

## Take Detainees, VC Flag

# Bullets Have Last Laugh

By PFC Jerald Krepps  
**CAMP RADCLIFF** — A cordon and search mission, conducted by Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry, resulted in four detainees, the confiscation of a Viet Cong (VC) flag and the last laugh for the Bullets.

The rugged infantrymen moved out at dusk and arrived at the village just before daybreak. They immediately positioned themselves around the village. Then teams were organized which encircled the more than 4,000 meter perimeter.

At sunrise, the National Police and American MED-CAP Teams arrived for their portion of the mission.

While the police interrogated suspects, the MED-CAP teams, headed by Bullet surgeon, Captain Matt Howard of Atlanta, treated medical problems in the village.

"The VC in this area have a good sense of humor," explained Delta's Company Commander, Captain Archibald Caldwell of Oklahoma City. "They moved in approximately 400 meters behind us and put up a large VC flag on a hill to let us know we didn't get all of them."

"We were walking down the road when all of a sudden three children ran up

to us pointing in the direction of the hill and shouting 'VC flag, VC flag,'" recalled Specialist 4 Alfred Tomez of Los Angeles. "I spotted it and called Captain Caldwell."

A platoon of tanks from the 1st Battalion, 69th Armor, which was attached to the Bullets for the operation, was ordered to sweep the area around the flag. The tanks exploded several anti-personnel traps

meant for anyone attempting to remove the flag.

"In a counter offensive of trickery, we got the last laugh," smiled Captain Caldwell.

The Popular Forces (PF) working with Delta Company on this operation moved up the hill after the tanks and captured the flag. They presented it to 1st Lieutenant Bobby Allen of Birmingham, Ala., the liaison officer with the PFs.

## Bugs Upstaged By Human Soul Sound

**OASIS** — The closest an infantryman in the field comes to hearing after-dinner music is that familiar evening sound that every creature that flies, creeps or crawls makes as it sneaks around and claims the countryside as its own.

As night falls the soldier is greeted with the weird orchestral arrangement made by mosquitoes and beetles on the prowl, small animals stumbling and bumbling their way through the brush to nowhere, and lizards that are rumored to cry obscenities from the night.

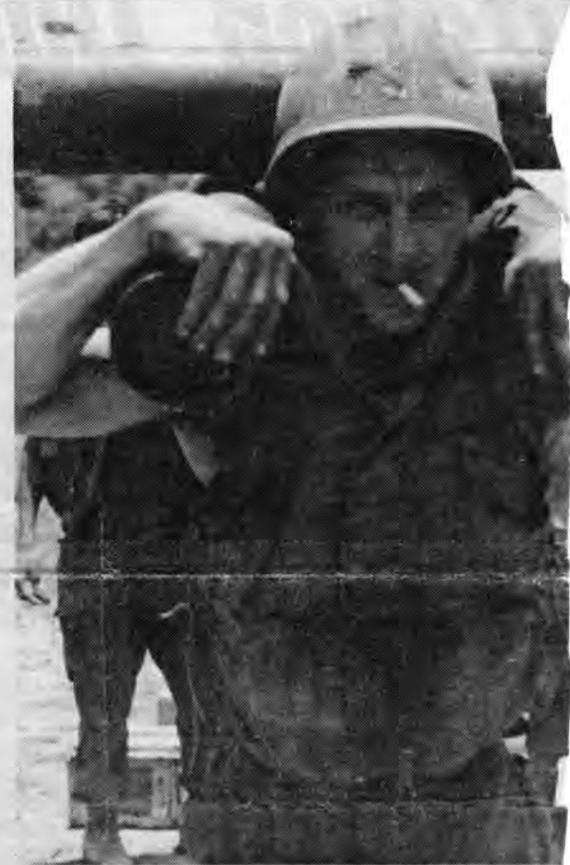
The men of the 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry were afforded a rare treat one

recent night by foregoing this usual evening's entertainment in favor of Sergeant Lacey's "Music Makers" of the Quin Nhon Special Services.

