

# 'WARRIORS' Continue to Thwart Enemy



## REDCATCHER!

199th Light Infantry Brigade

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A LACK OF BRIDGES doesn't stop the men of Alpha Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf as Specialist Four Tim McReynolds and Specialist Five Glenn Zeitler employ a common technique to cross one of the larger canals during an operation near Fire Base "Chris." (Photo by Bolinger)

### Rocket Launch Foiled by Alert Guard

By SP4 James G. Low

"At first they didn't believe me," said Specialist Four Robert F. Shanahan, a radar operator from Detroit, after he spotted three Viet Cong through a Starlight scope setting up what turned out to be two 107 mm rockets 400 meters from the fire support base perimeter.

Specialist Shanahan, a member of the Echo Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf ground surveillance unit at Binh Chanh Headquarters, was on night duty on the observation tower when he saw three enemy soldiers walking toward a house about 600 meters from the tower.

Two of the Viet Cong went inside the house while the third, wearing shorts and a white shirt, began working behind a dry rice paddy dike.

"I figured he was planting a booby trap at first," said Shanahan after he phoned in his finding to the RTO on duty. The RTO at first thought he was joking, but within minutes the duty officer and Alpha Co's commander Captain Ronald E. Bishop of Caraway, Ark., climbed the tower to look for themselves.

About this time, the other two Viet Cong came out of the house and began stretching a wire. Shanahan thought this was the trip wire for the booby trap, but it turned out to be something of greater substance.

Captain Bishop led an ambush patrol located near the perimeter to the site as the surprised VC fled the area. The Redcatchers found two 107 mm rockets perched on bamboo launchers aimed directly at the massive observation tower.

Said Shanahan with a nervous smile: "I'm glad they believed me."

### RVN's 7th Station

## New MARS Facilities Enable Stateside Calls

"Break! This is Alpha Bravo 7 FTN."

"This is Alpha Alpha Mike, go ahead Alpha Bravo."

"I'm ready to take listings—give me three numbers."

"Roger. The first one goes to Tempe, Arizona. The number is..."

With that, another stateside MARS station begins placing telephone calls. Servicemen in the Redcatcher area can now call home through the new "MARS" radio system recently installed at Camp Frenzell-Jones.

The MARS (Military Affiliate Radio System) has the main broadcasting transmitters at the Brigade Main Base (BMB) with tie-ins located at the Forward Headquarters, Fire Support Base "Stephanie" and Binh Chanh. The BMB station is in the Special Services area near the swimming pool, and will be maintained and operated by the Brigade's 313th Signal Co.

"Anyone in the Long Binh area may use the MARS facilities with priority being given to injured and hospitalized servicemen and Red Cross emergencies," said Staff Sergeant Ira Crowder, supervisor of the new station. "All other calls are placed on an advancing list basis."

When a person wishes to place a call, he may go to the MARS station at BMB or to the forward area sub-stations and enter his name on a waiting list. He may also call the MARS station on the phone. The soldier placing the call supplies phone patch information which includes name, location, phone number and area code of the party he wishes to call.

The operator places the call via radio link to a stateside MARS station who then forwards it to the desired party and connects a "phone patch" through the radio. "The call can then begin," said Crowder, a 30-year-old resident of Ozark, Ala. "The only difference from a normal call is the parties must

say 'over' each time they finish talking to allow the operators (Continued on Page 8)



"A LITTLE HIGHER and to the left, please. That's it—easy does it." And that's how the Brigade's new "MARS" station got its 300-pound antenna on the 60-foot pole. (Photo by Fuller)

By SP4 Peter Gyallay-Pap

In scattered but significant activity during the last days of March, Redcatchers of the 4th and 5th Bns, 12th Inf, with artillery and air support, killed or captured 20 enemy soldiers, found a sizeable munitions cache, and averted a rocket attack upon one of their fire support bases.

Occurring within a 10-mile radius southwest of Saigon, the contacts turned back several VC main and local force reconnaissance elements searching for infiltration routes to the capital city.

"The Viet Cong local forces attempt to become more active in this area has been thwarted by the 199th's day-night operations," said assistant Brigade intelligence officer, First Lieutenant Julian F. DePree of Louisville.

March 28, the 4th Bn, 12th Inf "Warriors" received air support in eliminating a small Viet Cong force 1 mile south of the strategic Binh Dien Bridge on Highway Four, the "Gateway to the Delta."

