



6th BATTALION, 56th ARTILLERY

MAY 27 1969

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GENERAL HAINES tours Btry D

General Ralph Haines, Commanding General of the U. S. Army Pacific Command, visited Battery D, 6th Battalion, 56th Artillery on May 13.

A strong advocate of the HAWK missile system, General Haines specifically selected 6th Bn, 56th Artillery as one of two priority stops on his visit to Vietnam. He was accompanied to the Ky Hoa Island site of Battery D by Major General Charles M. Gettys, Americal Division Commander, and members of General Haines' personal staff.

Welcoming the distinguished visitors on site were Colonel Leslie B. Hardy, Division Artillery Commander, and Lieutenant Colonel J. A. Richard Guertin, Battalion Commander. A briefing on the unit's tactical mission and operations in Vietnam was conducted by Colonel Guertin and his staff members, Major Lewis A. Johnson, S-3, and Captain Richard D. Kline.

Following the briefing, General Haines was taken on a tour of the tactical site by Captain Richard W. Murray, Battery Commander. (SP5 Norman Amundson)

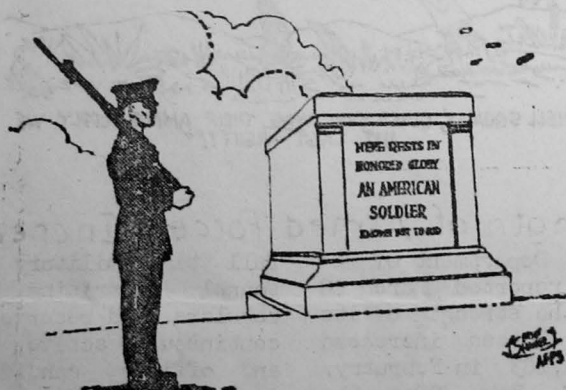


Awards Ceremony

On April 19 Colonel Leslie B. Hardy, Americal Division Artillery Commander, presented awards to the battalion commander, the battalion executive officer and three members of the battalion. The ceremony was held on Headquarters and Headquarters Battery parade field.

LTC J. A. Richard Guertin received the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service in the Republic of Vietnam while he was battalion commander for the 6th Bn, 71st Art. His unit returned to CONUS in October and Colonel Guertin was largely responsible for planning and organizing the move.

Major Eddie B. Cardenas, Jr., then Battalion S-3, received the Bronze Star Medal and the Second Oak Leaf Cluster to the Army Commendation Medal. Captain Joseph A. Morales III was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and CW2 Irwin B. Lasseter, Sr., and SP5 Douglas A. Hughes received Army Commendation Medals.



May 30--Memorial Day--hundreds of persons will gather at Arlington for the traditional wreath laying, patriotic music and speech so traditional in that setting. This annual tribute to those who rest beneath the white markers is a gesture of gratitude to them, a way of saying Thank You and God Bless You.

And ever near us, though unseen,
The fair immortal spirits tread:
For all the boundless universe
Is life--there are no dead.

BN COMMANDER PRESENTS AWARDS

Lieutenant Colonel J. A. Richard Guertin presented awards to 26 officers and enlisted men during an awards ceremony here on May 10.

Representatives from all the batteries in the Chu Lai area witnessed the presentation. The Americal Division Band also was there to add its touch of appropriateness.

The Bronze Star was awarded to the following men who distinguished themselves by outstanding meritorious service in connection with military operations against a hostile force in RVN: Major William A. Bradley, Headquarters, Captain Horacio R. Trujillo, Battery A, 1st LT George S. Littell, Battery D, CW2 William J. Hanby, Battery A, 1st SGT Fred Fugate, Jr., Battery B, 1st SGT Herbert Turner, Battery D, and SSGT Richard Crawford, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery.

