



# REDCATCHER!

199th Light Infantry Brigade

Vol. 1, No. 3

Jan. 1, 1969



PART OF CACHE found by the 4th Bn, 12th Inf is examined by infantrymen at the battalion's fire support base. Displayed weapons include rifles, machine guns, extra gun barrels and tripods. (Photo by Eckert)

## Arms, Equipment Unearthed by 4/12 At VC Basecamp

By SP4 Peter Gyallay-Pap

Tons of enemy munitions and materiel were uncovered by the 4th Bn, 12th Inf in a cache complex located approximately 50 miles east of Saigon over a 4-day period at the end of November.

Located in dense, 100-foot jungle canopy 25 miles from Vung Tau, the caches consisted of 200 crew-served and light small arms, 100 mines, including fifteen 300-pound mines, 2,300 grenades, 2,500 pounds of explosives, plus tools, equipment, machinery and parts, ranging from 20,000 welding rods to a generator for a five-ton truck.

The battalion encountered light enemy resistance in the search.

The cache list included 170 small arms weapons of older vintage, 23 light to heavy machine guns, two complete 82mm mortars with sights, one 57mm recoilless rifle, and three grenade launchers. In addition, machine gun barrels and mounts, mortar base plates, and other parts were found and destroyed along with 27,000 rounds of small arms ammunition, plus 17,000 feet of time fuse and 400 feet of Chicom detonation cord, five 3-foot Bangalore torpedoes, ninety 81mm mortar rounds, thirty-four 60mm mortar rounds, nineteen 57mm RR rounds, 60 anti-tank grenades, and over 200,000 blasting caps, grenade fuses and charges.

More than 250 bunkers were found and destroyed in the area, along with over 800 booby-traps.

Battalion commander Lieutenant Colonel Leon E. Lichtenwalter described the significance of the cache as "not being so much the materiel found, but the fact that the Viet Cong had a base camp here which we've now denied them."

In addition to the arms, a large quantity of food and medical supplies were found; also 500 yards of cloth, numerous uniforms, ponchos, poncho material, hammocks, VC protective masks and gloves, as well as 8,000 pieces of VC web gear, 400 gallons of gasoline, 31 tons of cement, a 900-pound lathe, and a three-quarter ton truck.

Also found were 1,000 entrenching tools, 350 machetes, 20,300 welding rods, 30 assorted wrenches, 1,000 hack saw blades and 600 files, drill bits, and taps and dies; machine parts included 28 gas pistons, a gasoline generator, 25 assorted roller bearings, while other items ranged from two bugles to needles and penny nails, chemicals, pots, pans and funnels.

A hand grenade-producing factory made home-made fragmentation "potato masher" grenades used as booby-traps. The grenades were made from soda cans stuffed with plastic explosives, nails and broken glass.

The site is said by senior officers to have been a large base camp and supply complex, complete with concreted bunkers, tunnels, and trenches, enclosing classrooms, a hospital,

# Well! Happy New Year!

In the New Year's period, newspapers traditionally review events that have made their mark during the year. The pages of Redcatcher! have and will be used to chronicle at some length the important events in the Brigade's year 1968, such as the Tet and May attacks, other operations involving the Brigade, and civic action programs.

But there were other, smaller, happenings throughout the year that many may have not heard about, since they took place from January through June. If they illustrate anything, it is that George M. Cohan song, "Life's a 'funny Proposition After All'."

One January noon Private First Class Howard D. Willis, Echo Co, 3rd Bn, 3rd Inf was eating lunch in a clearing while on a search-and-sweep mission. Suddenly he heard something moving through the tall elephant grass, too fast to be a Viet Cong. He stood up to take a better look and was knocked down by a hit-and-run leer. He sustained head injuries and a general shaking-up.

Platoon Sergeant Alan W. Campbell, Alpha Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf also had to sit down, to record the food cache found at an enemy basecamp. He chose a leaf-covered mound of dirt. When he turned his report in, he returned to find a friend of his laughing. Seems that his friend had traced two loose wires leading from a bunker to Campbell's former perch, where they were connected to a 105mm round. Campbell promised to "personally clear the area" before sitting down in the future.

Good luck came unexpectedly to Specialist Four Marshall Gardner, Echo Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf, a machine gunner on a sweep. Feeding a support for his weapon, he picked up a small green rad, noticed something protrud-

ing from the ground and called his platoon leader, who ordered a search of the area. They found two 57mm recoilless rifles, with 29 rounds of 57mm ammo, as well as claymore mines and grenades. During the Phu Tho Racetrack fighting, Private First Class Walter Pierce, II, Alpha Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf had a surprise visitor one day when his father drove up in a jeep. When Pierce was ordered

## General Davison's Holiday Message

As we approach the end of the holiday season, another calendar year of our national involvement in the Republic of Vietnam is coming to a close. Also, at this time we come to a traditional period of personal rededication—of making resolutions with the coming of the New Year.

With the beginning of 1969, we of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade must resolve to continue our efforts as in the past. Many Redcatchers have sacrificed toward the accomplishment of the Brigade missions. The tasks assigned to us have been accomplished with distinction, but not without losses. Let us rededicate ourselves to the mission at hand, to the cause of freedom, and to the memory of our fallen comrades.

To all Redcatchers—past, present, and future—the best of fortune and my most sincere wishes for a safe and successful tour.

Frederic E. Davison  
Brigadier General, USA  
Commanding

to Vietnam his father had decided to go to work for the US Agency for Industrial Development as an industrial advisor in the wood products field, with his headquarters in Saigon.

First Lieutenant Joe Lowke of Echo Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf flattened a Viet Cong suspect with a conventional weapon: his right fist. Leading a recon platoon that ambushed a group of motorized VC sampans four miles south of Saigon March 5, Lowke swam the canal with an NCO to recover and search the sampans. When a VC suspect jumped out of a boat and tried to escape, the sergeant yelled and Lowke charged the suspect and belted him. He was detained for interrogation.

Lack of preventive maintenance led to capture of a VC truck in March by 3rd Bn, 7th Inf. Platoon Sergeant Fred Wallakey and his platoon found a camouflaged VC device-and-a-half by the roadside in Bien Hoa Province during Operation "Box Springs." Wallakey said, "From the appearance of the supply truck, a wheel bearing burned out and the Viet Cong were in the process of replacing it when we came along."

