

'Cottonbalers' Kill 75 Enemy Since June

By PFC John Smith, 3/7 10



Members of the 87th Engineer Co construct a bunker at FSB "Libby" in the Brigade's new AO near Xuan Loc. (Photo by SSG Thomas Sines)



REDCATCHER!

199th Light Infantry Brigade

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'Old Guard' Finds VC Base Camp NVA/VC Journalists Halted As Redcatchers Hit PIO Shop

By PFC Larry Woody, 2/3 10

FSB BLACKHORSE—During a June 23 airmobile search and clear operation 5 miles northwest of here, Delta Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf, discovered a well equipped Viet Cong encampment, containing munitions, foodstuffs, and assorted documents.

"We had swept down a small valley and were beginning to climb the slope of an adjacent saddle," related 2LT Robert Laton of Penns Grove, N.J., leader of the company's point element. "At the base of the hill we came across discarded rice and salt bags, which hinted recent enemy activity." Thus alerted, the company began an intensified sweep towards the summit.

Almost immediately, they were met by a heavy barrage of enemy small arms fire, both from the ground and tree-top sniper positions. Returning fire, the Delta element held its ground and aided in supporting artillery. When the resisting fire ceased, the "Old Guard" moved to the hill where the enemy camp was situated.

"We found expended grenade rounds brand-new machine gun ammo, rifle grenades, and carbine clips and ammo," said PSG Thomas Cooley from Laurel, Miss. "They (the occupying VC) definitely had a tremendous supply of munitions."

In addition to abundant personal gear, "Charlie" was well-stocked with canned soup and beer. A functional radio was also left behind as the enemy fled.

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FSB BLACKHORSE—The enemy forces north of here will be short of command information for a while thanks to members of Charlie Co, and Bn, 3rd Inf.

The "Old Guard" infantrymen working a dense jungle area 7 miles northwest of here recently when they uncovered a flourishing NVA/VC base camp.

Among the items they captured was a printing device assumed to be used by the enemy to produce propaganda leaflets, pamphlets, and routine information bulletins.

"Our squad was walking point," explained PFC Russ Gald, of Richland Center, Wis., "when suddenly we came across a fresh, well traveled trail."

The squad followed the trail for a short time, "and then, up ahead, we heard Vietnamese chatter," Gald said.

"We set up a hasty ambush, and almost immediately, three enemy appeared, armed and dressed in black pajamas and jungle hats."

The resulting firefight apparently alerted the enemy in a nearby base camp, and they slipped away before the "Old Guardsmen" arrived there.

In their haste, however, the enemy left behind several pieces of equipment.

"They normally wouldn't desert something as important and hard to come by a printing machine," explained 2LT William Little, of Mountainside, N.J., who directed the search of the camp. "We must have really surprised them."

The silk-screen printing device works on the same principle as a mimeograph machine. Tubes of printer's ink, swabs, and sheaves

of blank paper were found nearby.

Many leaflets printed on the machine were also found in the camp.

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Combat Trackers Assist Brigade



See Pages 4, 5.

FSB MADELEINE—When the Brigade packed up in mid-June and moved to the jungles northeast of Saigon, leaving the wet and muddy paddies and fields south and west of Saigon, the 3rd Bn, 7th Inf stayed behind to continue operations south of the capital city. Since early June the "Cottonbalers" have been operating out of this fire support base on the northern fringes of the Delta region near Can Giuoc 8 miles south of Saigon.

While working hand in hand with 9th Inf Div gunships, the Redcatcher infantrymen had killed over 75 enemy soldiers and detained 30 enemy suspects as of July 10.

According to Battalion Commander, LTC Robert J. Cottey from Churchville, Md., "By moving to this area we have been able to sustain more contact with the enemy than in the pineapple' region. Also it has given us the opportunity to use our potential to the fullest."

Since the last Redcatcher' report, which covered "Cottonbalers" activities through June 16, the battalion has killed 33 enemy soldiers and detained 24 enemy suspects, with the help of supporting gunships. In addition, two former Viet Cong rallied to the GVN under the "Chieu Hoi" (Open Arms) Program.

Action from June 16-22 was light and confined mainly to bunker busting and booby trap blowing. But the pace began picking up during night ambush operations June 22.

"That night began like any other night ambush," remarked one GI from the first platoon of Alpha Co, "but it soon changed into a very wet, cold night with next to no visibility. It was sort of eerie."

Suspicious Movement

Shortly after moving into their night defensive positions, the "Cottonbalers" noticed suspicious movement through the haze to their front. Waiting until the movement got closer, they opened up with machine guns and small arms fire. The next morning one dead Viet Cong and an AK-47 rifle with three magazine were found.

Two days later, Alpha Co again saw action during airmobile operations in a heavy nipa palm area 21 miles southwest of Saigon. The infantrymen killed six enemy soldiers when they attempted to flee after being spotted hiding in the nipa palm. In addition to the six enemy killed, one Viet Cong rallied to the GVN under the "Chieu Hoi" Program. Two AK-47 rifles were also recovered.

That same night, while moving toward their ambush site 2 miles west of FSB "Madeleine," Charlie Co came under heavy automatic weapons fire from the enemy. The "Cottonbalers" immediately returned fire on a nipa palm line. A sweep at first light revealed two enemy dead and blood trails leading from the enemy ambush site.

Five Enemy Engaged

One Viet Cong was killed June 26 after Delta Co troops engaged five enemy soldiers during a recon-in-force operation 3 miles west of FSB "Madeleine."

The first and second platoons moved out on line through the nipa palm line on either side of a large canal.

PFC James R. Titus, of Baltimore, Md., an M-60 machine gunner with the second platoon noticed movement on the other bank and just in front of where the first platoon's point element should have been.

"I gave a yell to find out where the point man was," Titus said. "He hollered back, and then the VC started running. I got a clear view of him and opened up with my M-60."

SGT Blanc, Titus' squad leader, said, "The VC dropped in his tracks, just as if he had run into a brick wall. Titus was really sharpshooting that evening."

Airmobile Nets Three

An airmobile operation June 28 involving elements of Charlie and Echo Cos 15 miles southwest of Saigon netted three enemy dead and one AK-47 rifle recovered.

"We had just unloaded from the choppers and started toward the nipa palm line when we saw the enemy moving deeper into the nipa," said Echo Co platoon leader 1LT Michael Murphy of Montgomery, Ala. "By using small arms and M-79 fire, we were able to kill them."

Meanwhile, only a short distance away, Charlie Co was finding and destroying 16 bunkers in a very dense and heavily booby trapped nipa palm area.

Five Viet Cong were killed by Alpha Co "Cottonbalers" during a July 1 night ambush mission 11 miles south of Saigon.

The company moved out early in the evening and set up three ambushes.

"There had been contact in this same area several nights before," explained PFC James Graham of Gatesville, Texas. "My platoon set up behind a dike so we had a good view of the area and the canal leading out of it."