Captain Arnold J. Eckelman received the Army Commendation Medal for meritorious service as Launcher Platoon Leader, Fire Control Platoon Leader and Battery Commander while assigned to the 2d Bn, 56th Arty in Germany. He distinguished himself as CO of Btry C by leading his battery to an almost perfect score of 96.6 per cent on the annual service practice at Nafpi, Crete.

The following men of the battalion received the Army Commendation Medal for meritorious service in support of military operations in RVN: SSCT's Raymond B. Lunis and Peter Ramirez, Battery D, SGT. Darril D. Nicholson, Btry A, SP5's Roger R. Archuleta, Jr., Larry D. Ferguson, Jay W. Nunn, and Ernest P. Vironet, Btry B, SP5s David H. Garris and Alvaro Saavedra, Btry A, SP5's Hugh G. Laird, Larry H. Oullette and Robert Thomas, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, and SP4's Michael Hallman and Stan L. Helton, Btry A.

SFC Edward J. McKee received the Army Commendation Medal for meritorious service as a member of the U.S. Army Air Defense Center and Ft. Bliss.

The Purple Heart was awarded to SFC Grady Hackle, Jr., SSGT Frank Hoyle, and SP5 Patrick B. Browne for wounds received in action during a hostile rocket attack the morning of Feb. 28, 1969, at Btry A, 6th Bn, 56th Arty.

President Nixon, in his statement on Armed Forces Day, 1969, said:

"From Concord Bridge to War Zone D, the American Man-at-Arms has served his country with discipline, skill, and devotion.

"Thousands of young men and women served their nation today in uniform, performing countless acts of kindness where the opportunity affords itself, pursuing the grim work of battle where circumstances compel it.



Pay Raise Coming

Armed Forces personnel are scheduled to receive an automatic pay raise on July 1 of approximately 12.5 per cent. The pay increase is mandatory under existing law and is already included in the Federal budget. Further action on the study concerning pay modernization will have to wait until additional analysis and recommendations have been made.

Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird explained the course of action he is taking today and what he plans to do in a March 24 memorandum to high-level Defense officials.

"I wish to underscore my own personal interest in the importance of military pay, and I wish to insure that revisions recommended are equitable."



Strength of Armed Forces Increases

The Department of Defense reported March 28 that the strength of its Armed Forces increased by 14,283 in February. As of Feb. 28, the strength was 3,431,951, compared to a combined strength of 3,417,668 Jan. 31.

The figures represent

full time military personnel comprising both regulars and reserves on continuous active duty and officer candidates including cadets at the Military and Air academies and midshipmen at the Naval academy.

Broken down by the services, the figures were:

	28 Feb 69	31 Jan 69	29 Feb 68
TOTAL DOD	3,431,951	3,417,668	3,440,135
ARMY	1,494,170	1,479,029	1,487,542
NAVY	754,176	748,381	751,446
MARINE CORPS	314,877	314,120	296,848
AIR FORCE	868,728	876,138	904,299

WHAT is an AMERICAN?

He is the fellow who yells for the government to balance the budget, then takes the last dime he has to make the down payment on a car.

He whips the enemy, then gives him the shirt off his back. He yells for speed laws that will stop fast driving, then won't buy a car if it can't make 100 miles per hour.

He knows the line-up of every baseball team in the American and National Leagues--and doesn't know half the words of the "Star Spangled Banner".

He'll spend half a day looking for vitamin pills to make him live longer, then drive 90 miles an hour on slick pavement to make up for the lost time.

He ties up his dog, but lets his 16-year-old son do whatever he wants.



He will work hard on a farm so he can move into town where he can make more money so he can move back to the farm. He couldn't fight his way out of a paper bag, but spends 20 bucks for ringside seats, and tells the professionals how to fight. We're the country that has more food to eat than any other country in the world and more diets to keep us from eating. We're the most ambitious people on earth, and we run from morning until night trying to keep our earning power up with our yearning power.

We're supposed to be the most civilized Nation on earth, but still can't deliver payrolls without an armored car.