And then there was the Redcatcher who boarded the wrong helicopter, fought with a strange unit, and downed two VC, one with each end of his M-16. Specialist Four Milton L. Gallison, Charlie Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf got mixed in with Alpha Co, which was using the same pickup point. Moving along a dike with his adopted company, Gallison shot a VC who jumped out of the tall grass in front of him, and at about the same time another VC popped up and so Gallison hit him on the side of the head with the M-16 and knocked him out.

Close calls were not uncommon. Sergeant Donald Roberts of



REDCATCHER SUPPORTER Specialist Four Nathaniel Hull, 2nd Bn, 35th Arty, is a turkey supporter too. Big bird's demise was at Thanksgiving, but he symbolizes the traditional turkey abundance at Army Christmas dinner as well. (Photo by Eckert)

Charlie Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf was knocked down by a bullet before he even got off his helicopter, but it merely made holes in his helmet, not his liner or head. After a hot firefight in April, one mortar platoon member of Alpha Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf discovered a hole in his helmet, while another had the web gear shot off his back. Both went scratchless. Perhaps

the saddest man in the category of near misses was Specialist Four Raymond O'Halloran, also with Alpha Co. On his first combat action, in April, he noticed a tear in his right pants pocket but didn't think any more about it until he tried to pay for a soda back at base camp later. A bullet had all but cut his wallet in half. (Continued on Back Page)



## REDCATCHER!

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## Needless Torture

By SP4 Larry Trammell

The headaches were unbearable; he was nauseated. Glass rods were stuck in his mouth. Placed in a prone position, the delirious victim was then sandwiched between two rubber mats through which ice-cold water was pumped, plunging his body temperature downward. His memory mercifully blotted out the rest of the physical pain.

Torture by the enemy? No—routine and necessary treatment for malaria at an Army hospital. My buddy thought he had too many duties to pause and take malaria pills.

Now he knows: malaria respects no rank, accepts no excuse.

It happened again. "They" got another Redcatcher, this time a squad leader, while on a routine combat patrol in the "pineapple" region. It was particularly

hard to take since he was a close friend of mine.

Hit without warning while moving into a line of nipa-palm, he didn't have a chance. He still can't recall who pirated him away. Fortunately, the assistant squad leader took over and completed the rest of the mission without further loss of personnel. But for my friend, the nightmare had only started.

The hapless squad leader eventually awoke to find himself in a strange pajama-type uniform and unfamiliar surroundings. He was given various forms to complete "when he felt like it" and for his "own good."

He was unable to fill out the forms and his ordeal began. Needles were jabbed into him, and the drugs quickly overwhelmed him.

## Law Changes To Affect All US Servicemen

President Lyndon B. Johnson has signed into law the Military Justice Act of 1968, which is designed to insure that military persons are afforded the same protection as civilian persons who are accused of federal offenses.

Also, the new law is intended to bring the procedures for trials by special and general courts martial more closely parallel to current procedures in U.S. district courts.

The legislation, which had the concurrence of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, makes far-reaching changes in military law and trial procedures.

Part of the law went into effect when the President signed the act in late October. The remaining provisions, which will have a great influence on commanders and all other military persons, will become effective on Aug. 1, 1969.

The portions of the law now in effect pertain to appellate review of court-martial cases. Two major changes are included:

- The time in which the accused can petition for a new trial is extended from one year to two years, including summary and special court-martial cases.

- The Judge Advocate General is given new powers to modify, or set aside, illegal convictions by summary or special courts martial.

Before the remaining provisions of the law can be implemented, the President must issue an executive order changing the Manual for Courts Martial.

A revised Manual for Courts Martial, reflecting changes in military law over the past 17 years, will be used by the Armed Forces beginning Jan. 1, 1969. This manual will be revised further by the President's executive order, which will be drafted with the assistance of the military services.

Among the major changes in the Manual for Courts Martial required, or permitted, by the law are the following:

- The accused will be afforded the opportunity to be defended by a legally qualified counsel at special courts martial unless the commander certifies that such counsel cannot be obtained.

- Trial in special and general courts martial may be held by a military judge alone if the accused so requests and the request is approved by the military judge.

- Pre-trial and post-trial sessions of courts martial may be held by the military judge without the presence of the court members for the purpose of deciding procedural questions.

- Convening authorities are given discretionary authority to defer the service of sentences to confinement pending appellate review. (This parallels the civilian practice of an individual being freed on bail pending appeal of a sentence.)

- An accused may object to trial by summary court martial even if he has refused punishment under Article 15 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. (ANF)



"I'M DREAMING OF A WHITE CHRISTMAS" is suggested by this Redcatcher, caught during a break. Irving Berlin wrote the song with World War II GI's stationed in the South Pacific in mind and, well, how appropriate for Viet Nam! (Photo by Hansell)

## Soldiers', Sailors' Civil Relief Act

By the Brigade SJA Office

In the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940, as amended, Congress enacted provisions to protect persons whose military service makes it difficult for them to meet their financial obligations incurred prior to service.

While it is true that in many cases the ability of an individual to comply with the terms of such obligation or liability is materially affected by reason of his military service there are some instances where this is not true. A recent case decided by the New York State Supreme Court in Nassau County, New York serves to illustrate this point. The case, *Hempstead Bank v. Collier*, 289 N.Y.S.2d 797 involved an action to recover the balance due on a loan.

The defendant sought dismissal

of the complaint, or in the alternative, a stay order, based upon his military service and the provisions of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act. The defendant, while serving as a resident physician at a hospital borrowed a sum of money from the plaintiff and agreed to repay it in monthly installments.

Thereafter the defendant entered the military service. He was serving as a captain at a salary substantially larger than that which he was earning at the hospital. The court stated that "...since the defendant's net earnings have not been materially affected by his military service and in fact may actually have been improved, the relief requested by him is denied and plaintiff's motion (for summary judgment) is granted."

### The Chaplain Speaks

## What is the Meaning of Life?

By Chaplain (Major) Norris L. Einertson  
34th Engr Gp

Our world abounds with confusion. On one hand, American advertising insists that life is indeed worth living—that is, if we spend a good share of it on a certain make of automobile, wearing a particular brand of clothing, which is washed in a detergent which whitens white things and perks up colors.

It is further intimated that our enjoyment of life will be greatly enhanced, and friends, both male and female, will throng to our side if we will only use a certain brand of hair oil, shaving cream, deodorant, or even beer and cigarettes.

