

NVA HIDEOUT DESTROYED

By PFC Bill Eftink
198th Brigade PIO

LZ STINSON—A tunnel complex that took the NVA an estimated one year to build collapsed in 30 seconds of spewing dust, rumbling earth and a rising column of smoke near this 198th Bde. forward firebase.

Soldiers of the 1st Bn., 52nd Inf. were guided to the 400 meters of tunnel by two former enemy soldiers, two brothers who had rallied to friendly forces under the Chieu Hoi program.

"The tunnels have been used quite recently," said PFC Harry S. Little Jr. (Reaver Falls, Pa.), a "tunnel rat" for Alpha Co. "I found an empty food can that couldn't have been over a few days old."

The tunnels were believed to have been used by NVA units both as sleeping quarters and as shelter from air strikes and allied artillery fire.

"They weren't really wide enough to make good supply storage areas, but by sleeping head-to-toe they probably could have held over 200 men," Little said.

Recently departed LTC Reed E. Davis Jr. (Omaha, Neb.), then battalion commander, explained that this was the third large tunnel complex the 1/52 has destroyed in the last two months.

"Some NVA outfit is going to be awfully disappointed when they find themselves down here with no place to hide," Davis said.

The tunnels—in some areas as deep as 12 to 14 feet below the surface—required 3,500 pounds of cratering charges to collapse them.

"For length and size, this was the largest complex I've been in yet," said Little. "There were some places where I had
(Cont. on Page 6)

198TH INFANTRY BRIGADE

THE BAYONET

"BRAVE & BOLD"

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TWO-STAR MEDIC—EARNS SILVER AND BRONZE (V)

LZ GATOR—SP4 Walter G. Yeargin (Avondale, Ariz.), 5th Bn., 46th Inf. medic, was presented both the Silver Star and Bronze Star Medal for valor by 198th Brigade Commander COL Jere O. Whittington in a mid-morning ceremony here recently.

Yeargin was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action while serving as a Delta Co. medic with the 4th Bn., 3rd Inf. of the 11th Bde.

Conducting a sweep near a village in the "Jungle Warriors" OZ, his platoon was pinned down and re-

ceived numerous casualties. Although wounded himself, Yeargin continually exposed himself to enemy fire in moving from one injured man to another to administer first aid.

When a dustoff helicopter was shot down near the still pinned down platoon, he again went through the hostile fire toward the aircraft. On reaching the spot, he helped evacuate the crew and give first aid to the injured.

Yeargin received the
(Cont. on Page 6)

H TROOP WINS SAFETY AWARD

LZ BAYONET — H Troop, 17th Cavalry is the first winner of the 198th Bde.'s new monthly safety award. H/17 C.O. CPT John A. Dethorn (Jersey City, N.J.) received the initial award in the safety competition from COL Jere O. Whittington, brigade commander, in a recent ceremony here.

In presenting the award Whittington congratulated the cavalrymen on their efforts, and stressed the importance of continuing emphasis on field safety.

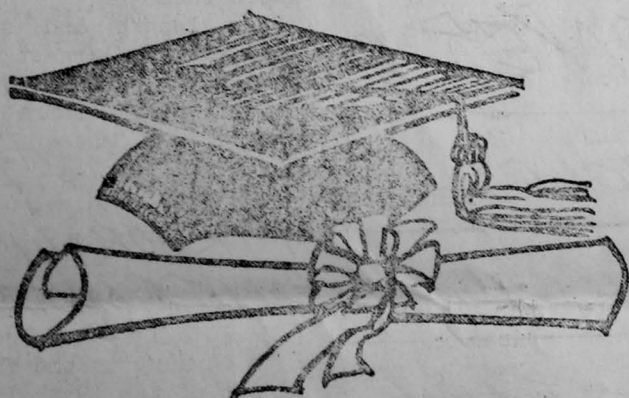
Dethorn cited troop policies of checking each track daily and platoon leaders' personal inspections of all weapons after a firefight as being instrumental in reducing accidents.

It's Up to You

ONE OF THE MOST ADMIRABLE PURSUITS OF THE DEPT. OF DEFENSE IS ITS URGING OF MILITARY PERSONNEL TO FURTHER THEIR EDUCATION.

THE ENCOURAGEMENT BY THE PENTAGON IS DESIGNED TO OFFER SERVICEMEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO PERFORM THEIR JOBS MORE EFFECTIVELY, PREPARE THEM FOR MORE RESPONSIBILITY AND INCREASE THEIR CHANCES FOR PROMOTION AND BETTER LIVING.

THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION IN THE ARMED FORCES IS EVIDENT BY ITS HIGH LEVELS ALREADY EXISTENT. SER-VICE-WIDE, 73 PER CENT OF THE COMMISSIONED OFFICERS HAVE COLLEGE DEGREES, 91 PER CENT OF THE OFFICERS AND 22 PER CENT OF THE ENLISTED PERSONNEL HAVE COMPLETED SOME COLLEGE WORK, AND 83 PER CENT OF THE ENLISTED MEN ARE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES.



THIRTY YEARS AGO A HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE WHO HAD AMBITION COULD LAND A JOB--A GOOD JOB--WITHOUT TOO MUCH DIFFICULTY.

NOT TODAY.

IN THESE TIMES ALMOST THE FIRST QUESTION ASKED BY A POTENTIAL EMPLOYER IS: "WHERE DID YOU GO TO SCHOOL?" BUT HE DOESN'T MEAN HIGH SCHOOL; HE MEANS FROM WHAT COLLEGE WERE YOU GRADUATED.

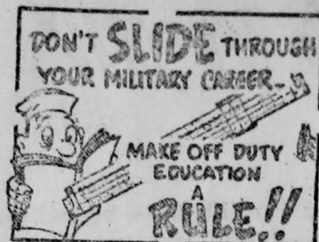
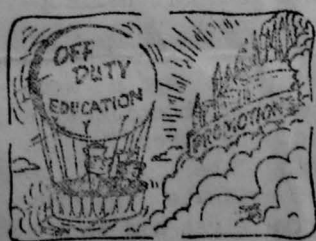
THE YOUNG MAN TODAY WITHOUT A COLLEGE DEGREE FACES A LIFETIME OF LOWER PAY. WITH A DEGREE, AND AMBITION, THE SKY'S THE LIMIT.

FOR THOSE WITHOUT AMBITION--FORGET IT.

FOR THOSE WITH AMBITION--THE ROAD IS WIDE OPEN.

IT'S UP TO YOU. THE OPPORTUNITY FOR A COLLEGE EDUCATION IS AVAILABLE TO ANYONE WHO REALLY WANTS IT.

TAKE IT--AND GOOD LUCK!



EDUCATION LEVELS RISING IN ARMY--

WASHINGTON -- Participation in the Army's world-wide General Educational Development (GED) reached an all-time high in the recently ended fiscal year (FY) 1969, reports The Adjutant General here. The average number of enrollments and course completions were up 22 per cent from FY 68, according to the report.

The GED plan offers civilian-type education and provides both elementary through college level academic and vocational courses to men wanting to continue their education while in the service.

A total of 896,403 GED courses were completed in FY 69. In MOS-related subjects alone there were 495,000 course completions, an increase of 60,535 over the previous year.

More than 500 men completed work on college degrees, and 60,674 others qualified for high school diplomas or equivalent certificates.

The GED program is operated at 295 Army education centers around the world, with 24 in the Republic of Vietnam.

Locally, the Americal Div. Education Center offers many GED opportunities, including high school subjects and college entrance and course examinations. They can also arrange correspondence courses from 44 different colleges and universities.

For complete information about the GED program, stop in at the Education Center at division headquarters or call them at Chu Lai 2311. (ANF/198 PIO)

SAPPER RETURNS TO STINSON

By SP5 Thomas Maus and PFC Bill Eftink
Americal IG 198th Bde. PIO

LZ STINSON-- Nguyen Trong Thu had travelled the route before.

The first time it had been under the cover of darkness and with the expressed intention of doing as much damage to this 198th Bde. firebase as he and his comrades were able.

Now the 1st Bn., 52nd Inf. commander and his men stood in awe as the nearly naked figure squirmed his way through the rows of concertina wire at the same spot he had penetrated only four months earlier.

Nguyen Trong Thu is now a Kit Carson Scout with the battalion here at this same LZ southwest of Chu Lai.

But on May 12th Thu, a VC master sergeant, led his squad of 46th Sappers up the hillside to LZ Stinson (then called LZ Buff). A veteran of five years with the VC, Thu had little trouble guiding his men through the three rolls of concertina wire on the perimeter.

Once inside the LZ, the invaders found the soldiers of Alpha Co. too much to cope with. Many of the VC were killed that night, and Thu himself was seriously wounded.

The sappers dragged most of their dead and wounded back through the perimeter wire and into the mountains west of Stinson.

Thu was admitted to an NVA-controlled hospital where he began to recuperate and think about his future as a VC sapper. He thought about how the VC had killed his father during the post-Tet offensive. He also wondered what his brothers saw in the South Vietnamese Army. One is now a second lieutenant and the other is an ARVN special forces soldier.

