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LZ BAYONET, VIETNAM

DEC. 8, 1969

RIFLEMEN REPEL SAPPERS

By SGT Rich Egertsen
198th Brigade PIO

QUANG NGAI CITY—Soldiers of the 198th Bde. proved to be "stunning" hosts when LZ Stinson--forward firebase of the 1st Bn., 52nd Inf.--8½ miles northwest of here, had midnight guests recently.

SP4 David J. Marks (Tucson, Ariz.), a Bravo Co. rifleman, first spotted the visitors from an estimated platoon of

NVA sappers entering the outer perimeter wire in front of a bunker to his right. Quickly alerting the other guards on the bunker line, Marks and other members of Bravo Co.'s 2nd Plat. released a barrage of small arms fire that forced the Communists to retreat.

An hour later the sappers made another probe of the perimeter, and found the infantrymen ready for them. Small arms fire supported by artillery, 4.2-inch and 81mm mortars broke the silence that had engulfed the firebase after (Cont. on Page 4)

Gallantry Nets Silver Star

By SGT Tim O'Brien
5th Bn., 46th Inf.

LZ GATOR—SSG Randell G. Backovich (Vallejo, Calif.) was presented the Silver Star for gallantry in action with the 5th Bn., 46th Inf. by COL Joseph G. Clemons (Kailua, Hawaii), 198th Bde. commander, in recent cere-

monies here.

Backovich was a member of a six-man Charlie Co. team flown in to protect the crewmen and secure the wreckage of a light helicopter shot down by small arms fire. On landing, the team immediately came under intense automatic weapons fire, fol-

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COOK SCORCHES NVA

By 1LT A. J. Tolentino
1st Bn., 6th Inf.

KHUONG THO — One advantage of being an Army cook in Vietnam is that you have a dry bed to get into at the end of the day during the monsoon season. However, a 198th Bde. cook, PVT Reno Lamania (Fremont, Calif.) of the 1st Bn., 6th Inf., often spends the night wrapped in a wet poncho lines, far from his billet at LZ Bayonet, home of the battalion.

When his unit began a pacification program in a village 5 miles west of Chu Lai, Lamania volunteered to go along. Field duty was nothing new to the 22-year-old cook, having previously served as RTO for the battalion's Operations Section on numerous occasions.

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MAGAZINE GOOFS

LONG BINH — "Caper" magazine's December issue has a feature article entitled "Mirage" which, USAF authorities say, contains an error that could produce deadly results.

The article suggests that readers remove two pages of the magazine, dissolve them in methyl alcohol and then drink the mixture.

Methyl alcohol is also known as "wood alcohol" and is a poison. Its first effect is blindness; a small quantity can even cause death.

Steps have been taken to halt the sale of the December 1969 issue of "Caper" in Vietnam. If, however, a copy of the magazine should turn up (through a subscription mailed from home, etc.), all personnel are advised NOT to try the experiment.

EDITORIAL

SAVE YOUR TAXES

BEING A CONSERVATIVE THESE DAYS IS MUCH MORE THAN A POLITICAL TREND. WEBSTER MAY NOT AGREE WITH OUR DEFINITION OF THE WORD "CONSERVATION" BUT TO THE U.S. ARMED FORCES IT ALSO MEANS M-O-N-E-Y.

HOW? THROUGH SIMPLE THOUGHTFULNESS. MILITARY CONSERVATIONISTS SAVE OUR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS EVERY YEAR. WHY CAN'T WE HELP THEM?

THERE ARE LITERALLY THOUSANDS OF WAYS OF APPLYING CONSERVATION METHODS TO OUR DAILY ROUTINES, AND THERE ARE PLENTY OF SIGNS AROUND TO REMIND US. MANY GO UNNOTICED BECAUSE WE'VE SEEN THEM SO MANY TIMES BEFORE. EXAMPLE: "PUT THE LIGHTS OUT!" "DRIVE CAREFULLY." "SAVE WATER!" "BEWARE--HIGH VOLTAGE." THE LIST IS ENDLESS.

EVERY TIME WE SAVE MONEY, WE ARE HELPING OUR GOVERNMENT.

IT IS EASY TO SEE HOW SAVING WATER, DRIVING CAREFULLY AND CONSERVING ELECTRICAL POWER SAVES THE GOVERNMENT MONEY, BUT HOW DOES A "BEWARE HIGH VOLTAGE" SIGN SAVE MONEY? IT'S EASY. A SERIOUS INJURY REQUIRES HOSPITALIZATION AND LOST MAN HOURS. YOU CAN'T WORK, BUT THE GOVERNMENT STILL PAYS YOU. YOUR HOSPITAL CARE ALSO COSTS MONEY.

