

DUC PHO, VIETNAM

# PFC Frey Earns Silver Star

Once again another 3rd Brigade soldier has lived up to the Brigade's motto "None Better". During a recent action, PFC William Frey, a 20-year old point man with C Company, 2/35th Infantry killed three entrenched NVA soldiers who had surprised his platoon and dragged a wounded comrade to safety.

For his outstanding performance, PFC Frey was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in a ceremony at the Brigade command post by General Dwight E. Beach, CG of USARPAC. Following the pinning of the medal, General Beach congratulated the Bronco soldier and presented him his own personal cigarette lighter as a further remembrance of the occasion.

The 1st platoon of "C-Charlie" Company entered a village north of Duc Pho on a search and destroy mission. Splitting into two files, PFC Frey was the point man for the left column as  
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## YOUNG NVA CHIEU HOI'S

Drafted at 13 and sent to South Vietnam at 14, PVT Pham Van Tinh's career in the North Vietnamese Army came to a sudden and lucky end recently when he Chieu Hoi'd to C Company, 1/35th in the hamlet of Chi Trung.

The tiny infiltrator was in a small hut near the hamlet when  
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## Tunnel Rats Search For Hidden VC

Working with only entrenching tools, a flashlight and armed with .45 caliber pistols the "tunnel rats" made trip after trip into the tunnels searching for Communist guerrillas and equipment.

After a long day of digging and probing the banks of a small stream near Duc Pho, the "Cacti" platoon had searched seven tunnels, killed six VC, captured three weapons, five detainees, and numerous hand grenades.  
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# PFC Frey's Star

*Cont.*

the infantrymen of the "Cacti Blue" battalion began their house to house search.

The platoon neared a small hut, unaware of the danger lurking nearby. From a trench to the rear of the hut the right column came under automatic weapons fire.

His column undetected, Frey and the second man in line rushed around the house to assault the enemy position. As they approached the trench, four or five rounds tore up the ground nearby. Dropping to one knee, Frey sprayed the trench pinning the enemy down.

After expending a magazine, he heard moans from his partner who had been shot in the side. Frey grabbed the wounded man and dragged him to safety around the building where a medic began administering aid.

The aggressive point man rushed back to the action. From his hiding place along side the hut, he peeked around the corner and sent another magazine of lead into the enemy-filled trench not four feet from his position.

Eyeing the trench while he reloaded, Frey spotted another NVA about 20 feet away. The Communist fired three rounds, missing each time, and was killed by the "Cacti" soldier before he could duck back to cover.

Frey spotted another NVA soldier about five feet from him. He hurled three grenades into the trench, letting the handle fly before throwing as he was so close.

When no fire was returned from the trench, the platoon re-

grouped to investigate. Three Communists were found dead, all credited to the young Pennsylvanian, along with an SKS, AK-47 M-79 grenade launcher and a B-40 rocket launcher.

## BRONCOS KILL A "COMPANY" A WEEK

Again the 3rd Brigade led all Task Force Oregon units with over half the enemy kills for the period 20-28 July.

Leading the way, the Bronco Brigade killed 131 enemy while the combined total for all the units of Oregon was 255 enemy KIA.

For several weeks now, the 3rd Brigade has been knocking off the Communist troops at a fantastic rate. The totals have been the equivalent of about an enemy company a week.

The action this past week was concentrated in the 2/35th's AO north of Duc Pho. Extensive search and destroy missions are digging "Charlie" out of his hiding places.

On July 26, infantrymen, airstrikes and gunships combined to kill 40 VC. The Air Force F-4Cs and the gunships of 174th Aviation Company were instrumental in the day's tally.

Fighting the "other war", the Brigade's civil affairs teams continued to help the Vietnamese. MEDCAP missions treated about 2000 patients. Construction projects in Duc Pho continued on three schools, wells and refugee camps.

## 2/35 CLEARS TUNNELS CONT.

"We moved in here purely on an educated guess," said First Lieutenant John G. Denino. "We had been receiving sniper fire from this location so we decided to make a thorough search."

Dividing into search teams, the 3rd Platoon, A Company, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry set about the tedious mission of hunting the entrenched enemy.

"The area was full of spider holes and tunnels," related Private First Class Andrew MacGregor, "We had to search them all and many were hard to find."

Most of the tunnels were along the banks of a small stream. The entrances were well-camouflaged behind bamboo and dense vine thickets. The infantrymen cautiously probed each thicket looking for a path which might give away the location of the entrance. A door made of either sticks or boards covered by dirt and grass concealed the exact location.

It was mid-morning when PFC MacGregor and PFC Herman E. Bowens discovered a worn path leading into a bamboo thicket. The two had barely started digging when they hit the sticks covering the entrance. As one stick was removed, PFC Gerald McAfee, who had joined the pair, caught a glimpse of a weapon muzzle. Rifle fire tore into the entrance followed by grenades.

