

Viet Children Get Goodies

DAU TIENG, Vietnam (IO)—Seven hundred "Friendship Kits" donated by the American Red Cross Youth were given to the children of the forces defending the village of Dau Tieng recently.

The gaily colored bags of goodies contained small toys, whistles, soap, crayons, toothbrushes, toothpaste and other small items.

Each bag was given to the children personally by Red Cross Field director, Al Beardsley and Jim Loomis of San Diego, Calif.

Before the presentations the Vietnamese district chief explained the gifts were from the children of America to the children of Vietnam.

Pair Cut Off From Their Comrades

In a Lonely and Dangerous Place

FIRE SUPPORT BASE CUDGEON, Vietnam (UPI) — Pfc. Quintous Scott and 1st Lt. Lee B. Alley both know what it is like to be outside friendly lines in the middle of a Viet Cong attack. They agree it is the loneliest feeling in the world.

Scott, 19, of Taylor, Tex., was cut off along with the other three men of his five team when the perimeter had to pull back in the face of a frenzied pre-dawn attack by the Viet Cong.

He lay hidden and watched Viet Cong women nurses and Communist soldiers carrying their dead and wounded

away in litters.

Alley, 21, of Laramie, Wyo., as the leader of a reconnaissance platoon which took the brunt of the attack, pulled his dead and wounded back across a deep canal to safety, then returned alone to his foxhole and fought off the Communists as long as his ammunition and grenades held out.

Then he fell back himself and called in artillery at point-blank range on the attackers. His commander is going to recommend him for a decoration.

Fire Support Base Cudgeon is a forward command and artil-

lery position for Operation Kien Giang. It is located about 60 miles southwest of Saigon on a chunk of the knee deep mud that passes for solid ground during the wet season in the Mekong Delta.

A reinforced company, two batteries of artillery and a battalion command post were at the base when it was hit in a mortar, recoilless rifle and ground attack by at least three Viet Cong companies.

Eight Americans were killed and 57 wounded before the attackers were driven off. One 105-mm howitzer was knocked

out of action and another damaged by recoilless rifle fire.

"There were just four of us in a position," said Scott. When the attack broke sometime after 2 a.m., he said, they could see the Viet Cong around them and hear them talking.

In confusion of the fight the rest of his platoon had to pull back. Scott and his men were left alone.

When they realized their plight, they laid low in the bushes. And that was when the Viet Cong came to get their dead and wounded.

"Illumination flares were up and you could see 'em plain as day," said Scott. He said there were two or three women, dressed in black pants and blouses.

"They were carrying a stretcher with something in it," he said. "There were plenty of men, most of them carrying weapons."

"One VC came out at the other side of the clearing and started yelling something and about eight of them all joined together in a little group about 50 meters away," said Scott. "So we cut loose on them." He figures they got two or three. A short time later they linked up with their platoon.

Alley was in his foxhole when the attack started over in Scott's section of the perimeter. A short time later he heard the sound of mortar rounds sliding down the tubes.

"I yelled 'incoming mortar' and they came in—real accurate," he said. "Then you could hear the Viet Cong out there talking and yelling at each other, ready to start their attack."

When they got close they opened up with M79 grenade launchers and automatic weapons, Scott said. One of his men set off a Claymore mine and they heard a scream and shouting.

"They were getting closer and their fire was getting more accurate," the lieutenant said. His radio operator got hit by shrapnel and Scott told him to get back across the canal.

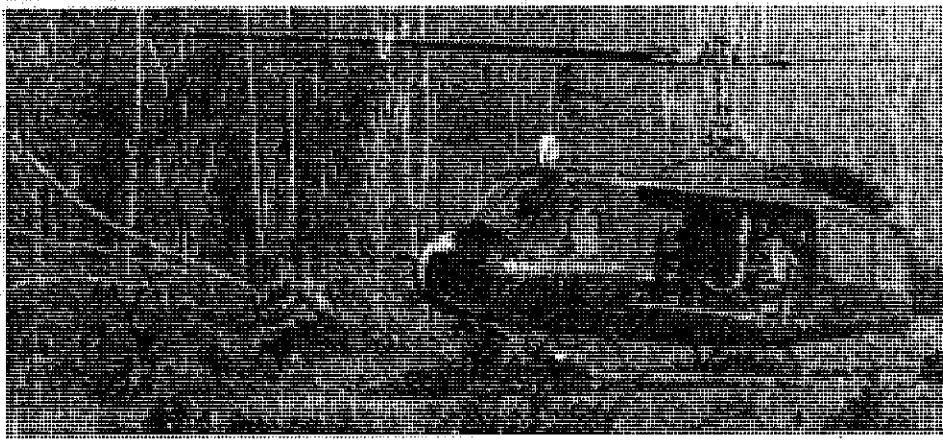
Scott told the other three men to get back also. When they ran one of them was hit in the back, so the lieutenant dragged him to the canal.

When everyone was at the canal Scott went back. "They were right in front of my bunker, throwing hand grenades at the men in the river," he said.

He fired all the ammunition out of three weapons — his own and two that had been left in the foxhole. Then he started throwing hand grenades.

