

Combat Streak Hits 500 Days

The fighting Broncos of the 3rd Brigade reached another milestone in their record shattering performance among combat units in Vietnam recently when the Brigade recorded its 500th consecutive day in combat.

For over 16 months, dating back to May 10, 1966, the Broncos have battled NVA and Viet Cong forces from the central highlands of Pleiku and Kontum

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DRAGONS RETURN

After five long months, the 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry, "Golden Dragons," have come home to the 3rd Brigade. Also returning with the Dragons was Bravo Battery, 2nd Battalion, 9th Artillery.

When the Brigade moved into the Duc Pho area, the Dragons continued north to Chu Lai. While there they were attached to the 196th Light Infantry Brigade as part of the Chu Lai perimeter defense.

The Dragons participated on operations with the 196th and the 101st Airborne. These operations, ambushes and security patrols netted over 300 enemy killed.

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Correspondent Lauds 3rd Bde Troops

(The following article about the 3rd Brigade recently appeared on the front page of the Columbus, Ga. Enquirer and is reprinted here. The article was written by veteran Vietnam correspondent Charles Black who has spent a considerable amount of time with the Bronco fighting men.)

The 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, part of Task Force Oregon in Southern I Corps 300 miles north of Saigon, just has to be one of the very best combat units the US Army has ever put together.

Until just lately, the three infantry battalions and their supporting units, commanded by COL George E. Wear, considered themselves orphans and identified more closely with the 1st Air Cavalry Division, down at the platoon level, than with its own outfit, the 25th Infantry Division, or the outfit it was attached to, the 4th Infantry Division.

The 25th Infantry Division headquarters was far south of here in III Corps; the other two brigades were strangers to the 3rd. In fact, three battalions of the 3rd Brigade, 4th Division were stationed down there and closer to the Tropic Lightning outfit than the wandering 3rd.

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1/35 Springs Ambushes

Working in an area south of Duc Pho, A Company, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry killed 24 enemy in as many days; all on night ambushes.

During the month of September, "Alpine Alpha" has set up at least two ambushes every night. With few exceptions they have made contact each night.

Most of the enemy were on rice carrying missions from the coastal plains into the mountain hide-outs to the west, carrying packs for the rice.

On two occasions the enemy were caught while returning to the mountains and their packs were full of food and cooking utensils. Also the ambushes caught "Charlie" on other than rice carrying missions and a pistol and SKS rifle were captured.

The largest catch was made by the 1st platoon when they killed six enemy in two different actions.

When asked what he felt were the main things in setting up a successful ambush, 2LT Jerome McAfee, 1st platoon leader, said, "First we have to make a good daytime reconnaissance of the ambush site. Next we have to move in after dark to keep from being spotted. Then we set up good security on both ends of the site and establish good communications. One of the main things is to set up an 'obstacle course' on all avenues of escape which consists of booby traps and claymore mines."

In commenting on his men's performance, LTC Robert G. Kinmel, commander of the 1st, 35th, "Cacti Green," said, "They apply

all the proper techniques; they make good ground surveillance by patrolling; they rest during the day and move after dark."

Thorough preparation and perserverance has resulted in five NVA and 19 Viet Cong killed. CPT Geoffrey Ellerson, A Company commander, simply states, "The men are doing a great job."

Bde Helps Church Rebuild

Through the activities of the 3rd Brigade, spearheaded by Chaplain (CPT) John A. Szilvasy, and assisted by Chaplain (CPT) John E. Krivo, Duc Pho's small Evangelical Church, which had reached an extremely rundown state after years of Viet Cong rule in the District, has come to life.

Donations by all the Brigade's chaplains have helped the church get on its feet. One of the most valuable donations has been wood which is brought in by the trailer load.

Not even the smallest scrap is thrown away as construction seems to be a never ending job. The interior of the church has been remodeled, picket fences border the property and a new parsonage has been built.

Not all the progress has come from donations, however, as the church has begun a successful cooperative laundry to provide an income.

A new well has been dug to replace the old polluted one and fresh new paint adorns the buildings.

Refugees have played an important role in the project by working at construction and

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3rd BRIGADE PRAISED

Early in life in Vietnam, the 3rd had been attached to the 4th Division over around Pleiku, but then it had moved and joined the 1st Air Cavalry in operations in Binh Dinh Province and more or less adopted the helicopter division as its own outfit.

The unit landed at Duc Pho when the 1st Air Cavalry took over part of the area now ruled by Task Force Oregon and stayed for the rest of the fight when the sky soldiers moved on.

Management of the units involved became cumbersome so finally higher headquarters just shifted division designations. the 3rd of the 4th became the 3rd of the 25th, down in III Corps. The 4th Division took charge in name as well as tenuous administrative control of the Task Force Oregon unit.

In the tradition of the brigade, however, the battalions still are not in sight of their division headquarters. The 4th is at Pleiku, a far piece southwest of Duc Pho -- and the independent spirit of the 3rd is still rampant.

