



11TH INFANTRY BRIGADE



TRIDENT

"JUNGLE WARRIORS"

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105MM HOWITZER BACK IN ALLIED ARSENAL

Two Montagnard informants earned 25,000 piasters apiece last week by leading infantrymen from the 11th Brigade's 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry to a 105mm Howitzer buried eight miles west of Quang Ngai City.

The artillery piece, captured by the enemy when the Tra Bong Special Forces camp was overrun three years ago, has been reassembled and cleaned and is being used by the 11th Brigade in Operation Champaign Grove. Six months ago, the VC used the cannon during the Tet attack on Quang Ngai City.

The 18-year-old tribesmen, their wives and one sister, turned themselves over to elements of the brigade's Task Force Garcia late last month, west of Quang Ngai. They claimed the VC used them six times as forced laborers and were planning to use them as guerrillas before they decided to seek allied protection.

"Laborers don't usually have valuable information," says 1LT Thomas Grieme, of the brigade's 52d Military Intelligence Detachment. "The VC infrastructure is pretty careful about letting forced laborers know too much."

LT Grieme and his Montagnard interpreter asked the two boys the routine questions: did they have any weapons? know the location of any small arms? explosives? grenades? caches? They shook their heads.

"Do you know the location of any weapon?" LT Grieme asked.

"Yes, one big one," they answered. "How big?" "It took 60 men to carry it," said the boys.

"I don't know of any weapon that requires 60 men to haul around," said the intelligence officer. "I asked them the smallest number of men they had

seen carry it and they replied 30. But we know 30 Vietnamese can move a mighty large piece of equipment."

The young laborers had no idea what type of weapon they had hurried into the hills. One VC referred to the cannon as a "Dai Bac," which means an (105 Cont. on page 2)



165 ENEMY KILLED

BDE UNCOVERS VC CACHES

Combat units of the 11th Infantry Brigade killed 165 enemy soldiers, detained 38 suspects and captured 34 weapons as "Jungle Warriors" met with widespread enemy contact this week.

On September 12, Aero Scouts of the 123rd Aviation Battalion killed nine enemy soldiers, detained two suspects and captured an AK-47 rifle 10 miles west of Quang Ngai City. Later, eight evading VC were killed in four running battles and one NVA with an AK-47 was killed trying to escape the gunships near the Special Forces camp at Ha Thanh. One of the suspects had blood on his clothing but no wounds.

"Old Guardsmen" from B Company led by CPT Jimmy R. Davis were led to a 105mm howitzer by an informer the same day. The howitzer had been buried at least six months earlier near the base of a hill eight miles west (WRAP UP Cont. on page 3)

COLONEL CROWE TAKES COMMAND OF GIMLET BN

The 11th Infantry Brigade's 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry changed commanders today as Lieutenant Colonel J. Godfrey Crowe, former brigade operations officer, assumed "Gimlet" leadership at LZ Baldy northwest of Chu Lai.

LTC Crowe succeeds LTC James E. Armstrong, who led the battalion since its activation at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, in November, 1967.

LTC Armstrong, who will remain in the Americal Division as executive officer of the 196th Infantry Brigade was awarded the Silver Star and the Bronze Star Medal by Major General Charles M. Gettys, Americal Division Commander who hosted the ceremony. He received the awards for valorous action during his command of the "Gimlets."

LTC Armstrong was cited for employing his vast (4/21 Cont. on page 3)

COMMAND INFORMATION

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is part one of a two part series on Influencing Your Next Assignment.)

To a serviceman with time left to serve on active duty after his tour in Vietnam is ended, his next assignment is a matter of some concern. There definitely is a way to influence your next assignment, and the way to do it is through an intratheater transfer. Or, if you are a senior enlisted man or an officer, you may apply for an intertheater reassignment.

INTRATHEATER

All Army personnel who serve a tour of duty in Vietnam fall within the United States Army Pacific (USARPAC). The USARPAC area encompasses Korea, Japan, Okinawa, Thailand, Hawaii, Guam, the Philippines, and Vietnam.

If you are interested in the possibilities of a tour in the USARPAC area, perhaps in a country such as Thailand, the thing to do is to apply for an in-

tratheater transfer.

Anyone may apply for such a transfer, regardless of rank; however, certain prerequisites have to be met. You must have sufficient time remaining in the service to cover a full tour of duty in the country you request. If you do not have sufficient time left, you must submit an intent to reenlist for



a period of time which will cover the full tour.

Here is how you go about applying for one of these transfers:

If you are in grades E-1 through E-6 inclusive, submit a Disposition Form stating the area or country in which you would like to be assigned. If you are too short to cover

a full tour in that country, submit the intent to reenlist also. Your DF then goes through Headquarters, USARV and Headquarters, USARPAC.

If you are a senior enlisted man, you should use the Senior Enlisted Preference Statement to indicate your desire for an intratheater transfer directly to DA, plus a copy of this statement and a copy of DA Form 20 to USARPAC.

