

COPIED

# 11TH INFANTRY BRIGADE

## TRIDENT

### "JUNGLE WARRIOR'S"

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 8

DUC PHO, VIETNAM

AUGUST 23, 1968

LEGION OF MERIT

PRESENTED TO  
LTC COL. GUINN

The Legion of Merit, second highest award for meritorious service given to members of the Armed Forces, was presented Monday to Lieutenant Colonel William D. Guinn, commanding officer of the 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry, 11th Infantry Brigade.

LTC Guinn received the medal at a ceremony outside the battalion TOC at LZ Thunder from Major General Charles M. Gettys, commanding general of the Americal Division.

The medal was awarded to LTC Guinn in recognition of his services as MACV District Chief of Quang Ngai Province from June, 1967 to May, 1968.

The citation accompanying the medal read in part: "During this time, LTC Guinn, by the exercise (LEGION Cont. on page 3)

120 GETS NVA

WARRIOR'S KILL

69

"Jungle Warriors" of the 11th Infantry Brigade killed 69 enemy soldiers, detained 38 suspects and captured 15 individual weapons as action continued to increase in the Brigade's operational area this week.

Infantrymen of the 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry led by SSG William K. Wright, were searching a hedgerow near a group of hooches four miles southeast of Duc Pho August 15 when three NVA soldiers suddenly popped out and started throwing grenades. In the ensuing action two NVA were killed, two AK-47's captured and

the third NVA soldier evaded and was captured by the "Sykes' Regulars" blocking force. A search of the area uncovered an RPG, a light machinegun, four Chi-Com grenades, two bags of O.D. clothing and one field pack.

Air reconnaissance by Aero Scouts of the 123rd Aviation Battalion accounted for five enemy killed in dense mountain passes 18 miles southwest of Quang Ngai. Scout gunships killed four of the enemy and captured an SKS rifle and 14 field packs while their infantry element, the "Animals" accounted for one.

Two miles south of this (WRAP-UP Cont on page 3)

## GRAND OLE OPRY A SMASH

A four-man version of the Grand Ole Opry of Nashville, Tennessee fame has organized at LZ Bronco and is pounding out the sounds of foot-stomping country and western music.

The music comes from the "On-Timers," a troupe of part-time musicians in the 11th Infantry Brigade. The "On-Timers" began as a makeshift team, according to SP4 Davo Makola, diesel mechanic in B Company, 6th Support Battalion, and base guitar player for the group. "We played with any instruments we could borrow in the brigade area," he said. This included Duc Pho guitars and a base fiddle from the brigade band. Their Special Services in Chu Lai provided electric guitars and amplifiers and the group was ready for some real entertainment.

The music they play is country and western. Some of it they write themselves to fit situations here in Vietnam. Their theme song, "Roll on Big Jimmy," was ("ON-TIMERS" Cont on page 3)

## 'SCOUTS' US

Before the Information Office becomes the next target for C Battery, 6th Battalion, 11th Artillery, we would like to apologize for our misfire concerning the crewmember from gun #4 who fired the American's two millionth round at LZ Center.

Instead of SGT Burnie Owens, the hasty lanyard puller was SGT Gerald L. Smith, gunner.

# COMMAND INFORMATION

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is part three of a series on the history of Vietnam. Today's chapter deals with Ho Chi Minh's rise to power.)

Working in nationalist quis, Ho Chi Minh effectively strengthened the organization of Communist cells throughout Vietnam.

In August 1945, Emperor Bao Dai abdicated his throne and handed over his power to Ho Chi Minh. The emperor feared a return of French authority once Japan surrendered. But in September of that year, the French once again re-occupied Vietnam.

Ho first decided that negotiations with the French were advisable in order to gain some form of independence. But French demands were so unacceptable, that by December, 1946, the Viet Minh decided that the only way to achieve an independent Vietnam was through a war of liberation.

For the next eight years France battled the nationalists. On May 7, 1954 the French Army was decisively defeated at

Dien Bien Phu, and the French-Indochina War was over.

The day after the battle of Dien Bien Phu, the Geneva Conference turned its attention to the Indochina War. The agreement reached for Vietnam fixed a provisional demarcation line roughly along the 17th parallel and provided for the total evacuation of French military forces, as well as the removal of Viet Minh forces from the South. Freedom of movement between the two sections was guaranteed for 300 days. An International Control Commission (ICC) was formed to supervise the truce agreements, its members coming from Canada, India, and Poland.

Finally, a provision was made for the holding of general elections throughout Vietnam in July 1956. Ho Chi Minh never acceded to this agreement. It was inconceivable to him that Vietnam should be divided.

The French proceeded to hand over the controls and administration of the non-Communist Vietnamese,

forming the State of Vietnam, with its capital in Saigon. In Hanoi, Ho began the total communization of the nation north of the 17th parallel.

Despite the cease-fire agreement, a well-organized Viet Minh underground was deliberately left behind in the South. This underground network formed the nucleus of subsequent Communist insurgency originated in Hanoi and directed against the Saigon regime.

