



**A THREE STAR CAKE**—Former 25th Division Commander LG Fred C. Weyand, now head of the US II Field Force, cuts a cake presented him in honor of his recent promotion. MG John C. F. Tillson III, present division commander, looks on. The cake-cutting took place in the General's Mess at Cu Chi.

# Town Council Visits

DAU TIENG—Fifteen members of the town council of Dau Tieng helped the men of the 2nd Bn, 77th Arty, celebrate Independence Day here while they were escorted around the base camp by LTC Fred J. Merritt, the battalion commander. Their visit was highlighted by an aerial view of Dau Tieng from a small OH-23G observation helicopter.

Beginning early in the morning the visitors, one woman and 14 men, were taken for coffee at the Redlegs NCO club where introductions were made. After the introductions, a tour of the firing battery area where the methods of executing a fire mission were explained and demonstrated. The blast of the 105mm

howitzer round left a few of the visitors ears ringing but they were obviously interested in the operation of the gun section through the number of questions asked during the demonstration.

A short walk to the metro station gave the Vietnamese some idea of the weather data which is collected every day for the use in computing artillery concentrations. A weather balloon was launched and inside the instrument shack the visitors watched as the transmitter from the balloon sent back the height of the clouds, the temperature

and humidity at different levels, and the direction and speed of the wind in the upper altitudes.

A ride on a "Duster" track around the area brought the group back to the "Lanyard Lounge" where refreshments were served before going to dinner in the Headquarters Battery mess hall.

For the trip back to 3rd Bde. Headquarters, COL Merritt arranged to have his OH-23 helicopter ferry the dignitaries two by two after circling Dau Tieng to let them see what their town is like from the air.

## Nurse Trails Future Hubby To Vietnam

DUC PHO — Life is not a honeymoon in Vietnam, but it may lead to one for 1LT Carl F. Stout and 1LT Mary P. Reis.

On completion of their tours in Vietnam, the two Army officers plan to be married.

Most soldiers here are troubled because they are halfway around the world from their sweethearts, but you can even be troubled by being 40 miles apart assures Stout.

Stout is an artillery forward observer in the 3rd Bde, 25th Inf Div, near Duc Pho, while Mary is serving in the Army Nurse Corps at the 2nd Surg Hosp in Chu Lai. Since arriving in Vietnam last December, the two have been able to see each other three times.

The artillery lieutenant and his fiancée met in the officer's club at Fort Ord, Calif. About the time their romance began to flourish he received orders for Vietnam. The pretty nurse then volunteered for duty in Vietnam also.

On June 5, during a break in a fire mission, Stout received a delayed happy birthday message from his future wife over the radio. After receiving the message, everyone on the net broke in with more birthday greetings for the surprised F.O.

## New 3rd Bde CO

DUC PHO — COL George E. Wear has assumed command of the 3rd Bde Task Force, 25th Inf Div, succeeding COL James G. Shanahan who has returned to the States.

Upon assuming command, Wear praised the men and said he considered it a great honor to have the opportunity to command the brigade.

A 1944 graduate of West Point, the colonel began his military career as a rifle platoon leader in World War II. He served as a company commander and battalion commander during the Korean War.

He is a graduate of the Command and General Staff College, Armed Forces War College, Army War College, and holds a master of science degree in International Affairs from George Washington University.

"I will do everything within my power to provide the guidance and leadership at the top that every brigade deserves and must have," COL Wear said during the ceremony.

Guest speaker was MG Wil-

liam R. Peers, commanding general of the 4th Inf Div. MG Peers welcomed the new commander and said, "He (COL Wear) comes to us and to your brigade with all the credentials and with a high degree of professionalism."

### Bobzien 2/9 CO

DUC PHO — LTC Gerald B. Bobzien has assumed command of the 2nd Bn, 9th Arty, during a ceremony at the tactical command post of the 3rd Bde, 25th Inf Div. He succeeds COL Bruce Holbrook.

In accepting his new post the colonel stated, "If I had been offered my choice of any battalion in Vietnam I would have chosen the 'Mighty Ninth' based on my previous experience with it and based on the 3rd Bde's record in Washington."

During the year preceding COL Bobzien's assumption of command, the battalion made 151 battery displacements by helicopter, a record in the U.S. Army.



**CREW CHIEF FIDDLES WHILE PILOT BURNS**—PFC Kelly Jones of Nevada, Mo., is apparently holding up a helicopter mission, to the chagrin of WO pilot Gordon Oxford of Gordon, Ala., as he practices his fiddling. Jones is a professional Country and Western fiddler now in Vietnam serving as a crew chief with the 25th Avn Bn, 25th Inf Div.

## Advisory Team Helps Duc Pho

DUC PHO — The sign over the door reads, "We have done so much with so little, we can now do anything with nothing."

In the short seven months that CPT Peter R. Bankson has served as subsector advisor in Duc Pho District, the community has undergone a considerable change. Once firmly in the grip of the Viet Cong, Duc Pho has gained its freedom and is rapidly learning the ways of democracy.

Working hand-in-hand with the district chief, Bankson's five-man MACV advisory team has helped the village get on its feet. Schools, refugee camps and private homes are rapidly going up. As many as 30 to 40 homes are built a week.

Improving the small police force was a real feat. It was the first Vietnamese law in

many parts of the district in years.

"Security was definitely our biggest problem," reflected Bankson. "Before the 3rd Bde, 25th Inf Div, moved into the area it was next to impossible to reach the local villages and hamlets. Each time we ventured out of the compound we faced the possibility of attack by VC in the area."

Now with the security provided by the infantrymen, the team has been able to expand its operation in helping the Vietnamese.

Staying in the background, the team assists the district chief in his plans to improve the people's lives through the teaching of modern farming techniques and self-government.

The sign over the door of the MACV compound will soon be changed to "We've done it!"

## HB Section Has Moved

If you are packing your war trophies, tape recorders and old letters for the trip home, remember that the Hold Baggage Section has moved to its new location beside the APO.

The move provides the section with more room. Being near the APO is convenient.

One copy of your orders will be necessary to get shipping boxes. Boxes built to your specifications can be ordered in a few days.

## Viet Cong To See Red

DUC PHO—While operating in the Duc Pho area the 3rd Bde Task Force has made several unusual discoveries. The latest was 30 red scarves.

While on a search and destroy mission northwest of Duc Pho the reconnaissance platoon of the 1st Bn, 35th Inf, found 30 red scarves hidden in a small village. The curious platoon leader, 1LT John McRae, called for an interpreter.

The interpreter explained to the infantrymen that the VC wear these scarves on their arms during mass attacks so that they can identify their men.



**HELPING HAND**—A soldier from the 1st Bn, 35th Inf, slices raw sugar for these Vietnamese women. The 3rd Bde, 25th Inf Div, is lending a hand to the villagers in the Duc Pho area. (Photo by PFC Eric Schmidt)

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**STEREO SOLDIER—PFC Bobby E. May carries a loud speaker system on a search and destroy mission with the 3rd Bde, 25th Inf Div. Psychological Operations teams use the speakers with Vietnamese interpreters when approaching a village.**