In the midst of this seeming optimism concerning life, we find the more realistic, though rather limited, interpretation of life depicted by many modern playwrights, novelists, and philosophers.

They make very clear the fact that the things of life do not ultimately satisfy. At least to that extent they agree with Jesus when he said, "A man's worth does not consist in the abundance of that which he possesses."

The views of these modern artists, whom most educated people contend are only reflecting the spirit of our age are tremendously different from that expressed by the Christian faith.

Surely the Christian would never concede that life is dull and meaningless, and filled with despair as that which is depicted by Arthur Miller's "Death of a Salesman" or Eugene O'Neill's "Long Day's Journey

### Into Night."

The Christian would never agree that life is so meaningless that it can most properly be spent either in living a lie, or in varying stages of narcotic or alcoholic anesthesia.

Though life for many is as bad as much of modern literature depicts, most of us are not willing to concede that it must be that way. Even though everything isn't quite as good as we would like, we seemingly have sufficient goals for which to strive; and we act as though we expect to live forever.

Contrast this attitude with that of the Apostle Paul. He said, "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." While he expresses a preference for death to life, it is not for the same reason as that of the man who commits suicide. There is no morbid longing for death. He has a healthy attitude toward both life and death.

He knows that life can be a rather pleasant experience. But, he is not afraid to die; for he had met One who loved him, forgave him, and enabled him to face death unafraid. He knew that his Lord died, not only to enable him to face death, but also to make this life worth living.

We live too much as though we were playing with life. Soon we shall stand before God, and give an accounting for what we have done with our lives. Lord, teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom. (Castle Courier)

### Tour Extensions

## 'Free' 30-Day Leave

Individual tour extensions can reap many benefits for American troops stationed in the Republic of South Vietnam.

An extension of your tour in Vietnam can be a means of receiving an early out from the Army. The newest change in the Army's extension policy is the initiation of the five month early out for enlisted men.

To qualify for this, enlisted men must extend the length of their tour so that the DEROS date is five months prior to the date of ETS. Under this program, you will then receive your separation papers upon your arrival in the United States.

Officers wishing an early separation from active duty may extend their tours so that their DEROS date is three months prior to their ETS date. The five month early out does not apply to officers at this time.

To further encourage individuals to extend their normal

tour in Vietnam, the Army authorizes a 30-day special leave for individuals who extend for a period of six months or more. This leave is not restricted to the United States and individuals may take their leave to almost any place in the Free World. For example, you might choose to visit any of the capitals of Western Europe on your leave.

For individuals who extend their tours for more than three months, but less than six months, a second rest and recuperation leave is authorized.

For additional information on the Army extension policy, contact your unit Adjutant General or personnel officer.

## TEACHES ENGLISH

When Specialist Four Harvey Minnigh isn't working as operations assistant in the 5th Bn, 12th Inf tactical operations center, he teaches English to Vietnamese children at Truong Duong Nha Be Nha Be High School. He doesn't speak Vietnamese and has no interpreter, but so far communication has not been a major problem.

His students have already had four years of primary education and range from 11 to 17 years old. "Proper English pronunciation is their greatest problem in class," says Minnigh. "But even in this respect they are making progress."

## RELIGIOUS SERVICES

### LONG BINH AREA

|                   |          |           |                                   |
|-------------------|----------|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| Lutheran          | Sunday   | 11 a.m.   | 303rd Radio Research Orderly Room |
| Latter Day Saints | Sunday   | 1, 2 p.m. | Plantation Chapel Annex           |
| Episcopal         | Sunday   | 1 p.m.    | Plantation Chapel                 |
| Jewish            | Friday   | 7 p.m.    | Long Binh Post Chapel             |
|                   | Saturday | 10 a.m.   | Long Binh Post Chapel             |
| Christian Science | Sunday   | 2 p.m.    | Plantation Chapel                 |

### CAMP FRENZELL-JONES

|                    |                   |                     |
|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Catholic Mass      | Sunday 9, 10 a.m. | 7th Spt Bn Messhall |
| Protestant worship | Sunday 9, 11 a.m. | Brigade Chapel      |

## Brigade Summary

Nov 15:

Soldiers from 3rd Bn, 7th Inf engaged and killed two Viet Cong during a brief contact eight miles south-southwest of Saigon today. The riflemen also detained three suspects in the area.

Nov 16:

Redcatchers from the 5th Bn, 12th Inf destroyed 27 bunkers, one sampan and 21 booby traps while operating in the extreme western portion of the "pineapple" region southwest of Saigon.

On Route 4 south of Saigon, Redcatchers from 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf detained one suspect. Other battalion elements destroyed one enemy bunker in the "pineapple" region.

Nov 21:

While operating 17 miles southeast of Xuan Loc today, elements from 4th Bn, 12th Inf, moved quickly to surround suspected enemy cache sites.

Fifteen bunkers were also destroyed by the Redcatchers during their search.

Nov 22:

Redcatchers from 4th Bn, 12th Inf, discovered another significant weapons cache containing 28 automatic rifles, 19 bolt-action rifles and 14 submachine-guns.

Discovery of today's cache raised the total number of weapons captured by the Redcatchers since Nov. 22 to 20 crew-served and more than 130 individual weapons.

In other action, elements from 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf, operating in the "pineapple" region southwest of Saigon, uncovered a small arms cache containing 3,000 rounds of AK-47 ammunition, 117 Chicom grenades, 46 RPG-7 rounds and 6 Chicom claymore mines.

Further south other Brigade troops destroyed bunkers and fighting positions throughout the day.

Nov 24:

Soldiers from 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf destroyed 56 enemy bunkers and several booby traps 3 miles south of Duc Hoa in the southern "pineapple" region.

They also sank one sampan and captured an 82mm mortar tube with bipod.

Nov 25:

In light action today, Redcatchers detained four suspects, found a small cache and destroyed several booby traps.

Operating six miles southwest of Saigon, soldiers from 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf found a cache containing 90 half-pound blocks of Chicom explosive. They also detained three suspects.

Other Brigade elements operated in the southern "pineapple" region and destroyed several booby traps, while detaining one suspect.

Nov 26:

Infantrymen from 3rd Bn, 7th Inf killed eight Viet Cong during recon-in-force operations centered 10 miles southwest of Saigon. The eight dead were results of several brief contacts.

Operating in an area eight miles southwest of Saigon, elements from 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf, detained four enemy suspects, destroyed three bunkers and found several booby traps.



