

'Shane' and Handler Form Inseparable Team

By PFC Robert Loughran, Jr

"He's used to me, he's a soldier; you know, a career man."

This is the way Specialist Four Charles J. Freeland of Mairpa Idaho thinks of the black Labrador Retriever, "Shane."

Freeland and Shane are both members of a combat tracker team organic to the 76th Inf Det. Their particular team helps infantry companies of the 199th find the enemy.

Freeland describes his dog as "keen and really smart. When he tracks down the enemy, he doesn't start barking and running for them, he just perks up his head and points in their direction. Believe me, he's well trained."

Freeland and Shane were then enrolled in a two-month course at the Jungle Warfare School before arriving in Vietnam for point duties with infantry units.

In training, Shane took a basic obedience course while Freeland learned first aid and care of a dog, kennel management, kennel hygiene, and of course, just plain getting to know his dog.

Recently, Shane and Freeland

have been responsible for the detection of sizeable enemy elements. Their work enabled the infantry companies they were working with to engage the enemy on more advantageous terms.

Night and day, these two Redcatchers are inseparable. "Once when I was sick and had to go to the hospital," recalled Freeland, "Shane came with me and slept under my bed. Later, I did the same for him. He needed a check-up at Long Binh and I went there with him," he said.

When Freeland rotates home, however, Shane will stay in Vietnam because of strict U.S. health laws.

In the meantime, Freeland keeps his powerful tracker dog satisfied and friendly—with a daily serving of chopped horse-meat.

Rocks, Bird Calls Lead to Fatal Fight

What might have begun a rock-fight ended with eight VC dead in the "pineapple" region 7 miles south of Saigon.

"We were spread out and beginning to eat evening chow when we heard obviously human bird calls and chicken noises, and then rocks came flying through the air," said Sergeant Larry L. Miles of Pontiac, Mich. He and nine other members of a special team from Bravo Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf immediately took cover.

After the team's Kit Carson scout spotted three enemy with a Starlite Scope in the direction the rocks came from, Specialist Four Jorg L. Ortiz opened fire on the VC with his M-60 machine gun. They fell immediately and that was the beginning of a five and one-half hour firefight.

During the battle, Cobra gunships joined in on four occasions. Contact with the enemy was lost about 1 a.m. Other members of Bravo Co were inserted into the area as a blocking force, and made a sweep at daylight.

A confirmed body count of eight dead was reported: Five killed by infantrymen, three by air.

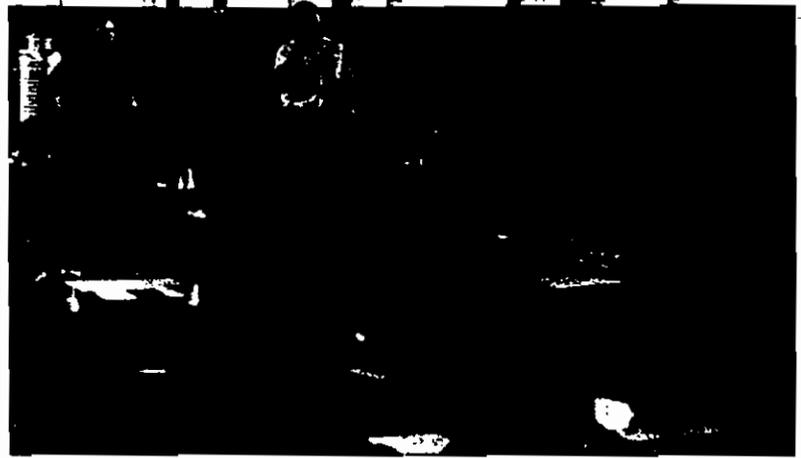
Hot Showers? In the Field?

Hot showers in the field? Are you kidding? "Warriors" of the 5th Bn, 12th Inf, know its no joke. Fire support base "Ste-phanie" has honest-to-goodness hot showers.

The idea for this touch of the "world" originated with the new Battalion Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Albert Malone.

Simple to construct, the shower consists of two 55-gallon drums on a wooden shower platform with one of the barrels holding an immersion heater. The drums are joined by pipes leading into a common shower head. Faucets under each barrel enable a dusty Redcatcher to adjust the water temperature to his liking.

After horse-trading for a few pipes and calling on the field motor pool unit for welding chores, presto! Redcatcher ingenuity comes through with another comfort.



DAVE RUCKER, Long Binh education director, gives "Cottonbalers" instructions for taking the battery of achievement tests. (Photo by SGT Duane Larson)

Educational Development

'Cottonbalers' Tested En Masse

"Cottonbalers" of 3rd Bn, 7th Inf established a "first" for the Brigade when they took advantage of a series of educational achievement tests administered recently by the Long Binh Education Center.