PFC Anthony Moreso of Sharon, Conn., was the closest GI to the area. His M-60 machine gun was set up in a growth of heavy nipa palm.

"It was late when I happened to spot four Viet Cong walking in the canal," Moreso said. "By the time I saw them, all I could do was open up. I didn't even have time to let anyone know that they were there."

In the morning, ARVN troops searching the area found three bodies in the canal where Moreso had seen the Viet Cong.

Good Night's Work

In another part of the area, PFC Monty L. Brant of Anbury, Texas, was sleeping when his platoon came in contact with the enemy.

One man spotted a Viet Cong walking along the bank of a canal, and seconds later, the whole squad opened up on him.

"I grabbed my M-16, but the firing had stopped before I could get into action," Brant said. "It looked as as though he had been hit and had fallen into the canal."

"I volunteered to search along the bank and try to find him. I must have gone about a hundred meters when he jumped up out of the water right in front of me. I was scared, but I got him with my first shots."

Brant found an almost new K-54 pistol on the enemy soldier's body.

Later that night, an element of the 3rd squad spotted and killed another enemy soldier with small arms, bringing the "Cottonbalers' total to five for the night.

"It was good night's work," said Graham.

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Lusk Takes Top Slot As CSM Valent Departs

-CAMP FRENZELL-JONES
—Around Brigade installation and fire support bases these days Redcatchers are seeing a new face holding down the 199th's top enlisted slot.

He is Command Sergeant Major Dennis W. Lusk of Columbus, Ga. and he joined the Brigade July 15.

Lusk came to the 19th from the United States Army Forces

In the early 1960's, while serving with the 2nd Inf Div in Korea, Lusk was awarded the Silver Star and Bronze Star Medals as well as the Army Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters.

After a year in the States, he was sent to Germany where he served for three years.

In September 1961, shortly after he returned from his second tour in Korea, Lusk was promoted to first sergeant.

He then spent several years with the 1st Bn, 29th Inf at Ft. Benning, before reassignment to the 4th Bn, 10th Inf at Ft. Davis, Canal Zone.

On May 3, 1968, while serving in Panama, Lusk was promoted to command sergeant major.

Following his tour in Vietnam, CSM Lusk hopes to return to Ft. Benning near Columbus, Ga., where he would like to settle "after spending about three more years in the Army."

From what he has seen so far, Lusk thinks the 199th Light Infantry Brigade is a "fine outfit" that has been doing a "fine job" in Vietnam.

Drawing on his 20 years' experience in the military, the Brigade's new command sergeant major recently compared today's soldier with the one he saw in 1949.

"The modern fighting man has to be and is a smarter individual," he said. "He also must think faster and react quicker."

"In today's war, modern, complex equipment makes it necessary that the Army train its men to think and react more quickly and more effectively."

Outgoing Brigade Command Sergeant Major Othon O. Valent of Anaconda, Mont., has been reassigned to the post of command sergeant major of USARSO, the same command from which his successor in the Brigade has just come.

Although he has been in the Army for over 28 years, Valent has no plans to retire.

"I'm still young," he explained shortly before leaving Vietnam, "and the Army can still use me if I have a few more years left."



CSM Lusk

Southern Command (USARSO) where he served in the Canal Zone as command sergeant major of the 4th Bn, 10th Inf.

During a portion of his three year tour in USARSO, Lusk served under Colonel Howard M. Ripley, who is presently Brigade Deputy Commanding Officer.

When he first entered the Army in 1949, Lusk had one thing in common with many low ranking enlisted men of today—he didn't plan to stay in long.

"I didn't intend to make the Army a career when I joined back in '49," he said in a recent interview, "but as it turned out I did, and so far it's been pretty good to me."

Cash Bonuses Available to Vietnam Vets

Traditionally some States have paid bonuses to residents for wartime military service.

Seven States currently offer a cash bonus for service in Vietnam. The States are Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and South Dakota.

In all cases, determination of eligibility rests with State authorities. To be eligible for a bonus, Armed Forces and veterans must meet both service and residence requirements. Bona fide residence within the State is generally necessary to qualify for a bonus. Temporary absence outside the State for health reasons, while attending school, or while engaged in a trade or occupation does not bar an otherwise eligible person, but temporary residence in the State for such reasons does not establish true residency.

Even though there may be some doubt of eligibility, application should be made so that the responsible State authorities can judge each claim.

Applications for a Vietnam bonus from one of the seven States listed above, should not be submitted until you complete your current tour in all States, except Illinois where the current deadline is July 1, 1970, you have at least one year after the end of hostilities in which to apply for your bonus.

All State bonuses are wholly exempt from Federal and State taxes. Therefore bonuses need not be reported on tax returns. Many states that do not traditionally authorize cash bonuses for veterans of periods of armed conflict do, however, offer other benefits, such as property tax advantages, special farm of home loans, and job preferences. If you are interested in what may be available from your home State, write to the veterans affairs office at your State Capital.

When an entitled person does not or cannot himself collect the bonus, the bonus to which he was entitled, or a larger sum, can be paid after his death to an eligible survivor or survivors. The next issue of Redcatcher will give details of the programs in each of the seven States offering the bonuses.

35mm Viewing

By SP4 Robert Collins

During the early 1920's the first 35mm still camera was successfully marketed. This marked the beginning of one of the most popular film formats in photography.

Today, there are more different types and models of 35mm cameras than any other film size, a fact all too obvious to the person looking for something more than an instamatic at the camera counter in the PX.

Whereas, at one time an individual familiar with the operation of one camera could be reasonably sure how another worked, today each manufacturer has his own peculiar way of accomplishing the same end. Consequently, confusion results. Even though it is still necessary to read the instruction booklet to understand fully the features of a particular model, however, there are certain design differences that can be broadly discussed to give the potential buyer a better idea of the type camera he wants.

One of the primary distinctions among 35mm cameras is the methods of viewing and focusing. Most 35mm cameras fall into two types: either single lens reflex (SLR) or coupled rangefinder (CRF) focusing.

Cameras using SLR or through-the-lens focusing are more expensive than rangefinders, and allow the use of interchangeable lenses. Viewing and focusing is accomplished by means of a screen on which the image is transposed via a mirror located between the lens and the film. The result is an accurate portrayal of what the film will record. This sophisticated mechanism also allows for such refinements as through-the-lens light meters and the use of extreme telephoto lenses.

Because of the complicated mechanism, the buyer seldom finds a well built SLR for under \$90 in the PX. The more expensive models in the SLR line are frequently used by professionals and amateurs whose photographic skills have developed to the point that they are able to utilize their vast capabilities.

Most of the coupled rangefinders, on the other hand, are inexpensive cameras that respond well to varied and tough situations. Most CRF's focus through a viewer on the top by way of a split image in the center of the viewfinder. When the two images come together, the lens is in focus.

