



the CHARGER



196th LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE (SEP)

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"Charger 10000" Hit For Third Time

For the third time VC have fired upon a sleek Huey nicknamed, "Charger 10,000", who's pilot is Brigadier General Richard T. Knowles, brigade commanding general. The helicopter is recognized by the brigade patch painted on each door, plus its serial number 10,000. Either the VC well know the markings on the general's helicopter or it just happens to be their number one target. But whatever the case, the VC's marksmanship has damaged the chopper each time.

It was during Operation CEDAR FALLS, that the ship began it's string of "hits". The ship was fired upon while on the ground. Several rounds came to rest in the fuselage.

The second incident happened as the chopper was leaving the battalion's forward command post when automatic weapons fire ripped through the ship's "skin", and entered the fuel tank. One round entered the leg of a passenger, and the ship made a controlled "forced" landing.

Recently, the VC emitted a barrage of small arms fire from the jungle canopy as the craft hovered 150 feet above the troops of the 2d Bn., 1st Inf., in an effort to accomplish a limited resupply in the thick jungle below. The baptism of fire entered the ship's structure, most of which hit the rotor blades and fuselage. Again, a passenger was wounded in the leg. The ship returned to the brigade's forward command post, with fuel leaking from it's main tank.

Ironically, the craft has been hit on the same side, in all three incidents, and it has always been fired upon while at the 2d Bn., 1st Inf's, forward areas. Twenty rounds of enemy fire have been totaled at last count.

MODEST VIET CONG SHOWS TRUE COLORS

After a hard night dodging American artillery fire, even Charlie likes to clean up a bit and relax with a soothing swim. One such VC recently learned that uninvited guests can really spoil the party at the old swimming hole.

The 2d Bn., 1st Inf., was on a search and destroy mission during Operation JUNCTION CITY. With Co. B in the lead, the battalion slogged through marshy ground and bamboo thickets.

The lead element came into a clearing and spotted a VC swimming around in a creek in the distance. Charlie, suffering from an acute case of modesty, didn't even take time to return to shore for his clothes. Instead, he showed speed and versatility with a record freestyle downstream, followed by a swift sprint into the jungle.

A squad was dispatched to track down the frightened bather, while his clothes, wallet and web-gear were policed up. It is little wonder that Charlie did not return for his wallet, for he had only about ten dollars worth of North and South Vietnamese currency.

CO. C, 3/21 LEADS FIRST WEEK YEARBOOK SALES

The first week of the yearbook sales campaign has ended with Company C, 3d Bn., 21st Inf., leading all other "Charger" units in sales.

Lt. James G. Mikesell, project officer for the



company, reported 69% of his unit has purchased the 112 page book which includes 16 pages of "living" color.

You can still order your yearbook through your unit project officer. DO IT TODAY.

The Cold War GI Bill
*was enacted for the ben-
*efit of all eligible vet-
*erans. Ask about it, it
can do a lot for
you.

Armament Crew "Keeps" The Men Shooting"

CG AWARDED LEGION OF MERIT

Possibly the un-sung heroes of the Brigade are the men of the brigade's armament section, Co. B, 8th Spt. Bn. "If we can't fix it we feel, I can safely say no one can. It's our job to keep the men shooting," said CWO Herbert M. Ayars (Bridgeton, N.J.), head of the brigade's armament section, who's job it is to repair and inspect everything from a .45 cal. pistol to the 175mm Howitzer.

The nine men of the section are under the leadership of both CWO Ayars and section chief SFC Ranzie M. Poe (Eliot Rd., Ft. Devens, Mass.). Since their arrival in Vietnam in August, they have received approximately 1400 job orders. "Each job order may call for more than one weapon to be repaired, though", Mr. Ayars added.

In the course of a week the men repair a combined average of 100 weapons and instruments. The variety of equipment repaired is many. They include small arms, artillery, aircraft machine-guns, binoculars, sights, and many more. They over-haul and check each piece of equipment with precision accuracy and test fire in a specially designed pit, all weapons that do not have an explosive shell.

"The weapon we have the biggest problem in repairing is, believe it or not,

the ordinary shot-gun. This is only because it is very difficult to get parts for it, since it was not originally intended to be used by U.S. Forces. Many times we make parts for it ourselves," commented Mr. Ayars.

