

VC SQUAD LEADERS LOOK WRONG WAY

LZ STINSON--Five VC squad leaders and one assistant squad leader were doing a good job of hiding from a "Helix" spotter plane flying overhead, but they forgot about 198th Inf. Bde. soldiers on the ground.

At the first sign of daylight, a small 1st Bn., 52nd Inf. reconnaissance element from Echo Co. began moving toward a village to check it out.

"We had just stepped out of a kind of blind area when we spotted four Viet Cong hiding from a 'Helix' in the area. They were along a trail in front of us," said SPL Thomas K. Mackey (Tarkio, Mo.), the squad leader. "Our point man opened

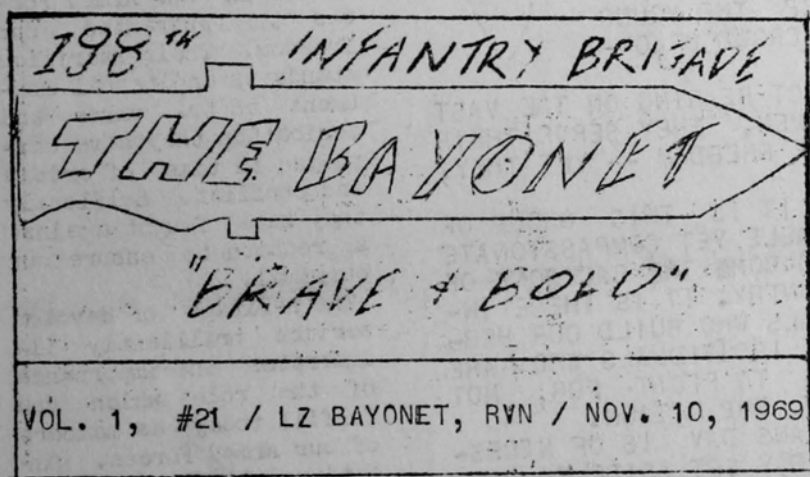
up of them and killed two, but the other two disappeared into a nearby woodline."

As the main body of the element followed the fleeing VC, three men from Mackey's squad broke off and circled the woodline.

"Just as we got there, we saw about eight or nine of them running out of a thicket. We began firing, and killed four of them," Mackey said.

Four automatic rifles, a grenade launcher and eight Chinese Communist hand grenades were captured.

In addition, papers on the six dead VC identified them as squad leaders of a local Communist force.



82ND ABN DIV CONTINUES PHASE OF REDEPLOYMENT

BIEN HOI--More than 300 men of the 82nd Abn. Div.'s 3rd Bde. were scheduled to board planes here last weekend to leave for home as part of the Vietnam troop redeployment's Phase II, a military spokesman reported.

This group, from the 2nd Bn., 505th Inf., was the second element of the 82nd to leave.

In all, an estimated 1,500 men of the brigade will return to the United States, according to the report in the Stars and Stripes. The remainder will be reassigned to Army units in Vietnam, as will troops of the 61st Trans. Co. and Cam Ranh Bay and the 202nd Med. Bn., both of which have been set for deactivation in Phase II. Only those men who have completed major portions of their tours will leave Vietnam.

The 2/505 colors will return to Ft. Bragg, N.C., and the returnees will be individually assigned to posts in the U.S.

The entire airborne brigade is scheduled to be out-of-country by Dec. 15.

ARVNS DECORATE 13 198th INFANTRYMEN

QUANG NGAI--Thirteen men of the 198th Inf. Bde. were presented the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry in recent ceremonies at 2nd ARVN Div. headquarters here.

BG Nguyen Van Toan, division commander, presented the awards to the Americans "as a sign of the Vietnamese people's appreciation for the military skills, technical advice and personal sacrifice given the people of South Vietnam in their war against Communist aggression."

The Cross of Gallantry with Bronze Palm was presented to COL Jere O. Whittington (McLean, Va.) 198th Bde. commander, and LTC Thomas J. Ambrose (Morristown, N.J.) and LTC Julian F. Wagner (Green Cove Springs, Fla.), commanders of the 1st Bn., 6th Inf. and 5th Bn., 46th Inf., received the Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star.

Ten members of the

"Brave and Bold" were presented the Cross of Gallantry with Gold Star.

Those from brigade headquarters receiving the award were MAJ Charles T. Borg (Pateros, Wash.), S-3, and CPT Banta M. York (Sumter, S.C.), PSY-OPS.