"Would you guys quit playin' in the water?" It takes more than a blown bridge to stop Redcatchers of "Charlie" Co., 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf. (Photo by Loughran)

## MEDCAP Kidnapped

Two 199th Light Infantry Brigade medics conducting a MEDCAP for civilians were surprised recently when South Vietnamese students took over and ran the operation as the nonplussed medics looked on.

"We thought we were going to have a routine MEDCAP," (Medical-Civic Action Program) said Private First Class Donald Wood (Cleveland), "when a busload of Vietnamese students pulled up and took over right under our noses."

"This is actually the best MEDCAP I've pulled," Specialist Four David H. Laughrie (Cumberland, Md.) said as he stood, looking somewhat helpless, in the treatment room of a Catholic seminary near Saigon.

The 15 Vietnamese students are from high schools and universities in Saigon, and belong to a voluntary service organiza-

tion called Congregation Mariale Universitaire. Their president, Dr. Ta Thanh Minh, said approximately 150 students have volunteered their free time for work to help needy countrymen. Most are pre-med, medical, or pharmacy students and devote Saturday afternoons to service at various locations near Saigon.

While medics Laughrie and Wood observed, the students lined up the patients, interviewed them, diagnosed ailments, prescribed and administered treatment, medicine and advice.

An attractive first-year French language student, Tran Thi Nhan sees her non-medical field of study as no hindrance to her desire to help. "I always wondered what I could do for my country in its distress," she said. "This program gives me a chance to do something for my people."

## 1SG Diamond Won First Bde DSC

The first Redcatcher to receive the Distinguished Service Cross, the nation's second-highest decoration for valor, was First Sergeant James A. Diamond, who served with a company of the 4th Bn, 12th Inf from December 1966 to November 1967. Vice-President Hubert H. Humphrey presented Sergeant Diamond the decoration in a ceremony at Saigon in June, 1967.

Sergeant Diamond distinguished himself in action Feb. 6, 1967, when his company's point platoon ran into an ambush by a Viet Cong company near Thu Duc. He immediately moved into the battle area to maintain the

fighting effectiveness of the unit after the platoon leader, platoon sergeant and RTO became casualties. As the Viet Cong attempted to seize the weapons from the dead and wounded lying on the field, he set up a base of fire which drove the enemy back and allowed him to move to the fallen infantrymen.

Under fire, he covered and directed their evacuation. After the wounded had been rescued, Sergeant Diamond remained in his bullet-swept location to guide air strikes onto the enemy bunkers.

His actions contributed to the platoon's ability to reorganize itself as an effective fighting unit, to the saving of the wounded men that lay exposed to the Viet Cong fire, to the recovery of valuable equipment, and to the effectiveness of the air and artillery strikes, enabling the company to move forward and accomplish its mission.

The citation ends: "First Sergeant Diamond's courage and determination, in the face of overwhelming fire power, are in the finest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the 199th Infantry Brigade, and the United States Army."

Nov 29:

Redcatchers continued recon-in-force operations south and west of Saigon today.

Twelve miles southwest of Saigon, infantrymen from 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf destroyed four Chicom grenades and detained four suspects for questioning.

Elements from 3rd Bn, 7th Inf detained one suspect and destroyed 15 fighting positions, three bunkers and one sampan 11 miles south of Saigon.

## Awards and Decorations

### Bronze Star Medal (Valor) (Posthumous)

SP4 Robert M. Kummell-2/40. As an artillery reconnaissance sergeant attached to a company of 5th Bn, 12th Inf, Specialist Kummell was voluntarily leading a patrol west of Saigon on Nov 7 when he was mortally wounded by a Viet Cong booby trap.

SGT Chris D. Munson-4/12. Sergeant Munson was a fire team leader on the night of Oct 3 when a Viet Cong force attacked his company's defensive perimeter, and in directing the deployment of his men, he braved withering enemy fire as he moved among his men to direct their fire and give them encouragement. As he moved forward to assume a better firing position, he was mortally wounded.

### Bronze Star Medal (Meritorious Service) (Posthumous)

CW2 Charles D. Plummer-199th; PFC Dennis G. Inniquez-5/12.

### Bronze Star Medal (Meritorious Service)

1LT Michael D. Swearingen-HHC, 199th; 1SG William H. Gilkey-A, 2/40; SSG Larry G. Durley-HHC, 3/7; SGT Larry G. Saville-71st Inf Det; 1SG Norris Johnson, Jr.-E, 5/12; CPT Edward N. Rolle-HHC, 2/3; MSG Lewis G. McGonigle-HHC, 199th; CPT Leonard L. Bissonnette-C, 7th Spt; CPT K.T. Henry-HHC, 2/3 (1st OLC); 1LT Billy R. Woodard-HHC, 4/12; CW2 Frank G. Ferro-HHC, 3/7.

### Army Commendation Medal (Valor)

SP4 Joseph A. Franzese-87th Engr Co; SP6 Edwin L. Frankowski-HHC, 2/3; SP4 Walter H. Westendorf-C, 5/12.

### Purple Heart

PFC Bruce E. Aguilar; SP4 Valentine N. Arlantino; SP4 Albert T. Audette; SP4 Reamer J. Berry; PFC Ralph E. Curry; 1LT David J. Dynneson; PFC Curtis P. Foret; PFC James P. Goble; SGT Bobby Gosnell; PFC Ricarte Guevara; SP4 Arthur E. Harvey III; PFC Ernest F. Jackson; 2LT David J. McDowell; PFC Robert E. Needham; SP4 Charles E. Nowry; SP4 Gary R. Pearson; SP4 Edward R. Reusch; SFC Arthur L. Rexrode; SGT Steven R. Shaffer; SP4 James D. Smith; SP4 Gary W. Sutton; SP4 Roger W. Swank; SGT James R. Tuttle; MAJ Carl V. Van Bibber; PFC Glen A. Witt.

