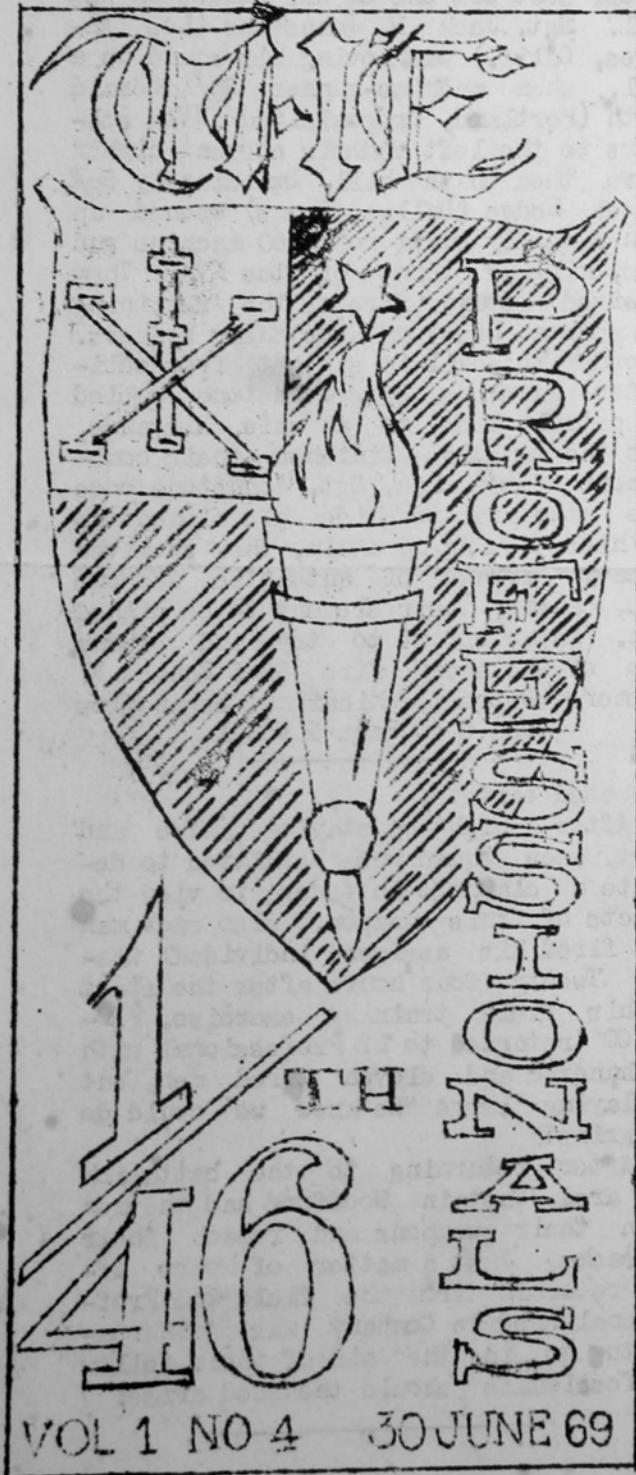


THE ONLY UNIT OF ITS TYPE IN THE DIVISION-PROSERVCO



In the latter part of June 1966 LTC Craig G. Coverdale (Manhasset, New York) arrived in Vietnam for his first tour. He was assigned as the "S-3" of the second battalion, 502 Infantry, 1st Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division. The battalion under the command of LTC Henry "Gunfighter" Emerson had just completed "Operation Hawthorne" near Dak To. During this operation, Captain William Carpenter, familiar to most football fans as the "Lonesome End" of West Point was in command of Charlie company. A large enemy force had completely surrounded Opt. Carpenter's company. At that time no other units were available to send to the aid of Charlie company, so a ninety-man provisional company was hastily put together by LTC Emerson using individuals from the battalion's rear area at Phan Rang. The provisional company seized the commanding terrain which then enabled company "A" to link up with company "C". In addition, the provisional company secured the landing zone to permit extraction of the dead and wounded from "A" and "C" companies. The tangible result of the efforts of the provisional company was the rescue of Captain Carpenter's company. The success of this unit prompted LTC Coverdale's interest in organizing a trained ready reserve company comprised of battalion rear area personnel.