Next PFC Benjamin Chavet, the platoon's ace tunnel rat, went to work searching out the tunnel. Three VC were killed and three weapons captured.

The search teams once again set about the hot and tedious task. Probing the bamboo thick-

## V. C. Loses Cover of Night

The night began like an ordinary night for the Reconnaissance Platoon of the 1/35th.

"Recon" had received its resupply and eaten evening chow. In the afternoon they had selected ambush sites. Now, under the cover of darkness the platoon was in position.

Late in the night, two Viet Cong were spotted moving toward the well-hidden ambush. Waiting until the enemy was trapped, the infantrymen opened fire and killed the two. A search of the area produced two pistols and several documents.

The hard pressing operations of the 3rd Brigade on the coastal plains of Duc Pho are depriving "Charlie" the cover and concealment of night, one of his most valuable assets.

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ets again proved fruitful as another tunnel was discovered. Again the call went out for PFC Chavet. Although "Charlie" had abandoned the tunnel, grenades and new boxes of ammo were captured.

Moments later another tunnel was located. Quickly the men sprang into action and, this time it was occupied. As a grenade was hurled from the entrance, the men dove for cover. Rifle fire drove the VC from the entrance and grenades were tossed in. Three VC, web gear, and grenades were taken from the tunnel.

It was quite a day for the 3rd platoon. Accounting for more than a squad of guerrillas they certainly lived up to the Brigade's motto, "None Better."

# YOUNG cont CHIEU HOI

SSG Meredic Dube's squad from the 3rd platoon moved in and surrounded the building. He came out of the door with his hands up and yelled..."Chieu Hoi!"

SSG Dang, the battalion's interpreter, asked the youth a few preliminary questions for CPT John H. Cavender, the company commander, and suddenly shook his head and looked puzzled.

"He is North Vietnamese, he speaks with their accent," Dang said.

Van Tinh's story then came quickly and willingly.

He was drafted at 13 years of age last year and took three months of infantry training at the NVA training center in Hoa Binh with other 13-year olds.

"He says they were drafting youths his age a year ago and still are," related Dang.

The NVA youngster was put into an infiltration unit and sent on the long arduous walk toward battle in the South, carrying only a rifle.

On May 19, Van Tinh's battalion was walking toward a rendezvous with death at the foot of a tunnel-laced mountain two kilometers south of Chi Trung. Eighty-one of his comrades died, when the "Cacti Green" caught the NVA unit and mauled it in a 30-hour battle.

Van Tinh was lucky, he missed the fight. Sick with malaria, he was left to the mercy of local Viet Cong, and his weapon was taken.

He was told that when he was well he would be picked up by his unit, but they never came.

He was frightened when the big GI's approached the village, but tired of his meager subsistence, he willingly rallied.

Taking a liking to the boy the "Cacti" brought him in for further questioning and supplied him with clothing and food.

"Charlie" Company hopes that Van Tinh can go through the Kit Carson scout training program and come back to them as an adopted son. He had already decided that the American Army treated him better than the Communists on only his second day with them.

## 1/35 Honors Major Smith

During a recent ceremony at the forward fire base of the 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry, Air Force Major Murray L. Smith was made an honorary member of the "Cacti Green" by Major James E. Moore, battalion commander.

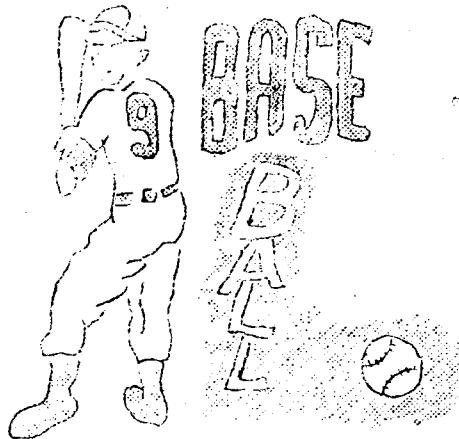
For the past several months Major Smith has served as FAC (Forward Air Controller) for the 3rd Brigade. The 1/35th cited him for his skill, interest, and enthusiasm which provided the ultimate in air support. Along with the citation, Major Smith was presented a set of battalion crests as a memento of his service.

This tour has been a reunion for Majors Smith and Moore. Under an exchange program Major Moore attended the U. S. Air Force Staff and Command College and in the same class was Major Smith.

Soon off to the wild blue yonder, Major Smith will be leaving the 3rd Brigade, going to another assignment in Vietnam.