The Battalion was also among the first units in Vietnam to participate in the testing program.

The opportunity was so popular it was necessary to schedule additional testing dates to ac-

commodate all interested.

Three tests of increasing difficulty were given during the testing period. The first was a refresher exam which, if successfully completed, qualified an individual to take the second.

Those passing the second test were awarded the equivalent of a high school diploma. Similarly, the third and most difficult exam earned successful finishers full first-year credits towards a college degree.

According to Mr. Dave Rucker, educational director of the center, the initial results of the testing looked "very promising." Some 25 individual tests were given to Redcatchers during the session. Amusing Rucker in administering the tests was Specialist Five Daniel K. Amigone of the Battalion's Delta Co.

Instrumental in bringing the testing program to the 199th were Battalion Commander Lieutenant Colonel Roy J. Herte, Jr., Captain Ernest S. Pawlak and First Sergeant Jack P. McIntosh of Delta Co.

10,000 Redeployed Since Brigade in VN

The Brigade's 10,000th set of redeployment orders was issued Dec 20, marking a milestone in the Redcatcher Brigade's growth since its journey to Vietnam in December, 1966.

Specialist Four Edward Maciag, the 199th's redeployment specialist, issued a 30-day special leave order to Major Melvin Byrd, executive officer of 7th Spt Bn, to reach the mark. Major Byrd will return to the Brigade to serve an additional six month tour. "Now I'm going to try for the 15,000 set of orders," he quipped. "The personnel office says that's worth a free Coke."

The redeployment section of the personnel office is responsible for cutting all orders concerning reassignment in the States after DEROS, special leave orders, and making sure men who will ETS receive their plane tickets.

"You can ask anyone in the Brigade when it's time for them to DEROS," Maciag joked, "and they'll tell you this is the most important office in the 199th."

Popcorn Popular

"It's too bad we don't have some salt and butter," someone complained.

"Man, are you green? Everybody knows Juffy-Pop comes with salt and butter," came the whispered reply.

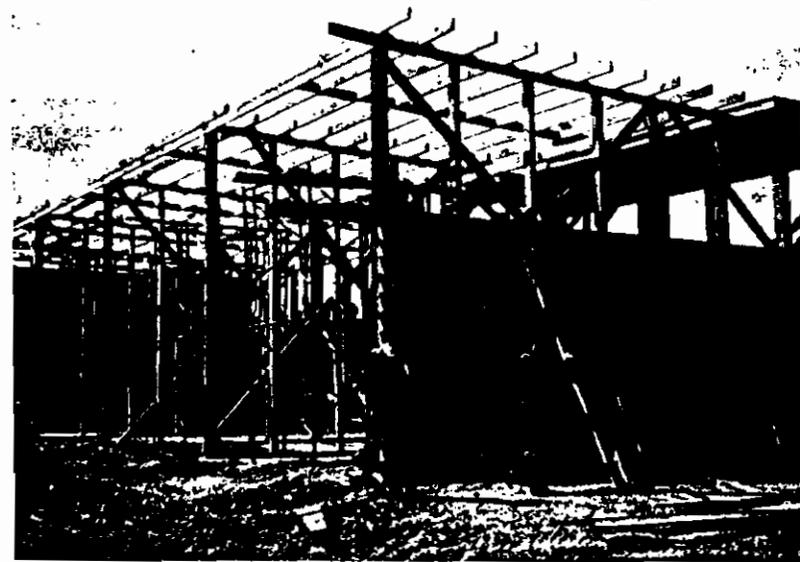
Juffy-Pop popcorn has come into great demand recently in the "care" packages from home among "Warriors" of 5th Bn, 12th Inf. The men of Charlie Co may not have a movie or TV to watch everynight, but they don't go without their popcorn.

With a few heat tablets from supply for the fire, poppin' the corn is a snap. There is one small problem though. No matter where you pop it, everyone nearby can smell it, and it isn't long before you have a squad or more chowing down on one pan. Oh well, someone digs into your popcorn tonight, and you dig into theirs tomorrow night.

Now MAJ Elliott

After being promoted to his present rank, Major McPherson G. Elliot of Jackson, Miss., turned over the guidon of Charlie Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf to his successor, Captain Thomas D. Goodwin, in a dual ceremony on 1 December.

Major Elliot served with the 5th Special Forces during two previous tours in Vietnam.



NEW REPAIR GARAGE for Brigade Headquarters Co Motor Pool is being constructed behind the present location in the temporary quonset-type shelter. (Photo by Gragg)

Field in hand, horizontally, then double and redouble until this label fits snugly in the rectangle. Single edges, sorry, does not qualify as free mail.

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