

THE BAYONET

198th INFANTRY BRIGADE

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LZ BAYONET, VIETNAM

DEC. 1, 1969

AMERICAL TEAM RIPS NVA, VC

By SP4 Bill Eftink and SFC Herb Neasmith

LZ STINSON -- Communist NVA and Viet Cong forces often team up in the I Corps area, but they ran afoul of a stronger team when combined ground and air elements of the Americal Div. found and engaged them, killing 12 and capturing 4

in a four-hour contact 12 miles south of Chu Lai.

Helicopter gunships from the 1st Sqdr., 1st Cav. and an infantry reconnaissance unit of the 198th Bde. worked smoothly together to smash a combined NVA and VC force near an abandoned village three miles north of this 1st Bn., 52nd Inf. fire support base.

The engagement began rapidly when Delta Troop gunships spotted the enemy in a treeline near the village. The "Sabers" opened fire on the Communists from the air and then landed an infantry element on the ground, hitting them from two directions at the same time.

This first phase of the engagement killed two enemy and captured two more. A platoon from Echo Co. of the 1/52 then came slicing in on a heliborne combat assault, landing (Cont. on Page 4)

IT WAS ONE OF 'THOSE' DAYS

By SSG Bill Campbell and SP4 Bill Eftink
1st Bn., 52nd Inf.

198th Brigade PIO

LZ STINSON -- For the VC operating near this 1st Bn., 52nd Inf. firebase it was 'one of those days' when nothing goes right. For the 198th Bde. infantrymen on an early morning patrol eight miles northeast of Quang Ngai City it was a day to be talked about and remembered.

The 1st Plat. of Alpha Co., 1/52 ate a hurried breakfast, worked their way down from the hilltop LZ and began heading east on what they hoped would be another uneventful patrol. Their hopes were soon shattered when an AK-47 broke the silence.

"As soon as the sniper (Cont. on Page 4)

turned small arms fire while the other infantrymen inched their way through the rice paddy $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles northwest of this provincial capital.

Reaching the cover of the trees, Delta Co.'s 1st Plat. waited for its fire team to rejoin them, then quickly formed a defensive perimeter around a group of (Continued on Page 4)

CO. CONFISCATES COMMUNIST CACHES

By SP4 Rich Egertsen
198th Brigade PIO

QUANG NGAI CITY -- AK-47 fire sliced the air above the heads of the 198th Bde. infantryman as they crawled toward the treeline. Taking cover behind rice paddy dikes, a fire team from the platoon of the 1st Bn., 52nd Inf. soldiers re-

Obligations?

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EVERYONE HAS OBLIGATIONS. TEACHERS, PARENTS, STUDENTS, SERVICEMEN --WE ARE OBLIGATED BY THE NATURE OF OUR SOCIETY, WHETHER WE'VE THOUGHT ABOUT IT OR NOT.

ONE DEFINITION OF THE WORD "OBLIGATION" BY WEBSTER'S DICTIONARY IS: "THAT WHICH A PERSON IS BOUND TO DO OR FORBEAR; ANY DUTY IMPOSED BY LAW, PROMISE, OR CONTRACT, BY THE RELATIONS OF SOCIETY, OR BY COURTESY, KINDNESS, ETC."

THE MEANING OF OUR OBLIGATIONS AS MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES WAS PERHAPS BEST DESCRIBED IN PRESIDENT NIXON'S COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS AT THE AIR FORCE ACADEMY LAST JUNE. HE SAID, "I BELIEVE THAT WE MUST BALANCE OUR NEED FOR SURVIVAL AS A NATION WITH OUR NEED FOR SURVIVAL AS A PEOPLE. AMERICANS -- SERVICEMEN AND CIVILIANS -- MUST REMEMBER THAT DEFENSE IS NOT AN END IN ITSELF; IT IS A WAY OF HOLDING FAST TO OUR DEEPEST VALUES KNOWN TO CIVILIZED MEN."