These cameras usually have a non-interchangeable lens with a leaf type shutter built in. They have certain advantages over the SLR, however. The bright frame viewfinder, for example, is easier to see through in low light level situations, the leaf shutter allows the photographer to use flash at any speed (unlike the focal plane shutters in most SLR's), and the fewer number of moving parts make for a smaller camera that is less prone to break down with abuse.

Since there is no mirror moving out of the way during exposure, the subject being photographed can be viewed at the instant the photo is taken. This also lets the CFB camera operate much more quietly.

Although some manufacturers make auxiliary lenses that screw into the filter threads on the front of the lens creating a wide angle or elephant effect, the lack of lens interchangeability is a primary factor in deciding whether or not this camera suits your needs.

A good rangefinder can be purchased in the PX for under \$50. This price will include a built-in light meter and provisions for automatic exposure (electric eye).

Brigade Has New Judge



CPT Hokinson

CAMP FRENZELL-JONES—CPT Thomas C. Hokinson of Moline, Ill., became the new Brigade Staff Judge Advocate (SJA) last month as CPT Francis P. Dicello, former SJA, rotated after a twelve month tour in Vietnam.

CPT Hokinson comes to the 199th from the Staff Judge Advocate office of the 4th Inf Div where he spent six months.

Before coming to Vietnam, Hokinson was assigned to the Staff Judge Advocate office at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland.

CPT Hokinson received a Bachelor of Science degree from Purdue University in June 1963, and at that time he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Army Chemical Corps.

He transferred to the Judge Advocate General's Corps in September 1966, after receiving a law degree from the University of California at Los Angeles.

CPT Dicello has been reassigned to the Staff Judge Advocate office at Fort Myer, Va.



"Honest, Top. It was an accident, really...."



REDCATCHER!

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Awards and Decorations

Bronze Star Medal (Valor)

SSG James L. Towns-E, 2/3, (1st OLC). While he was leading a reconnaissance element west of Binh Chanh May 1, Towns spotted approximately 30 heavily armed enemy soldiers. In leading his men against the enemy, Towns exposed himself to hostile fire and averted injury to his men while eliminating one of the enemy.

PFC Dale R. Metz-3/7. While participating in a rescue operation Jan. 27, Metz, a combat medic, crossed an open area under intense hostile fire in order to administer first aid to wounded comrades. Afterwards, he moved through an entire company treating the wounded and was credited with assisting in the medical evacuation of 17 men.

Bronze Star Medal (Valor) (Posthumous)

PFC David E. Kenny-4/12. When his platoon came under intense Claymore, rocket, and automatic weapons fire from an unknown size enemy force May 27, Kenny, a radio-telephone operator, moved through withering fire in an effort to establish communications with the point element. Although injured seriously, he maintained radio contact and assisted in the evacuation of wounded men until he succumbed.

Army Commendation Medal (Valor)

SP4 Donald L. Patton and PFC Jeryl C. McKinney-E, 2/3. While conducting a reconnaissance operation west of Binh Chanh May 1, Patton's and McKinney's unit spotted approximately 30 heavily armed enemy soldiers. In contact that followed, each man eliminated one of the enemy thus averting injury to themselves and their comrades.

SP4 Willie Cottingham-A, 4/12. When it came under intense hostile fire from an unknown size enemy force May 4, Cottingham's squad dropped some ammunition between their position and the enemy line. Cottingham crawled beneath withering enemy fire to retrieve the badly needed ammunition with which the squad was eventually able to repel the enemy attack.

SP4 Michael E. Toliver-4/12. While moving through a village the night of March 30, Toliver's unit came under intense hostile arms fire from an unknown size enemy force which left a Hoi Chanh seriously wounded. Toliver directed heavy fire on the enemy's location while moving through the fire to a nearby position and escorted a medic to the wounded man.

Air Medal (Valor)

WO David M. Woodrow-HHC, 199th, (1st OLC). While conducting a last light visual reconnaissance along the Ben Luc River, Woodrow lowered his craft to observe a partially camouflaged sampan. A command detonated Claymore mine signaled an enemy ambush, and in spite of the severe damage to his craft, Woodrow maneuvered it out of danger and in returning it to forward headquarters, saved the lives of three soldiers.

Brothers United as Redcatchers

CAMP FRENZELL-

JONES—CPT Theodore Dorman from Columbus, Ind., is 10,000 miles away from home, but if he gets homesick, he's just 40 feet from his kid brother.

CPT Dorman, assistant Brigade supply officer, was joined here recently by his younger brother, SP4 Michael Dorman who came to the 199th from the 1st Inf Div June 10.

Specialist Dorman, a stock control and accounting clerk, was assigned to the Brigade's 7th Spt Bn, and by coincidence, was further assigned to the Brigade Supply Office.

He now works at a desk just 40 feet from his brother's office. Understandably, having two brothers, one an officer and one an enlisted man, working so close together causes some unusual problems.

CPT Dorman, for example, is responsible for dispensing details to the enlisted men in the office, including his younger brother.

"He's very fair," the younger brother admitted. "He treats me just like anyone else."

CPT Dorman at the same time expects to have no real problem disciplining his brother if it becomes necessary. "After all," he explained, "I'm still bigger than he is."

This is not the first time the two brothers' paths have crossed in the military. While the younger Dorman was in basic training at Ft. Bragg, his older brother was assigned to the 15th Military Intelligence Bn at the same post.

Then, six months ago, CPT Dorman received orders sending him over here. He spent the first half of his tour with the 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf, before being transferred to the Brigade Supply

Office.

In the meantime, the younger Dorman completed AIT and volunteered for duty in Vietnam.

"I hadn't asked to be sent to my brother's unit because I thought he was in the field," he explained.

"Then after I had been with the 1st Division for several months, I found out my brother was working in supply, so I put in a request for transfer to the 199th Brigade."

"I never dreamed we would end up working in the same office."



BRIGADE DEPUTY COMMANDING OFFICER, Colonel Richard M. Ripley, receives the Joint Service Commendation Medal from Commanding General Warren K. Bennett June 28.

COL Ripley, a native of Belmont, Mich., took over as DCO



ISG Lloyd Parton, who helped design Charlie Col's "Pointman Plaque." (Photo by SP4 Thomas Reilly, 3/7 10)

Company Honors Pointmen

FSB MADELEINE—The most nerve-racking, if not one of the most dangerous, jobs an infantryman can have in Vietnam is walking point.

The constant pressure of having to pick the best route over difficult terrain, plus the threat of booby traps or enemy contact, made "point" something no ordinary soldier should handle.

Charlie Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf working out of this Delta fire support base 8 miles south of Saigon, decided that no such work, and no such soldier, should escape due appreciation.

A recent meeting of the company's Non-Commissioned Officers led to the idea for a special "Pointman Plaque." After securing the company commander's approval the group got together again to put the idea into form.