But we're still pretty nice folks. Calling a person "A Real American" is the best compliment you can pay him. Most of the world is itching for what we have, but they'll never have it until they start scratching for it as an individual. (By LCDR. N. D. Anderson, Sixth Naval District.)

it works both ways

Our independence derives from the right of every nation to live independently, unmolested, and free from fear of domination or attack. Thus, our security depends, not upon our ability to defend ourselves, but upon the inherent right of each nation to pursue its own destiny peacefully. We are free to exercise full sovereignty, so long as we do not interfere with another nation's rights.

A nation's right to exercise sovereignty includes the responsibility to recognize the sovereignty of other nations.

The people of any community are interested in learning how their youth are making it in the world. The military is aware of this interest and has provided servicemen with the Home Town News Release program. However, the program cannot benefit anyone if it isn't utilized. When asked to fill out the necessary form, don't make a hassle out of it. If papers were filled with good news about youth, there wouldn't be enough space for the "cut-downs".

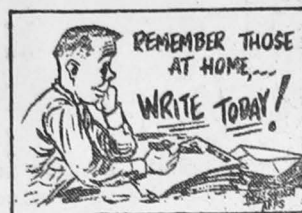
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Distribution: One copy per three members of the battalion.

Lt. Colonel J. A. Richard Guertin.....	Commanding
CPT Arnold J. Eckelman.....	PIO
SP4 Craig Couture.....	EDITOR
PFC Kenneth Delgado.....	PRINTER



NATO's SISTER

The United States has formed alliances with many countries to counter balance Communist strategy. The three major regional alliances are The Organization of American States (OAS), The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO).

The first regional alliance the United States entered was established by the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance, generally called the Rio Treaty. Drafted in Rio de Janeiro in 1947, it took effect in 1948. The Treaty basically holds that an attack on one American nation is an attack on all, and that each nation will assist in expelling the aggressor. Twenty-one nations from Latin and South America are members of the Rio Pact (OAS).

The present government of Cuba was expelled from the Organization of the American States in 1962, and therefore does not participate in Rio Pact activities.

Alpha-Bits

The Combat Center is proving to be a nice neighbor for Alpha Battery. They recently opened up a branch PX which Alpha finds convenient. Also within walking distance is their chapel, barber shop, tailors, NCO and Officers Clubs and snack bar.

The RAP's have been reorganized to replace derosed "Crunts". Platoon Leader is 2LT Flanigan. SSG Locey is the Platoon Sergeant and the Squad Leaders are SGT Stiles, and SGT Gordon.

Bunker building has gotten to be a popular form of entertainment lately. Alpha Sections underground J-Box is currently the best bunker on site. It is complete with walk-down steps, lights, fans and sandbags. The C&A ready room bunker, M&S Hootch bunker and engineer hootch bunker, all underground, are runners-up in the balloting.

2LT John Rose recently reported to Alpha Battery direct from two weeks at the jungle school in Panama. He has been assigned as Service Platoon Leader and (what else?) the Rapid Reaction Platoon Leader.

The battery is currently involved in some reconditioning and remodeling of the site. The Or-



JUNE 15 AN FATHER'S DAY

derly Room now will become the Battery Day Room and Platoon Leader's office and M&S is now located in two parts vans.

New men in Alpha Battery include: 1LT Frank J. Fabish, SP4 Edward R. Hedrick and PFC Henry Mears.

SP5 Jose A. Rodriguez threw a party to get rid of some unwanted money which he received for re-enlisting.

Volleyball is proving a very popular sport. Each afternoon after work finds a crowd of sportsmen who make up their lack of skill with enthusiasm.

Alpha's volleyball team is currently in first place in the Battalion competition. Alpha beat Bravo 15-8, 15-13 and 15-5. Members of the team include SP4's Rhodes, Lynn and Parker, SP5's Marvin, Lehner, Suda and Charley, SGT Case plus Captain Noració Trujillo.

Alpha challenges any "Team" in Chu Lai Area to try and beat their volleyball squad.