Officers submit a DF along with an Officer Preference Statement (DA Form 483), and a copy of their DA Form 66.

If you have 12 months to serve after your DEROS date, you might consider a tour of duty in Thailand. The length of the tour in Thailand is 12 months except for Bangkok which is 24 months.

There is no authorization for combat MOS's in Thailand at this time, but the Army does have a need for combat support MOS's.

Recently, the Army has sent out a request for Vietnam veterans interested in a tour in Korea, because of their experience and knowledge gained in Vietnam. This request covers all grades and MOS's. A full tour in Korea is 13 months.

The length of the tours vary with each country. Japan, for example, has a 24-month tour if you do not have any dependents with you.

LABORERS UNCOVER 105MM

(105 Cont. from page 1)

82mm recoilless gun. "They look somewhat like a 105," said LT Grieme, "but the 82 has metal wheels. The informants said the wheels were rubber, just like our jeep tires. They also said the barrel was eight feet long and these two things indicated an artillery piece."

All of this left one important question unanswered. Where had the VC buried the cannon? The two boys had helped to bury the weapon in four well-camouflaged holes shortly after Tet, in early February. During the Tet attacks on Quang Ngai, the Viet Cong recruited them as laborers and they had seen the weapon with empty shell casings beside it. The cannon was pointed towards Quang Ngai.

After Tet, they were again forced to work for the VC and helped drag the 4800-pound cannon to a stream bed. Later they returned to the spot where they dug holes to bury the weapon. NVA soldiers had dismantled and prepared the gun for burial. A few

(105 Cont. on page 3)



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WRAP UP Cont from page 1)
of Quang Ngai.

The two 18-year-old Montagnard Hoi Chanhs who helped bury the howitzer each received 25,000 piasters as part of the Volunteer Informant Program.

Later in the day, infantrymen of Alpha Company 3rd of the 1st, led by CPT Paul C. Place, killed three NVA and captured two AK-47's and a light machinegun in separate actions near Ha Thanh.

Troops of Bravo Company 1st of the 20th, under CPT Robert L. Hauck, killed three VC near the beach eight miles north of Duc Pho. In the afternoon, the "Sykes' Rogulars" unit killed one VC in a fire-fight among hooches near the same site.

September 13, Aero Scouts killed five VC and four NVA while supporting "Jungle Warriors" in operation Champaign Grove west of Quang Ngai. Bravo Company 1st of the 3rd: continued a search of the area in which they found the 105 howitzer and uncovered 100 rounds of M-60 ammo, two boxes of small arms ammo, a B-40 rocket, assorted NVA and khaki uniforms and enemy documents in a small tunnel.

"Regular" infantrymen from Alpha Company, led by CPT William Adams, found four NVA buried in shallow graves six miles (WRAP UP Cont on page 4)

THE PHOTO CORNER

Bad exposure is the biggest problem most people have with picture taking. There are many cameras made today with built-in or clip-on light meters but these cameras are usually quite expensive. So we must come up with another method to determine the right exposure.

The first thing to do to begin correcting your exposures is to read the film data sheet included with each roll of film. This sheet supplies valuable information about the film and exposure suggestions.

A good rule to remember when shooting black and white and some color film is to use the ASA figure or film speed as your shutter speed. In doing so, the following table may be used as a guide to set your correct f stop:

| | BRIGHT SUN | HAZY SUN | CLOUDY BRIGHT | CLOUDY DULL |
|--------------------|---------------|-------------|------------------|----------------|
| BRIGHT SUBJECT | f/32 | f/22 | f/16 | f/11 |
| LIGHT SUBJECT | f/22 | f/16 | f/11 | f/8 |
| AVERAGE SUBJECT | f/16 | f/11 | f/8 | f/5.6 |
| DARK SUBJECT | f/11 | f/8 | f/5.6 | f/4 |

To use a faster shutter speed, simply open one f stop for every shutter speed advance you make. Just remember, as the f stop increases (aperture closes down), the shutter speed decreases (or vice versa), one speed setting for each f stop.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: You and your camera not getting along very well? Let us know your problem. Address inquiries to: Editor-TRIDENT, Public Information Office) 11th Inf Bde.

105 SITE NARROWED TO GRID

(105 Cont. from page 2)

days before turning themselves in, they passed the stream bed and noted the camouflage had not been disrupted.

"They didn't have any idea where they had buried the gun," said LT Grieme. "They couldn't find the place on a map or even tell the difference between east and west. And there's lots of little streams out there."

It took the interrogation team over six hours to narrow the spot down to a grid square. "The hamlets they knew weren't on our maps," said LT Grieme. "We used their word pictures and crude maps they drew to locate the spot."

"After hours of map tracking I felt pretty sure we had the right square. The boys had been honest with us all along, but I told them I thought their story was crazy and I didn't believe it. They said they would lead us to the weapon to prove they weren't lying. This was before any monetary incentive had been (105 Cont. on page 4)

(4/21 Cont. from page 1)

knowledge of military tactics and personal bravery on many occasions to defeat the enemy.