The seven-piece band's program began with a rendition of "My Girl" and from then on Landing Zone (LZ) Ruth rocked with the big sounds. Sergeant Lacey, a guitarist from New York City, led his group through a host of popular numbers which delighted the Braves.

"We like to play the fire-ases because these guys seldom get in and therefore really appreciate it," commented the base guitar player Richard Crabtree. The big Texan from Beaumont couldn't have been more correct; it was indeed a treat.

The other nocturnal creatures in the vicinity canceled their usual noisy display; they must have fallen victims to the sound of soul.



**WORKLOAD**—A Famous Fighting Fourth Division Charlie Battery, 4th Battalion, 42nd Artillery, casings at Landing Zone No Slack.

(USA Photo By SP)

## An Eye On Ch

**HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS** — The small, single engined Bird Dog glided beneath threatening clouds just above Highway 14, as its pilot coordinated with the commander of a convoy that slowly rumbled down the road.

The 2nd platoon of the Fourth Division Military Police (MP) at Highlander Heights has received an observation plane from the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV), that promises to play an important role in the newly developed combined National Vietnamese Police and MP highway patrol.

"The Bird Dog flies above the convoy along the entire route from Pleiku to Dak To," explained 1st Lieutenant James Foster of Akron, Ohio, the MP platoon leader.

"It checks ahead of the convoy for any possible breaks in

the road, enemy or vehicle break

Lieutenant Foster explained the Bird Dog's ter:

"With this aerial observation hours without r. This enables without being in

"We also have ships providing a ity for the convo Foster emphasize

The plane m contact with the mander, reporting usual and alerti possible danger.

"We are all with the way th ing," Lieutenant "Its assistance patrol system is



**ALWAYS ALERT**—Watching the area in front of his bunker, this Panther from the 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 8th Infantry, does what all soldiers in Vietnam must do. He prepares for the unexpected by providing an alert guard, the constant vigil surrounding American installations.

(USA Photo By PFC Dan Weaver)

## Pass The Alka-Seltzer Pl

**CAMP RADCLIFF** — It might not be talked about as long as the famed battles of the Hillbilly Hatfield-McCoy, but the Fourth Infantry Division's Hatfield-Hatfield battle proved to be plenty of excitement for all witnesses — enough, in fact, to make you choke.

It all began when Sergeant Ronnie Hatfield of Williamson, W. Va., aid to the 1st Brigade commander, registered a slight boast. "I bet I can eat more hamburgers than any other Hatfield around."

Sitting quietly across the room at the time of the boast was Sergeant Robert Hatfield of Plattsmouth, Neb., an intelligence specialist with the 1st Brigade. "I might just take you up on that one," the second Hatfield smiled.

Preparations for the battle began, volunteers were called in to act as judges and to run the relay to the An Khe USO for the needed hamburgers.

"I didn't think they would actually go through with it," smiled one of the pretty judges, Miss Dorris Hecht of Baltimore, Md., a Red Cross worker. "Then the next thing I knew, they were both shoveling hamburgers into their mouths."

One hour and 17 minutes and

19 hamburgers later, Sergeant Ronnie Hatfield had proven his boast to his challenger and the amazed spectators.