They also pride themselves in being mobile. Making on-the-spot repairs in the field, where the equipment is vital, is an important part of their job. Many times they find themselves working for units other than the brigade. "Any unit that happens to be in our operational area, is dependant upon us for maintenance. We have repaired equipment for special forces teams and even for near-by ARVN training centers", continued Mr. Ayars.

The men go through a rigorous eight to twelve week training period at various places in the States to become specialists in their field. Commenting on the training, Ayars said, "In Vietnam you run into situations that you would never dream of in school. The men learn quite a bit more by actual experience."

With new equipment being put into use the men never really quit learning.

It's a big job of great importance and one that gives rewarding satisfaction and no one appreciates it more than the soldier behind the many weapons Co. B keeps in operation.

Brigadier General Richard T. Knowles, Brigade commander, has been awarded the Legion of Merit (first oak leaf cluster) for distinguishing himself by exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service.

General Knowles earned the award while serving as Chief of Staff, II Field Force, Vietnam, from January, 1966, to November, 1966. Assigned to the Field Force 60 days prior to its arrival in country, he devoted every measure of his vast experience and tenacious drive to ensure the preparation of necessary facilities.

Using his vast combat experience and astute foresight, he welded the tactical operation center into the vital nucleus of the headquarters.

Working long and arduous hours, he improved every section and facet of the staff. Through his professionalism, perseverance and unremitting devotion to duty, he made an immeasurable contribution to the effectiveness of the Field Force in the overall counterinsurgency effort in the Republic of Vietnam.

The award was presented in ceremonies at the Field Force Headquarters by Lt. Gen. Jonathan O. Seaman.

FORGET SOMETHING ?



"THE CHARGER"



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Village and Hamlet Elections

3 COMPLETE MACV "RECONDO" TRAINING SCHOOL

With forthcoming village and hamlet elections, the Republic of Vietnam will take an important step toward the development of representative government in the countryside.

The spring elections will restore self-government at the local level. Key administrative officials of villages and hamlets will be elected.

Since the VC consider the development of representative government in rural Vietnam as the greatest threat to their political survival, they are expected to mount a campaign of terror and intimidation against the elections. The polling dates will be arranged to permit employment of security forces against any intended sabotage or interference.

Beginning 2 April, elections will be conducted on five consecutive Sundays in the villages. The hamlet elections will begin on 14 May and run for five Sundays. Some 1300 villages and 5500 hamlets will elect officials.

The coming elections flow directly from the commitment to the evolution of representative institutions undertaken by the Government of Vietnam at the Manila Summit Conference last October. During the conference, the Vietnamese representative stated that "the democratic process must be strengthened at the local as well as the national level." It was also announced that "GVN will begin holding village and hamlet elections at the beginning of 1967."

The spring elections are an on-schedule fulfillment of that self-imposed commitment. They will

strengthen the support and influence of the forces committed to representative government.

The significance of the village and hamlet elections looms greater when one considers that the Vietnamese people have struggled bravely toward the principles of self-government and independence for centuries. The immensity of building a nation while at war is staggering. The Vietnamese are making a gallant effort.

All echelons of government in the Republic of Vietnam have demonstrated on two occasions—the provincial elections of May 1965 and the Constitutional Assembly election of last September—their capability for insuring an honest, secret and effective choice of peoples' representatives. The coming presidential elections—expected later this year after adoption of the Constitution—will provide yet another step in the evolution of representative government.

The forthcoming village and hamlet elections further manifest the GVN commitment to serve the best interest of the Vietnamese people by granting power to elected and responsible leadership. The spring balloting can play a major role in winning popular support for the Revolutionary Development Program by giving the people's elected representatives the main voice of their own local affairs.

The elections and the local improvements resulting will provide an attractive alternative to the false promises of the Viet Cong.

Three members of the Brigade's Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LLRP) recently graduated from the MACV Reconnaissance School at Nha Trang.

The brigade's new graduates are SP4 Paul A. Rosselle (Hoboken, N.J.), SP4 Cecil A. Crosby (Williamington, N.C.), and PFC William M. Connor (Rohway, N.J.). The reconnaissance commandos are known simply as "recondos".