A Binh Chanh Regional Force (RF) company was awaiting a Medevac helicopter for two members wounded by a booby trap when they suddenly began receiving heavy enemy weapons fire. The RF's returned the fire as air fighter support requested by Alpha Co arrived within nine minutes.

An F104 Starfighter guided by Alpha Co, killed five Viet Cong with 20 mm cannon fire as Bravo Co, operating several kilometers to the northeast, was diverted to act as a sealing force from the north. Alpha and Delta Co's were already in blocking positions to the south and west.

Bravo Co swept on line in heavy nipa palm growth, often reconnoitered by fire. Third platoon leader First Lieutenant Kenneth Gonzalez of Colorado Springs, Colo. led his men along a canal where the remaining enemy were

believed hidden in bunkers.

Suddenly squad leader-point-man Sergeant Eugene Begley of Austin, Ind. spotted movement 50 meters to his front as he waded down the waist-deep canal. He alerted his squad members. "About 10 or 15 meters in front of me," Begley said, "Charlie" darted out of the nipa palm line and when I yelled to the others he turned around and started coming for me."

Shots rang out and the VC fell dead in the water.

The Echo recon platoon, attached to Bravo Co, was on the west side of the canal when the Kit Carson scout suddenly spotted two more Viet Cong, one injured in the legs, squatting behind a clump of vegetation. The infantrymen surrounded their position as the scout called for them to give up. The VC surrendered shortly thereafter.

In addition to the enemy killed and captured, the sweep netted Bravo Co two AK-47 rifles, an RPD (Russian machinegun) with a fully-loaded drum of ammunition and a B-40 rocket launcher.

That night, while the 4th Bn "Warriors" set up ambushes in the area of contact, the battalion fire support base 2 miles away was about to be rocketed from a close distance. The imminent attack was thwarted, however, by a watchful guard on the observation tower who spotted three Viet Cong as they set up two 107 mm rockets 400 meters from the base perimeter. Specialist Four Robert F. Shanahan of Detroit, a member of Echo Co's ground surveillance unit, phoned his finding in and within minutes an Alpha Co ambush patrol foiled the enemy's attempted attack by moving to the launch site.

At daybreak, a Bravo Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf ambush caught six Viet Cong near Tan Kien Village 1 mile west of the Binh Dien Bridge in a cross-fire with a Binh Chanh RF ambush, killing two and capturing a suspect, while the RF unit accounted for the remaining three enemy. (Two more Viet Cong suspects were apprehended in the same area the following day.)

Also that morning, Delta Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf began a routine search operation near Tan Buu Village, 3 miles west of Tan Kien. All through the morning, alert pointmen spotted trip wires attached to Chicom grenade booby traps. Captain Lynn Stover of Panama City, Fla., company commander, knew the area where VC booby traps are likely to be found. In this case, he proved right and the Delta Co "Warriors" spent the rest of the day unearthing six 55-gal drums containing war material in five separate locations.

The drums were buried several inches underground but were found with a minesweeper. The sum of the caches included one-hundred twenty-three 60 mm

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## REDCATCHER!

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### The Chaplain Speaks

## Peace and War

By Chaplain (Capt.) William A. Macaulay, Jr.

There are always those who dream of peace without war. A more realistic approach—at least for this present life—is to seek for peace and to be prepared for war. Think of the late General Eisenhower—truly a great man of war and yet more fittingly eulogized as a man of peace. He was constantly working toward peace, even when he had to take up arms.

In the Christian life there must be a similar attitude. A good soldier of Jesus Christ not only strives for peace (Psalm 34:14); he also carries peace within his heart (Psalm 119:165). At the same time he realizes that he must constantly wage warfare against his arch enemy, Satan. Jesus told his followers that he came to earth that they might have peace—peace of soul. He goes on to say that inevitably they will have spiritual conflict with Satan and this evil world. But he adds, "Be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

In other words, because Jesus overcame the world, because through his life, death, and resurrection Jesus conquered Satan and hell, a believer in Jesus Christ can also overcome all evil. In principle a believer has already overcome; he's on his way to heaven; he has everlasting life with God right now (John 3:36).

But until this present life is over a soldier of the Cross must

war against the "world." He must constantly take up the "sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God" (Ephesians 6:17) and drive Satan from his own heart and from the heart of his fellowman. He must overcome all kinds of testings and temptations and tribulations that God allows him to endure. Jesus said, "He that endureth to the end shall be saved" (Matthew 10:22).