CPT William D. Hyde (Merced, Calif.), 1/6 S-5; 5/46 Bn. Chap. (CPT)
(Cont. on Page 6)

Veterans Day— Your Day, Too

IT SEEMS APPROPRIATE THIS VETERANS DAY (TUESDAY) TO RECALL A TRUE STORY THE BAYONET PRINTED IN SEPTEMBER. THE INCIDENT HAS GREAT SIGNIFICANCE.

AT A PARADE IN CHICAGO A MEMBER OF THE STUDENTS FOR A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY (SDS) CHALLENGED A YOUNG SOLDIER AS TO WHY HE SERVED IN THE U.S. ARMY. WITHOUT HESITATION, THE MAN REPLIED, "SO YOU CAN STAND HERE ON THIS CORNER AND SHOOT OFF YOUR MOUTH."

A NEWSMAN OVERHEARD AND WROTE DOWN THE ANSWER BEFORE THE YOUNG MAN VANISHED INTO THE CROWD OF ON-LOOKERS.

THIS EVENT HAS A DIRECT BEARING ON THE VAST MAJORITY OF OUR SERVICEMEN. THEY SERVE THEIR COUNTRY AND THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM -- YET THEY, TOO, REMAIN ANONYMOUS.

BUT IT IS THIS GROUP OF FORMIDABLE YET COMPASSIONATE MEN WHO FORM THE BACKBONE OF THE COUNTRY. IT IS THESE INDIVIDUALS WHO BUILD OUR HERITAGE; INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE WILLING TO FIGHT FOR, NOT AGAINST, THE NATION.

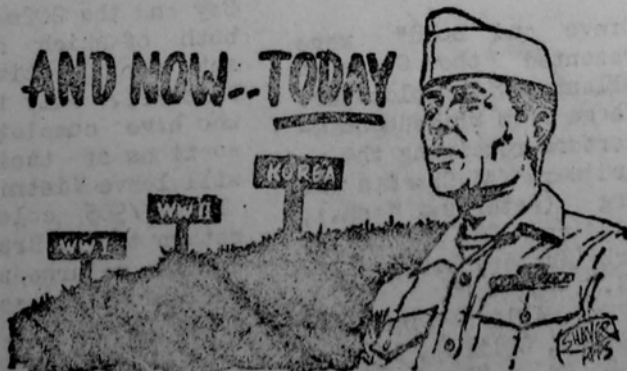
VETERANS DAY IS OF NECESSITY A DAY SET ASIDE TO COMMEMORATE THOSE WHO HAVE PAID THE SUPREME SACRIFICE ON THE BATTLEFIELD. BUT IT SHOULD ALSO BE A DAY TO HONOR, REMEMBER AND RESPECT ALL THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED HONORABLY, AND THOSE WHO CONTINUE TO KEEP THE LAND FREE.

THE LATTER CASE REFERS TO YOU, YOUNG SOLDIER. YOU ARE DOING WHAT YOUR COUNTRY ASKS OF YOU. NEVER BE RELUCTANT TO BE PROUD OF IT.
(AFPS/198TH 10)

**VETERANS
DAY
11 NOV**



AND NOW--TODAY



EDITORIAL

VETERANS DAY MESSAGE TO MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES

On this November 11th, all citizens of our Nation will have the opportunity to honor the veterans of our Armed Forces. This is indeed an appropriate time for prayerful reflection on the contribution which they have made to our security throughout our history.

America must never forget the legions of brave men and women who have served in our Armed Forces to guarantee our freedom. Their sacrifice stands as an eternal monument to the valor and dedication they have displayed in time of crisis and conflict. Selflessly they have fought against aggression to ensure our survival.

The heritage of devoted service brilliantly illustrates the importance of the role which you fulfill today as members of our Armed Forces. Our Nation relies upon each of you to maintain the strength of our defensive posture to protect our freedom.

Melvin R. Laird
Secretary of Defense

FIGURE VETS' AGES

WASHINGTON--The average age of the nation's 26.6 million veterans is 44.2 years, reports the Veterans Administration (VA).

The VA's breakdown of veterans in civilian life shows that the average age of World War II veterans, of which there are 14,660,000, is 49.3 years.

For the 1,705,000 who served in World War I the average is 74.3 years.

There are 7,000 surviving veterans of the Spanish-American War, and their average age is 89.9 years.