Upon assuming command of the 1st Battalion 46th Infantry (The Professionals) on 14th June 1969, LTC Coverdale began the organization of the "Professional Reserve Company" commonly called PROSERVCO. PROSERVCO is the "Ace in the Hole" to be used only if a rifle company is not available to deploy to the aid of a battalion element in danger. It is not intended that PROSERVCO will be employed longer than three days. During this time only vital administrative and logistical functions will be performed in the bat-

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talion rear area.

Three possible missions PROSERVCO could perform are: (1.) To relieve a rifle company from a fire-base perimeter security so that rifle company can be deployed elsewhere, (2.) to secure an LZ in the field so a besieged company can be extracted, (3.) or if all the elements of the battalion are fully committed, to reinforce or to relieve those elements of the battalion that are in serious jeopardy. To fulfill this purpose, review of the basic techniques of soldiering are required. Approximately four hours of instruction involving weapons firing, basic squad and platoon formations and defensive techniques are covered each week. In addition, PROSERVCO has in readiness a basic load of ammunition and food and will be ready to move within two hours.

Captain William G. Woodford (Marcel-las, New York), the battalion "S-4" officer, is the company commander of PROSERVCO. He is now in his second Vietnam tour and is a thoroughly tested combat leader having served in rifle companies in the 4th Division and recently as company commander of Delta Company of the 1/46th. Each of the assigned platoon leaders whose normal duty is that of staff officer, company executive officer or company First Sargeant, is a field experienced combat leader.

When PROSERVCO is deployed, an Artillery Forward Observer team is attached to the company. The battalion Aid Station will provide a field medic to each of the four platoons.

On June 27th the one-hundred and eleven members of PROSERVCO were alerted by LTC Coverdale to move to LZ Professional. Upon arrival by CH-47 Chinook helicopters, the company deployed to an area east of the fire-base. During this 24 hour field training exercise, PROSERVCO traversed approximately 5000 meters. A day laager was set up during which classes were conducted on claymores, trip flares and clearing fields of fire. Late in the afternoon, the company moved to their night defensive position. Here foxholes were dug, defensive targets were observed being fired by the support artillery and the members of PROSERVCO observed gunships firing on

ALPHA COMPANY "BOMBS" ENTRENCHED ENEMY FORCE

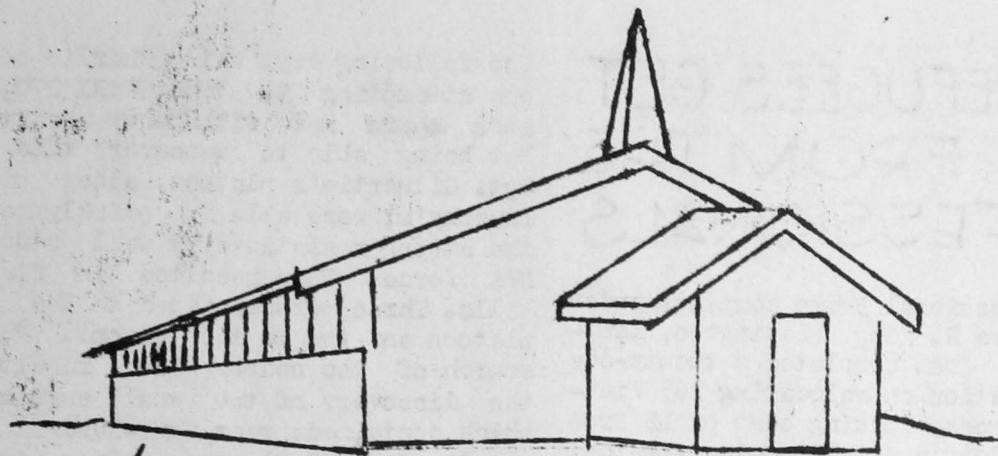
A small element of Alpha company met with some hot action, when Lt. Barry B. Biggin (Cleveland, Ohio) 2nd platoon leader sent out one of his squads on patrol. Sgt. Jack W. Johnstone (Los Angeles, Calif.) was moving his squad up a hill, when machine-gunner Sp4 Gerald Smith (Portland, Oregon) sighted NVA soldiers to the left of their element higher above them on the hill. Immediately Sp4 Samuel Hodge (Dallas, Texas) opened up with a deadly burst of M-60 machine gun fire, killing three of the NVA. They received return fire as the remaining NVA made a hasty run for their bunkers. In order to call in support from helicopter gunships Sgt. Johnstone pulled his patrol back to a safe distance. When the gunships finished their bombardment of the area, Sgt. Johnstone once more attempted to guide his element up the hill. Moving up again, they received a heavy barrage of automatic weapons fire, causing their element to be pinned down. In an effort to try and subdue some of the enemy fire Sp4 Donald F. Chalmers (Detroit, Michigan) began low