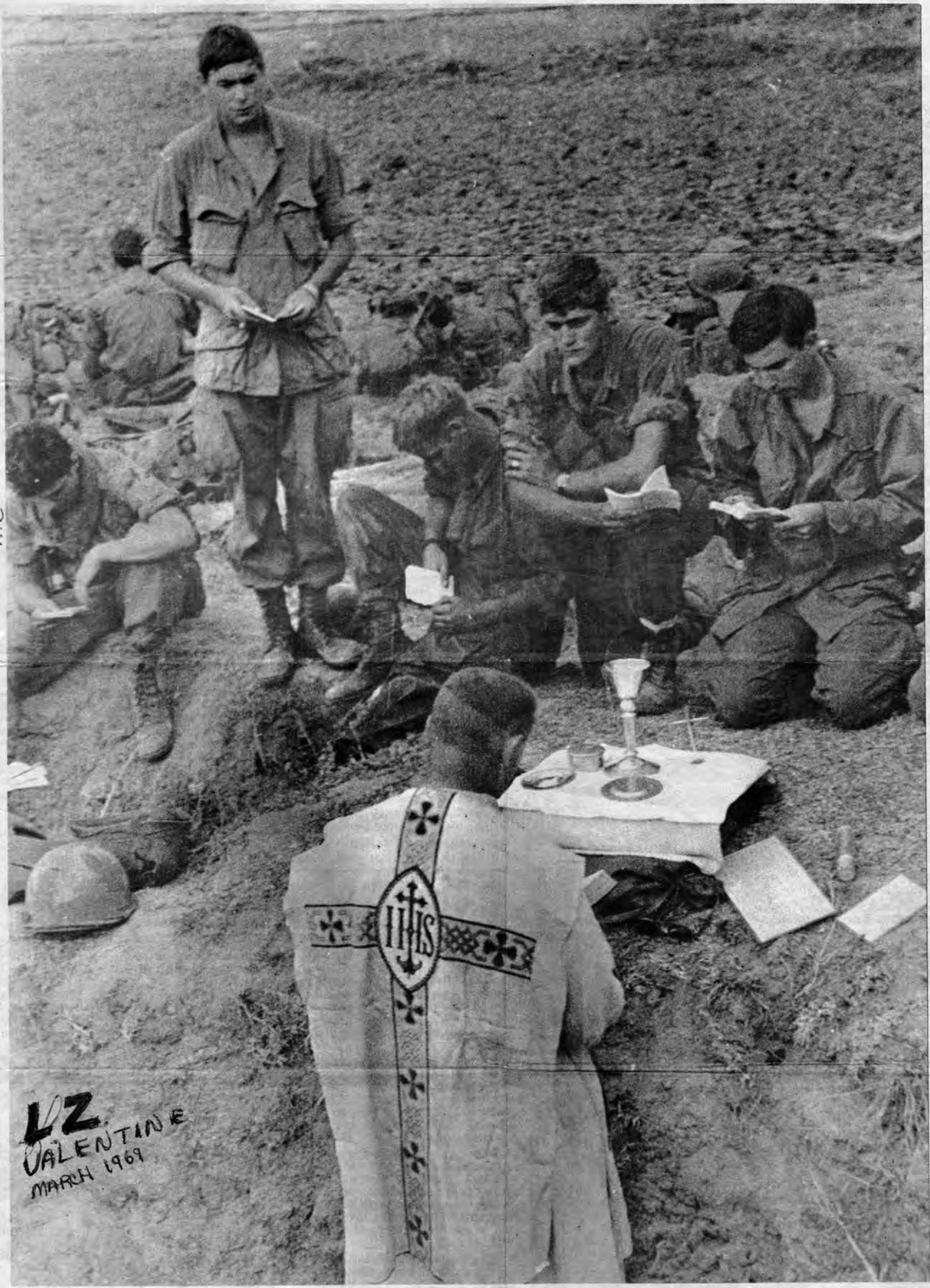
"I really didn't think he could beat me," said the losing Sergeant Robert Hatfield. "We were almost even going into our tenth hamburger, then I started to slow down and he just kept shoving them in."

"Bob made a good challenge. Anyone who can eat 14 hamburgers is O.K. in my book," the winner chuckled.

When asked if terested in sta throughout Viett Hatfield moaned wants to beat it come to try, but think I'll ever be other hamburger



# Worship During 'Longest Year'



me

**LZ**  
VALENTINE  
MARCH 1969

Photos By SP4 Al Erickson And SP5 John S. Ryan