They are very cocky, these infantry battalions and armored cavalry fragments which are in the 3rd Brigade. They have a right to be. They are also very good, as proved by the record.

While other units here were attracting attention with named operations, the unit, on August 24 had observed completion of its 470th day of continuous contact with the enemy forces in a typically efficient manner, doing a lot of fighting almost in passing.

The 196th Light Infantry Brigade and the 1/101st Airborne Brigade, in the week of August

5 to August 12, during an operation northwest of here, killed 211 North Vietnamese and Viet Cong fighters -- an impressive week.

During the same time, just rolling along in its fighting areas, the 3rd Brigade killed 146 all by itself during that week making claims to 27 weapons (including two mortars) during that seven days. Most weeks are like that for the brigade, in fact.

Even more impressive, and the real tipoff to the uncanny professionalism of this brigade, in two fights on one day, one killed 17 enemy and one which killed 65, one US soldier lost his life.

LTC Norman L. Tiller's 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry had an intelligence tip about an enemy concentration 20 miles from here in the Song Ve Valley. Two companies and a reconnaissance platoon were assaulted in by helicopters. (The 174th Aviation Company from MG George P. Seneff's 1st Aviation Brigade played a part in this too, cutting down fleeing Viet Cong.)

That fight cost the enemy 65 soldiers and cost only one fatality.

This quick employment of overwhelming forces, grabbed up and moved by choppers, the 3rd Brigade soldiers say they learned down in 1st Air Cavalry country and they speak of it fondly, calling it "pile on tactics."

The 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry, just out hunting in the brush, brought that single day's fighting total to 82 --and suffered no casualties.

"Extensive search and destroy operations by the two batt-

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PRAISE FOR BRONCOS *Cont.*

aliens have taken about an enemy company a week from the Communist forces in the Duc Pho area. Constant pressure has forced them to split into small groups and that means he can't conduct cohesive attacks of his own, we hunt for him, he runs from us," one brigade officer said.

The 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry, whatever its future in light of the soon-to-be quickened pace of Army deployment in this critical northern area of South Vietnam, right now probably has the lowest casualty and highest enemy toll ratio of any unit in Vietnam.

It may be all skill, or it may be partly that typical luck that seems to ride on the infantrymen's shoulders when they are fighting the Viet Cong.

There just isn't any way to describe the outfit's success except to say that, along with everything else, that was done right. It also seems to have the smile of fortune favoring it these days.

500 Days Of Combat

Provinces of the coastal provinces of Quang Ngai and Binh Dinh. *its over 500 now*

Over 4200 enemy have been killed by the 3rd Brigade fighting men throughout such operations as PAUL REVERE, THAYER II, PERSHING and the five months of search and destroy here in the Duc Pho area.

Four brigade-sized moves

have been staged without a break in combat operations, including last January's 100-mile road march from Pleiku to Phu Cat in Binh Dinh Province and April's air and sea movement into Duc Pho.

The Broncos have been breaking records for nearly a year. Operation PAUL REVERE, which extended from May to December of 1966, lasted for 230 days during its four phases and topped the old Army record for a combat operation of 165.

The old record had been set by the 25th Infantry Division in the Philippines during World War II and, ironically, the 3rd Brigade was part of the 25th during PAUL REVERE.

Operations in the Duc Pho area have been the most lucrative of the entire 500 days, as half of the Communist KIA have come in the last five months.

Moving into lower Quang Ngai Province as part of Task Force Oregon in late April, the Broncos had the task of pacifying an area that had been under strong Viet Cong rule for nearly a quarter of a century.

Many bitter battles were fought by the "Cacti" of the 1st and 2nd Battalions, 35th Infantry as the enemy troops were time and again soundly defeated and have been forced to either flee to the hills or hide out in tunnels and holes by day.

The 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry's "Golden Dragons" were assigned to another part of Task Force Oregon during this period, where they established an equally impressive record. The "Dragons" have rejoined the 3rd Brigade this past week and are ready to help the Broncos continue their magnificent success in Vietnam.

MAJOR
LEAGUE
BASEBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE

	W	L	PCT	GB
St. Louis	99	60	.623	--
San Francisco	88	71	.562	10½
Chicago	87	73	.541	12½
Cincinnati	86	74	.534	13½
Philadelphia	82	77	.519	17
Pittsburgh	80	80	.500	19½
Atlanta	77	83	.482	22½
Los Angeles	72	88	.449	27½
Houston	68	92	.422	31½
New York	60	100	.376	39½

AMERICAN LEAGUE

	W	L	PCT	GB
Minnesota	91	69	.569	--
Detroit	89	69	.563	1
Boston	90	70	.563	1
Chicago	89	71	.557	2
California	82	75	.522	7½
Cleveland	75	85	.469	16
Baltimore	74	85	.465	16½
Washington	74	85	.465	16½
New York	70	90	.440	21½
Kansas City	62	97	.386	28½