LTC Crowe, who joined the 11th Brigade in July, is a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He served with the 7th Division in Korea during the Korean Conflict and later became an advisor with the Military Assistance Advisory Group, China, in Taiwan. LTC Crowe comes to the "Jungle Warriors" from the Office of Personnel Operations in Washington.

His wife, Patricia, and their five children live in Arlington, Va.

BRIGADE AWARDS

The 11th Infantry Brigade recently presented the following awards for valor to the persons indicated.

SILVER STAR:

PFC Michael V. Aurady, B-3/1.

BRONZE STAR MEDAL w/"V":

SGT Francis Best, D-4/3;

PFC Hillard Little, HHC-

4/3; SGT Peter G.

McGeough, D-4/3; SP4

Peter Rico, D-4/3; 1LT

John P. Shepper, D-1/20.

(WRAP UP Cont from page 3)

west of the province capital September 14.

Charlie Company, 4th of the 3rd, commanded by CPT Grady Middleton uncovered six individual weapons and ammunition in a cache in the mountainous area 12 miles west of Quang Ngai. Other equipment included in the cache were a Chi-Com anti-aircraft gun still wrapped with cosmoline, 122 RPG rounds, 22-60mm mortar rounds, two cases of .50 cal. armor-piercing ammo, a starlight scope and a large quantity of medical supplies.

Vietnamese Military Police led by SSG Lones R. Warren of the Brigade MP's uncovered a large tunnel complex in the side of a hill two miles west of Duc Pho September 15. Approximately 350 pounds of rice was recovered from the cache before it was destroyed.

The next day, Brigade MP's led by SSG Warren, along with "Shark" gunships killed four VC and detained one suspect five miles southeast of Duc Pho. Later, elements of the 3rd of the 1st detained 10 suspects for questioning during maneuvers in Operation Champaign Grove west of Quang Ngai.

Troops of A Company, 1st of the 20th killed four NVA 20 miles west of Quang Ngai September 17. Shortly after the action they stumbled onto a large munitions cache containing a light machine gun, two AK-47's, six RPG's, six Chi-Com grenades, more than 1500 rounds of AK-47 ammo plus assorted other equipment.

That evening, 3rd of the 1st soldiers of C Company led by 1LT H.T. Smith received heavy automatic weapons fire before killing five NVA in a brief fire-fight. Another "Always First" company under CPT Paul C. Place killed four VC and captured two packs while patrolling in a valley 20 miles west of Quang Ngai. Aero Scouts, screening for the "Always First," killed four evading VC in the same area.

Sept 18, D Company, 1st of the 20th, conducted a sweep through the mountains west of Ha Thanh's OP-4 killing two NVA and recovering an AK-47, NVA packs, and assorted other field equipment.

4/3 UNEARTH HOWITZER

(105 Cont. from page 3)

mentioned." A few days later, the two boys joined Bravo Company, 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry on a hill-top west of the province capital.

"We had a hell of a time getting down that hill," said CPT Jimmie Davis, B Company commander. "We were all slipping around and they seemed to be leading us in circles. But when we got to the bottom they became more sure of themselves."

"I was walking up front, firing my M-79 into the trees behind the stream," said PFC Wayne Yarbrough. "The interpreter was afraid there'd be an ambush near the weapon. Then he pointed into the underbrush and said 'they say VC artillery here.' We pushed through the tall grass and dug into the sand. We got about six inches down when I hit something."

It took the "Old Guard" soldiers two hours to dig the cannon out of the four holes. "Everything's here except the panoramic telescope," 1LT Joseph Reid, Bravo's artillery observer, said. "It's pretty rusted, but the VC put the small, movable parts in plastic bags. I imagine it could be cleaned up and fired without too much trouble."

The infantrymen lugged the barrel, shields, cradle and wheels across a small rice paddy where a Chinook lifted the weapon back to LZ Bronco to be reassembled. It took 11 men just to move the barrel a few meters. They had heard about the 30 or 40 Vietnamese who dragged the 2½ ton cannon through the hills. "Where are those 30 now when we need them," one of them muttered.

SGT DOES IT AGAIN

CAPTURED 105 TURNED ON VC

"Back to Charlie, compliments of the 'Old Guard'" read the inscription on the artillery round. It was being sent to the VC through the barrel of the 105mm howitzer that the 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry recaptured from the Viet Cong September 12.

Major General Charles M. Gettys, Americal Division commander, was on hand Monday at LZ Chevy, fire support base for Operation Champaign Grove, to fire the cannon.

The general remembered a similar ceremony involving the 6th Battalion, 11th Artillery late last month when SGT Gerald L. Smith, a gunner in the battalion's C Battery, accidentally fired the division's 2 millionth round while briefing the general.

So he asked for SGT Smith. "You did such a fine job firing the 2 millionth round that I would like you to fire this one," he said with a grin. And SGT Smith once again stepped up to the lanyard, assisted by Major General Gettys.