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suspected targets.

After a night of staying awake and alert, each squad was permitted to detonate a claymore in order to view the effects of this weapon. Also each man test fired his assigned individual weapon. Twenty four hours after the start of this field training exercise, PROSERVCO returned to LZ Professional with one-hundred and eleven tired men, but displaying large "We knew we could do it" grins!

After returning to the battalion rear area, Captain Woodford had the men clean their weapons and repack their rucksacks. Just a matter of hours after returning from the field the Professional Reserve Company was again ready to go to the aid of their fellow "Professionals" should the need arise.



1ST/46TH

BUILDS NEW CHAPEL

CHU LAI. The Professionals in keeping with the tradition of constantly making improvements have added a new chapel building to their battalion area. Previously, a dedication service was performed by Chaplain Black on L Z Baldy for a new chapel there. When the Battalion rear moved to its present area, it was decided that the current chapel facilities were inadequate. With hard work and determination the chapel was built and completed by the men of the 1st Battalion 46th Infantry. The design of the chapel's interior seems to radiate a feeling of being back home in church. Inside it is bright, cool, and comfortable looking.

The dedication service was held on June 13th. The music was provided by the Americal Division Band under the direction of CW2 John Murat, Bandmaster. The 198th Brigade Chaplain Maj. Patrick J. Denningan opened the service with the invocation. With the chapel being dedicated in memory of those who have served with the battalion LTC George R. Underhill maintained this theme during his memorial remarks. The dedicatory address was given by Americal Division Chaplain LTC Francis J. Dolen.

Chaplain Black wishes to thank all those who contributed and worked to make possible the results of this beautiful new chapel.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER- "Just Thinking"

By Chaplain Wayne Black

I find it most helpful to sit down occasionally and take an honest look at myself. Many times, in all honesty, I don't like what I see. I see a person that has been impatient, unkind, and inconsiderate. I don't like to see this because it is definitely not my objective.

During World War II, a bride of only a few weeks was forced to live with her husband's parents. The parents, who had not approved of their son's marriage made life extremely unpleasant for her. Feeling she could not cope with the conditions any longer, she decided to write her husband of her dissatisfaction. As she sat trying to decide how to word her letter, the postman delivered a letter from her husband.

When she tore open the envelope, the first thing she saw was the postscript on the back of the letter. It read: "There's nothing we can do here except wait for the planes to come, but I guess we can be patient, --God is." That sentence changed the entire course of her life. She did not write the complaint letter. Instead, she began working patiently to win the love of her in-laws.

Have you ever stopped to think how much misery you have caused other people due to your impatience? We need to heed the teaching of the Apostle Paul, when he taught, "Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another. . ." Be patient with other people as you want them to be patient with you.

265 REFUGEES GET HELP FROM THE PROFESSIONALS

LZ Professional Bravo company, under Captain Alva R. King (Lexington, Kentucky), has just completed a twenty-seven day operation on relocating 265 Vietnamese refugees. Working east of LZ Professional along a six kilometer stretch, the refugees were discovered living in a valley under very poor living conditions. Most of the refugees were sheltered only in small make-shift bamboo hootches, and in some cases, hollowed out holes or caves. Livestock and domestic animals were also sighted along this stretch of closely constructed two or three hootch complexes. Of the 265 refugees approximately 150 were children and five were papa sauns, ranging in age from 55 to 60 years.