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Answer to Previous Pg 2

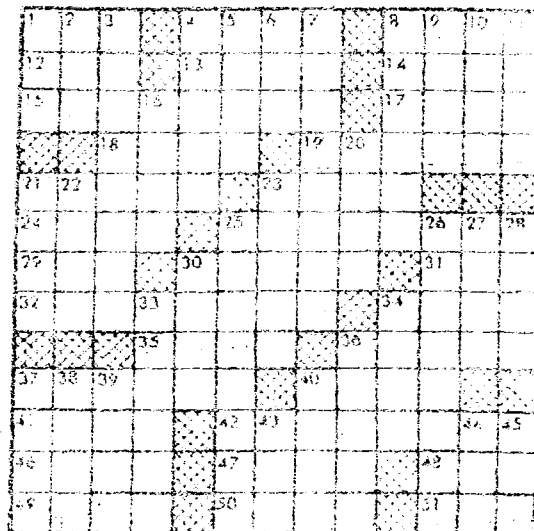
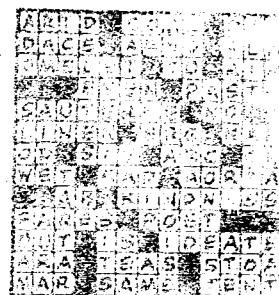
ACROSS

- ACROSS**

 - 1 Snake
 - 4 Tropical tree
 - 8 Gades
 - 12 By way of
 - 13 Genus of alines
 - 14 Picture
 - 15 Supplication
 - 17 Genus of frogs
 - 18 Comfort
 - 19 Boast
 - 21 a. soil
b. tharins
 - 22 Mental signs
 - 23 a. name
b. name
c. name
 - 24 Selling
 - 25 Anglo-Saxon
money
 - 26 Moving ears
 - 31 Burn
 - 32 Imaginary
between
 - 34 Performs
 - 35 Part of camera
 - 36 Initial
 - 37 Cause to
remember
 - 40 Take one's part
 - 41 Toward shelter
 - 42 Falls back
 - 46 Hint on property
 - 47 Algerian
airport
 - 48 Oress
 - 49 Consumes
 - 50 Remunerates
 - 51 Land prey

DOWN

 - 1 Hail
 - 2 Transgress
 - 3 Rejoice on one's
father's side
 - 4 Poetic ending
 - 5 Wings
 - 6 Adieu
 - 7 Centers of
May day sports
 - 8 Wooden tree
 - 9 Gades' name
 - 10 Every ten tree
 - 11 Float in air
 - 16 Example
 - 20 Fence
 - 21 Support
 - 22 Labels
a. name
b. name
 - 23 Gull like birds
 - 24 Drop of rain
 - 25 Enlarge
 - 27 Genes



It's a little gadget invented by the Army...anytime you want to call me at the office, just pull this little pin...

174th Avn Co Flies High

Celebrating a rare achievement among combat aviation units that of having all 28 of its ships combat ready at one time, the 174th Aviation Company recently treated members of the 3rd Brigade to an air show.

Swooping over the Brigade's forward basecamp in formation, with colored smoke pouring from the choppers, the pilots of the 174th displayed the flying abilities that have given the Bronco Brigaders such fine air support in five months of combat operations near Duc Pho.

Since the arrival of both units at LZ Bronco, the 174th has flown 13,904 hours. Over 90,000 troops and more than 5,000 tons of cargo has been rapidly and efficiently moved.

In addition to resupply missions, the "Dolphin" slicks and "Shark" gunships of the 174th have taken part in 225 combat assaults, 153 final extractions and have been credited with over 100 enemy KIA.

Formed at Fort Benning, Georgia in 1965, the 174th, now commanded by Major Thomas W. Wheat (Scott, Arkansas) arrived in Qui Nhon in April of the following year.

The 174th had seen action with Korean and ARVN units and the 101st Airborne before coming to the 3rd of the 4th.

The all important maintenance of the 8 Sikorsks and 20 Dolphins is provided by the 409th T.C. Detachment, commanded by CPT Edward L. Goff (Lucedale, Mississippi.)

His mechanics, along with the pilots, doorgunners and the helicopters, form the impressive support team of the 174th.

DRAGONS CONT.

LTC Peter P. Petro, 1/14th commander, has established the battalion command post at LZ Thunder. The Dragons have assumed an area of operations in the southern-most part of Duc Pho District.

When asked how it felt to be back with the Brigade, one infantryman replied, "Very nice, great!"

All the Dragons are ready for the enemy, but "Charlie" will be surprised when he engages the men "Right of the Line."

CHURCH CONT.

helping in the laundry. A school on the church grounds opened last Monday and promises to be as successful as the church itself has become.

The security given the Duc Pho villagers by the "Ivynen" will long be remembered, particularly by the members of the Evangelical church.

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Contributions are welcome and may be sent to: BRONCO BUGLE, 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, APO SF 96355.

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