When his grenades were gone Scott finally pulled back himself and called for the artillery to fire "beehive" antipersonnel shells at a range of about 250 yards where his positions had been.

The thousands of steel darts from the beehives was apparently what broke the attack's back.



Wolfhounds on the Prowl for the Enemy

Troopers of the 1st Bn., 27th Inf., "Wolfhounds," charge into a solid wall of jungle just north of the Iron Triangle, 40 miles north of Saigon. The assault was part of an operation by the 25th Inf. Div.'s 2nd Brigade. (USA Photo by Spec. 4 Gary Gatliff)

Former VC Save Marine Lives In Armed Propaganda Teams

PHU BAI, Vietnam (ISO)—A civilian force that saves Marine lives, uncovers countless booby traps and identifies Viet Cong suspects is helping Leathernecks in the Phu Bai area.

Spearheading the pacification program are 74 men of the Vietnamese government-sponsored Armed Propaganda Teams (APT), all former Viet Cong.

Marines from such activities as the Civil Affairs section of Force Logistic Support Group "Alpha" (FLSG-A) work hand in hand with the APT in a combined effort to crush the enemy in the Phu Bai area.

Accompanying Marines on combat operations in unpopulated areas, such teams are able to gather valuable information from farmers and villagers which often aids the success of these tactical missions.

"The mere presence of the APT is a demoralizing factor to the local VC because these men were once counted among their numbers," said Lt. Jim Uhl, Flagstaff, Ariz., FLSG-A civil affairs officer.

According to Fernando de los Santos, 1 Corps director for APT, his men talk to relatives and parents of VC sympathizers, explaining the Chieu Hoi program. Chieu Hoi villages are designed to house refugees who have rallied to the side of the South Vietnamese government. Juan D. Artajo, Chieu Hoi ad-

viser for Thua Thien Province, said, "APT find such face-to-face contact most effective. Its members present themselves as examples of the good the South Vietnamese government can accomplish."

Santos and Artajo are Filipino advisers to the Republic of Vietnam government.

Careful observation of those Chieu Hoi villagers who are considered good prospects for APT is made by political advisers. Ambushes are set up and when the VC are in each village, Cpl. Dave Paton, Pine Ridge, S.D., FLSG-A Marine, Attitude and loyalty to the government are top characteristics desired.

All APT members have to be volunteers. Once they are selected, they must undergo a four-week training course to orient them in the function and operations of the team," Artajo continued.

Because of day-in-day junkets

into enemy territory, the five-man teams are armed. The Phu Bai APT branch is the largest propaganda unit in South Vietnam. It began operating under its present concept in September, 1966.

"These teams are very successful. It's quite a relief to know they can find out from the people where mines are planted, ambushes are set up and who the VC are in each village," Cpl. Dave Paton, Pine Ridge, S.D., FLSG-A Marine, said.

Plans to add another platoon of 100 men have been approved for the Phu Bai area by the Ministry of Chieu Hoi in Saigon. Additionally, APT officials are contemplating assigning ranks and names to the APT members as a form of identification even though it is not a military force.

In addition, he received two Navy Public Affairs "Silver Anchor" awards: one in the category of news writing and the second in the military life-combat category.

By GERARD FORKEN
SAC Staff Correspondent

PLEI B'TEL, Vietnam — A helicopter crew at Pleiku AB were somewhat perplexed when three scantly-clad Montagnard medics climbed aboard and asked for a hop to Plei B'Tel, seven miles east of the province capital.

The medics were on an urgent mission—to give plague shots to the villagers at Plei B'Tel.

But it didn't seem right. Who ever heard of a witch doctor and his assistants making "house calls" via whirlbird?

"What's the scoop, doc?" inquired Capt. Charlie Brown, the base IO.

"Just a regular occurrence in these parts," replied Capt. Daniel Casey Conlon, one of the base doctors. "Felt it was time the villagers at Plei B'Tel had their plague shots."

Navy's Top Journalist

ABOARD USS ORISKANY IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA (PAO) — Chief Journalist Richard W. Wood, USN, attached to the staff of Rear Adm. Frederick H. Michaelis, commander, Carrier Div. 9, and currently serving on board the 7th Fleet attack carrier Oriskany off the coast of North Vietnam, has been named as the U.S. Navy's "Journalist of the Year."

Wood's selection came as a result of his outstanding work as the only surviving enlisted Navy reporter aboard Oriskany following her tragic fire Oct. 26, 1966, while operating in the Tonkin Gulf, and for his all-around capabilities in Navy Public Affairs.

In addition, he received two Navy Public Affairs "Silver Anchor" awards: one in the category of news writing and the second in the military life-combat category.

"But how come you never told us? We could have used some shots," demanded Brown.

"Sorry 'bout that!" chuckled Conlon. "Thought you guys had your plague shots up to date."

Conlon has been encouraging the local Montagnards to take greater care of their health since his arrival in Vietnam 18 months ago.

He now has six Montagnard medics serving their own people

in as many villages about Pleiku. The native medics all attended a three-month course at the local hospital.

"The Americans will not be among these people forever, nor can the 'tall strangers' change a society overnight into a modern copy of America — nor do they want to," he insisted.

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