From Headquarters Battery

Visitors to the Headquarters and Headquarters Battery compound have probably been wondering what is being built behind the Hawkeye Chapel. Thanks to the efforts of Sergeant Donald E. Bonifield, now in the World, and his helpers, HNB's enlisted men now have a new movie theatre-stage complex. Plans for the future include a roof over the seating area.

There are new faces in the battery orderly room. The battery's new CO is CPT Richard D. Trujillo and the new first sergeant is First Sergeant Thomas M. Sanders.

In case someone hasn't heard, Charlie Brown is short. Movie nights will never be the same when he leaves for the World. Where else in Vietnam do you find music between reels, a paging service, and a projectionist who gently harrasses his audience. All your efforts have been appreciated, Charlie Brown--they will be even more when they're missed.

Considerable work has been done to improve the EM and NCO clubs. The greatest change has been in atmosphere.

The beach is now open and with the surmounting heat, is continually in use. The whistles of the lifeguards, PFC Robert Delwarte and PFC Thomas Beaver, are now familiar sounds on the compound.

Newcomers to Headquarters and Headquarters Battery are CPT James L. Wyrick and CPT Jimmie L. Blakely, SP5's David Boone, James Hearne, Jordan Canion, and Alvin Black, SP4's Stephen Powell, Joseph Cousiniu, Norman Widomski, Frank Smith, Gerald Bear, Benny Throver, and Frederic Longlotz, and PFC's Michael Gallentine, Antonio Vega, James Vaughan, William Davis and Andrew Robinson.



Delta Dateline

General Haines' Visit to Delta lasted only 1 1/2 hours but preparations for the event took much longer. Starting in April and continuing to the big day, the men of Delta worked long hours to insure their site maintained an excellent appearance.

Four men received awards May 10 for meritorious service against a hostile force in RVN.

1Lt. George S. Littell, Executive Officer, and 1SGT Herbert Turner, First Sergeant, were awarded the Bronze Star Medal. SSG Ray and B. Luinis, Motor Sergeant, and SSG Peter Ramirez, Assistant Chief Missile Mechanic, received the Army Commendation medal.

"Little West Point?" Yes, there have been those who refer to Delta Battery as that. Four of five assigned commissioned officers are graduates of the U. S. Military Academy at West Point.

CPT Richard M. Murray, Battery Commander, was graduated with the Class of '66. Others are 1Lt. Edward V. Moore, Firing Platoon Leader, and 1Lt. James E. Stewart, Service Platoon Leader, both Class of '67, and 2LT. Charles F. Klein, Assistant Firing Platoon Leader, '68.

Biggest sports hurrahs in the Battery this month were heard for the Boston Celtics who captured their 11th NBA title in 13 seasons. On the other end, those fast-chirping St. Louis Cardinal fans at spring training time have since quieted down. At press time the Cards were still well below 500 ball.

Delta welcomes CPT Arnold G. White, new Executive Officer. CPT White arrived from HQ's

52d Arty Bde, Highlands, New Jersey. He replaced 1Lt. Littell who rotated to CONUS.

Arriving in May from Ft. Bliss, Texas, were new maintenance officers, CW2 Joseph D. Marinello and CW2 Lloyd D. Muir. Departed are CW3 Paul A. Placon and CW3 Edward A. Pike.

Other new men to RVN are SSG Thomas A. Parish, SP5 William J. Wheat, SP4's Timothy E. Eversole, Steve Fitzpatrick, Peter A. Miller, Johnnie Osborn, Richard M. Rierson and Carl R. Tourville, and PVT Ronie D. Dalton.

Coming from Charlie Battery were SSG Henry Youngblood, SP4's Zennis B. Hansley and Robert D. Plant, and EFC Larry M. Busby.

Bravo Banter

1Lt. James K. Deveney, formerly of B Btry, was presented with a Bronze Star for meritorious service in Vietnam on April 17. Lt. Deveney sunbathed his last 9 days in Vietnam and will spend the next four months vacationing in the U.S. before returning to Boston University.