NO COUNTRY CAN SURVIVE FOR LONG UNLESS ITS PEOPLE SURVIVE WITHIN IT. THIS MEANS THAT WE MUST HOLD FAST TO THE HUMAN VALUES WE BELIEVE IN AS A HIGHLY CIVILIZED SOCIETY. AMONG THESE VALUES ARE FREEDOM, HAPPINESS, PROSPERITY, HERITAGE--AND PEACE. TO LOSE ANY ONE OF THESE FROM WITHIN MEANS WE WOULD FAIL TO SURVIVE AS A PEOPLE; IN TURN, WE WOULD ALSO FAIL TO SURVIVE AS A NATION.

AS AMERICANS, IN OR OUT OF UNIFORM, WE MUST WORK TOGETHER, AND BUILD TOGETHER. WE MUST NOT LOSE SIGHT OF OR GIVE UP ON THE IDEALS WHICH HAVE CARRIED THE COUNTRY AS FAR FORWARD AS THEY HAVE.



INDIVIDUALISM AND ENTHUSIASM ARE ABSOLUTE REQUIREMENTS TO CONTINUE OUR PROGRESS TOWARD ACHIEVING THESE IDEALS.

WHILE MUCH REMAINS TO BE DONE, LET US LOOK AROUND US IN THIS WORLD, AND WE CAN SEE THAT THESE IDEALS ON WHICH WE HAVE SET OUR SIGHTS HAVE LIFTED US--AND NOT MATERIALLY ONLY--TO THE RUNG ON WHICH WE NOW STAND.

BY CONTRIBUTING OUR FAIR SHARE OF EFFORT BOTH AS INDIVIDUALS AND AS A TEAM, WE CAN REACH UP FOR THAT NEXT RUNG, WE CAN ARRIVE AT AND RETAIN THE GOALS WE BELIEVE TO BE "THE DEEPEST VALUES KNOWN TO CIVILIZED MEN."

WE HAVE ONLY TO FULFILL OUR OBLIGATIONS--AS A PEOPLE, AND AS A NATION. (AFPS/L98TH PIO)

WET WEATHER
AHEAD



PENTAGON ACTION LINE

The Dept. of Defense receives many letters from servicemen seeking answers to questions, clarification of issues and additional information. Pentagon ACTION line will print as many of these questions and answers which are of broad interest as space permits.

* * *

Q: If I agree to extend my 12-month tour in Vietnam and am withdrawn before I can take my special 30-day leave, will I lose it?

A: Not if you have actually completed the 12-month tour and are actually serving your extension; you will be allowed your 30-day leave after you have been withdrawn. If, however, you have not completed your 12 months at the time you are withdrawn, the extension and the leave will be cancelled.

Q: But what if I've already taken my leave? Will I have to repay the Government if I'm withdrawn before I serve the extension?

A: No. Since you would be withdrawn at the convenience of the Government, you would not be required to repay the government for your special 30-day leave.



CACHES CONFISCATED

(Cont. from Page 1)

five hooches in the wooded area. The 1st Plat. Leader, 2LT John L. Keaton (Milan, Tenn.), radiced for artillery support, and the first few rounds to fall convinced the VC snipers that they should quickly depart the area.

In checking out the five hooches, Keaton closely inspected one of the structure's walls made of large woven mats. It proved to be a false wall, masking a cache of 3,500 pounds of rice.

Keaton then led his platoon to a second group of hooches a half mile to the southwest.

"We could see two blood trails leading from one of the hooches," said PFC Roy T. Mains (Falmouth, Ky.), a rifleman with the 1st Plat. "Inside the hooch we found five bowls of hot rice, but only one Vietnamese woman to eat them."

That was a dead giveaway that something was wrong, and the Delta Co. infantrymen began a careful search of the hooch. They first uncovered hidden medical supplies, and then discovered another false wall. This one—made of mud—concealed a cache of rice totaling 4,000 pounds.