### Army Commendation Medal (Meritorious Service)

SGT Nicholas H. Altman Jr.-C, 3/7; SP4 Bruce D. Anderson-A, 7th Spt; SGT William L. Angel-E, 4/12; SGT Laurie W. Baughman-C, 3/7; SP4 Stanley J. Beloit-A, 3/7; SP4 Stanley J. Beloit-A, 3/7; LTC Richard E. Bjork-HHC, 199th; SGT Raymond M. Booth-A, 4/12; SGT Donald Brown-HHC, 199th; SP4 Robert J. Cheatham-HHC, 3/7; SP4 Donald H. Cooper-HHC, 5/12; SP4 Darvin Denison-HHC, 4/12; SP5 Ivan R. Dittbenner-A, 7th Spt; SP4 Norman J. Ferrero-856th Radio Rch; SP4 Bernard J. Gannon-HHC, 3/7; SP5 Lloyd O. Harrison-A, 7th Spt; SP4 Patrick J. Hibbard-HHC, 199th; SP4 Clarence E. Karnes-A, 3/7; SGT Gene Kelly Jr.-B, 5/12; SSG Clayry H. Keisler-A, 4/12; SP4 Gary L. Laursen-B, 5/12 (1st OLC); SP4 Willis A. Lee-HHC, 3/7; SP4 Willie L. Majors-HHC, 3/7; SSG Gerald K. Miller-HHC, 2/3; SP5 Docite Nadeau-HHC, 2/3; SGT Larry H. Norris-C, 4/12; SP4 Roderick F. O'Leary-HHC, 199th; SP4 Robert W. O'Leary-503rd Chem Det; SP4 Omdahl-E, 3/7; SGT Wolfgang S. Oster-A, 4/12; SGT Martin L. Pace-A, 4/12; SP4 Carl V. del Principe-C, 3/7; SGT William D. Quattlebaum-E, 4/12; SP5 Larry E. Rix-HHC, 3/7; SP4 Robert Rose-D, 4/12; SP4 Louis R. Rubio-HHC, 4/12; PFC Thomas Rutherford Jr.-HHC, 7th Spt; SP4 Raymond B. Steger-HHC, 4/12; SP4 A. Wilson-D, 4/12.



FIRST SERGEANT James A. Diamond was presented the Distinguished Service Cross by Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey. Center is General William C. Westmoreland, then commander of U.S. Forces, Vietnam and now Army Chief of Staff.



**DEBARKATION**—Redcatchers of 5th Bn, 12th Inf begin preparations to move out on the cordon-and-search operation at Ap Nhut village. (Photo by Gyallay-Pap)



**SEARCH TEAMS** comprised of ARVN soldiers and Redcatchers check out the dwellings of Ap Nhut, twice a VC rendezvous for Saigon attacks. (Photo by Loughran)

## Cordon-and-S



**RESIGNEDLY** a little girl awaits the novocain needle, but the children seem to have a care in the world. (Photo by Whinnery)



**PADDY PIPER OF AP NHUT**, First Lieutenant Gilbert H. Hatcher leads children and adults to free rice, goodies and medical care. After this family ventured forth, others followed. (Picture by Gragg)



A "HOI CHANH" uses a bull-horn to would-be Viet Cong, asking them to stay on the other side. (Photo by Gyallay-Pap)

# d-Search at Ap Nhut Village



in needle, but her friend doesn't  
(Whinnery)



as a bull-horn to broadcast his message  
asking them to come over to the ARVN  
y-Pap)

After a small village has twice been used in staging major attacks on Saigon, it can't be ignored. It must be periodically surrounded, searched, and any hidden enemy identified.

Search, interrogation, and having their daily routine interrupted can leave an unpleasant taste with villagers.

Combined elements of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade and ARVN troops recently demonstrated that instead of making enemies, such an operation can make friends.

And it was done by a combination of civic affairs work, "rice stand," medical aid, former VC, and Vietnamese entertainment.

Little Ap Nhut village, almost lost in the middle of paddies 10 miles southwest of Saigon, was used as a staging and supply area during the Tet attacks on the capital. Located on a major Viet Cong-NVA infiltration route

into Saigon, areas near the village were again used for caches and rear support during the enemy May attacks.

In their current defense of Saigon, elements of the 199th formed a task force ARVN Rangers to surround the village at night, moving in troops by Ragboats, by helicopter and by marches through paddies to avoid booby-trapped roads.

Then at dawn, helicopters swept on to the edge of the village with four companies of Redcatcher and ARVN troops, who began a thorough search. Enemy infrastructure troops in and near the village fled at the sound of the helicopters, and were caught by the cordon forces. (Two days later, 29 weapons were found within three miles of the village.)

Arriving at the scene with the search troops were medical, and civic affairs specialists who set up a free medical clinic and

a field "restaurant" where hot rice was served to villagers. Along with the search troops moving through the village were psychological operations specialists, telling the villagers of the available services.

At the same time, two squads of former Viet Cong and NVA, all bearing AK-47 and Chicoms carbines, walked through the village telling its inhabitants of the fallacies in the VC "cause."

First Lieutenant Gilbert H. Hatcher, Psychological Operations Officer of the 199th, coaxed, in sign language, the female head of the first Vietnamese family to take medical treatment for an obvious illness at the Medcap area. She was slow in responding, but finally agreed. Behind her followed 14 other members of her family—and then, after the lieutenant led his first "customers" over to the Medcap area, over 100 more villagers.

They received free rice and medical treatment and were entertained by live and tape-recorded traditional Vietnamese music.

Children were given health packages of tooth brushes, washcloths, and tooth paste. They were also given T-shirts. All were decorated with the South Vietnamese colors.

The inevitable afternoon monsoon rain came, but tents were provided the villagers at the Medcap site.

At the end of the day, no enemy battalions had been trapped and no large stockpiles of weapons had been found. However, eight enemy cadre had been found, who would force no more taxes on the villagers and who would no more guide VC and North Vietnamese troops toward Saigon.

A village, which had been used by the enemy before was less vulnerable.



SMALL GIRL doesn't appear happy about her visit to the dentist, part of Medcap facilities during the cordon-and-search. (Photo by Whinnery)



BUSY STAND—Members of Civic affairs team hand out Tee-shirts and candy while the cordon-and-search progresses. (Photo by Gragg)

# Army, Air Force Lieutenants Swap Places

By PFC Robert Loughran

On an orientation exchange, nicknamed "Operation Teamwork," the 199th Brigade sent three of its officers to the 3rd Tactical Fighter Wing at Bien Hoa Air Base and in turn hosted three Air Force officers.

The infantry officers learned how the war is being fought in the air while the Air Force pilots got the mud-and-water point of view and experienced ordeals that were a bit different from rocketing through the clouds.

The idea for the exchange came from 3rd Wing commander, Colonel Homer Hansen. During a short briefing for the "Redcatcher" officers, he outlined an average day's work done by the wing: "We fly approximately 91 sorties per day, averaging 17 VC killed by air, and 95 bunkers and 12 sampans destroyed."