(Cont. on Page 6)

INTERPRETERS BRIDGE LANGUAGE GAP

By PFC Bill Eftink
198th Brigade PIO

LZ BAYONET — Their services have been described as "invaluable" and "essential" to the operation of the entire 198th Bde. Yet few of us think of these dedicated men until we are in need of their special talents. They are the elite band of ARVN soldiers serving as interpreters at basecamps, forward firebases and in the field throughout the brigade area.

Their backgrounds are as varied as the men themselves, with their most common characteristic being the feeling of both the challenge and satisfaction in doing an important and many-faceted job.

The average interpreter is in his late twenties. He has won the honor of becoming an interpreter by scoring high in written and spoken English tests before gaining entrance to the Vietnamese-American Assistance School in Saigon. There he attended six weeks of grammar courses under Vietnamese instructors, and classes taught by an American in spoken English and its pronunciation.

After graduation, the interpreter may be given a choice of which of the four corps zones he wants to be assigned to for duty.

SSG Nguyen Dinh Thieu of the 198th Bde. PSYOPS section requested I Corps, so that he could be nearer his home and family. The 26-year-old former school teacher was assigned to the Americal Div. as soon as it was formed, and has been with the 198th Bde. since that time.

Thieu explains that often the easiest part of being an interpreter is just relaying back and forth what each party is saying to the other. "The hardest part," he says, "is learning your job well enough to be able to spot the little

things, the subtle 'hints' that may be important. You also have to learn what things the officer-in-charge would like stressed.

"One of my main duties," he continues, "is translating PSYOPS messages into Vietnamese. Frequently, because of my knowledge of Vietnamese customs and culture, I am able to suggest a better way of saying the same thing to the people. When I can do this I feel very happy because I know I am really helping to accomplish our goal."

CPT Banta M. York (Sunter, S.C.), brigade PSYOPS officer, pointed out the importance of the interpreters to his section.

"Our entire operation is dependent upon good communications with the Vietnamese civilians as well as the enemy soldiers, and without our interpreters we would be paralyzed."

Just as important—and often more immediately crucial—than the duties performed by the basecamp interpreters are those of the men traveling with companies in the field.

SGT Nguyen Duy Khue was formerly an assistant leader and liaison man for American students of the International Voluntary Services Organization. Nineteen months ago he volunteered for duty as an ARVN interpreter. Originally assigned to the 11th Bde. as a field interpreter, he now works with the 1st Bn., 6th Inf. of the 198th Bde.

Khue has mixed emotions about being in the field. "When I am out with a company, I know the CO and the men are depending on me. It makes me feel very good to know that I may have saved the lives of some of the men in my company by finding out about enemy mines or ambushes."

To Khue, being in the field presents unique problems. "Often I get very tired," the small 30-year-old soldier says. "The Americans are very strong and can spend much time in the field before they wear down. I know I must save all my energy so that I can keep up."

"Sometimes the loneliness is worse than the walking," he adds. "Usually there are no other Vietnamese with the company, and my English is not too good, so it is hard for me to have close friends to talk to."

To the men Khue works with, he is one of the most important members of the unit. "He has really

(Cont. on Page 6)

THE BAYONET

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

For fifty-one years, we have observed November 11th --the day the armistice was signed concluding World War I--as an occasion to honor the men and women who have served with distinction in the armed forces of the United States. It is a time when we pause to pay tribute to all veterans who have struggled--from Valley Forge to Vietnam--to defend the liberties of the American people.

Those who wear the uniform of the United States have been called upon to serve far from home and loved ones to protect our birthright of freedom. Their courage, devotion to duty, and strength in the face of hardship command the respect and admiration of a grateful people.

On this Veterans Day, as we honor those who have served so well, let us remember that our veterans have given Americans a chance to build toward the goal that all of us seek: peace.

Richard Nixon

VOLUNTEERS SET MARK IN ARMY ENLISTMENTS

WASHINGTON--The Army recorded its second highest number of volunteers for any year since World War II with 193,464 volunteering in Fiscal Year 1969 (ending June 30).

The Army also had the highest number of volunteers among all the services, according to recent compilation of recruiting figures.

Of all new personnel entering the Army in FY 69, 44 per cent were volunteers. This is the highest percentage since the buildup of forces in Southeast Asia began in 1965. (AFPS)



ARMY LEADS U.S. TEAM TO TITLE

GRANADA, Spain--A powerful U.S. Armed Forces Shooting Team--led by Army marksmen--came within a bullseye of making a clean sweep in the 44th International du Sport Militaire (CISM) Shooting Championship here.