Later that same day the platoon found other smaller caches of rice stored in 50-gallon aluminum drums concealed in treelines, making a total for the day of over 9,500 pounds of rice and medical supplies.

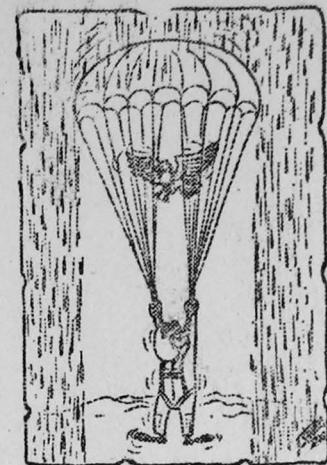
The Viet Cong learned that it's not polite—or smart—to eat and run.

DENTAL CLINIC OPENS

LZ BAYONET—In a recent ceremony here, COL Paul Gowan, USARV Chief of Dental Surgery, and COL Jere O. Whittington, then brigade commander, cut the ribbon to open the new dental clinic at LZ Bayonet.

The clinic, housed in a blue-and-white building near the outdoor theater, is operated by SPT Joel Pertofsky (219th Med. Det.), Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Attending the ribbon-cutting were COL Joseph G. Clemons, now commander of the 198th; COL Carolus Lancaster, 932nd Dental Det. commander; and LTC Eugene Gore, C.O. of the 219th Med. Det. in Chu Lai.



INVISIBLE TRACERS

FT. BELVOIR, Va.—Invisible but trackable tracer ammunition is presently under study here, and testing officials hope it will solve a problem in the use of conventional tracer rounds in conjunction with the starlight scope.

Multiple automatic weapons fire incorporating standard tracer ammunition produces too bright a light for the scope to function properly. The tracer flashes activate a built-in safety device which causes the highly light-sensitive scope to shut itself off. These sporadic flashes effect a "blink" in the scope, impairing a gunner's view of the target.

The new "subdued tracer" cartridges being tested emit a low-burning fire trail in flight which is not visible to the eye alone but which can be viewed through a light-sensitive device such as starlight scopes without adverse affect. Chemical agents dim the intensity of the tracer element to the extent that it is visible only through a night vision apparatus.

With the round's very dim light, the target area can be viewed continuously without impairment, regardless of the number of weapons firing.

Subdued rounds appear to have the same range capability and flight characteristics as conventional tracers. (ANF)

THE BAYONET

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American Team Rips NVA and VC

(Continued from Page 1)

under fire in an open rice paddy 550 yards from the village and beginning an immediate sweep.

"We didn't know how many of them there were in the area when we were dropped off, but we could tell they were spread out and well dug-in," said SP4 Peter Mornford (Fultonville, N.Y.). "Every time we moved forward we would receive fire from a different spot, so we would drop back, mark our location with smoke and let the 'gunnies' (gunships) work the spot over."

Routing the individual snipers out of their spider holes, trenches and heavy underbrush involved close combat for many of the infantrymen--especially the platoon sergeant, SSG Joseph Michaud (Fontana, Calif.).

"I took a LAW and worked my way over to a treeline where we had seen a VC disappear a few minutes earlier. When I got there I noticed a ditch running behind the trees, so I began crawling down it. Then I spotted a hole along the inside of the ditch. I went over to check it out, and came face to face with the VC I had been looking for. He was squatting inside the hole with a loaded AK pointed directly at me. He really had the drop on me. He opened up with a burst of automatic fire that ripped the LAW out of my left hand, knocked my 'pot' off and busted my glasses."

Throwing himself backward, the unharmed but shaken Michaud returned fire with his M-16 and threw a hand grenade into the hole, silencing the enemy fire.

Returning to LZ Stinson, the platoon talked about the contact. The main topic was Michaud's LAW with four bullet holes in it and his shattered glasses.