Participating in the unusual operations were First Lieutenants Peter Wilder, HHC, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf; George Galambosky, a platoon leader with 3rd Bn, 7th Inf; and Ronald L. Michelson, who works with the intelligence section of 5th Bn, 12th Inf. The Redcatchers were instructed about the equipment they would have in the air, consisting of a parachute, inflatable life raft, communication and signal devices and a pistol. It weighed more than 50 pounds. The infantrymen discovered that the equipment was rather uncomfortable until they were strapped in the cockpit.

Wilder was the first passenger aboard a two-seater F-100 Supersabre, carrying a total of six 500-pound bombs.

The jet was part of the 510th Squadron, the "Bien Hoa Buzzards." After a 30-minute intelligence briefing pertaining to the forthcoming air strike, Wilder was strapped into his seat and ready to take off. At 9:25 a.m. he was "up, up and away." Wilder said his first one-hour air combat mission was quite an experience and had two more flights credited to him before the operation ended.

Michelson was moved to the 604th Squadron, nicknamed "Raps," and given the opportunity to fly an A-37 fighter jet. Although not quite as fast as the F-100-F, the A-37 is more maneuverable and capable of pin-point bombing at low altitudes.

Fifteen minutes after Michelson's takeoff, Galambosky was fitted with flight equipment and sent aloft in another A-37. Within two hours both had returned.

"One flight is enough," Galambosky admitted. "But on my next recon-in-force mission in the 'pineapple,' — and I see those little green streaks just meters away — I'll have a better understanding of their task and the tremendous job they do."

Commented Michelson: "It was quite an enjoyable experience to see how the Air Force lives. I liked the F-100 ride but I don't think I could ever be a pilot. They really work hard when they're up there."

The Redcatcher lieutenants spent the next day flying and learning what it takes to pre-

pare one of the planes for a single combat mission.

On their final evening at Bien Hoa, the infantrymen swapped experiences with the Air Force pilots returning from the 199th. While standing in the "Rapskeller," the night spot of the "Raps," an Air Force lieutenant said, "Believe it or not, I enjoyed the stay with you Redcatchers," while another said, "They treated me very well, like I was one of them, but that 'pineapple' region was tough to take."

Returning to the 199th the following morning, all agreed that it had been one of the most valuable experiences they would probably encounter in Vietnam, and one which had greatly increased their appreciation for the teamwork in any operation that involves air power.



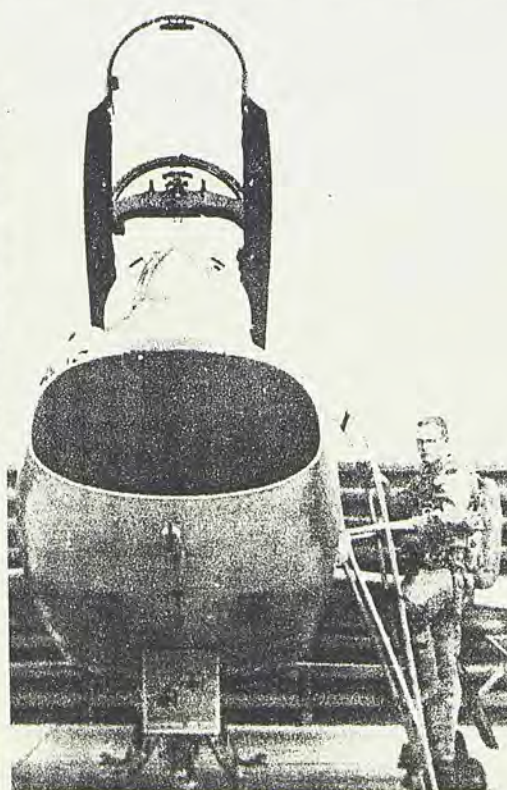
**CLOSE FRIEND**—A cockpit view of a neighboring A-37, taken during a flight with an Army lieutenant passenger. (Photo by Brown)



**HARD DAY'S FLIGHT** is ended by a visit to the 3rd Tactical Fighter Wing Officers Club by (l. to r.) Army First Lieutenant George Galambosky, and an Air Force friend. (Photo by Brown)



**AQUATIC VIEW OF WARFARE** was offered an Air Force pilot-observer (rear) by members of the 3rd Bn, 7th Inf. He was briefed on infantry activities, toured the area of operations by air-boat, and wound up his visit with a slog through the marshes. (Photo by Whinnery)



**SO THAT'S HOW YOU GET IN!** First Lieutenant Ronald L. Michelson steps up the ladder to an F-100 cockpit at Bien Hoa Air Base. He also flew in an A-37. (Photo by Brown)



NEW NCO Club prior to completion. Since this photo was taken, it has become the newest completed structure on BMB (Photo bil Gragg)

## ARTILLERY BRASS, BRASS SELECTED

Separate insignia have been approved for the Army's two artillery branches.

Officers in the Field Artillery Branch and enlisted men assigned to field artillery organizations will be authorized to wear an insignia consisting of two crossed field guns. This insignia was used by the Field Artillery Branch before Jan. 2, 1957.

Officers in the Air Defense Artillery Branch and enlisted men assigned to air

artillery organizations will continue to wear the present Artillery Branch insignia, which consists of the two crossed field guns and a missile.

The names of artillery officers transferred to the new Air Defense Artillery Branch will appear on a special order scheduled for publication in November, with an effective date of Dec. 1. The new insignia will be authorized for wear on the effective date of the order. (ANF)

## Washboards Gift To Vietnamese

The people of Dieu Quang Village are now wearing whiter-than-white, blacker-than-black, sparkling clean clothes, thanks to the efforts of the Four Square Church, Longmont, Colo., and the civic affairs office of 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf.

After seeing news films of the Vietnamese women cleaning their clothes by beating them, the Colorado church people decided they could help the Vietnamese with a touch of modernization. So the congregation donated 36 washboards and sent them to the 199th to be distributed to the needy.

Sergeant M. L. Hugo of Port Lavaca, Tex. and Specialist Four James Christofferson of St. Louis of the "Old Guard" battalion civic affairs office, selected

Dieu Quang, a refugee/orphanage center four miles southwest of Saigon for the experiment.

Christofferson took advantage of his worldly experience, having once seen a wash board employed as a musical instrument in a jug band, and taught the women the proper method of scrubbing clothes with the boards. The Vietnamese housewives were quick to learn, and soon there was music of a new sort as clothes were vigorously rubbed across the washboards throughout the village.