There is not only a parallel between military warfare and spiritual warfare, there is also a "connection." James tells us that the moral source of man's outward fights and quarrels originates within his own evil heart (James 4:1). This is not to say that military warfare is always wrong for all concerned. It is to say, however, that all men by nature are fighting against God and this fighting against God is the reason for their fighting against each other.

But when a man makes his peace with God in Jesus Christ, then he tends to really love his fellowman and to live in peace with him. And some day, for such a man, the heavenly dream will indeed come true—peace without war. In the meantime this peace of soul that he already has, this peace that passeth all understanding, shall stand guard over his heart and mind through Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:7).

## Re-Up Options Include Choice Of Next Duty

Men and women serving in overseas commands have two guaranteed methods for dictating the location of their next tour of duty. They can do this by exercising either the Overseas Area of Choice, or, the CONUS Station or Area of Choice reenlistment option.

Under option, you are not obligated to make any reenlistment commitment until you have received a location that is acceptable to you.

The CONUS Station or Area of Choice option guarantees a 12-month stabilized tour at the stateside station or area of your choice, providing there is a requirement at the location for someone with your MOS and grade. Requests can be submitted until a suitable assignment is procured.

This stateside option is available to all men who complete a normal overseas tour and who are reenlisting for four, five or six years.

You must initiate your request not earlier than six months or later than one month prior to the completion of your overseas tour. Soldiers who are evacuated through hospital channels may also elect the option upon availability for reassignment.

For those who prefer another overseas tour, there are currently five overseas areas in which you can request assignment. They include Europe, the Pacific, the Canal Zone, Alaska & Vietnam.

The overseas reenlistment option is open to men E-6 and below who enlist for four, five or six years. Those who request assignment to a short-tour area need only reenlist for three years.

The Overseas Area of Choice option guarantees that your initial duty assignment will be in the area of your choice, providing there is a requirement in that area for someone with your primary MOS and grade.

If you are interested in this option, you must initiate action not earlier than four months or later than one month prior to your proposed reenlistment date.

In addition to the above two options, you are still eligible to collect your tax free reenlistment bonus. First term reenlistees may also qualify for their Variable Reenlistment Bonus, which might mean a total of \$10,000 for reenlisting.

Further information on the overseas and stateside reenlistment options and on all other reenlistment programs is available at the Brigade Reenlistment Office, Bldg. T-5001, or Tel. Redcatcher 139.

### Your Legal Officer

## Power of Attorney

By Capt. Francis P. Dicello, SJA

Sometimes a man on PCS is advised: "Go see the legal officer about executing a will and getting a 'power of attorney' for your wife." That's not an order—just a suggestion that you see your legal officer about it. Certainly you should have a will—but a "power of attorney" is a potentially dangerous document. If you're smart, you'll weigh carefully whether it's

really necessary to give someone else the legal power to speak and act for you. In many cases, it's not!

A power of attorney is a written instrument which gives another person power to act in the place and on behalf of the person who executes the power of attorney. It gives the person the power to legally place your signature on a particular or almost any document. The person who executes the power of attorney is referred to as the grantor and the person who is given the power to act is the "attorney in fact," or agent.

Most powers of attorney are given to spouses. Your decision concerning a power of attorney for your wife doesn't hinge on whether you love her or trust her. Of course you trust the loyal partner you married! However, a power of attorney shows all the responsibility for your affairs on her shoulders, and subjects her to undue pressure from all sorts of characters trying to get her signature on sales contracts and so forth. A power of attorney makes your wife's signature a mighty popular target—because her signature is now also your signature!

Consider these safety rules:

1. If you execute a "power of attorney" at all, make it a carefully limited power (for example, specifically concerning the right to act for you in selling your house or your automobile after you've been shipped out).
2. Make sure the document terminates on a definite date in the fairly near future. If you've given someone (relative, friend or spouse) a power of attorney in the past, find the document and make sure it's no longer in effect. An unlimited power of attorney with no terminating date is a real booby trap!

3. If you have any doubts about such documents—either made in the past or contemplated for the future—talk it over with the SJA, pronto!

4. Usually matters important enough to require a power of attorney involve decisions which should be made jointly by both husband and wife. Modern communications, even in Vietnam, have reduced the need for a power of attorney, since the husband's written approval can be obtained within a few days from almost anywhere in the world.

If you still think you need a power of attorney, think twice, then consult your Legal Assistance Officer.

