

# 'Sixth sense' leads trooper to hidden enemy weapons

CU CHI, (101st ABN) — A soldier in combat for any period of time seems to develop a sixth sense, one that uses the other five senses to tell him "things are not quite right."

The sixth sense of a paratrooper from the 101st Airborne Division's 3rd Brigade led to a search that resulted in discovery of a recoilless rifle, mortar and eight mortar rounds.

Co. C, 3rd Bn., 187th Inf. was

conducting a reconnaissance-in-force mission near a village where contact had been made the day before when the first discovery was made.

"I was walking along looking around, when I spotted something that just didn't look right," said Spec. 4 Dale W. Daubennaire. "I took my entrenching tool and started digging. I uncovered a tripod for a recoilless rifle."

Daubennaire relayed news of his discovery to his platoon leader, Lt. James MacLachlan, who set out flank security and the rest of the platoon began searching.

"Everyone was prowling along the ground and digging all over trying to find the rest of the weapon," said MacLachlan.

A lengthy, thorough search turned up a freshly dug area, which turned out to contain the barrel of the weapon, wrapped in plastic, well-oiled, and in excellent operating condition.

"While searching for the recoilless rifle, Pfc. John P. Lodes, was making another discovery."

"I was probing with a stick in a hedgerow when I hit something hard," he said. "I thought maybe I had found what everyone was looking for."

The hard object was found to be a mortar baseplate and the search party, which had found the rifle, began concentrating its attention to the hedgerow. The excavating began again.

The group surveyed the dug-up terrain and called for a helicopter to pick up their prize finds, thanks to the sixth sense of a combat veteran.



173rd Abn Photo

COUNTING ANTS? No, this paratrooper of the 173rd Airborne Brigade stops momentarily to shift his heavy load while on recon-in-force operations east of the Central Highlands.

## Young blind enjoy presents from US

SAIGON, (1st LOG)—The little Vietnamese girl ran her hands slowly over the words "I was naughty, but Grandma still loves me," printed in bold letters across the front of her new jersey.

She had just been told they were there and what they meant. She had to be told the words were there because she could not see them—she is blind.

She was not alone in her joy and wonderment. All around her other young students of Saigon's Lasan Catholic School for the blind were busy examining—by feeling with their fingers—presents which they had just received. All had received the "I was naughty..." sweaters and other gifts such as clothing, candy, tooth brushes and toothpaste.

## Ports set records

CAM RANH BAY, (CRBSC) — The director of transportation of the Cam Ranh Bay Support Command has announced that three new material handling records were set by the support command in August.

At the Cam Ranh Bay port a record total of 224,852 tons were handled, surpassing the previous single month high set in July by 16,000 tons.

The Sub-Area Command port at Nha Trang also set a new record during August. On August 17 a total of 1,612 tons of cargo was discharged in a 24-hour period, surpassing a record that had existed for nine months.

The final record set by the 1st Logistical Command soldiers was a new mark for local-haul tonnage handled. The new standard of 71,197 short tons bettered the previous record by 17,160 short tons.

The presents were donated by the Young Women for Christ group of the Boulevard Assembly of God Church, Fort Worth, Tex. On behalf of the church group, Chaplain (Lt. Col.) James H. Woods, of the 4th Transportation Command and Lt. Col. Jerome C. Duffy, operations officer of the 125th Transportation Command, distributed the gifts to the children.

At the school, run by Brother Thinh, the children learn to read and write using the Braille system. Some of the students are studying different languages such as English and French. They also are taught to play musical instruments, and it only takes the youngsters about 10 minutes to pick up a tune by just listening.

The youngsters recently put their musical talents to work at a farewell party for Duffy. He has been involved in numerous civic affairs projects benefiting the school. The projects are sponsored by the Saigon Support Command's 4th Transportation Command, parent unit of the 125th.

## Recon, combat aces

# 'Headhunters' scan from sky

DAK TO, (4th INF)—"Headhunters" is a word first used to describe a savage in a loincloth who thought that human skulls made an ideal paperweight. The term later included 270-pound linebackers who enjoyed re-arranging facial features of opposing quarterbacks.

But in Dak To, headquarters of the 4th Infantry Division's 1st Brigade, the word has taken on still another meaning. "Headhunters," in this instance, refers to members of one of the Army's most effective aerial reconnaissance teams.

When weather permits, they fly two missions everyday, with each mission lasting approximately 2½ hours. Generally, two planes fly on each mission, one flying low and the other flying high as a safety precaution. The top plane is able to keep track of the lower plane's maneuvers and can also alert him to the position of enemy ground fire in case the first pilot's view is obstructed by foliage.

Both planes are equipped with four smoke rockets which can be used as armament or to

mark targets for following planes which carry more firepower.

Besides the reconnaissance missions, "Headhunters" participate in combat assaults, combat assault support missions, act as spotters for convoys and aid other support missions.

Captain Joseph E. Thornton is a pilot on a "Headhunter" team. Flying with an observer in a small, single-engine Ot Bird Dog, it is Thornton's job to fly low over the rough terrain of Vietnam's Central Highlands so his observer can spot enemy position and activities. Usually, his altitude is no more than 600 feet. The up-drafts and down-drafts, prevalent in the mountainous region, can make the flying quite difficult at times.

Thornton's spotter is Pfc. Edward E. Peel. A member of numerous Long Range Patrol (LRP) teams, Peel has seen a lot of action in enemy infested areas and can easily recognize enemy roads, bunkers, mortar sites and anti-aircraft positions.

His ability is such that he can estimate how long an enemy

trail has been in use, the last time it was used, what kind of heavy equipment, if any, was taken over the trail and the approximate size of the enemy unit.

Peel's job is not the joy ride it might appear to be. For one thing, "Charlie" finds a slow-moving, lightly armed plane flying at low altitudes a very tempting target. And, if "Charlie" isn't enough, there is always air-sickness to contend with.

Two and one-half hours of steep banks and dives is not the recommended way to improve indigestion.

All things considered, it's a pretty rough job. But it's an important job and being done well by men like Thornton and Peel.

## Viet Cong face bleak payday

DI AN, (1st INF)—It will be a sad payday for an enemy force operating northeast of Saigon. Elements of the 1st Infantry Division's 2nd Bn., 18th Inf. detained an enemy suspect carrying 120,000 piasters.

"We believe he was a paymaster en route to a local enemy company," reported Capt. Stanley A. Kober, a company commander with the battalion. It was estimated that the enemy suspect had enough money to pay more than 100 Viet Cong for a month.

The detainee was taken along with others who were hiding in water and shallow weeds along the edge of the Dong Nai River.

## Blondie



## by Chic Young