ON THE BRIGHTER SIDE, IF YOU DON'T GET HURT, THE MONEY YOU SAVE IN OTHER AREAS OF CONSERVATION IS A HELP TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.



IN VIETNAM WE HAVE A SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY TO SAVE ON SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS. SINCE WE ARE FURNISHED ALL OUR CLOTHING AND PERSONAL SUPPLIES WE SOMETIMES BECOME CARELESS WITH THEM, LOSING BOOTS, HELMETS AND OTHER EXPENSIVE GEAR. WASTING AMMUNITION AND MISTREATING MACHINERY ONLY ENDS UP COSTING YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES IN THE END. THE ARMY'S EQUIPMENT IS ACTUALLY YOUR EQUIPMENT. ALTHOUGH YOU MAY NOT PAY TAXES IN VIETNAM, YOU WILL WHEN YOU RETURN TO THE STATES.

TO STRESS THE POINT A LITTLE--IF EACH MAN AND WOMAN IN THE MILITARY SERVICES WERE TO SAVE OUR GOVERNMENT JUST ONE CENT A DAY--THAT TOTALS A WHOPPING \$12,775,000 ANNUALLY. AND, IN THE CURRENT VERNACULAR, "THAT WILL BUY A LOT OF HAY."

(AFPS/198TH BRIGADE PIO)

PENTAGON ACTION LINE

SED receives many letters seeking information, as space permits, Pentagon ACTION Line will print those of broad interest.

GI BILL

Q: Under the current GI Bill I am receiving 36 months of training. I understand I also qualify under the Korean Conflict GI Bill, making me eligible for more than one VA program. If this is true, will I be entitled to additional training in excess of 36 months?

A: Benefits payable under the Korean GI Bill ended January 31, 1965. The only program now in force is the Post-Korean Bill. Under this bill, the maximum entitlement is 36 months. Veterans who receive benefits under two or more laws are entitled to an aggregate of 48 months, that is, the current entitlement added to any entitlement previously used cannot exceed 48 months.

GI BILL - EARLY ETS

Some servicemen who are discharged early may be losing part of their GI Bill education benefits. Servicemen who are separated after 17 months of service, are entitled to only 25 months of educational assistance. Those who are separated a month later are entitled to the full 36 months.

The Veterans Administration has asked each service to insure that a serviceman leaving active duty understands the 18 month qualification for full VA educational benefits.

WASTE COSTS MONEY...



'For Opening Your Hearts'

V.N. ORPHANAGE DEDICATION THANKS 198th

By SFC Herb Nesmith
198th Brigade PIO

BINH SON—U.S. and South Vietnamese religious and military officials gathered Wednesday morning in this district headquarters town 12 miles north of Quang Ngai City for the formal dedication of the Binh Son Orphanage.

The dedication was a form of the orphanage's expression of thanks to its benefactors, including American soldiers of the 198th Bde., with a special emphasis on the 5th Bn., 46th Inf.

The battalion a few months ago unofficially "adopted" the Catholic charitable institution, and its men have been voluntarily contributing portions of their monthly pay toward the support of the orphanage. Their total to date is around 150,000 piasters, and this month they'll make their largest single contribution which will add more than \$600 to the total.

The orphanage is home to 60 children, and furnishes them a primary through high school education. Another 20 youngsters from four hamlets in the Binh Son area come to the orphanage daily to attend school. A new wing has been added to the institution, giving additional space for living quarters and classrooms. Officials hope to add a second story to take care of more children in the future. Added to the academic courses of the school are homemaking classes for the girls and industrial arts subjects for the boys.

But on the morning of the dedication there were no classes held. The child-

ren were all neatly dressed in their school uniforms, or bedecked in colorful costumes for their show of skits, songs and dances that was a part of the dedication ceremonies.

After the youngsters' show, the local parish priest, a representative of the Bishop of Qui Nhon and an assistant to the Quang Ngai Province Chief addressed the mixed U.S.-Vietnamese audience, which included a number of soldiers from the 5th Bn., 46th Inf.

Among them were LTC Melvin C. Snyder (Kingwood, W. Va.), battalion commander; MAJ Theodore Romah (Peckville, Pa.), executive officer; CPT Steven M. Schopp (Eldon, Mo.), S-5; 5/46 Chaplain (CPT) Charles V. Adams (Springfield, Mo.); and CPT Bud Verdin (Mauldin, S.C.), surgeon.

Also present were 198th Bde. Chaplain (MAJ) Edward J. Kita (Chicago) and ARVN MAJ Nguyen Xuu Duong, Binh Son district chief.