The criteria for recipients were set at 90 days service as a pointman or being wounded while walking point. "The design was a company effort," as far as ISG Lloyd Parton from Marine, Calif. was concerned.

A red arrow pierces a yellow circle embossed with the "Cottonbaler" emblem in white and blue. The whole design rests on a black shield with a gold dedication plate at the bottom. Around the "Cottonbaler" emblem appears Charlie Co's motto for pointmen everywhere, "Pointman Guts."

in May. In addition to the Joint Service Commendation Medal, COL Ripley has received the Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Master Parachute Badge, Army Commendation Medal, Air Medal, and Combat Infantryman's Badge (2nd Award).

In the Field Brigade Summary

June 16:

A tip from a Hoi Chanh paid off for "Cottonbalers" of Delta Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf today. While working with 9th Inf Div elements near FSB "Madeleine," Delta Co and supporting gunships killed 14 enemy soldiers in separate incidents, and detained six suspects.

The Hoi Chanh, a former VC medic, had rallied the previous night. Armed with information on enemy personnel and equipment concentrations supplied by the former medic, the Delta Co infantrymen had killed 14 Viet Cong at day's end.

June 17:

The bodies of two NVA soldiers killed earlier by 9th Inf Div gunships were found today by elements of Charlie Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf while operating in an area 15 miles southwest of Saigon.

June 20:

"Warriors" of Charlie Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf discovered what was believed to be an old enemy bivouac area. Found in the area were four cooking huts, drying racks, and picnic tables. The infantrymen destroyed 12 bunkers, many with firing ports, in the same area.



Blowing a bunker.

June 22:

Two miles west of FSB "Madeleine," "Cottonbalers" from Alpha Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf killed one Viet Cong and captured one AK-47 rifle with three loaded magazines during night ambush operations.

June 24:

Six Viet Cong were killed today by infantrymen from Alpha Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf during airmobile operations 21 miles southwest of Saigon. During the operation, an additional Viet Cong called to the GVN under the "Chieu Hoi" Program. Two AK-47 rifles were also recovered.

Elsewhere, in an area 12 miles northeast of Xuan Loc, a supporting hunter-killer team from "Charliehorse," 3rd Sqn, 17th Air Cav, while doing an aerial visual reconnaissance, spotted one NVA body covered with brush. The enemy was later credited as having been "killed by air."

Later in the day, another "Charliehorse" light fire team sighted and engaged seven enemy, killing two.

In other action, "Old Guard" infantrymen from Delta Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf destroyed four enemy bunkers, found six 60mm mortar rounds, and quantities of ammunition and equipment.

June 25:

The Brigade's Delta Trp, 17th Cav located a sizeable cache containing thirty-nine 82mm mortar rounds, 8 cans of 82mm mortar fuses, 24 charges, and a can of primers. The cache was hidden in hollowed tree stumps and covered

with enemy ponchos.

Elsewhere, an air strike directed by a 199th Forward Air Controller resulted in two enemy killed and 10 bunkers destroyed.

In other action, "Warriors" of 4th Bn, 12th Inf found a cache of three 100 lb. bags of rice. Later they found a possible enemy hospital site consisting of about 25 bunkers.

June 26:

During recon-in-force operations southwest of Saigon, "Cottonbalers" from Delta Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf killed one Viet Cong and destroyed four enemy bunkers.

That night, during ambush operations, the company also discovered two old, rusty 7.92mm German-made weapons.

In an area approximately 6 miles southeast of Xuan Loc, Alpha Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf located an enemy base camp containing 18 bunkers of various sizes. A little to the west they found another 30 to 40 more bunkers and four enemy bodies.

June 27:

"Old Guard" infantrymen of Charlie Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf killed two enemy and captured an AK-47 rifle when they re-

ceived ground fire from four enemy soldiers. The infantrymen were investigating an area from which they had heard suspicious voices.

Elsewhere, Bravo Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf found a Soviet 762mm light machine gun, three potato masher grenades, and one B-41 rocket.

June 28:

Three Viet Cong were killed by elements of Charlie and Echo Cos, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf during airmobile operations 15 miles south of Saigon. Sixteen bunkers and 53 booby traps were destroyed and one AK-47 rifle was captured.

Working in the same area as the previous day's contact, Charlie Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf located a small base camp containing seven enemy bunkers. The bodies of three enemy soldiers killed the previous day and three AK-47 rifles were also found.

In other action, Alpha Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf found the largest cache discovered in the area to date. They inspected a hut and captured forty-nine 100 lb. bags of rice, thirty 10 lb. bags of salt and twenty-three 100 lb. bags of flour.

June 29:

"Old Guard" infantrymen from Charlie Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf today discovered an NVA printing device, 55 lbs. of rice, and 100 lbs. of clothing when they located an enemy bunker and two cooking huts in an area 7 miles northwest of FSB "Blackhorse" during recon-in-force operation.

(Cont'd on Page 8)

Combat



Led by a Labrador retriever named "Rigger," a combat tracker team from the 76th Inf Det moves into a clearing.



DOG HANDLER PFC Allen Wright, of Marelue, Mo., and "Rigger" lead other members of the tracker team on a short "hump."

The techniques of warfare become more sophisticated each year.

In Vietnam today, we can smell the enemy with "people sniffing" helicopters, we can watch him at night with starlight scopes, and with modern radar we can hear him walking.

We can bomb his hiding places from 30,000 feet in the air or we can shell them from a fire support base 25 miles away.

Research Brings Improvements

Research provides us with a steady flow of weapon innovations as well as complex enemy detection devices, and in this context, the 33 combat tracker teams operating throughout Vietnam may seem to be somewhat outdated.

Two of these teams make up the 76th Inf Det which is attached to the 199th Infantry Brigade northeast of Saigon.

Utilizing a visual tracker who functions as a "modern day Daniel Boone" as he looks for footprints and broken twigs, and a Labrador retriever that can often detect and follow the scent of the enemy, a five-man tracker team can trace "Charlie's" movements through canals, villages, dense jungles, or almost any type of terrain.

When an enemy trail is picked up the team moves ahead of

Story and Photos

Combat Art by



Labrador retrievers like "Rigger," trained to track in Vietnam, can follow trails through jungles, villages, swamps, and even canals.



COVERMAN Crant T. Coates, (left), on sent and booby traps in front of the Verhelle of Fenton, Mich., are most

it Tracker Trail 'Charlie' for 199th

a Redcatcher unit to quickly track down the suspected enemy. If VC or NVA are found, the supporting unit is informed and moves up to make the contact. When "Charlie" breaks contact, the tracker teams moves out and again tries to locate him.

Although the Army has set up a training center for combat trackers at Ft. Gordon, Ga., a majority of the 76th Inf Det trackers have been trained at Camp Frenzell-Jones.

Replacements coming into the Brigade are screened by the detachment, and a select few are given the opportunity to become trackers.