The gift of the Four Square Church and the efforts of the "Redcatcher" civic affairs workers has made washdays a little easier for the people of Dieu Quang.



THE IMPERISHABLE George Jessel, on his third Vietnam tour, entertained Redcatchers Nov. 29 with his troupe, which included accordion accompanist Frank Martino, and singers and dancers Sandy Ritter and Kiki Paige. Upon his return from Vietnam, Mr. Jessel received a gold medal for service from President Johnson, the third entertainer so honored for work in Vietnam. (Photo by Gragg)

## SCUBA Diver Helps Secure Saigon Bridges

By PFC Bruce Bolinger

Two platoons from Charlie Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf have been assigned the task of securing several bridges to the west of Saigon.

These bridges form an important link in the major southwestern overland transportation route to and from the capital city. They must be kept operational and that is one of the reasons Ho Van Tru has been assigned to work with the Brigade.

Ho is an ARVN diver trained in the use of SCUBA equipment supplied by the US Army. Each morning he dons his aqua lung and slips into the muddy waters to examine the underwater bridge's foundations and supports.

He checks for any apparent structural weaknesses or deterioration of construction material. This includes determining whether the underwater supports are still solidly planted and not being under-cut by water action, thereby endangering the safe and practical use of the bridges.

The most important and dangerous aspect of these early morning swims is the careful search conducted by Ho for any explosive demolition charges they may have been planted during the night by the Viet Cong.

Ho also conducts underwater salvage operations for the Old Guard battalion, searching for and recovering equipment and materiel lost during operations along the rivers and canals in its area of responsibility.

Within the past few months, Ho has been called upon to use his diving skill in salvage operations in the field. On more than one occasion, he has been transported into the "pineapple" area by helicopter to recover equipment lost while canal and river crossings were made. Perhaps the saddest task Ho was called on to do was search for the body of a Redcatcher who drowned during one of these crossings.

## 'Soda-Man': Warm Heart, Cold Hands

By SP4 Jere Helmers

Running a soda stand isn't the easiest job in the Army, especially with 854 thirsty troops to please. But the "soda man" for the 5th Bn, 12th Inf makes for the most of his "yankee ingenuity" to keep the Redcatchers happy.

With the "Warrior" battalion consuming 600 cases of beverage a week, the soda man must dip his hand into the icy water 24 times that number to ease the soldier's parched throats. Br-r-r!

The everyday worries that confront the soda man are much the same as any businessman. Can he get the troops' favorite soda today, or will he have to sell them whatever he can get? Worse, will he be able to obtain any sodas at all? There is also the worry of getting ice. No one likes to return from an operation to be greeted by a warm drink.

Payday is the biggest headache. That's the day he is offered nothing by \$20 bills for 15¢ cokes.

Then of course one has to ad-



SAYS MISS LISA WIGLEY: "Well, Sir, the supply sergeant doesn't have my size." Oh well, those "fatigues" would never make it in the pineapple anyway. (Photo by Hansell)

## Medic Tried Hazardous Rescue Attempt in Vain

While on a recon-in-force mission west of Saigon, members of 3rd Bn, 7th Inf came under a heavy volume of Viet Cong fire. While attempting to clear the nipa-palm area, one man was shot.

Private First Class Mike J. Wardell, a platoon medic, accompanied by another platoon member, attempted to reach the injured man.

The wounded GI had fallen directly between two bunkers that were still manned by Viet Cong. Wardell said, "My buddy and I crawled for 40 meters through heavy nipa-palm to reach him." During this time the platoon laid down covering fire but they were still receiving constant automatic rifle fire from the two bunkers.

Just before reaching the downed soldier, Wardell's companion was shot and killed instantly. "I did what I could, but he was already dead," Wardell said. "I then crawled to the first man that had been hit, but he also was dead. There was nothing else I could do for

him." While still under fire, he picked up an M-79 belonging to one of the men and crawled back to his platoon's position. Wardell said later, "I had to go out there. They were my buddies and I had to do what I could to save them."

## 3 Bronze Stars



Captain Frank L. Slaughter, Jr. was presented in November with two Bronze Star Medals for Valor in May and August, another for Meritorious Service, and an Army Commendation Medal for Meritorious Achievement while serving as an intelligence officer for Brigade and later as company commander for Bravo Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf.

# Electronics Repair Shop on Wheels

By SP4 Joseph F. Whinnery

"We knew the guys needed help, and we felt we could do it," said Specialist Four Doyle Scoggins (Cleveland, Tenn.) about himself and Private First Class Ronald Coleman (Philadelphia, Pa.), volunteering for a job that had to be done.

The two Redcatchers of Bravo Co, 7th Spt Bn, work in a 24-ton truck van to repair electronic devices. The "electronic maintenance contact team," which travels to battalion base camps, began operation in October.

"An average of six days is the time needed to repair a radio, mine detector, 'starlight,' or other equipment sent through normal channels. We hope to cut down priority repair by 60 per cent and this week we did. We try to return the item in 24 hours or less," said the section chief, Chief Warrant Officer Tommy Wolfe (Crossett, Ark.).

The only van of its type in the Brigade is stocked with nearly all parts required to do third echelon maintenance. Parts can be flown to the van if an item is needed in an emergency. Items that cannot be repaired at the van are sent to the 7th Spt Bn's main shops at Camp Frenzell-Jones.

Coleman and Scoggins fitted the new maintenance van themselves, using equipment from an old van. They spent approximately two weeks fixing wiring, stocking parts, and checking equipment. Their section chief said, "I'm real proud of them. They work on their own. The Army could use more men able to work without supervision."

The mobile team is one more way to provide support for the

combat troops. "Seventh Support Battalion does everything possible—and then some—to keep us in fighting condition. Whenever we need something, we have it," commented Lieutenant Colonel Manuel Asensio, Jr., commanding officer of 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf.

## Enemy and Luck Assist RTO's Recon

Don't tell Charlie, but he brought that bad artillery down on himself, and in a most unusual way.

It began when he blew Specialist Four Dan Schetz (Billings, Mont.) off a ragboat. Schetz is a radio-telephone operator with Btry A, 2nd Bn, 40th Arty.