U.S. shooters won all of the individual gold medals, three of the team titles, and tied Finland in the fourth team event. However, under the tie-breaking procedure of the International Shooting Union (which the CISM military sharpshooters follow)--best aggregate score of the four team members in the prone position--the Finns were awarded the medal for the International Rifle event. The U.S. squad rang up

the best over-all aggregate scores in sports rifle and pistol, and in military rifle and pistol.

The 10-man team (including alternates) was composed of six Army marksmen, two AF T/Sgt.'s, a Navy Lt. and a Marine WO.

Scandinavian shooters, originators of the new combat-shooting rifle and pistol events, were surprised by the Americans' showing, as Army MAJ Lones Wigger captured the rifle event, SGM William B. Blankenship Jr. won the pistol crown, and U.S. sharpshooters took both team titles.

Wigger, a member of the 1968 Olympic team, was the only double gold medal winner, topping both the International Rifle and Military Rifle indi-

vidual competition.

In addition to the medals, the U.S. team also won the CISM challenge trophies for International Pistol, Military Pistol, Military Rifle, over-all aggregate for international Rifle and Pistol and over-all aggregate in Military Rifle and Pistol.

Army members of the U.S. Rifle Team were MAJ Lones Wigger, MSG William B. Krilling, SSG Patrick J. Boyle and SFC James L. McQuien (alt.). On the Pistol Team were SFC Robert D. Whitacre and SGM William B. Blankenship Jr.

The Overhead, including the Chief of Delegation, had three Army men and one Marine.

All Army men were from Ft. Benning, Ga. (AFPS)

'MONDAY HOLIDAYS' BEGIN IN 1971

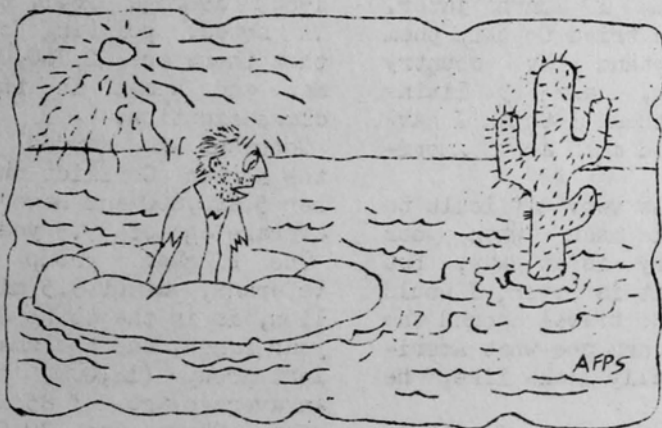
WASHINGTON—Jan. 1, 1971 is the date the new "Monday Holiday Law" will go into effect.

Under the act (Public Law 90-363), nearly all federal holidays will be observed on Mondays.

This is the schedule:

- *New Year's Day: Jan. 1;
- *Washington's birthday: third Monday in February;

- *Memorial Day: last Monday in May;
- *Independence Day: July 4;
- *Labor Day: first Monday in September;
- *Columbus Day (new): second Monday in October;
- *Veterans Day: fourth Monday in October;
- *Thanksgiving Day: fourth Thursday in November;
- *Christmas Day: Dec. 25;
- *Inauguration Day (Washington, D.C. area only): Jan. 20. (AFPS)



BOATING, ANYONE? — With Cristina Ferrare aboard, you're bound to have an eventful trip!

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

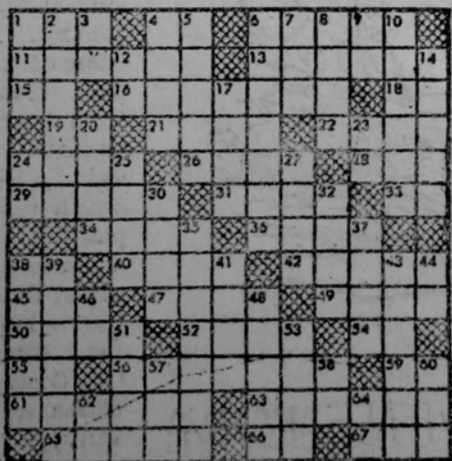
ACROSS

- Wine cup
- Greeting
- Vapid
- Lifted
- Sums
- Latin conjunction
- Raise
- Near
- Symbol for tellurium
- Couple
- Memorandum
- Danish island
- Pieces
- Born
- Figure of speech
- Narrow opening
- Physician (abbr.)
- Having its own character
- Periods of time
- Manuscript (abbr.)
- River in Africa
- Commonplace
- Priest's vestment
- Helps
- Mountain lake
- Prophet
- Insect
- Parent (colloq.)
- Symbol for tellurium
- Mortified
- Note of scale
- fish
- Man's name
- Soft drinks
- continent (abbr.)
- skin