As soon as he regained his strength, Thu evaded the defenses of the enemy hospital and made his way toward an allied unit to rally to the Government of Vietnam. On June 1st he officially became a Hoi Chanh. Shortly afterwards he went to Chu Lai to go through the Americal's three-week Kit Carson Scout training school, where he was taught how to aid the same people he had attacked just one month before.

In the training course Thu became familiar with the Americans' point of view. He had several hours of physical training, instruction in English and--most important--he was told what the soldier in the field would expect of him as a former VC.

After his graduation from the Scout school on August 29th, it seemed there was one obvious place to send him--LZ Stinson with the 1/52.

It didn't take long for Thu's skill as a perimeter prober to become known around the LZ, and the day after he arrived he demonstrated his prowess at crawling through barbed wire entanglements.

The demonstration was watched by many of the same men of Alpha Co. who were defending the firebase when Thu first came through the wire four months earlier.

In three minutes Thu worked his way through three rolls of concertina wire, disarming a claymore mine and avoiding numerous trip flares as he breached the most heavily concentrated defenses of the perimeter.

The former sapper explained that they are trained to go through barbed wire much faster if necessary, but that they normally move slowly to avoid detection.

Anxious infantrymen crowded around Thu, all asking the best way to prevent such easy penetration of defenses.

"We are trained to penetrate all types of barbed wire layouts, and that I can do," Thu answered. "The only way to prevent penetration is to keep alert bunker guards."

When not in the field Thu makes his home at LZ Stinson, the same firebase he infiltrated the night of May 12th.

But that now seems like a long time ago to the 1/52 Kit Carson Scout.

THE BAYONET

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SPARE YOUR RELATIVES NEEDLESS GRIEF

Numerous hoax telephone calls to relatives of men serving in Vietnam have been reported in recent weeks. These calls have caused considerable anguish and discomfort to the men's families, who are often unaware of the Department of the Army's notification procedures.

The calls are malicious. They falsely report to your family that you have been killed, are missing in action, have deserted, are AWOL, or concern some other deliberately wrong story designed to worry your family.

SPARE YOUR RELATIVES THIS GRIEF. Advise them right away that they may receive one of these calls, but that any telephone call regarding your status should immediately be recognized as being a hoax.

Why somebody would want to make a call such as this is beyond a normal person's understanding, but the best way to insure that your family will not be bothered by a false report about you is to

tell them about these malicious calls.

Tell them also that if your status should require notification of your next of kin, the Army will not use the telephone to do it. Notification is made by a message personally delivered by Army representatives whose identity can immediately be proven on the spot.

BAYONET ESSAY

Other means of notification (depending on the seriousness of your status) are a Western Union telegram which can be verified by the Western Union office from which it was received, or by correspondence directly from the Department of the Army, but NEVER by telephone.

Again, you are urged to advise your relatives of this right away.

In fact, it is suggested that you cut this article out of the paper and send it home.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1-Opening
- 4-Coloring substance
- 9-Young boy
- 32-Time gone by
- 33-Church official
- 34-Man's name
- 35-Fest indignant at
- 37-Ached
- 39-Place
- 40-Shade tree
- 41-City in Russia
- 43-Crory (colloq.)
- 44-Country of Asia
- 47-Dance step
- 48-Torrid
- 49-Achesive substance
- 50-Man's nickname
- 51-Mole
- 52-Proposition
- 53-Symbol for tellurium
- 54-Basball teams
- 55-Fake
- 57-Possessed
- 58-Chinney
- 59-Belly
- 60-Facet
- 61-Claw
- 63-Tavern
- 64-More rapid
- 66-Climbing device
- 69-Swiss river
- 73-Once more
- 72-Guido's high note
- 73-Period of time
- 74-Harvests
- 75-Tear

DOWN

- 1-Long, slender fish
- 2-Mature

- 3-Armed hands
- 4-Shut up
- 5-In music, high
- 6-Cyprinoid fish
- 7-Country of Asia
- 8-Snare
- 9-Seagoing vessels
- 10-Exist
- 11-Parent (colloq.)
- 16-Lamprey
- 18-Poem by Homer
- 20-Small rug
- 21-Unlocks
- 22-Wireless
- 23-Vessel
- 25-Essence
- 26-Wants
- 28-Possessive pronoun
- 29-Metal fastener
- 31-Part of flower
- 32-Evil
- 35-Public official
- 36-Emerged victorious
- 37-More difficult
- 39-Satiate
- 40-Insane
- 42-Spy'spearman king
- 43-Prohibits
- 44-Mournful
- 45-Chinese pagoda
- 46-Part of face
- 47-Man's name
- 48-Knock
- 51-Cooled lava