"Out of our class of 53, only 22 of us graduated, and that was the largest percentage that's ever graduated from one of the classes," said Crosby. The men are trained specifically in techniques used only in Vietnam or countries with similar climate and terrain.

Upon arriving at the school, the trainees face an entrance exam in the form of a map test. Failing the entrance exam qualifies a student for 40 hours of night classes in mapreading and a second chance at the test.

Another day finds the recondo trainees climbing a 40-foot rope ladder, with and without field gear, as it dangles from a helicopter overhead. "Usually, there are four men holding the ladder and four men climbing," commented Connor. After seeing how things look from a birds-eye view, the men are taught to handle a rubber boat. The craft is taken offshore into the South China Sea and capsized. The trainees must get it upright and bring it in.

Mastering the techniques of water operations, it is back to the air. First at 40 feet, and then at 120 feet, the men learn the art of rappelling on ropes suspended from a Huey.

Advanced patrolling techniques account for the main portion of the three-week course. The recondos practice in six-man teams.

(Cont. Last Page)

STAY ALERT...

STAY ALIVE...

Drive
Safely!

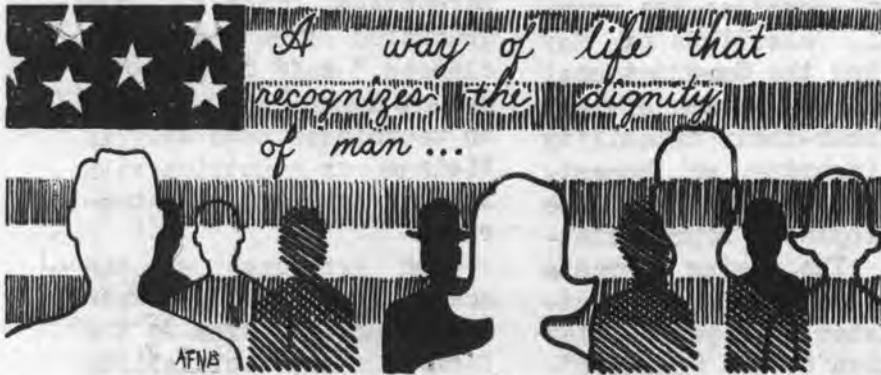
DON'T TAKE IT FOR GRANTED

As members of the Armed Forces, often assigned to duty in a foreign country, we may be called upon to explain American Democracy.

This is a difficult job sometimes inasmuch as it is hard to define an ideal. It is particularly difficult when we must put our definition into terms that have meaning to a person who has never experienced the freedoms and opportunities we take for granted.

Democracy is not limited to the United States. In various parts of the world it has developed in different ways. There are, however, certain basic ideals of democracy, common to all its areas, which inspire and mark it as a unique way of life.

In a democracy, the basic equality of men is recognized and the individual is valued more than the state. A democratic government is based upon the rule of law rather than upon the rule of men and the government is the servant of the people, not their master.



Reason and experience guide the democratic government, keeping it vital and flexible. And, although the will of the majority is the governing factor, the rights of the majority are not infringed upon.

Following these basic precepts, democratic means and procedures rather than force and coercion, are employed to gain social, political and economic goals.

These are our basic democratic ideals. Each of us has, or should have, an understanding of them and their application and relationship in our individual lives. Unless we are able to offer tangible definitions of them, we can never hope to explain them to people of another country.

As members of the Armed Forces, we must be secure in our own knowledge of the democratic principles which we defend. By our individual actions we serve as an example to millions of people in the world. (AFNB)

BSM to "Gimlet" Plat. Ldr.

1Lt. Truman P. Sullivan, of the 3d Bn., 21st Inf., has been awarded the Bronze Star Medal for heroism during Operation CEDAR FALLS.

As his platoon crossed a rice paddy, it came under hostile automatic weapons fire from four positions

in the woodline to the front. Sullivan immediately organized his lead squad into an effective fire base, then moved back through the enemy fire to organize the rest of his platoon for an assault.