- Three-toed sloth
- Aid
- Mental images
- Frighten
- Small child
- Solar disk
- Note of scale
- Puffed up
- Compass point
- Beef animal
- Centends
- God of love
- Preposition
- Near
- Unluck
- Classify
- Lamb's pen name
- Fruit cake
- Trips by air
- Country of Asia
- Spars

- Slumbers
- Girl's name
- Dealer
- Printer's measure
- Exist
- Turkish island
- Feray

- Tissue
- Nahom sheep
- Roman gods
- Worthless leaving
- Artificial language
- A state (abbr.)



- Exist
- Substance

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BAYONETTE

MARINES CUT VN TOUR

WASHINGTON — The Marine Corps says it is reducing unaccompanied tours for Marines in the Western Pacific from 13 to 12 months.

The action became effective Nov. 1, according to an announcement by Marine Commandant GEN Leonard F. Chapman. (AFPS)



"GOLLY - DO YOU THINK THEY WOULD BUILD ONE FOR US?"

INTERPRETERS

(Cont. from Page 3)

helped get us out of some tight spots, and I feel a lot better when he is along," says an RTO, echoing the feelings of all the men in the company.

Few have higher praise for their interpreters than 2LT Thomas W. Wheeler (Atlanta), who has six hard-working interpreters in his brigade MID. "It isn't always so easy for these men. They have to study a lot during their extra time to keep improving their English, and be ready to go anytime wherever they are needed."

After serving more than a year as an infantryman in the Mekong Delta, 32-year-old SSG Nguyen That Bao became an interpreter and was assigned to the brigade MID. Bao now has an intense pride in the position of trust he has filled for two years.

In doing his job, he has been an integral part of many of the brigade's operations. He spent over 45 days in the field in Operation Russell Beach, and was just recently caught in an ambush while working in another opera-



ation.

Although much of his time has been in the field, Bao considers LZ Bayonet home. "Because I speak English, I have made many American friends and watched them go home 12 months later. I have tried to help them understand my country better, and by living with them I think I have learned much about America.

"It is very difficult to travel much when your country is at war, but when it is over, I would like to travel around the world and see what America really looks like," he says.

Regardless of their goals after peace comes, the men of this small group of professionals continue their daily routine of keeping information flowing between U.S. and Vietnamese forces—a routine vital to both allies.

VETS TOTAL 26 MILLION

(Cont. from Page 2)

The original force of Indian fighters numbered 106,000, but today there are only two surviving veterans of those wars. They are Reginald A. Bradley of Grass Valley, Calif., who was 101 last Oct. 25, and Fredrak W. Fraske of Chicago, who was 97 on March 8.

Vietnam era veterans (those who served in the armed forces after Aug. 4, 1964) average 26.1, the VA notes, pointing out that there are 2,760,000 men and women in this classification.

Veterans who served in the Korean Conflict number 5,840,000 and have an average age of 39.5 years.

The biggest group of veterans, about 9.5 million, is in the 40 to 49-year range, and the smallest group (14,000) has an average age of 85 and over. There are 30,000 that are under the age of 20.

The total number of veterans is 26,656,000. (AFPS)

ARVN'S DECORATE

13 FROM 198TH

(Cont. from Page 1)

Charles V. Adams (Springfield, Mo.), and SSG James R. Watford (Orange Park, Fla.), 57th Inf. Plat. (Scout Dog) platoon sergeant, were also presented the Cross of Gallantry.

Men of the 1/52 awarded the Vietnamese decoration were CPT Allan M. Tashiro (Capt. Cook, Hawaii), S-2; CPT Claude G. Smith (Donora, Pa.), Alpha Co. CO; 1LT Michael Anderson (Kingston, N.Y.), Alpha Co. Liaison Officer; SGT Melvin C. Gillenwater (Mt. Vernon, Ind.), Bravo Co. Commo Chief; and CPT James A. Fivian (Ottawa, Kan.), Delta Co. CO.

WWI ENDS NOV. 11, 1918



ARMISTICE DAY NOW VETERANS DAY