They are trained in specialized training areas at or near BMB by the team members themselves. They learn to recognize and follow trails and to work with a Labrador retriever in the field.

Each new member of a team starts as a radio-telephone operator and is trained to be a visual tracker or coverman.

As might be expected, those with hunting experience turn out to be the best trackers.

Adjust to Jungle

The Redcatcher combat trackers have contributed significantly to Brigade operations since the 199th moved to Long Khanh Province, although, like almost everyone else, the trackers have had to adjust to jungle terrain.

Triple canopy makes air mobile insertion difficult or impossible, and as a result, the trackers have found themselves traveling with infantry companies "just in case" a trail turns up.

At the same time, thick jungle foliage and less water make trails more apparent and easier to follow. The visual tracker, more often than the dog, follows a jungle trail.

On their first mission in the area surrounding FSB "Blackhorse", a team of the 76th Inf Det, working with Alpha Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf uncovered a trail that led to an enemy base camp consisting of 18 bunkers of various sizes.

Cache Uncovered

In early July, Charlie and Delta Cos, and Bn, 3rd Inf, with help from the same team, uncovered a cache near another

base camp. Included in the cache were rockets, RPG rounds, rifle and hand grenades, 400 pounds of explosives, and a complete 82mm mortar.

Little Fancy Equipment

Combat tracker teams employ little fancy equipment and no experimental weapons. Their method of tracking is not much different from that used by early American woodsmen, and, next to some of the other tools of warfare in Vietnam today, a dog and a sharp eye may look a little out of date.

But it's hard to put down results.

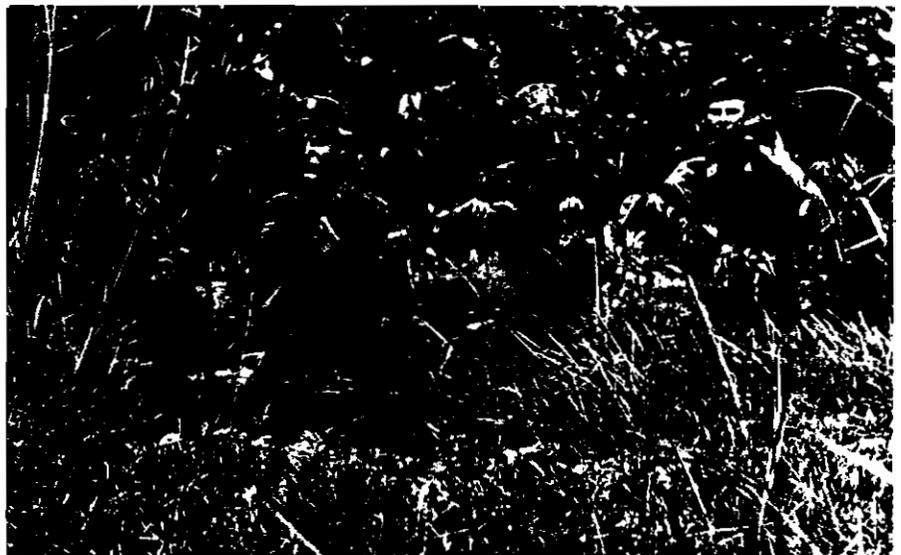


by SFC Fred Egeler

P4 John Buchanan



Delhi, N.Y., who watches for enemy movements, and visual tracker, SP4 Thomas J. Buchanan, who is important in jungle areas.



Although dense foliage is an obvious problem, water like this is not prevalent in the jungle.

New Jungle AO poses Different Problems

By 1LT Larry D. Muse

It's a fact of life now. The Brigade is facing a new enemy under new conditions. This is the ultimate test of an infantry line unit: Combat on unfamiliar terrain against a hardened, professional enemy.

How well the leaders and men of the Brigade assess the differences between the old area of operation (AO) and the new AO and how they act on that assessment will determine how successful the Brigade is in meeting its test.

To get the view of the men who must carry out the day-to-day war, Redcatcher interviewed LTC John A. Mess of Milwaukee, battalion commander of the 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf, 1LT Steve Durbin of Los Angeles, a former platoon leader and now with Brigade S-3 (Operations), SGT Gerald Murphy of Cold Springs, Minn., a squad leader in Bravo Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf, and PFC Daniel Giannicchi of Cortland, N.Y., a rifleman also in Bravo Co. The following article contains the highlights of their observations.

"The big difference, I guess, is that up here we're looking for the big units. The companies and platoons are out trying to find the enemy battalions and regiments. That was something we didn't have to worry about in the rice paddies and 'pineapple,'" began Durbin.

Colonel Mess agreed, "Here we're coming up against hard core NVA, whereas in the 'pineapple' it was all VC."

"It's definitely more of a challenge up here," said Giannicchi. "In the old AO, you could possibly relax. Up here, you just can't do that. You never know what's around the corner. You've got to be alert all the time."

What considerations must be made in light of that fact? "Our tactical considerations must be based a lot on visibility. Because it's so hard to see everything takes longer," said Mess. "Emphasis must be placed on proper tactical formations. In the 'pineapple' it was much easier to maneuver, of course."

"Navigation for ground commanders is much more difficult in the jungle," added Durbin. "In the rice paddies, you could easily navigate by terrain features. After about a week in a new area, you could learn your way around. You just wouldn't get lost. In fact, you could navigate without a compass—although I wouldn't recommend it."

"But in the jungle, every movement is by compass. As a former platoon leader, I walked right behind the point with a compass in my hand. That compass becomes invaluable."

"In the same vein," Durbin went on, "I guess my biggest problem was control and navigation on the ground in relation to other friendly units."

"I can help out the company commander and platoon leader if he becomes disoriented or has trouble locating his sister units," volunteered Colonel Mess. "I just get them to pop smoke and then check their relationship to each other or to some prominent terrain feature. But I would say that pinpoint navigation is much more difficult for me up here. That's where the helicopter comes in, the chopper is even more important or command and control up here."

"As a squad leader, about my biggest problem is noise discipline," commented Murphy. "It seems like people just naturally like to bunch-up and talk. I have to watch for that in the jungle. It wasn't a big worry before."

"Walking point is about the same up here as in the 'pineapple,'" Giannicchi asserted. "I never relaxed on point in the pineapple and I don't up here



INFANTRYMEN from the 3rd Bn, 7th Inf continue to slog through the paddies south of Saigon near

Can Giuoc while the rest of the Brigade works in the jungle northeast of Saigon around Xuan Loc. (Photo by PFC Jerry L. Poindexter)

either. The big thing is that movement is a lot slower because you have to cut through the jungle. There's a beaucoup 'wait-a-minute-vines' out there."

"When you worked the paddies," Durbin explained, "you only worked the nipa palm and canals. All the patrols and operations were oriented toward this. But in the jungle you search the hills, the ridges and the valleys. You have to search it all because 'Charlie' can be anywhere."