Sister Giselle of the orphanage also spoke to the group, thanking them for their attendance, and saying, "Your presence is a source of great encouragement, not only for us—the faculty—but most especially to the children."

"To all our benefactors, on behalf of the faculty members, (and) the children of this orphanage...kindly allow me to express our profound gratitude. Without your assistance, this humble orphanage would not be standing as it is today."

Directing a remark to the U.S. soldiers present, she said, "We are very glad to see a service group working with tremendous success in helping the poor, the forgotten, and...the needy of this

war-torn country. May our Lord be always with you and your families for opening your hearts to the destitute."

THE BAYONET

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Silver Star

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lowed by a barrage of enemy hand grenades. As the team leader went to the aid of the crewmen, Bachovich deployed the unit to counter the increasing fire of the NVA.

The leader and two members of the team were soon wounded, leaving Bachovich in command. Abandoning his position, he went to the aid of one of the wounded and pulled him to the safety of a nearby irrigation ditch. As he attended him, he saw an NVA attempting to pick up the man's M-60 machinegun. Bachovich killed the NVA, and again left a safe position, retrieving the machinegun.

With only one member of the team able to defend the position with him, Bachovich directed fire against the enemy to prevent a direct assault.

The two held the position for over 40 minutes, until friendly ground forces arrived.

RIFLEMEN READY

(Cont. from Page 1)

the enemy's first attempt. "It gave the men confidence hearing their battalion commander (LTC Arthur E. Brown Jr. of Savannah, Ga.) personally adjusting the artillery that was coming in from LZ Dottie (6 miles northeast)," said SSG John E. Garcia (Long Beach, Calif.), a platoon sergeant. "And the firepower displayed was really impressive."

At daylight the 3rd Plat. made a sweep of the sides of the hill on which LZ Stinson is perched. The platoon first found a dead sapper in the perimeter wire, and then followed 10 to 15 scattered blood trails downhill to the point where they converged, thought to be a spot where the NVA had set up a temporary aid station.

COOK SCORCHES VIET CONG

(Continued from Page 1)

For this operation he was attached to Delta Co., whose mission was to aid in the completion of hamlet projects in the day and provide security at night. Becoming interested in the work of the Vietnamese National Police in the village, he was soon accompanying them on their patrols.

He was with them one morning when they were conducting a search for hidden arms and propaganda, when he became suspicious of something. The police had gathered the people outside while the search was going on, but Lamania heard noises coming from the rear of one of the supposedly empty houses.

Stepping inside to check, he saw a young woman hastily handing what appeared to be leaflets to a boy. As soon as he saw Lamania, the boy tore aside a large woven straw mat serving as a wall and plunged outside. Lamania immediately followed, but the boy had quickly dodged out of site. The commotion brought the police, who rapidly surveyed the situation and took the woman into custody.

Although the boy had disappeared, Lamania had noted the direction in which he had run. Taking two policemen with him, he began a search. Looking around the area carefully, he spotted a man and woman in the far, dark corner of a nearby house apparently reading something.

Approaching the house from the rear, he peered in through a gap between the wall mats and his suspicions were confirmed. Using the boy's technique, he pulled aside one of the mats and rushed into the house to detain the couple with leaflets still clutched in their hands. They joined the woman in custody, and all three suspects were turned over to Vietnamese civil authorities. Questioning confirmed their identities as members of the Viet Cong Infrastructure.

In addition to catching the three VC, in a week and a half with the pacification team Lamania had discovered four homemade Chinese-type hand grenades, hidden explosives, small arms ammunition, NVA and VC clothing and written propaganda, and aided in the capture of two VC sympathizers.

When not working with the police, he helped the villagers rebuild two houses and repair several fences.

"It's not just finding all this stuff that's so great," Lamania says, "It's being out there helping those people--helping them get over both their fear of the VC and their uneasiness around the unfamiliar Americans. And I like working with the police. I work with them, eat with them and sleep with them. I like the people here, and they like me."

"I really feel that we're doing something worthwhile for these people. Besides that, it gave me a chance to show that the guys in the rear care about what's going on out here."

For Lamania, the cook, the current recipe for satisfaction is: one part helping other people, to one part getting to know them, to one part care; blend in one part enthusiasm, and enjoy.

"Here we found two more NVA--these had been hit by mortar fire," said SSG John W. Sausville (Bennington, Vt.), also a platoon sergeant. "Both bodies had been bandaged by someone who knew what

they were doing."

In addition to 15 blood-soaked bandages, the infantrymen found an AK-47, a 9mm pistol, four Chinese Communist hand grenades and various NVA uniform shirts and caps.