The newly bespectacled Michaud had a different observation. "What really surprised me was that after we swept through the village they got choppers right out to us, and had us back here in time for a hot supper that night."

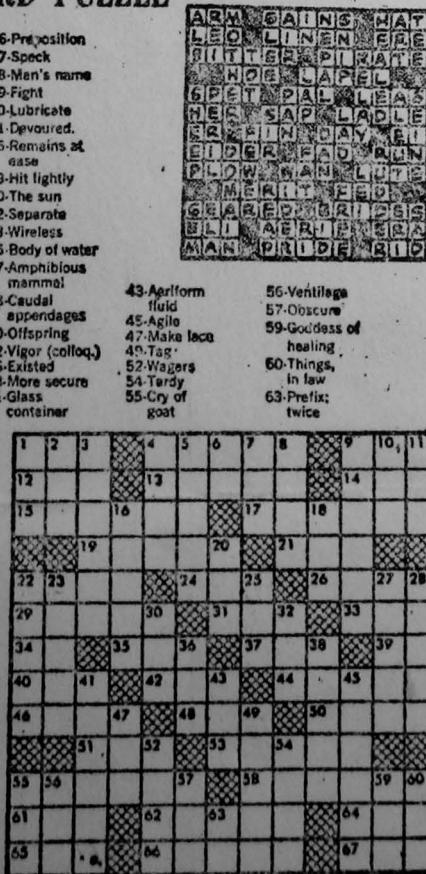
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Answer to Previous puzzle

ACROSS

- 1-Stroke
- 4-Stage whisper
- 9-Necklace
- 12-Fuss
- 13-Singing voice
- 14-River island
- 15-Sponsor
- 17-Particle
- 19-Cares for
- 21-Household pat.
- 22-War god
- 24-Cry
- 26-Conspiracy
- 29-Sects
- 31-Once around track
- 33-Greek letter
- 34-Paid notice
- 35-Seed
- 37-Affirmative
- 39-Note of scale
- 40-Bone of body
- 42-Scold
- 44-Jury list
- 46-Sound a horn
- 48-Sodium chloride
- 50-Evergreen trees
- 51-Flap
- 53-Capital of Oregon
- 55-Tangled
- 58-Haircutter
- 61-Be ill
- 62-Country of Asia
- 64-Falseshood
- 65-Exist
- 66-Facial expression
- 67-Bitter vetch

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DOWN

- 1-Soft food
- 2-Girl's name
- 3-Walk unsteadily
- 4-Solar disk
- 5-Dispatches

"One Of Those Days"

(Cont. from Page 1)

opened up, I moved to the other side of the trail and crouched low," said PFC John A. Potter (Oakfield, N.Y.). "When he fired the second burst, I felt the impact of a round as it hit my bandolier, setting off five rounds in one of the magazines."

Unharmed except for a small scratch, Potter and the rest of the patrol swept through the area, set up a perimeter and sent out a small reconnaissance force. After travelling about 50 meters the squad-sized element began receiving fire from another sniper, and had to take cover until the rest of the platoon could join them.

"I set my machinegun position on the trail," said PFC Tony L. Roba (Selby, S.D.). "When I started to leave, somebody yelled at me. I turned around and noticed a big plume of smoke puffing out of the ground."

Roba didn't realize it right away, but he had just stepped on a 'Bouncing Betty' mine that had not jumped out of the ground as it was supposed to.

Silencing the second sniper, the patrol moved out. But about 15 minutes later it began taking more sniper rounds, this time from the rear.

The platoon medic, SP4 Richard E. Zartman (Springfield, Ohio), spun around to see where the fire was coming from, when one of the sniper's rounds ripped into his bandolier, setting it afire. Zartman tore the bandolier off and threw it behind a rice paddy dike.

With the entire patrol a bit shaken but unhurt, it completed its mission and returned to the firebase to look back on 'one of those days.'