"Another thing you have to worry about," continued Durbin, "is the bunker complexes. In the old AO they'd put a few bunkers together. But in the jungle the bunker complexes are very well built. They're big and they're professional. And you're right on top of them before you know it."

"Yes," agreed Mess, "the bunker complexes are well camouflaged in the jungle and sometimes very elaborate. That's why we've placed added emphasis on battle drill. It goes back to the basics."

"Our formations are much tighter up here," said Murphy. "But again it's just a matter of not being able to see."

Are there any special supply considerations? "To a degree, yes," said Mess. "Down in the 'pineapple,' many times we had the option of resupplying by chopper or LCM. Up here all resupply is by chopper. We don't necessarily plan our opera-

tions around LZ's, but they are a consideration. If we don't have an LZ though, we just kick the water and food out the door of the chopper to the waiting troops. We get it to them one way or another."

"As a platoon leader," Durbin said, "I was always conscious of water and resupply in the jungle. The LZ's took on new importance. We carried more water. And because water was scarce, there was no bathing and shaving on operations."

"Yeah, dirt just collects," Murphy agreed. "It gets pretty gross," he laughed.

"Personally, I've discovered I don't need as much water as I did in the 'pineapple,'" Giannicchi observed. "I drink about half as much water as I used to."

What about personal considerations? "The number of immersion foot cases took a big drop when we moved up here. Of course, we don't stay wet as much," commented Mess. "But the troops still need to worry about ringworm."

"There are all manner of things in the jungle you don't find in the paddies," said Durbin. "You've got to watch for leeches, scorpions—both poisonous and non-poisonous—and I even heard of one unit that ran into bees. But leeches are a big problem. You've got to check for them frequently. Personal hygiene is still important in the jungle," he concluded.

CONCEALING ONESELF from "Charlie" is much easier in the Brigade's new jungle AO around Xuan Loc. (Photo by PFC Larry Woody, 2.3.10)



LONG KHANH PROVINCE: The Dragon with the Golden Bell in its Mouth

(The major portion of the area northeast of Saigon where the Brigade is now operating includes Long Khanh Province. Here are some background facts on the region. Ed.)

Long Khanh Province is a naturally rich area, heavily covered with virgin jungles, and consists of many small farming and commercial communities, scrub land, and rubber plantations.

Its name translates idiomatically into "The Dragon With The Golden Bell In Its Mouth." The dragon is the highest ranking of the four Vietnamese sacred animals and the bell is significant because a temple bell emits a beautiful sound and is a symbol of luck and protection. Hence, the province could easily evoke images of the Vietnamese "Land of Happiness."

About half of the population of Long Khanh is concentrated in the capital city of Xuan Loc (27,600), and the villages of Gia Kiem and Gia Tan. There are three districts in the province: Kiem Tan, Dinh Quan, and Xuan Loc.

Most of the land area is low-upland plateau, with the northern

part of Dinh Quan District being rather mountainous. The main soil type is a fertile, reddish-brown mixture of latasol on basalt rock. This tends to create problems with well drilling and deep construction.

The province is extremely fertile where the jungle has been cleared away. Among the crops which are grown each year are coffee, peppers, tea, sweet corn, tobacco, and bananas. More soybeans are grown in Long Khanh than in all other III Corps provinces. In addition, the province is rich in lumber and is the principal supplier of wood products to the Saigon area.

Religion is one of the strong unifiers in the province. About 45 percent of the population is Catholic, composed primarily of resettled refugees who fled North Vietnam during the 1954 exodus. Roughly a third of the population is Buddhist while most of the remaining 20 percent are Confucist ancestor worshippers.



He was really only this far away!

By PFC Larry Woody, 2/3 IO

NAM Cobra Outshoots Redcatcher

FSB BLACKHORSE

PFC Darrell Blankenship was walking on the left flank as Bravo Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf conducted a routine sweep through a wooded area 12 miles east of here, when he detected movement in the grass to his right.

He halted and readied his M-16. Instead of a Viet Cong,

however, it was a 5-foot-long King Cobra beating a hasty retreat—and Blankenship barred the exit.

"The snake was heading right for me," the 21-year-old native of Hardin, Mo., recounted. "When he was about six feet away, I fired two quick shots and hit him with one, a few inches in back of the head."

Apparently undaunted, the cobra slithered onward, and when only "about three feet from me" stopped and coiled.

"He acted as though he was preparing to strike," said Blankenship, "so I decided I'd better take my time and make a final killing shot." As the snake swayed to and fro, its sinister hood spread and tongue flicking, Blankenship sighted and began his trigger squeeze.

The Cobra, however, shot first. "It was like two tiny water pistols," explained Blankenship. "The little jets of clear liquid came from the snake's mouth and hit me in the face—all in my eyes and mouth. There was an immediate burning, stinging sensation, particularly in my left eye, which apparently received the larger dose."

Boric Acid Eyewash

Blankenship moved off to the side ("I figured if he wasn't going to die, I didn't have any more time to mess with him"). By this time, the platoon medic was on the scene, and began to administer an eyewash of boric acid. Concurrently, the company commander was applying the coup de grace to the snake with his pistol.

Following the initial emergency first aid, Blankenship was dusted off and taken to the 24th Evacuation Hospital for further treatment. He returned to his company later that afternoon with a bandaged eye.

Prompt Treatment Imperative

According to Captain Edwin Taft, surgeon at the "Old Guard" battalion's forward aid station, Blankenship was extremely fortunate. "The venom attacks and damages eye tissue, particularly the delicate cornea. Prompt treatment is imperative if loss of the eye is to be avoided."

Concerning the somewhat unique experience, Taft commented, "It's actually not so unusual. Cobras use this method of 'spitting' when aroused, to ward off an enemy. They are capable of ejecting the venom up to distances of 12 feet with a high degree of accuracy."

Blankenship was certainly "warded off." "In Missouri, I've shot lots of rattlesnakes with a .22," he claims. "All you gotta do is hit them anywhere and they'll quit. Guess these cobras are just tougher snakes."

Just 'Plane' Sharp

If you are going on leave, R and R, or DEROSing, remember your appearance. The Redcatcher patch on your shoulder tells the world you are a member of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade.

No matter how bad the conditions were while we were doing our jobs, when it comes time to leave, a neat appearance is expected.

'Cottonbaler' Recon and Radar Keep Close Watch on 'Charlie'

By SP4 Thomas Reilly, 3/7 IO

FSB MADELEINE—The Mekong Delta: a region of paddies and nipa palm, mud and water, large population centers and diffused enemy forces.

The nature of both terrain and people make thorough reconnaissance a constant necessity.

Echo Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf has its forward headquarters here, 8 miles south of Saigon. The company, like Echo companies in the three other infantry battalions in the Brigade, consists of two sections, a 4.2 mortar element and a reconnaissance element.