## Save Money On Hawaii R & R

A problem with the R&R program in Hawaii is that many wives going there to join their husbands make hotel reservations through travel agencies in their home towns. This costs them money in fees and does not always guarantee that they will get the accommodations they want at the rates they want to pay. Sometimes, reservations are not even made for them.

It is entirely unnecessary for this to occur. The R&R Center at Ft. DeRussey in Honolulu will make reservations for you at no fee. If you or your wife make reservations for hotel accommodations through Ft. DeRussey, you can always be certain of getting what you want. If, for any reason, you find that the accommodations were not what you had anticipated, the R&R staff will immediately go into action to satisfy your complaints. Taking advantage of the R&R Center's reservation facilities will save time.

For reservations, you or your wife should write to the Officer-in-Charge, Ft. DeRussey, APO San Francisco 96558, as soon as you know exactly when you will arrive in Hawaii. Include information on how much you would be willing to spend, what type of accommodations you would like and the number of adults and children to be accommodated.

If your dependents arrive in Hawaii before you, they may stay in the billets at Ft. DeRussey or the dates of your hotel reservation can be extended to cover their arrival.

Be sure to include your complete mailing address in all correspondence with the R&R Center. (MACV)

## Personal Weapons Prohibited in RVN

Redcatchers are reminded that USARV and MACV regulations specifically prohibit the use or possession of any privately owned weapons by servicemen in Vietnam. Too many injuries have resulted from careless handling or misuse of these weapons. No weapons other than those authorized for the Brigade can be carried or used by members of the Brigade.

Regulations prescribe periodic inspections by commanders to insure that no persons under their control or supervision have in their possession privately owned weapons.

Bona fide war trophies, as set forth in USARV Regulation 643-29, should be registered by the individual with the Brigade Provost Marshal and must be stored in the unit arms room. No individual will be allowed to keep these weapons in any other place.



## 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

Protestant	Sunday 9, 10 a.m.	Worship Services Bde Chapel
	Weekdays 8 a.m.	Devotions Bde Chapel
	Wednesday 7 p.m.	Religious Films Bde Chapel
Catholic	Sunday 9, 10 a.m.	Mass 7th Spt Bde
	Tuesday 6:30 p.m.	Mass Bde Chapel
	Saturday 6:30 p.m.	Mass & Confession Bde Chapel

### 199TH INFANTRY BRIGADE (FORWARD)

Sunday	4:30 p.m.	Catholic Mass
	7 p.m.	Religious Films
	8 p.m.	Protestant Service

### FIRE SUPPORT BASES

Catholic	Sunday	5/12 FSB	2:30 p.m.	Protestant	Sunday	4/12 FSB	9 a.m.
	Monday	3/7 FSB	11 a.m.		Sunday	3/7 FSB	10 a.m.
	Wednesday	2/3 FSB	6 p.m.		Monday	2/3 FSB	9:30 a.m.
	Friday	4/12 FSB	6 p.m.		Monday	5/12 FSB	10 a.m.



## Awards and Decorations

### Bronze Star Medal (Valor)

SGT Paul A. Wright—3/7. Supervised the evacuation of wounded men and led two assaults on an enemy position Jan. 27.

SP5 Richard Calligan—4/12. When his company's night defensive position came under fire Jan. 11, medic Calligan came to the aid of his wounded comrades and carried them to safety.

CPT James A. Smith—3/7. During a heavy firefight Jan. 27, he quickly established a chain of command within his company to take care of a leaderless platoon.

SP4 Johnny T. Corral—3/7. Exposed himself to enemy fire to pull a wounded squad leader to cover Dec. 28. He then assaulted the enemy position, even though seriously wounded, and continued firing, enabling his comrades to destroy the enemy's position.

SGT Norman E. Sausser—3/7. Although wounded during a firefight Dec. 28 he aided in organizing and leading an assault on the enemy position, resulting in the withdrawal of the enemy force.

MAJ Robert E. Ehrhardt Jr.—HHC, 3/7. While directing ground units Jan. 28, he aided the pilot of a downed aircraft, exposing himself to enemy fire to assess the situation. He then organized a reaction force assaulting enemy positions.

1LT Robert G. Brenner—5/12. He advanced through enemy fire to aid a wounded man Jan. 11.

PSG Charles L. Stombough—4/12. When his unit was hit by enemy fire Jan. 11 and several men were wounded, he moved from his covered position and carried them to safety.