CPT Leon Muck, also of B Btry, has written he is commanding a battery of our sister battalion, 671st back at Ft. Bliss, Texas.

Also, CPT Hawkins, now working in C-2, has been

informed that he will be aide to the Deputy Commander of AMADCOM in Colorado Springs, Colo. Needless to say, CPT Hawkins is very pleased with his new assignment.

Lt. Rumsey is back from RGR in Australia and reports he has never met nicer people. Their philosophy of life is one of happiness--the women are outstanding.

On the western front, Lt. D. R. Rumsey, XO, has proven himself a warrior. Last word is that he has been recommended for an award for valor.

SCTS Shirk and Wenzel received E-6 stripes from LTC Guertin early in May.

As for new arrivals, there are many. 2Lt. Robert R. Carrigan and CW2 Preston L. Dulaney came to us directly from Ft. Bliss. SSGT Glenn W. Pringle comes from Golf Btry, 55 Arty. Also newly arrived are SFC Hulsey, SFC Majewski, SGT Anderson, SGT Nemeth, SGT's Hammon, O'Brien, Littlejohn, Littlefield and Williams.

As for those who are leaving us, we'll feel their absence greatly. They are CW2 Galloway, 1st SGT Fred Fugate (both received Bronze Stars for their outstanding service while at Bravo), SFC Friolet, steward of the Best Battalion Mess for the last nine months, SFC Hampton, Specialists Vironet, Ferguson, Boyles, Williams and Morgan.

And finally, on the lighter side, CPT Ebner has broken 100, is a 90 day loss and is counting.



Hawaii Offers Special Privileges

For you married men planning to visit Hawaii for R&R, MACV has made arrangements with Pan American Northwest and United Airlines to fly your wives to the islands at a special rate. This round trip rate is \$165 (plus tax). To insure that your wife is able to purchase the required tickets at the reduced fare, she will need her Dependent's ID card and three completed copies of DD Form 1580 (printed on the reverse side of your R&R orders.) Your dependents must also make the return flight to the mainland within 15 days of departure from the West Coast.

TOURING IN MANILA

There are several famous tourist attractions in Manila, the capital of the Philippines. Among these are intramuros--the Spanish walled city, the American Memorial Cemetery, Taal Lake and Volcano, the bamboo organ in Las Pinas, the rapids of Pagsanjan Gorge and the Corregidor battle site. Along Roxas Blvd. in Passay City are the large clubs: the small bars with hostesses for dancing can be found on M. H. Del Pilar St. in the Ermita District.

Another example of Hawaii's hospitality is the Special Privileges Card given to each serviceman during the arrival briefing. This card is good for your entire R&R stay and helps you obtain reduced prices in restaurants, hotels and stores displaying a matching R&R placard.

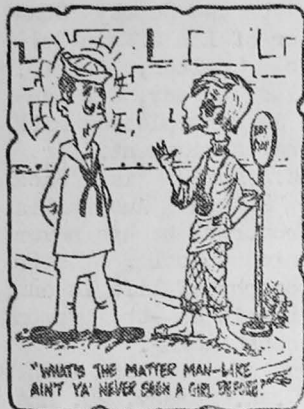
For the travel-minded there are car rental agencies which also offer special R&R rates. Some agencies are open 24 hours every day and will help you plan your R&R stay.

Even if you're not meeting friends or relatives, the people of Hawaii are sincerely interested in easing the strains of combat and the loneliness of the separation from your family.

Although most married men start discussing R&R in Hawaii with their wives as soon as they receive orders to Vietnam, the time to begin serious planning is as soon as you receive your R&R orders.

R&R will be terminated in Kuala Lumpur beginning on July 1, 1969. Beginning on June 1, Penang will once again be opened as an R&R center.

While on R&R mail your purchases from the local APO rather than through a civilian post office.