Shortly after the Geneva Accords, the groundwork for the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO) was laid. In September 1954 the treaty was signed in Manila. South Vietnam was included in the treaty as a "protocol state" with the signatories specifically accepting the obligation, if asked by the government of South Vietnam, to take action in response to an armed attack against South Vietnam and to consult on appropriate measures if the South were subjected to subversive activities.

(NEXT WEEK: The War)

## HAW VETS DUE DROPS

Certain individuals who have served in long tour areas in an "all others" category and were involuntarily reassigned directly to the Republic of Vietnam, may be eligible for an adjusted DEROS. The Americal Division Personnel Records Section has recently conducted a complete screening of personnel 201 files for the purpose of identifying and adjusting the DEROS of persons in the group indicated above.

In the event any individual in the category mentioned has any questions regarding his DEROS, he is encouraged to contact his Battalion PSNCO, who will coordinate with the Division Personnel Records Section.

According to the 11th Brigade S-1 office, this includes individuals assigned to a tour of duty in Hawaii without concurrent travel authorized for their dependents.

### MARS OPERATORS NEEDED

The Americal Division MARS Station is in need of radio/operators. Previous experience or a communicator's MOS is desired but not required.

If interested, please call or visit in person, CPT Whitehair, (Division Signal Office-AMCAL 410).

Brigade Commander  
Information Officer

TRIDENT QIC

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AT/10

WRAP-UP--Cont from page 1)  
contact, Brigade 1 recon  
platoons, commanded by 1LT  
Mike J. Corriveau and 1LT  
Ronald D. Hopper killed  
two Viet Cong, one NVA  
soldier and found two SKS  
rifles and NVA field gear.  
As the day's action  
continued, a "Sykes' Regu-  
lars" element led by 1LT  
Bradley J. Burgraff killed  
two enemy after engaging  
them in a ditch. During  
the initial contact, PFC  
James O. Fallaw killed one  
VC with his M-60 machine  
gun. The other evaded into  
a spider hole and was  
killed when SP4 Hector L.  
Rivera-Rodriguez crawled  
in after him. The hole  
contained an M-14 with no  
stock, two grenades, docu-  
ments and an NVA uniform.  
Later, PFC Charles Zubor  
pulled a suspect from a  
tunnel, who claimed he'd  
been holed up inside for  
two months.

An "Always First" ele-  
ment discovered a platoon-  
sized base camp 14 miles  
south of Quang Ngai. The  
camp consisted of 12 fort-  
ified positions, numerous  
booby-traps and punji pits  
small arms ammunition, docu-  
ments and a five-gallon  
drum of riot control gas.

Aero Scout helicopters  
and their infantrymen killed  
seven VC and captured  
two individual weapons, a  
(WRAP-UP--Cont on page 4)

THE

## PHOTO CORNER

Just about every soldier in Vietnam takes pictures at one time or another. Some turn out to be outstanding photos, while others just don't turn out as expected. Sometimes the problems are caused by common mistakes in picture taking that can be corrected by following a few simple rules.

One of the most common difficulties in taking good photos is getting a sharp picture. Try to hold the camera as steady as possible when framing that shot. Camera movement can cause a blurred photo. If you have a camera with adjustable speed settings, try to use a faster shutter speed when taking the picture. It will help you to obtain sharper pictures.

If you have a camera with adjustable focus settings be extra careful to get your subject in sharp focus. That extra second or two taken to adjust your focus could mean the difference between a good photo and a great one.

When using a slow shutter speed, try to keep your subject from moving. Use a fast shutter speed on moving objects such as helicopters, vehicles and troops on the move. A shutter speed range of 1/125 second to 1/500 second should be adequate for most shooting.

Of course there will be times when movement in your picture might be used to advantage, perhaps to show the speed of a jet or a fast moving helicopter through a slightly blurred subject. This gives a feeling of speed and motion to your photo.

Taking good pictures doesn't have to be a complicated task requiring endless amounts of equipment, time and knowledge. Just follow a few simple rules, use a little common sense, and above all, THINK before you click that shutter. Your pictures will change from mere snapshots to good photographs.

(EDITORS NOTE: Reader's questions on photography which deal with subjects discussed each week will be answered in this column. Inquiries may be addressed to: Editor-TRIDENT, Public Information Office, 11th Inf Bde. NEXT WEEK: Notes on Tropical Photography.)

## OPRY SWINGS BRIGADE A.C.

(ON-TIMERS-Cont from page 1)

written by SSG Danny Kissinger, the group's organizer and leader as well as rhythm guitar player, and PFC Bobby Newman, lead guitar player and lead singer. Both musicians are members of the 6th Battalion, 11th Artillery. SSG Kissinger is battalion liaison to brigade and PFC Newman works with the battalion main-tenance section.