Due to the increased activity in the surrounding areas, the NVA had resorted to thievery. As a result, a majority of the refugees were suffering from malnutrition. Bravo company, not anticipating finding such a large number of refugees in this supposedly scarcely populated area, immediately began conducting a relocation project. All 265 refugees were safely evacuated out by slicks and are now being accommodated at a Hau Duc refugee center.

CHARLIE BATTERS ENEMY

Charlie company's second platoon was credited with one KIA when an element led by Lt. John R. Tauszky (London, England), formerly a forward observer now assuming the platoon leader's task, engaged a VC carrying an AK-47 and a pair of field glasses.

While operating in an area near Hill 250, Charlie company received heavy fire from an unknown size NVA force, pinning down Sgt. David R. Gilmartin's (Chicago, Illinois) platoon who at the time were the lead element. Gunships were called in and after several hours of spraying the area with their devastating fireworks, two NVA KIAs were accounted for.

The following day, while Charlie company was attempting to take Hill 270, they once again met with heavy resistance. But being able to maneuver this time Sgt. Gilmartin's platoon, along with Lt. Tauszky's, were able to quickly repress the strong resistance by well concealed NVA force. This resulted in five NVA kills. Three were credited to the first platoon and two to the second. Further search of the nearby area resulted in the discovery of two small ammo caches which contained: over five-hundred AK-47 rounds, two US claymore mines, two US anti-tank mines, four sticks of unknown type of explosives, ten 82mm mortar rounds and four unknown types of rockets.

KEEPING ALERT CAN BE REWARDING

As Delta company was moving out of their night laager recently, Ssgt. Kenneth T. Ebisu (Haliewa, Hawaii) made an interesting discovery. As is generally the case when you are moving anywhere out in the bush here in Vietnam, you find yourself having to cut or push the dense vegetation aside to form a convenient and suitable trail. In most cases Charlie finds these areas ideal to conceal his weapons and supplies. But on this particular morning Ssgt. Ebisu's attention was drawn to the left of the trail among a clump of bushes as the company was moving along their freshly cut trail. Upon careful inspection, he recognized it as an AK-44 with the stock of the rifle containing several shrapnel holes. It had apparently been thrown there by an eluding NVA or VC. Further search of the area revealed an artillery crater and it was assumed the person carrying the weapon possibly received some shrapnel wounds from exploding artillery round. The rifle was extracted to LZ Professional.

MALARIA KILLS!
- O - 
TAKE THE PILLS

crawling, tossing grenades as he moved toward the enemy positions. When his grenade supply was depleted, Sp4 Chalmers cautiously crawled back down to retrieve more grenades from his buddies. At one point he was able to maneuver far enough up the hill to spot a NVA soldier firing down on his squad. Taking careful aim with his M-16, he produced a KIA of an enemy soldier who had taken up a position in a foxhole. At that moment Sp4 Chalmers heard his buddies yelling for him to return, because a set of gunships were coming in to work over the area. Again he safely returned to his squad. SSgt. Michael Wallace (Rockwell, Texas) aided in pinpointing the enemy's location for the gunships. Grabbing a red smoke grenade, he crawled up as close to the enemy as possible. He pulled the pin and threw the smoke grenade. Having given prior instructions to the pilots, they withheld their fire until SSgt. Wallace had enough time to be safely out of the area. After waiting a sufficient amount of time the gunships rained their armament down on the successfully marked target. A sweep of the area yielded eight NVA KIAs with their equipment.

AWARD'S



ALPHA COMPANY

BRONZE STAR

1Lt. John C. Benson (Columbia, S.C.)
SSgt. Theodore Rahl (St. Johns, Mich.)
Sgt. Jimmy F. Cook (Liberty, Tenn.)

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

Sp4 Michael Davidovich (Orchard Park, NY)
Sp4 Cisco M. Garcia (Olton, Tex.)

BRAVO COMPANY

BRONZE STAR

Sgt. Joseph M. Costa (Jamaica, N.Y.)
Sgt. Gerald DeVlaeminck (Lake Crystal, Minn.)
Sgt. Richard Hovis (Cherryville, N.C.)