1LT Hugh F. Foster—5/12. He left his covered position to aid the wounded company medic Sep. 27, and although wounded himself continued to secure his company's position.

PFC Larry L. Turner—3/7. Moved aggressively to eliminate an enemy machine gun location during a Jan. 27 firefight.

SP4 Lyrrus Becker—3/7. Moved to aid a wounded comrade and secured a position for both of them during a Jan. 27 firefight.

LTC Leon E. Lichtenwalter, Jr.—4/12. Ordered his aircraft into a landing zone Aug. 23, and personally supervised evacuation of the wounded despite the presence of enemy fire and booby traps.

SP4 Willie H. Brice—4/12. Pursued the enemy aggressively while under fire Jan. 27.

PFC Arthur L. Villareal—4/12. Though wounded Jan. 10, he continued to aid his wounded comrades, before treating himself.

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

1LT Walter W. Rudolph—3/7. Exposed himself to enemy fire to move to the front of his platoon Jan. 28, and then led an assault on a bunker complex.

SGT Vernon G. Knutson—5/12. While moving forward to supervise the destruction of booby traps, Feb. 16, he was mortally wounded himself.

### Bronze Star Medal (Meritorious)

SSG Milton R. Joyner—E, 2/3 (1st OLC); 2LT Norman Welch—179th MID; 1LT Freeman Patrick Jr.—HHC, 2/3 (1st OLC); SFC Lee Upright—HSB, 2/40 (1st OLC); SFC Ronald R. Lombrich—C, 5/12 (1st OLC); 1LT Carl E. Ashley—B, 2/3; 1LT Keith L. Rapp—HHC, 199th Inf Bde (1st OLC); SFC L.L.C. McCoy—A, 5/12; 2LT John B. Lynch—HHC, 199th Inf Bde (1st OLC); SFC John Brown—C, 4/12; SSG Robert P. Lancour—C, 5/12 (1st OLC); SSG Bradley Fordham—A, 4/12; PSG Leroy Williams—A, 4/12 (1st OLC); SSG David L. Blazevic—C, 5/12; SSG Stephen L. Downs—856th Radio Rsch Det; CPT Jack Sutherland—A, 7th Spt Bn; PSG Galarza Luis A. Conchez—A, 4/12; SFC Wesley E. Lisk—HHC, 5/12; 1LT Gery R. Steger, HHC, 199th Inf Bde; SGT Andrew L. Jackson—D Tpr 17th Cav; SSG Herbert L. McCathen—C, 2/3; SP5 Elmer Dump—HHC, 199th Inf Bde; CPT Tom M. Johnson—HHC, 199th Inf Bde; 1LT Peter C. Gordon—87th Engr Co; 1LT Alan M. Bourne—A, 2/40; PSG Joe G. Rush—C, 5/12; SSG Howard H. Pruett—C, 5/12; 1LT James W. Hunt—E, 5/12; SP5 Garret H. Bennett, HHC, 199th Inf Bde; SFC Bernard Dunkelberger—87th Engr Co; SSG Jacob E. Beckworth—B, 4/12; SP4 Herman L. Lanchez—C, 5/12; PSG Henry W. Lyson—D, 5/12; SP4 Charles P. Hensler—B, 5/12; SSG James F. Newton—87th Engr Co; 1LT Hartwell Black—856th Radio Rsch Det; MAJ Robert B. Thomas—HHC, 199th Inf Bde (3rd OLC); SSG James L. Rash—B, 3/7; LTC Frederick D. Bell Jr.—HSB, 2/40; PFC Ralph L. Blauvelt—E, 4/12; PFC Gomez D. Badillo—D, 5/12; 1LT James McCall—313th Sig Co; 1LT Matt L. Spence—E, 2/3; CPT Gregg M. Schroder—856th Radio Rsch Det; SP5 Wayne A. Johnson—HHC, 2/3; PSG Willie J. McKinney—HHC Det, 7th Spt Bn; 1LT Roger Crum—HHC, 199th Inf Bde; 1LT Walter W. Rudolph—B, 3/7; SFC Vencen Ackerson—E, 2/3.

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

PFC Austin L. Edwards—3/7.