Still under heavy fire, Sullivan led his element

SPORTS QUIZ

1. Who was the last major league catcher to win a batting title?
2. How many times has an NCAA Basketball Championship been won by a Texas team?
3. All-American half-back Clint Jones set a record at Michigan State. What was it?
4. Who is the only racing driver to win the Belgium Grand Prix four times in a row?

ANSWERS

1. **1965.** Lombardi of the old Boston Braves did it in 1942 in the National League with an average of .330. A catcher has never won a batting title in the American League.
2. **Just once, in 1966.** Texas Western became the first Texas team to win an NCAA title.
3. **Jones carried the ball 396 times in three years, more than any player in Spartan football history.**
4. **Jim Clark of Scotland won it from 1962 through 1965.**



across the open rice paddy and assaulted his enemy flank, routing them from their positions. Due in large part to his quick reactions and leadership, his platoon suffered no casualties in the fire fight.

CLERK DOUBLES AS BUGLER FOR HHC

Alfred Lord Tennyson's poem "The Charge of the Light Brigade" is sometimes interpreted as portraying a young bugler who prematurely played "Charge" on his bugle and caused an entire brigade to be wiped out. The "Chargers", also have a bugler, but he doubts whether his morning and evening solos will cause such a crisis.

The bugler is PFC David S. Overby of Marble Rock, Iowa, a clerk with the Civil Affairs Section of the brigade. Daily at 6 a.m., Overby plays "Reveille". At 5:30 p.m. he plays "Retreat", and at

11:00 p.m. he stands near the Chapel to officially announce the ending of the day with "Taps".

Overby, a former radio-telephone operator with the brigade's Co. D, 4th Bn., 31st Inf., commented on his new job, "A lot of guys bring their instruments with them to Vietnam, so I brought my bugle. When I came to the Civil Affairs Section I was asked if I would like to be bugler for Headquarters and Headquarters Company along with my other duties, so I volunteered."

He divides his time between teaching English

twice a week to Vietnamese school children, and clerical duties in the office. A graduate of Iowa State University, he plans writing poetry as his profession after completing his military obligation. "I've written a few poems about Vietnam which have been published in magazines in the States. One was printed in the "Poet and Critic" magazine and two have been printed in Iowa State's campus publication, "The Liberator," added Overby.

About the bugle he says, "It's a way of expressing myself."

Dentist Shows "How To Keep A Happy Smile"

Through the efforts of a dentist from the 8th Spt. Bn. the children of Tay Ninh's Co Nhi Vien Orphanage are learning "How to Keep a Happy Smile".

CPT. Walter D. Heinlein (Chicago, Ill.) made several MEDCAP visits to the orphanage, providing emergency care to the 62 children living there. Realizing that instilling proper methods of oral hygiene would result in the greatest long-range benefit to the children, CPT. Heinlein went to work and formulated a complete and extensive oral hygiene educational program.

"First", CPT. Heinlein explained, "I composed 'How to Keep a Happy Smile', a short paper on the definition of tooth decay and the necessity for good oral hygiene. Its content is very basic, and written in language the children can understand. Second, a sufficient quantity of toothpaste and a number of toothbrushes were acquired for distribution to all the children."

The operational phase of the program began with the

distribution of "How to Keep a Happy Smile", and working collectively and individually with the children to ensure that they all understood the importance of keeping their teeth clean.

"Then came the practical application, an enjoyable and rewarding experience," CPT. Heinlein noted. "As the children brushed their teeth they were given individual instruction and assistance by SP4 Gary Brewer, (Washington, D.C.), my dental assistant, and Lt. Gene Osburn (Skiatook, Okla.) Civil Affairs officer and myself."

The final phase of the program consists of charting all the children's mouths, with notations to emphasize oral hygiene. This, according to CPT. Heinlein, "will give follow-up capability, and the readiness to expand the program."

Through the efforts of CPT. Heinlein the children of Co Nhi Vien may very well prove to have the best-kept teeth in the province.

2/1 FINDS RICE, WEAPONS CACHE

Men of Co. A, 2d Bn., 1st Inf., recently turned a seemingly fruitless search and destroy mission into a success.

Despite a long and careful search of the jungle near the Cambodian border, there just didn't seem to be any VC or supplies in the area. So they started back for the forward command post (CP).