The fourth member of the group, SSG Richard Drew, is the drummer and back up singer. Also from the 6th of the 11th, he is the HSD supply sergeant.

The group plays for a variety of get-togethers. "We play at officer and enlisted clubs, firebases, for large groups or just about anywhere the brigade can use a country and western band," says Makela. This has included short-timer parties, stand downs, birthday parties and just friendly gatherings.

Country and western music is old hat to all of the "On Timers." Kissinger has initiated such bands wherever he was stationed. While in Hawaii with the brigade, he organized the "Westorno'se," a country-and-western group which recorded ten songs on the Nashville-based "Dart" label. Before that he had a band (ON-TIMERS Cont on page 4)

(LEGION-Cont from page 1) of positive leadership, quickly established close coordination of the large and diverse military assets available to him and worked with great success to improve the training and tactical proficiency of the provincial military forces."

The citation particularly praised LTC Guinn's work with the province's psychological warfare, civil affairs and refugee relief programs, and his tactical and administrative abilities displayed in dealing with the massive "TET" Offensive against Quang Ngai City.

GEN Gettys' congratulations included best wishes as commanding officer of "Sykes' Regulars."

("ON-TIMERS"--Cont from page 3)

going in Korea and in the United States, where he played during off-duty hours.

Newman played with the "Westerne'se" for a short time in Hawaii, and has contracted to play with the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville after his Army days. Drew has been in the country and western business for over 15 years, playing with numerous bands in the United States and at his other duty assignments. The bass player, Makela, gained most of his experience in the classical field, playing in various orchestras in the Great Lakes area. But his beat is "on time," and he is a natural for country rock.

Early this week, the "On-Timers" ran into a problem that only their MOS could solve. While setting up at the 1st Bn, 20th Inf "Tiki" Club, the generators gave out. So before they could connect their new electrical equipment, Makela and Newman had to make a few minor repairs on the generators. And the band played on and a good time was had by all.

## AWARDS

The 11th Brigade last Friday awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action to Corporal Frederick E. Crabtree, of Company B, 3rd Bn, 1st Inf.

CPL Crabtree distinguished himself on April 3, 1968 while serving as squad leader of a six man patrol attached to a company of popular forces.

When the entire element came under heavy fire from an enemy force of undetermined size, CPL Crabtree quickly located the enemy positions and called in artillery fire. He then directed gunships and medevac helicopters to effect evacuation of several of his wounded comrades and organized the PF's into a secure defensive position.

(WRAP-UP--Cont from page 3)

field pack, documents and M-79 rounds August 17 along the Vo River, 10 miles south of Quang Ngai. Chopper crewmen from the 174th Aviation Company killed one VC when "Shark" gunships fired on a fortified structure two miles south of Mo Duc. The rocket fire resulted in three secondary explosions.

Ambush patrols from a 1st of the 20th platoon led by 1LT Steven Riggs killed three enemy soldiers the same day when they engaged enemy soldiers while checking a series of hootches south of Duc Pho. One patrol also recovered hand grenades, a pistol belt and three loaded M-16 magazines.

Other "Sykes' Regulars" soldiers under 1LT Raymond Ennors killed a VC and captured his M-1 carbine, two magazines and four grenades after three VC opened fire on their command post.

In other action August 17, 1LT Ovide Corriveau's platoon picked up 14 field packs after a fire fight. The packs contained 150 notebooks, 250 batteries, perfume, salad oil, rice and documents. The 3rd of the 1st recon platoon killed one VC and captured one weapon while securing a hilltop LZ 14 miles west of here.

On August 18 the "Always First" recon platoon found 12 VC bodies killed by air strikes in the jungle 30 miles west of Duc Pho. Aero Scouts of the 123rd Aviation Battalion killed five VC in the same area.

Bravo, 3rd of the 1st, led by 1LT Henry Hill Jr. and SFC Dehny J. Cantrell killed four VC while conducting a combat sweep 12 miles north of Duc Pho. One enemy, who the villagers claimed was a VC economy chief, was killed when he jumped from a spider hole and ran.

In air action, Aero Scouts accounted for 12 enemy killed and two weapons captured while later in the day the "Warlords" killed nine in a small rest area 12 miles west of here.

August 21 an OH-23 helicopter of Primo Aviation Ltd. manned by SP4 Juan M. Gaskins and 1LT James A. Franklin killed two evading VC in separate actions. One action took place 12 miles north of Duc Pho and the second was killed evading towards a tunnel in the same area.

Infantrymen from the 3rd of the 1st captured the son of a VC cadre member in a rice paddy near here.

## HOLD BAGGAGE REGS

Individuals desiring to have household goods or baggage shipped from Bronco have the responsibility for:

1) Insuring that his shipment does not contain any restricted or prohibited items.

2) Furnishing nine copies of his orders, six copies of a complete inventory and the address to his commander;

3) Insuring that a copy of his orders are in each piece of baggage.



"Good grief, Slodgo. You've accidentally mortared the COL's mess hall!"