# FEATURE PAGE

## MAJOR LEAGUE



### NATIONAL LEAGUE

	W	L	Pct.	GB
St. Louis	57	40	.588	—
Chicago	56	41	.577	1
Atlanta	50	43	.538	5
Cincinnati	52	46	.531	5 1/2
San Fran.	51	47	.520	6 1/2
Pittsburgh	47	47	.500	8 1/2
Phila.	46	47	.495	9
Los Angeles	42	53	.442	14
New York	38	55	.409	17
Houston	39	59	.398	18 1/2

### AMERICAN LEAGUE

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Chicago	55	40	.579	—
Boston	52	41	.559	2
California	54	44	.551	2 1/2
Detroit	50	43	.538	4
Minnesota	49	43	.533	4 1/2
Washington	46	52	.469	10 1/2
Baltimore	43	51	.457	11 1/2
Cleveland	44	53	.454	12
Kansas City	42	55	.433	14
New York	40	53	.430	14

## TEST YOUR FACTS

1. The most widely spoken Western language is:

- (a) Russian. (b) Spanish.
- (c) English.

2. The Bureau of Printing and Engraving is part of:

- (a) Justice Dept. (b) Treasury Dept.
- (c) Commerce Dept.

3. The Civil War began in:

- (a) Tennessee. (b) South Carolina.
- (c) Virginia.

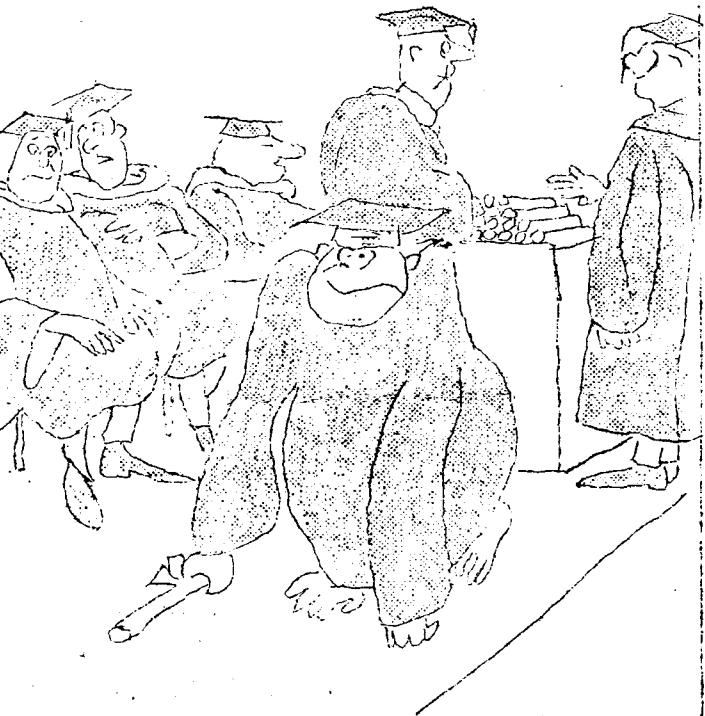
4. The nearest planet to the Earth is:

- (a) Venus. (b) Mars.
- (c) Jupiter.

5. Bronze is an alloy of copper and:

- (a) tin. (b) iron.
- (c) zinc.

Answers on page 6



Well, so much for the true and false method of examination.

# Recon Nails VC Official

The Viet Cong infrastructure in Duc Pho District was dealt a severe blow when the Recon Platoon of the 1/35th flushed out and killed a high ranking VC official along with four local guerrilla.

The platoon was lead to the village by a Chieu Hoi who, after rallying, reported that he could lead American troops to where the five were hiding.

Upon arriving in the village he pointed out a chicken coop under which was a hidden bunker. The well concealed door was found but the hiding enemy held it closed while the "Cacti" troops tried to open it.

Suddenly it opened part way and two grenades were tossed out by the VC. A Psyops team was called to the scene but were unable to persuade the Viet Cong to surrender.

In an effort to flush the Communists out, squad leader, SGT James A. Hull, took the explosives out of two claymore mines and attached them to the door. The explosion caved in part of the bunker, but the VC began firing when the infantrymen approached.

Withstanding grenades and rifle fire, the VC held on until SGT Hull crawled up to the hole and dropped in another claymore.

Following the blast, the Recon Platoon searched the bunker uncovering the five dead VC and four weapons.

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# CHARLIE DIGS SOUNDS TOO!

"Charlie's" increasing interest in modern conveniences may be an attempt to make his meager existence a little more pleasant but can also get him into trouble.

Moving out to a night ambush site recently, C Company, 2/35th stopped to take a break after hiking about three kilometers. Company commander, CPT James W. Lanning, heard music playing.

As everyone began whispering, "Hey, who's got that radio? Turn that thing off." a nearby squad spotted two armed Viet Cong coming down a trail toward the company's position--playing a radio.

The "Cacti" troops opened up, nailing the two Communists. Besides capturing the VC's weapons and web gear, a brand new transistor radio was produced.

One soldier added, "Hanoi Hannah really led Charlie down the wrong trail tonight!"

## Test Your Facts Answers

1. (c) English
2. (b) Treasury Dept.
3. (b) South Carolina
4. (a) Venus
5. (a) tin

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