Returning in convoy from a recon-in-force operation south-east of Saigon, his ragboat was hit by submerged mines and rocket-grenades almost simultaneously. Schetz was sitting on deck one moment, then WHOOMP! Aqua City; Swimville. Paddling near shore, he spotted a VC on the bank blazing away at the convoy. Unarmed and unarmed, Schetz hid in the mud and bushes until the man left.

Ashore at last, Schetz was joined by a South Vietnamese Navy crewman blown overboard by the same explosion. They watched as their ragboat chugged upstream, then found a road in that direction leading through the nipa palm.

They crept down the road, counted between 30 and 40 Viet Cong positioned along the riverbank, rattling out small arms fire against the convoy. Unnoticed by VC, the pair somehow attracted the attention of a passing chopper pilot, who zoomed in and whizzed them away.

Dropped at his unit, Schetz grabbed his radio and helped call in artillery on the enemy positions he had just visited.

Said a buddy, "Even our forward observers seldom get that close, but Charlie had himself to blame. He practically sent Dan an invitation."



SEWING MACHINE is given to nuns of the Da Minh orphanage, near Ho Nai village, by Specialist Four William F. O'Brien and Private First Class Ernesto Mejia, who have a talent for unearthing such things. (Photo by Gragg)

## Australians Entertain 2/3

Members of the 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf, were treated to an unexpected yet pleasant treat recently at fire-support base "Julie," when a USO show of Australian entertainers performed an unscheduled show for them.

Their schedule called for an afternoon show at a different unit, but they gave up their morning rest to travel several miles of bumpy dirt roads to entertain an enthusiastic and appreciative audience of Redcatchers.

The seven members of the Australian troupe had been in Vietnam since early September. The men of the Old Guard had nothing but praise for the entertainers after listening to selections of music and dance routines, including the more popular ones from the states, as well as Australian standards.

Chaplain (Captain) Andrew C. Berthold said, "The show gave the men a chance to relax. It was a needed change of pace."

The show lasted for two and one-half hours, with the Redcatchers showing their appreciation by their enthusiastic applause.

## Losers Weepers?

### 'Sewing Machine Charlie' Leaves Cache to Finders

By SP4 Charles Featherstone

Two infantrymen from Delta Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf made an unusual discovery as far as enemy caches are concerned: They uncovered 18 sewing machines in two hiding places.

Delta Co was conducting a search and clear operation near Vung Tau about 50 miles south-east of Saigon when it stopped momentarily for a break. Specialist Four William F. O'Brien of La Verne, Calif. sat down where he was at the time, near a large mound of dirt on the bank of a small stream. When an enemy force began exploding claymore-type mines, O'Brien hit the dirt and began digging when he found the mound of dirt felt hollow.

Digging down approximately two and one-half feet, he struck

something. He continued to dig and found six nearly-new sewing machines covered by ponchos and logs for protection.

About 75 meters away, Private First Class Ernesto Mejia of Pontiac, Mich. found a similar mound of dirt and began to dig. He discovered a cache of 12 more sewing machines under ponchos and logs.

The men presented the machines Dec. 1 to four of the 199th Brigade main base camp.

The sewing machines were found near a grenade factory operated by the Viet Cong. Also found at the site was evidence of ammunition bandoliers being manufactured, probably with the aid of the cached machines.

## Rice Paddy Coffee Call For 'Old Guard' Patrols

By SP4 James Christofferson

Ordinarily one wouldn't expect to see an infantryman in full battle gear, casually standing waist-deep in a rice paddy during a combat mission, drinking coffee and dunking doughnuts.

That is, unless you were a member of the 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf, in which case you would expect it.

Behind this rice paddy coffee break is a dedicated, hard-working group of mess section members who initiated the practice and keep it functioning.

Specialist Four John L. Gates, Jr. (Gaithersburg, Maryland), rations man for the "Old Guard" battalion, said that the mess section's goal is to provide field troops with meals and comforts comparable to that of the rear area.

Providing coffee and doughnuts in the mornings while the men are on combat operations is standard practice. Sometimes they're delivered to troops with the day's resupply of ammo and water. At other times the battalion commander's observation chopper serves as an airmobile coffee and doughnut shop. But one way or another, it always gets there.

Another service rendered is the cooking of eggs "to order" for the field troops. To accomplish this, one cook goes out

each day to the companies armed with eggs, a spatula, and a portable gas stove.

Proof that these extra efforts of the cooks are an important morale factor comes from Specialist Four Robert L. Eno (St. Louis, Mo.). "We didn't realize how much those coffee and doughnuts meant until our company was attached to another unit for several days and we didn't get them," he relates. "We really missed them, and morale was noticeably low in the mornings."

(Continued from Front Page)

Ruined were his girl's picture, I.D. card, some credit cards and about \$130 in MPC. On the brighter side, he won the Bronze Star Medal for Valor during the fight.

Because of an NVA doctor captured by Bravo Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf, the men also discovered a hospital complex of bunkers with supplies enough to treat 400 men. Surprised by the company sweep as he was coming down the trail, the doctor ran, was wounded, returned fire and was captured as he was trying to enter his underground hospital by a tunnel.

## NO ARMS IN MAIL

Firearms and explosives of any kind may no longer be mailed through the military APO-FPO system, according to a recent regulation from Department of Defense.

Prior to this change in policy, a serviceman could send for a shotgun from the states and have it mailed to him. But under the new regulation the mailing of all firearms is prohibited.



NEW COMMANDER 5th Bn, 12th Inf is Lieutenant Colonel Albert W. Malone, shown with Brigadier General Frederic E. Davison, Brigade commander. His last assignment was with G-3, V Corps headquarters in Frankfurt, Ger.

## Find Cache

(Continued from Front Page)

a home-made hand grenade-producing factory, as well as five kitchens with smoke stacks.

The largest cache in the complex was found by a "Kit Carson" scout with A Company, who noticed a pile of dirt and dug six feet down to a concrete cover with a lifting device. Inside was a 15-foot concreted tunnel containing the bulk of the arms and munitions.

In another instance, troops of Charlie Co noticed the ground giving as they walked and became suspicious. They found an underground room covered by a plank roof supported by logs and engineer stakes and covered with dirt. Inside was another arms cache. Other caches were found under bunkers and huts.

The Viet Cong fled the area before the U.S. troops arrived, although a skeleton crew remained as a rear-guard force to booby-trap the approaches and stall the search.

Enemy contact was light, although one company, Bravo, had five claymore mines command-detonated by five Viet Cong who then fled. No U.S. casualties were incurred in the search.