TIPPING HINTS FOR R&R

Generally, the following "rules" for tipping hold true in the R&R centers:

BANGKOK-included in bills
HONG KONG-included in bills
KUALA LUMPUR-not expected
MANILA-not a standard practice
SINGAPORE-not expected
TOKYO-not expected

Worried About Hold Baggage?

As a man's tour in Vietnam draws to its long-awaited end, he becomes worried about the personal treasures he has hoarded for several months. It's amazing how attached he can become to his television set, his stereo tape equipment, his books and his Oriental curios. He immediately remembers hearing about "hold baggage" and begins to scream for more information.

The Chu Lai Household Goods Office serves all members of the Armed Forces in the Chu Lai area. All service members are authorized a shipment of hold baggage from Vietnam regardless of the member's rank. E-1 through E-4 with under four years service are authorized 200 pounds. E-4 with over four years service are authorized up to 1000 pounds.

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To ship baggage stateside, you need nine copies of your orders with the proper transportation accounting data cited. Your baggage will be inspected, weighed and tagged. If locks are not available, a seal will be affixed to your baggage to secure it. An application for shipment of Household Goods (DD 1299) will be prepared along with your Customs Declaration (DD 1252). Your baggage will then be placed in a conex box for shipment to Da Nang via water. Da Nang will complete documentation, prepare a GEL (Government Bill of Lading) for shipment in the U. S. and band, stencil, and palletize baggage for shipment via MAC(AIR) to the United States. Average delivery time in CONUS is 21 days to the West Coast and 35 days to the East Coast.

If you want to crate your own baggage, leave the lids off or just tacked down so they can be inspected prior to leaving the country. Any type of container is acceptable for shipment but the container should not exceed 5X5X5 feet or be in excess of 250 pounds. Cardboard or other than wooden containers will be created prior to shipment to CONUS by Da Nang.



ON RECORD

Football became a varsity sport at Michigan State in 1896, but unofficial elevens were active as early as 1886.

Frank Leaby was an assistant football coach at Michigan State in 1932 under fellow Notre Dame great Jim Crowley, then in his fourth and last season as head coach.

COMPUTER CORNER ON SPORTS

Can the electronic computer help us pick the winners of the American and National League baseball races for 1969.

Last year the computer hit a homerun. On the opening day of the season "Computer Corner" tabbed the Detroit Tigers as the walk-away winners in the American League, and the St. Louis Cardinals in the National League. Both won.

Here are "Computer Corner's" predictions for the 1969 National League--

EASTERN DIVISION:

Team	Estimated Runs	Opponent's Runs	Strength Ratio R/OR	Final
ST. LOUIS	630	500	1.27	1
PITTSBURGH	630	540	1.17	2
CHICAGO	620	600	1.03	3
NEW YORK	520	520	1.00	4
PHILADELPHIA	560	620	.90	5
MONTREAL	500	650	.77	6

How do you measure "total team strength"? By simply dividing the runs your team scores by the number of opponent runs they give up, you get a good measure of team "balance". This ratio of Runs to Opponent Runs is almost a perfect measure of a team's offensive-defensive ability because it includes batting, pitching and fielding.

To win a pennant it takes a R/OR ratio of about 1.20--which shows the winners usually are 20% stronger than the average team in the league. St. Louis was 9 games ahead of the pack last year with a 1.26 R/OR ratio, 26% stronger than the average team. In '67 they won by 10 games with a 1.25 ratio.

The average team in the league this year will score as many runs as they allow, and their total strength ratio will be close to 1.00.

The Chicago Cubs, for example, earned 612 runs last year, allowed 611 for an almost perfect 1.00 total strength ratio. They finished 3rd, exactly on the AVERAGE mark for the five teams in the Eastern Division.

Is there a dark horse in the East? Sure--give the Mets two hard hitting rookies like Rod Gasper from the Memphis team, and they will challenge for the pennant. But--to bring their winning ratio up to 1.20 the Mets must add 100 runs.