The recon teams provide advance intelligence information on enemy activity.

Often, they also serve as a blocking force on infantry sweeps. They block whatever the line companies push towards them, call in gunships whenever necessary, and sometimes go on two- or three-mile daytime sweeps.

A well appreciated diversion comes when the recon element goes on a week-long joint operation with Navy hydrofoils. The food is hot and delicious, miniguns and 50 caliber machine guns provide additional security.

Of course, the recon teams get left off at intervals to patrol the banks of the rivers and canals.

"But if we make contact," explained PFC Ronald Lange of Davenport, Iowa, "they tell us to just duck our heads and they'll take over."

Within the mortar section of Echo Co is a seven-man radar

team that provides its own kind of reconnaissance nightly for the 3rd Bn, 7th Inf, supplementing that furnished by the company's recon teams.

The team's radar units consist of a listening device and two screens. Targets are determined by movement on the scope as the radar is so sensitive that the range to can be measured to the range to can be measured to the exact meter.

Once the target has been located and plotted, the information is called into the company command post, from there it goes to the Tactical Operations Center for identification as either a friendly or hostile element.

When the identification is confirmed as hostile the target information is passed on to artillery or mortar units.

The section also makes use of a large starlight scope, enabling it to scan the area surrounding the base camp.

When the "Cottonbalers" moved to FSB "Madeleine" early in June, their radar section was loaned to the 9th Div for ten days.

While with the 9th, "We were having three or four sightings each night," SP4 Dominic Malfi, of Brooklyn, NY, said. "But since we have been at 'Madeleine' we average only one sighting every other night."

Together, Echo Co's reconnaissance section and mortar section, which includes the radar team, provides added security to the 3rd Bn, 7th Inf wherever it is located.



"From the Barracks to the Boonies, I'll be your servant, REDCATCHERS!" hints comely Janine Revard who is the Devil's servant in the flick "SUCCUBUS." (Photo courtesy American International Pictures)

3 7 Borrows Hover Craft

FSB MADELEINE—Hover craft belonging to the 9th Inf Div are helping Cottonbalers of the 3rd Bn, 7th Inf track down "Charlie" in the flat, wet Mekong Delta.

The hover craft, officially called Air Cushioned Vehicles are turbine operated and approximately 20 feet wide by 40 feet long. They move on pressurized blasts of air pumped underneath and behind them.

Armament on the boats consists of two 50 caliber machine guns, two M-60 machine guns, and either a minigun or an

automatic M-79 grenade launcher. The vehicles carry up to 20 men, and are capable of speeds of up to 70 knots on water and 30 knots over land.

On a typical operation using Air Cushioned Vehicles July 2, members of Echo Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf killed three NVA soldiers.

The "Cottonbalers" were sweeping along the Rach Coc River 2 miles southwest of here.

The infantrymen rode the hover craft to within 150 meters of a nipa palm line and then began sweeping on foot. The Air Cushioned Vehicles supplied supporting fire when needed.

Often, as the "Cottonbalers" swept through nipa palm from one direction, the hover craft would cover the opposite side in case the enemy tried to escape by running ahead of the advancing GIs.

One enemy soldier was killed in this manner, as he tried to make his way to the next nipa palm line.

"Due to the flat trajectory of all the weapons on the boat we had to look under every leaf and in every hole to find the enemy," platoon leader 1LT Michael G. Murphy, of Montgomery, Ala., said later. "We were face to face with the ones we killed and that made it really hairy."

PFC Roland Lange of Davenport, Iowa, explained how he killed one of the three.

"We had just reached the far side of a very long nipa palm line," he said, "and we were starting to move back into it when I noticed movement about five feet to my front."

"I shouted at him to stop, but he didn't, so I fired."

An RPG launcher was found near the Lange shot the soldier as the enemy was crawling into position to fire at one of the hover craft.

The third enemy soldier was killed by small arms fire. He had been hiding in a spider hole when he was discovered by the sweeping "Cottonbalers."

Monsoon Driving

Driving in the monsoon season requires special techniques and skills which are much different from those used in the dry season.

The following points are offered to assist drivers in becoming capable of recognizing and overcoming the increased hazards encountered during the wet weather.

Properly operating brakes are perhaps most important. Check your vehicles' brakes frequently. They should apply evenly. Check the emergency brake—it could become the only one available to you. Also check the tires for proper inflation and tread wear.

Test your brakes and get the feel of the road often during weather and road surface changes.

Allow an increased margin of safety. Other vehicle operators may be having difficulty with control during wet conditions. Give them a wide margin of safety.

When visibility become poor, use your light to warn other drivers of your position.

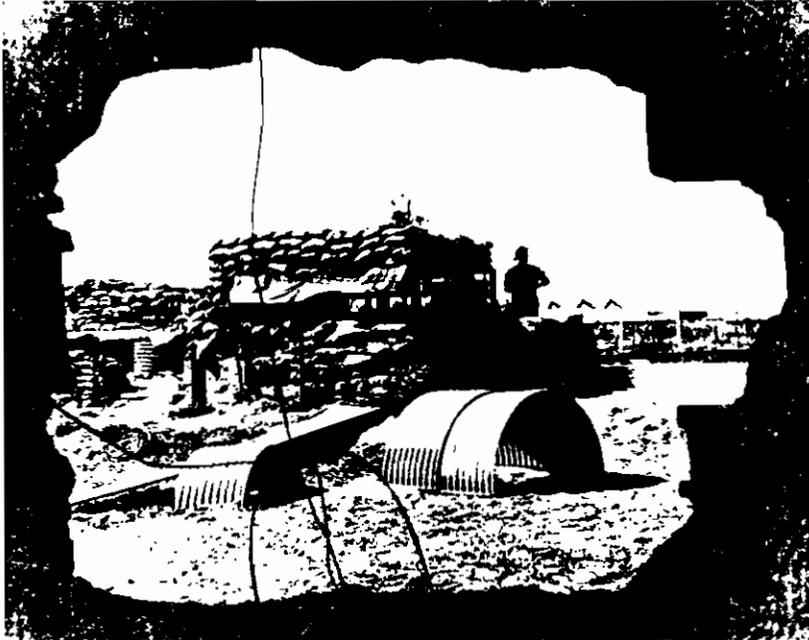
Be extra cautious in villages, hamlets and other populated areas. Pedestrians' actions are unpredictable and it is up to the driver to allow for their mistakes.

Drive defensively!

Brigade Summary

(Cont'd from Page 3)

First Photo Selection



3 7 Kills 75

(Cont'd from Page 1)

The next day, Delta Co, supported by 9th Inf Div gunships, accounted for seven enemy killed, one Viet Cong sympathizer detained and one AK-47 rifle recovered. Six of the enemy were killed by the supporting gunships.

As the infantrymen were sweeping through the canal-infested nipa palm, they heard movement to their front. The gunships were then called in.