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DECORATIONS & PROMOTIONS

DECORATIONS

SILVER STAR

5/46: SP4 Walter G. Yeargin

BRONZE STAR (V)

1/6: SGT Hayward D. Neace

5/46: SP4 Walter G. Yeargin;
SP4 Wayne R. Otto

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL (V)

1/6: SGT Hayward D. Neace;
SGT Carl T. Bechard; SGT Cedric C. Barnes; SP4 Ronald G. Sorey

PURPLE HEART (3 OLC)

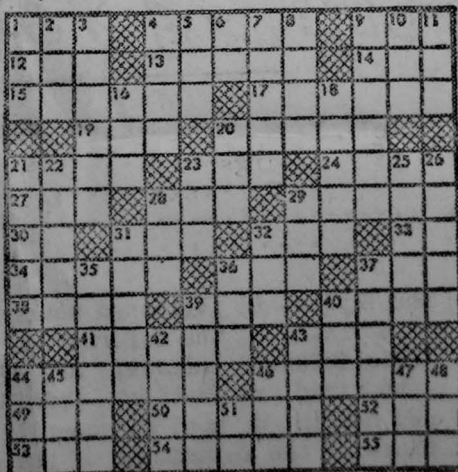
HHC 198: PFC Wallace E. P1-land

PROMOTIONS

To-CPT

1/6: David A. Trujillo

(Cont. on Page 5)



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THE LAST STRAW

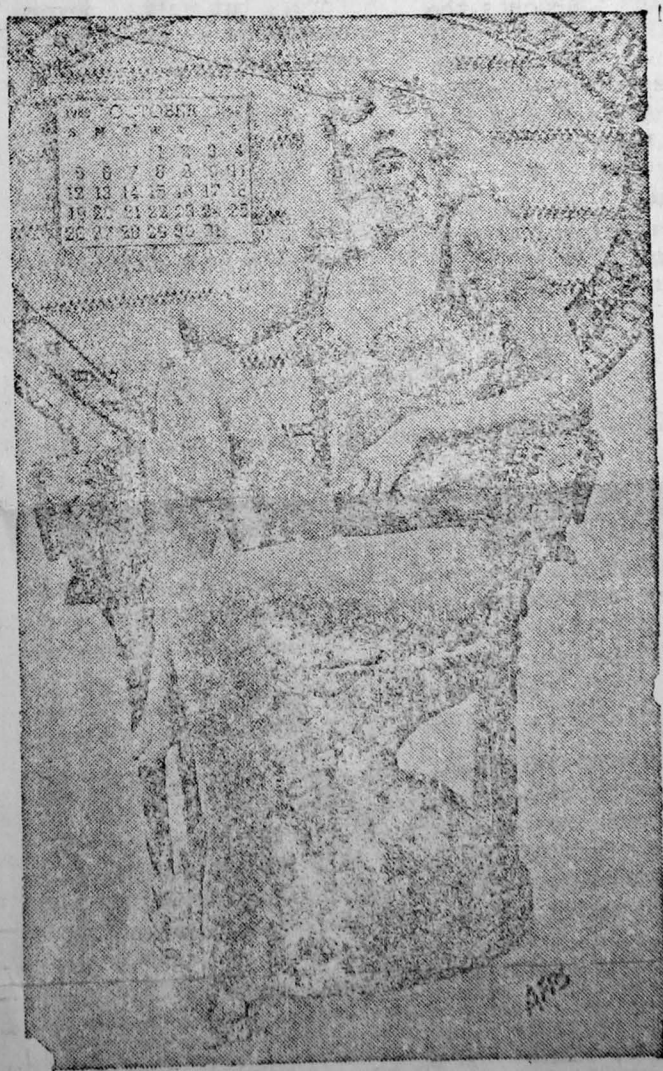
FT. CAMPBELL, Ky.—Computers at this Army basic training center have finally met their match.

Members of the personnel branch are having trouble trying to fit 39 characters in the name space on an IBM card that can accommodate only 18 letters.