You and Your Reserve Obligations

Under normal conditions, the following reserve obligations apply: If you serve two years on active duty, you are subject to two years in Standby Reserves. If you spend three years on active duty, your Ready Reserve obligation is one year, and you will spend two years as a Standby Reservist. If you spend

four years on active duty, your reserve obligation would be two years in a Standby unit.

As a veteran of Vietnam, however, you receive special consideration. You will not be involuntarily assigned to a Ready Reserve unit for drill purposes. That is, no weekly or monthly meetings. You may, however be expected to attend the summer camp for active duty training.

Does this mean that a draftee who receives a five-month early out--serving only 19 months on active duty--will have to spend four years and five months as a reserve?

The answer is no. For the purposes of determining your reserve obligation, early outs are not counted. You are credited with having spent your full regular active duty obligation on active duty. In other words, a draftee will spend two years as a Ready Reserve and two years as a Standby reserve, whether he spends 19 months or 24 months on active duty.



IMPOSSIBLE — This is the best word to use when someone asks you to describe the lovely Elke Sommer as she appears in Columbia Pictures' "Wrecking Crew."

Vietnam—a history of struggle

a period of independence

From the date of Vietnam's declaration of an independent state in 940 A.D. until the final conquest by France in 1883, Vietnam was a land filled with turmoil and a land ruled by power-hungry dynasties.

The first dynasty to gain power of the country and keep it for any length of time was that of the Ly family. Finding that the use of relations to control major government positions led to political anarchy upon the death of the rulers, the Ly started the first civil service schools in Vietnam. They insured loyalty through the awarding of land to faithful servants. The first major roads between principle cities were built during this period, and a standing army was formed which owed its loyalty to the central government rather than to local feudal lords.

After 215 years of rule, the Ly family succumbed to the Tran dynasty. This was the beginning of a proud era in Vietnamese history. Kublai Khan was expanding Chinese territory and required sea routes for his invasion of India. With an army of only 200,000 soldiers, the people of Vietnam defeated an invading horde of 500,000 Mongolian warriors. The Mongolians tried again, and again were defeated.

A huge Chinese Army sent by the new dynasty of Ming descended on Vietnam in 1406. A year later the Vietnamese were again under Chinese rule. A rule that was to last only 20 years.

So, in victory lay the seeds of defeat. The drain of Vietnamese manpower and weakened borders told the end of the Tran dynasty.



VERY INTERESTING

The population of the Republic of Vietnam is about 15.1 million, four-fifths of them farmers. The majority of the people of South Vietnam are ethnic Vietnamese. There are almost 800,000 tribal people; close to one million Chinese (most of whom now hold Vietnamese citizenship); just under half a million ethnic Cambodians; and a few thousand each of French, Indians, and Pakistanis.

Compared with most Asian nations, South Vietnam is uncrowded. The population density varies from 19 per square mile throughout the six high plateau provinces to 43,100 people per square mile in Saigon, the capital. Saigon-Cholon is the largest city, with about two million people. Ha Nam runs a distant second with about 130,000.

CONFUCIANISM teaches harmony

Confucianism has been a major religion for centuries in Vietnam and has contributed immensely to the development of the cultural and political life of the country. It teaches that disorders in a group spring from improper conduct on the part of its individual members. Achievement of harmony is held to be the first duty of every Confucianist. It establishes a code of relations between sovereign and subject, father and son, wife and husband, younger to older people, friend to friend.

When a man dies, he is revered as an ancestor who is joined forever to nature. His children honor and preserve his memory in solemn ancestor rites. At the family shrine containing the ancestral tablets, the head of each family respectfully reports to his ancestors all important family events and seeks their advice.



OLD AGE

and

FAMILY TIES

The Vietnamese are justifiably proud of their culture and national identity, but their family and village. These claim first allegiance. Members of a family, for instance, have an absolute obligation—to be violated only at the risk of serious dishonor—to care for their relatives and to prevent any of them from being in want. Even after a girl marries her love and respect for her parents traditionally continue to overshadow her love and respect for her husband.