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

SSgt. Edward J. Ball (Batavia, N.Y.)
Sgt. Robert F. Kern (Dearborn, Mich.)
Sp4 Robert J. Digney (North Arlington, N.J.)

CHARLIE COMPANY

BRONZE STAR

Sgt. John J. Crivello (Stockton, Calif.)
Sgt. Darnell A. Horath (Farina, Ill.)
Sgt. Robert E. Looney (Athens, Tenn.)
Sp4 Gerald H. Penn (Kingsford Heights, Ind.)
Sp4 Ronald W. Swinson (Logan, Utah)

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

Sgt. Wayne F. Sturm (Boulder, Colo.)
Sp4 George J. Eckbold (Philadelphia, Penn.)
Sp4 Norman E. Johnson (Washington Villa, O.)

DELTA COMPANY

BRONZE STAR

Sgt. Mitchell Whaley (Cherry Blossom, Calif.)

ECHO COMPANY

BRONZE STAR

Sgt. Rudy K. Higginbotham (Russell Springs, Ky.)
Sgt. Alan D. Dierks (Clinton, Iowa)

HHC COMPANY

SP4 Douglas M. Murphy (Olathe, Kan.),
Girl-6lbs. 9oz., July 5th.

RECON SPOILS NOONDAY PATROL FOR NVA

The Recon platoon of Echo company spoiled a noonday patrol for an NVA element. Platoon Leader David A. Waltz (Pascoag, R.I.) received reports from his men that they had heard strange noises in the area and decided to set an ambush along a trail near their day laager. Sgt. Louis C. Hurst (Havana, Florida) and Sgt. James E. Maroney (Carlisle, Ark.) Positioned their men along both flanks of the trail. Each squad set up their claymore mines with interlocking kill zones, and the wait began. 45 minutes later, the pointman of an NVA patrol was spotted coming up the narrow trail toward the ambush site. Waiting until the enemy patrol was well inside the kill zone, both squads detonated their claymores and fired up the area with their M-16s and M-79s. A search of the area revealed 2 NVA KIAs and a blood trail. One of the NVA soldiers carried an M-16 rifle while the other had an M-79 grenade launcher. Both KIAs had medical supplies, extra ammo, and other miscellaneous U.S. military equipment.

ARMY EMERGENCY RELIEF helps the Americal Division live up to the motto "The Army Takes care of its Own." Last year, over \$4,500.00 was provided to personnel of the division in the form of loans and grants and the current loan volume indicates that Army Emergency Relief will provide more assistance in 1969 than ever before. Army Emergency Relief is the Army's way of assisting active and retired army personnel and their families when a financial problem arises. Assistance is provided to deserving Army personnel in time of an emergency for gratuities of dependents emergency travel, medical and dental expenses, or other emergencies which cause the soldier or his family hardships.

The 1969 Joint Army Emergency Relief and Army Relief Society Fund Raising Campaign is presently being conducted within the Americal Division and will end on 15 August 1969. See your unit AER project officer to make contributions. When you give to AER, remember that your contribution is merged with AER funds from all units in the Army for your use in the Army, for your use in case of need. It also enables AER to cover disbursements for assistance world wide. You are asked to make generous contributions to help your fellow soldiers and their families.

Army Emergency Relief can help you by an outright grant or by a non-bearing loan which may be repaid in small monthly installments. To apply, contact Capt. Bratt, the Division AER Officer, who is located in the rear of AG Personnel Services Division Butler Building, AG Personnel Actions Branch.

AWARDS Con'd

HHC COMPANY

BRONZE STAR

1Sgt. Perry J. Benton (Harford, Cal.)
SSgt. Juan Carrion Sato (Brooklyn, N.Y.)
Sp/5 Ronald A. Creed (South Amboy, N.J.)



THE PROFESSIONALS

LTC Craig G. Coverdale, Commanding
CPT Robert A. Jakes, Jr., IO
SP4 Michael K. Bennett, Editor
SP4 John A. Sloan, Asst. Editor

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