The new man giving them the headache is a basic trainee, PVT Allenzio Róoseveltause Abuelwhippingstraw. (AFPS)



BAYONETTE



PROMOTIONS

(Cont. from Page 4)

To SSG

- 1/6: John W. Modek; Gary L. Scholten; John T. Barry
- 1/52: James H. Beheler

To SGT

- 1/6: Craig K. Decker; Tom E. Buyze; Dominick Maugori; Raymond W. Morgan; Michael W. Wells; Lawrence S. Dyson; Louis E. Hutson; Victor B. Hawthorne Jr.; Timothy J. Stillwell; John W. Vanlandingham; Terry L. Andreessen; Charles M. Holder; Cedric C. Barnes; Carl T. Bechard; Norman A. Milnes; Thomas F. Flanigan; John A. Siatkowski; David L. Handl; Richard A. Chapman; William L. Privett; Randy R. Stratton

To SP5

- 1/6: Jimmie E. Lovings; Joseph S. Major; Allen G. Foster; Robert G. Solby

To SP4

- 1/6: Ernest Fletcher; Warren D. Malm; Alan G. Wade; Gonzalo Mendez-Rivera; John A. Victor

BONDED BAYONETTE—Halloween's this month, but Stella Stevens says, "The real trick is to treat yourself to a U.S. Savings Bond or Freedom Share a month through the easy monthly allotment plan. Remember, bonds have more funds."

BAYONET MP'S AID LOCAL FARMERS

LZ BAYONET--Military Policemen here went to the aid of local Vietnamese farmers this week, killing a 7½-foot livestock-destroying python.

A Vietnamese rushed to the main gate of the LZ early Monday and told the MP on duty that the large snake had caught and eaten a farmer's calf. He then asked for help from the Americans to catch and kill the python before it could destroy any more livestock.

SSG Bernard A. Abbett (Auburn, Me.) and SP4 Rickey L. Dixon (Miami) of the 3rd Pltn., 23rd MP Co., which supports the 198th Bde., immediately accompanied the civilian to the spot where other farmers had followed the snake, about 300 meters south of the Chu Lai fence line. An elderly Vietnamese pointed toward a large bush, saying that the python was hiding in

it. But the snake's natural coloring blended so well with the surroundings that it was impossible to see it.

The group of farmers around the bush began to throw rocks into the vegetation, forcing the python to move. As soon as it did Dixon spotted it and opened fire with his M-16. When the wounded snake's head came into view Abbett fired his .45 and finished it off, ending the threat to important livestock in this area.

"We've both killed coral snakes and bamboo vipers before, but we've never encountered a snake this large before," Abbett said.

The Vietnamese, saying the meat was good to eat, took the bullet-riddled python back to their village with them.

"They can keep it," said Dixon.



OUTGOING -- American Div. mortarmen SP4 Robert Garter hanes a round in the tube of his 4.2.

SILVER, BRONZE STARS

(Cont. from Page 1)

Bronze Star for his heroism in a later action when a helicopter he was riding in was shot down over enemy held territory. SP4 Yearvin is now a member of HHC 5/46.

In the same ceremony SP4 Wayne R. Otto (San Francisco) was presented the Army Commendation Medal for valor by COL. Whittington for his actions in the defense of LZ Gator, the battalion base camp. Otto is with Delta Co., 5/46.

FWA TUNNELS BLOWN

(Cont. from Page 1)

to crawl on my hands and knees, but most of the time I could stand almost straight up."

In leading the Americans to the tunnels the Hoi Chanh brothers also showed them two nearby rice caches and three booby traps surrounding the area of the complex.

NAVY: DA NANG LARGEST

DA NANG-- With more than 10,000 men here and in outlying detachments this U.S. Naval Support Activity in I Corps has become the Navy's largest overseas shore command since it was commissioned in Oct. 1965. (AFPS)

"MONEY" ORDERS IN RVN

WASHINGTON--U.S. servicemen in Vietnam are now able to send money orders back to the United States without paying a purchase fee for them. The new policy--effective Sept. 15--covers both APOs in the republic and ships operating in Vietnamese waters.

A further change in money order fees went into effect; now servicemen and their dependents are now charged a flat fee of 15 cents when buying domestic money orders in other overseas areas.

Previous rates both overseas and in the U.S. ranged from 25 to 40 cents, depending on the amount of the money order.

APOs and FPOs in Alaska, Hawaii, Guam and Puerto Rico continue to charge Stateside rates.

Brought about by joint efforts of the Dept. of Defense and the Post Office Dept., the new plan will reduce administrative workloads while encouraging wider use of postal money orders. At present more than \$100 million in money orders is sent home by servicemen each year, a DOD official reported.

Postmaster General Winton M. Blount explained that "because many overseas military personnel do not have ready access to banks and similar financial institutions, the simplified money order procedure will encourage more servicemen to send their dollars home and to increase their savings."

Military men traditionally have used money orders as a convenient method of sending money home. It is believed the money order system began in the War between the States, when servicemen had no other way to transfer funds to their families and relatives. (AFPS)