography).

11--Choppers bringing in supplies.

12--Oil, gasoline or tar used on roads when float-

ing on water can be interesting.

13--Various types of foliage often make good composition.

14--Small objects, such as beads of moisture on a cold can of soft drink, can be of interest.

15--The texture of trees, grain of wood or designs in palm trees can create a pleasing effect.

The list could go on and on. The main thing to remember, though, is to keep your eyes open and your camera ready.

BAYONETTE OF THE WEEK



NEVER BETTER — A leopard never looked as well in its skin as does Hollywood Starlet Sharon Harvey.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1--Once around track
- 4--Pierce
- 6--Male sheep
- 11--Couple
- 12--Assistant
- 13--Period of time
- 14--Tautonic deity
- 15--Lubricate
- 17--Trader
- 19--Mature
- 21--Spread for drying
- 23--Afternoon party
- 24--Lease
- 26--Place
- 28--Heavenly body
- 31--Parent (colloq.)
- 33--Falsahood
- 35--Female sheep
- 36--Parent (colloq.)
- 38--Assuage
- 41--Latin conjunction
- 42--High mountain
- 44--Monetary unit of Bulgaria
- 45--Devoured
- 47--Scorch
- 49--Condensed moisture
- 51--Wolfhound
- 54--Bone of body
- 56--Take unlawfully
- 58--Time gone by
- 59--Puffers
- 62--Communist
- 64--Exists
- 65--Measure of weight
- 66--Semi-precious stone
- 68--Eye closely
- 70--Unit of Siamese currency
- 71--Staff
- 72--Golf mound

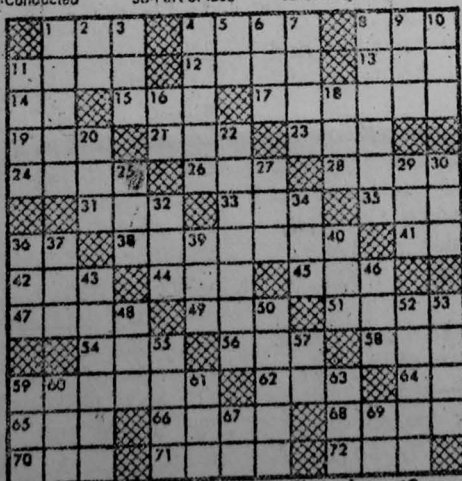
DOWN

- 1--Dig
- 2--Three-toed sloth

- 3--In favor of
- 4--Transactions
- 5--Note of scale
- 6--Total
- 7--Vegetable
- 8--Tell
- 9--Exist
- 10--Deface
- 11--Fruit
- 16--Pronoun
- 18--Roman bronze
- 20--Goal
- 22--Communicate
- 25--Sailor (colloq.)
- 27--Crevat
- 29--Reverence
- 30--Soak
- 32--A state (abbr.)
- 34--Girl's name
- 36--Dance step
- 37--Beverage
- 39--Conducted

- 40--Greek letter
- 43--Father or mother
- 46--Guido's high note
- 48--Inlet
- 50--Globe
- 52--Nimble
- 53--Part of face

- 55--Puff
- 57--Exist
- 59--Music: as written
- 60--Small child
- 61--Resort
- 63--Speck
- 67--Indefinite article
- 69--Earth goddess



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SILVER STARS SHINE ON DELTA 1-52

(Cont. from Page 3)

Pulling back, the NVA poured heavy suppressive fire and a rain of grenades toward Barth as they retreated from their destroyed position. Barth reacted immediately. Rather than seeking cover, he unlimbered his M-16 rifle and killed two of the fleeing NVA. His actions freed the company to maneuver against the enemy and successfully drive them from the area.

Barth's Silver Star came in an awards ceremony held in conjunction with the 1/52 change of command.

Two other Delta Co. men were decorated for valor by Gen. Ramsey in that same ceremony. 1LT Michael D. Kapphahn (Spanaway, Wash.) and SGT Jimmy L. Jarvis (Cannon, Ky.) were presented Bronze Stars for their heroism in engagements with the enemy late last month.



PSYOPS SCORES: FARMER TURNS IN ROCKET

(Cont. from Page 3)

for the rocket from the unit VIP fund. "I also threw in 50 pounds of corn and a pouch of tobacco," the captain said. "And I bought him a beer."

Following the turn-in, a brigade PSYOPS loudspeaker team led by SGT Duane R. Leake (Rochester, N.Y.) returned to applaud and encourage the villagers.

"Our ARVN interpreter, SSG Ian, also reminded the people that it is the VC who cause most of their suffering, and that turning in enemy weapons helps to alleviate that suffering," Leake said.

"We also dropped some leaflets further explaining the VIP plan."

Battalion S-5 men gave Ky Sanh a supply of captured enemy foodstuffs, including 2,000 pounds of corn. They also distributed 500 pounds of rice, 100 pounds of salt and 50 pounds of tobacco to the people.

The same day SSG Wayne Radabaugh (Grantville, W. Va.), a 1/6 "Regulars" medic, treated well over 100 villagers in a MEDCAP.

"We're seeing good results here," said Team Leader Leake. "It takes a lot of courage to do what that farmer did—he knows the risk he's taking in the face of the VC. He's a brave man."

In this village it took only one man to prove the success of the brigade's VIP and PSYOPS programs. "We offer the people our help," Leake said, "and in showing that they are willing to help us, they in turn help themselves."

SALT CACHE FOUND

(Continued from Page 1)

ure which after careful examination was discovered to contain a large quantity of salt.

"I thought this was just an isolated case of finding a salt chache," said CPT Schopp, "but after we ran some more patrols in the area we found so much salt I called the rest of the company in."

By the end of the day the men had filled 200 bags with 16,000 pounds of salt, which was flown by Hueys to LZ Gator, basecamp of the "Professionals."

When the size of the find became apparent, Charlie and Delta Companies were rotated into the area to help with the removal of the salt. At the same time, other large amounts were discovered hidden under haystacks within a mile of the original find.

Since then, an average of 25 tons a day has been moved from the Communist storage area.

It was soon discovered how such a large quantity of salt came to be on the peninsula—the VC had been "farming" it from the nearby South China Sea. They terraced off the area, surrounded on three sides by salt flats, and let the high tide fill it with sea water which was then trapped by a hastily thrown up dike. As the water evaporated under the hot tropical sun, rock salt residue remained to be raked together, scooped up and hidden by the VC for future use.

Meanwhile, the "Professionals" continue to find and sack more salt by day, and patrol at night to fend off constantly harassing Communist snipers.

Moving several tons of salt daily requires a lot of transportation. "It became such a problem getting all that salt by 'Hook' to LZ Gator that we decided to take it over to the beach and coordinate with the Navy to have it moved by snip to its various destinations," said LTC Julian Wagner (Green Cove Springs, Fla.), 5/46 battalion commander.

Musing over the huge amount of salt his men had found, Col. Wagner came up with a few interesting figures of his own. If the caches of salt—still being found—should rise to a total of 275 tons, there would be enough to make salt tablets in a quantity to furnish every American in Vietnam with two tablets per day for an entire year. Laid end to end, the tablets would stretch more than 2,500 miles.