Some 350 meters from the CP the men spotted a rice bin that had been dug into the ground and partially camouflaged. Further searching revealed 75 rifle grenades, 4 homemade mines, 2 anti-tank mines and 100 rounds of 7.62mm small arms ammunition. An estimated two tons of rice was uncovered in the cache.

The men took the weapons and rice away and placed a bangalore torpedo inside the bin, which became a "has-been" moments later.

After returning to the forward CP, some of the men celebrated their success with a banquet of "Uncle Charlie's" rice, a fitting end to a long day.

Buy Bonds

- RECONDO -

Each man must be highly skilled in communications, adjustment of artillery fire and first aid procedures. Giving inoculations and taking blood specimens are part of their medical training.

They must be familiar with a wide variety of weapons, both foreign and American. One of the weapons studied is the Russian AK-47 assault rifle, used extensively by the North Vietnamese regular army.

During the third week it is back into the water again for a 200-yard swimming test, followed by a written exam covering everything the men have been taught. Following the written test comes an actual combat patrol, where theory is put into practice.

Prior to dark the patrol of five trainees and one advisor is taken by helicopter to an unsecured area and dropped off. The men are given certain areas to cover and are graded on their performance by the advisor. "The areas are not secure and you have to be constantly on the lookout for the VC. The class just before us had a patrol which captured nine VC that they had found in the area," said Rosselle.

Needless to say, the course is severe, the training excellent, and every man who receives his diploma takes great pride in becoming a recondo.

PHILCAGV DEFEATS "CHARGERS" IN 1ST VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

The Americans stood like three stud horses near the net. As the ball was set-up, one of the Americans leaped into the air and spiked it.

From the Phillipine's side of the net, the ball flicked through the air like a ping pong ball, flew over the net and fell between two Americans. The action followed that pattern the rest of the day.

MEDCAP Aids Burned Girl

A recent MEDCAP mission by the 8th Spt. Bn., to the Ninh Tho Refugee Hamlet, east of Tay Ninh, may very well have saved the life of a young Vietnamese girl.

While treating routine illnesses and injuries the MEDCAP team discovered 5-year-old Vo Thi Khuu, who tragically burned her right leg in a brush fire over two months ago. Improper treatment had caused massive infection.

Faced with this situation, doctors and medics from the battalion went to work. For the first two weeks daily trips were made to Ninh Tho to change the dressing on the burn. Plenty of soap and water were applied to cleanse the area and fight the infection.

Another week of visits and dressing changes saw the leg ready for the final step, that of skin grafting. Arrangements are now being made to carry out this final phase of treatment to insure that Vo Thi lives a normal life once again.

After the dust had settled, the Phillipine Civic Action Group Vietnam (PHILCAGV) claimed a volleyball victory over the brigade. Our allies, short in stature but long on hustle, won the first and second places in the volleyball tournament sponsored by Special Services and Civil Affairs sections.

"As far as I know, this was the first tournament of its kind in Tay Ninh," 2Lt. James A. Patrick (Youngstown, Ohio) said. Colonel Charles E. Weddle (Fayetteville, N.C.), brigade executive officer, presented the awards.

Lt. Patrick is the assistant Special Services Officer. Sponsoring the volleyball tournament is just one example of the extra services provided for the "Chargers" by the section. The Special Services and Civil Affairs sections have planned another tournament to take place soon. Teams from the brigade, PHILCAGV, and the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) will vie for top honors.

Servicemen: Watch Your Correspondence

Servicemen in Vietnam have been advised to correspond only with people whom they know and to avoid the possibility of being exploited by hostile intelligence agents through pen pal letters.

The warning was contained in an Army circular. The MACV Information Office reported that a large volume of unsolicited mail is directed to Service-

men here.

Most of the letters come from sincere people who desire to show support and encouragement for the war effort. Officials cautioned however, that some also use this means for spreading subversive material and gathering intelligence.

Servicemen were advised not to answer unsolicited mail, to refrain from writ-

ing in response to pen pal ads and not to correspond with anyone they do not know.

Any letters of a suspicious nature should be turned into the unit intelligence officer.

The Post Office Department has issued instructions that vaguely addressed mail such as "Any Serviceman in Vietnam" not be accepted for forwarding.