Hover Craft Used

Not far away along the Rach Coc River troops from Echo Co, working with 9th Inf Div Air Cushioned Vehicles had a good day. By late afternoon the company had killed three NVA soldiers, detained 17 persons for questioning and had one Viet Cong rally to the GVN under the "Chieu Hoi" Program. Enemy weapons recovered included one AK-47 rifle, one M-2 carbine, and one RPG round.

Medics Treat Villagers

The next day Echo Co infantrymen detained three enemy suspects for questioning near a small village 2 miles west of FSB "Madeleine." While waiting for choppers to pick up the suspects, the company medics treated villagers for minor ailments. A small boy with bad burns was also given medical aid by the "Cottonbaler" medics.

Two Viet Cong were killed July 4 by elements of Echo Co which was again working with the 9th Div air cushioned hover craft. Numerous booby traps were also found by the Echo infantrymen.

As a result of a Bravo Co armobile operation July 6, two enemy were killed and one Viet Cong suspect was detained. The VC were killed while trying to move out of a nipa palm line ahead of the sweeping "Cottonbaler."

The same day, during a recon-in-force mission 12 miles south of Saigon, Alpha Co engaged and killed one Viet Cong.

Army Emergency Relief disbursed a total of \$5,485,868.55 in rendering assistance to 42,018 member of the United States Army or their families.

NIGHT IS DESCENDING as this trooper gets ready for his turn to pull guard at FSB "Horseshoe Beud." Redcatcher's first photo selection is the creation of Specialist Eive Edwin H. Beitelspacher, clerk-typist with the 40th P. I. Det. An amateur photographer, Beitelspacher shot this late afternoon scene using his recently purchased Rollei 35 with Super Hypan film 1 125 sec., f/11.

2 3 Hits Camp

(Cont'd from Page 1)

Inside heavily fortified log-and-mud bunkers, a quantity of documents was discovered. A towering tree at the edge of the perimeter, equipped with ladder-rung stakes, served as the camp's lookout point. In addition to the bunkers, living quarters included two structures with tin roofs, and two covered with thatch.

"The entire complex was underneath a heavy canopy of foliage," Cooley stated, "making it nearly impossible to detect from the air. All in all, it was a near-perfect setup."

Cooley estimated the structures were four to six months old, and guessed the camp to be a possible VC platoon outpost.

Halt Journalists

(Cont'd from Page 1)

The camp was estimated to be a nucleus for a small-scale enemy printing and distribution operation for propaganda and military information bulletins.

In addition to the printing apparatus, an SRS rifle, one AK-47 rifle, a 50-pound store of rice, and a large quantity of assorted clothing were uncovered in the camp.

A roster was found in a hut that apparently served as a mess area, and an interpreter suggested that 30 Viet Cong had eaten there the previous day.

The camp, which consisted of 12 hooches with sub-surface, bunker-like interiors, was estimated to have been there several months.

FSB BLACKHORSE—No-body, it seems, likes to wear his flak jacket. It's hot, heavy, and cumbersome, lament the already over-loaded infantrymen, and besides, they ask, is the margin of protection it provides really worth additional burden?

At least one Redcatcher feels it is "It very probably saved my life," said SP4 David Copas.



Examining the bullet.

a 20-year-old native of Tompkinsville, Ky. "Far as I'm concerned," he added wryly, "that makes the flak jacket worth every bit of the bother."

Copas a squad leader with Alpha Co, 2nd 3rd Inf was involved in a recent company size sweep about 5 miles northwest of here. "My squad was the leading element," related Copas, "and I was second man in the file formation. We were working our way through the bush, when suddenly automatic weapons fire began cracking about 20 feet to our front."

Everyone hit the prone, and

June 30:

Artillerymen from Charlie Btry, 2nd Bn, 40th Arty were credited with one Viet Cong killed when elements of Delta Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf found the enemy body during a patrol in an area which had recently been fired into by the battery.

In other action, "Charliehorse" pilots struck again as a hunter-killer team of the 3rd Sqdn, 17th Air Cav spotted three enemy in khaki uniforms attempting to evade them. Two of the enemy were killed and five bunkers were discovered in the immediate area.

July 1:

During night ambush operations 11 miles south of Saigon, "Cottonbalers" of Alpha Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf killed five Viet Cong. An AK-47 rifle, two magazines, one K-54 pistol, and several documents were also captured.

July 2:

Ten Viet Cong were killed by forces from Delta and Echo Cos, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf. The action occurred 10 miles south of Saigon.

The "Cottonbalers" also held 17 detainees for questioning. One Viet Cong also rallied to the GVN under the "Chieu Hoi" Program. Equipment captured included two rifles and one RPG-2 round.

July 3:

Another enemy base camp was discovered today as Charlie Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf conducted a recon-in-force operation. Believed to be a training center, the small camp consisted of three bunkers made of logs and mud. One bunker, much larger than the others, contained a speaker's podium, seven benches, and a large table.

July 4:

Two Viet Cong were killed today by Echo Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf troops in the Delta region

south of Saigon. The infantrymen were sweeping an area from 9th Inf Div air cushioned vehicles.

Operating along parallel routes in an area approximately 12 miles southwest of Xuan Loc, elements of Charlie and Delta Cos, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf found a bunker complex consisting of 25 bunkers. Many of the bunkers has false floors beneath which were found anti-US leaflets and medicines. Also found were 25 RPG rounds, one 122 mm rocket, small arms ammunition and a small quantity of food.

July 5:

"Warriors" from Charlie Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf today found a base camp large enough to hold an enemy battalion. The camp consisted of 35 bunkers and one command bunker. Found in the area was one 60mm mortar round, AK-47 rifle ammunition, and an old rucksack.

In another area, ARVN elements of the 18th ARVN Div found three enemy bodies which had been killed earlier by artillery fire. Credited with good shooting was Alpha Btry, 2nd Bn, 40th Arty.

Elsewhere, Charlie Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf found a cache consisting of many assorted items, including one 107 mm rocket with an over-size warhead, 1000 rounds of AK-47 ammunition, one 82 mm mortar tube with baseplate and two complete sights, 50 rifle grenades, 50 hand grenades, and 400 lbs. of demolitions.

July 6:

Three NVA soldiers were killed by a combined force of Alpha and Bravo Cos, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf during armobile operations south of Saigon.

Cannoncers from 2nd Bn, 40th Arty were credited with killing three Viet Cong when recon elements from 4th Bn, 12th Inf found a base camp consisting of 41 bunkers and three enemy graves. The battery had previously fired into the area.

July 7:

While clearing a helicopter landing zone with elements of the 87th Engr Co and men from Charlie Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf discovered a cache which contained 12 RPG rounds, 30 boosters, fifteen 60mm mortar rounds, and one complete 82mm mortar. The mortar was lying on the ground and was covered with brush.

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