Older people with their accumulation of a lifetime of experience are considered the wisest members of society and therefore are accorded the highest standing.

The traditional family unit includes living and dead members and members not yet born. On festival days and in family ceremonies the ancestors are revered, and at all times there is thought of the grandsons and great-grandsons yet to be born who will carry on the family name. A family without male heirs is assumed to have disappeared from the face of the earth.

The 6/56 Arty was alerted for reassignment to USARPAC in July 1965. In Sept. it shipped out of San Francisco Harbor on board the USNS Gaffey. HMB and batteries A and C were first deployed to the Tan Son Nhut area and Batteries B and D were first deployed to the Bien Hoa area. By November 15, 1965, the entire battalion was fully operational and combat ready.

6/56th was part of GOLDFIRE I

From October 29, 1964 until through November 13, 1964, the 6th Battalion, 56th Artillery took part in Exercise GOLD FIRE I in Missouri. Over 20,000 Army and Air Force personnel took part.

The mission of the exercise was to test and evaluate units and procedures produced by the Air Force for using aviation to enhance the combat effectiveness and mobility of Army units for suitability in joint operations.

One of the two opposing forces employed Air Force tactical concepts developed at the Air Force Tactical Air Warfare Center. These concepts were designed to improve the mobility and combat effectiveness of a standard Army ROAD Division. The other force used tactics and procedures then in current use.

The opposing joint Task Forces, SIOUX and OZARK were commanded by Brig. Gen. Lowell E. English, USMC, and Maj. Gen. Jamie Gough, USAF, respectively.

The 6th Battalion, 56th Artillery was one of the units composing the "enemy" force from the mythical country of Argentina which was opposing JTF OZARK "aggression" in the friendly country known as Oroland.

The unit traveled more than a thousand miles through Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas and into Missouri. Some 200 vehicles were involved in the trip from Ft. Bliss, Tex.

Two major problems the battalion were overcome by a fire communications network shortly after the unit hit the road. One man came down with appendicitis on the second day out. Through coordination between the military and the state police--the radio and telephone--the man was moved by air from the convoy and left in a nearby hospital to undergo surgery.

Radio even beat the stork for another man whose wife was having complications in child birth and the father, a member of the battalion, was requested to be present. A matter of minutes saw this man on his way home by aircraft.

In preparation for GOLD FIRE I, the HAWK battalion had participated in several unit FTX's before leaving Fort Bliss. Complete briefings on the exercise kept the men informed on all points while in the field.

The exercises had deployment and employment phases and concentrated on the capability and suitability of a tested force for rapid strategic deployment to a simulated overseas area and preparation for immediate employment. The employment phase included conduct of counter insurgency, movement to contact, offense, defense, and re-deployment operations.

UNIT CITED: HURTGEN FOREST

On Feb. 12, 1947, the 121st Infantry Regiment and its attached and reinforcing units was cited as public evidence of deserved honor and distinction. Our unit, then known as the 56th Field Artillery Battalion, was one of those awarded the Distinguished Unit Streamer for heroism and outstanding performance in action from Nov. 21 to Nov. 28, 1944.

The citation reads, "During this period, they made a relentless and determined drive to overcome bitter opposition in the Hurtgen Forest and capture the town of Hurtgen, Germany....Foot by foot and against great odds, the regiment and its attached and reinforcing units drove the enemy from log bunker and pillbox....Under some of the most difficult and hazardous combat conditions experienced during the war in Europe and despite its high casualty rate, the 121st Infantry Regiment and its attached and reinforcing units displayed extremely courageous fighting qualities in attacking a strongly fortified enemy in Hurtgen Forest. This gallant action contributed greatly to the eviction of the enemy from and around the town of Hurtgen, Germany, and later to the complete annihilation of the German Army."