### Air Medal (Valor)

MAJ Robert E. Ehrhardt Jr.—HHC, 3/7; W1 David M. Watters, HHC, 199th Inf Bde; SP4 William G. Hoban—HHC, 199th Inf Bde (2nd OLC); SP4 Charles Hensler—B, 5/12; SP5 Walter E. Mitchell—HHC, 199th Inf Bde (5th OLC); SP4 Lorenzo C. Rodriguez—HHC, 199th Inf Bde; W1 Christopher Kilgore—199th Inf Bde.

1LT Pedro Diaz—A, 3/7; SSG Tommy L. Powell—C, 3/7; SP4 Walter L. Barber—HHC, 3/7; PFC James Sims—A, 3/7; SGT William F. White—E, 3/7; SSG Ronald R. Lombright—C, 5/12; SGT Huel D. Ataway—C, 5/12; SP4 Philip E. Sikora—C, 5/12; SGT Benny C. Bowman—C, 5/12; SP4 Terry D. Bowman—E, 2/3; PFC Robert S. Newton—A, 3/7; CPT Jose F. Guevara—A, 3/7; SP4 George L. Ortiz—B, 3/7; SSG Robert P. Lancour—C, 5/12.

## 'Cottonbaler' Mortarman Earns April SOM Honors

April's Brigade Soldier of the Month was 20-year-old Specialist Four Wendell M. Watkins of Chicago.

Formerly a mortarman with Echo Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf, Watkins served as the General's Enlisted Aide during the month, earning the Air Medal. A graduate of Morgan Park High School in Chicago, Watkins worked as a meat cutter's apprentice for

two years before his induction into the Army.

He also attended night school for data processing, a study he plans to pursue with the aid of the G.I. Bill for Education after separation from the service.

Being selected Soldier of the Month, earned Watkins a \$2 U.S. Government Savings Bond, an in-country R&R to Vung Tau, and a custom-tailored suit.

## In the Field

# Brigade Summary

### March 19:

"Warriors" from Delta Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf apprehended three VC suspects during operations 8 miles southwest of Saigon, while other battalion infantrymen recovered two large bundles of NVA propaganda pamphlets hidden in a nipa palm thicket.

Three miles southeast of Duc Hoa, elements of the 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf "Old Guard" found one AK-47 rifle with three empty magazines.

In other light scattered action, members of 5th Bn, 12th Inf found one B-40 mortar round, one 82mm mortar round, and five empty fuse cans.

### March 20:

More than 3,800 rounds of small arms ammunition, along with 20 RPG rocket rounds were discovered southeast of Duc Hoa by elements of the "Old Guard" 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf, while artillerymen from the Brigade's 2nd Bn, 40th Arty were credited with one Viet Cong killed yesterday during light action.

The ammunition cache was buried in 55-gallon drums along a canal bank 2 1/2 miles southeast of Duc Hoa. The Redcatcher infantrymen also destroyed 20 bunkers, including an enemy command bunker.

In Tan Tao village 6 miles southwest of Saigon, "Cottonbalers" of 3rd Bn, 7th Inf discovered six camouflaged bicycles

during a cordon and search of the village. Ten detainees were held for further questioning during the cordon, which included Medcap and the distribution of food and clothing to the villagers.

The Viet Cong killed by the artillerymen were discovered 7 miles south of Duc Hoa by a patrol of ARVN soldiers.

### March 21:

Redcatchers continued search operations west of Saigon today, destroying 18 bunkers and 4 booby traps 3 miles southwest of Duc Hoa. One of the booby traps was a Claymore mine set between two pieces of bamboo.

"Warriors" from 4th Bn, 12th Inf found two 82mm mortar rounds and one 82mm white phosphorous round 10 miles southwest of Saigon. A unit of Bravo Co also found an isolated fence stacked with dry leaves in the area running east to west for 250 meters. A gate made from two concrete pillars 12 feet high and 12 inches in diameter was also discovered.

A sign on the gate read: "We kill all ARVN soldiers and build a new village at My Lgon." Many danger signs were in the area and six Chicoms booby traps with pressure release detonators were found and destroyed along with the mysterious gate.

### March 22:

Helicopter gunships supporting

Brigade elements killed ten Viet Cong today.

A forward air controller working with the Brigade received small arms fire and spotted the Viet Cong in an open field. He called for a light fire team which engaged and killed the enemy.

Elsewhere, "Warriors" from Alpha Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf, working in an area 11 miles southwest of Saigon, discovered 2 AK-47 rifles with magazines, one bag of mortar mix, and 30 charges. The infantrymen also sank one sampans.

Elements of Delta Co of the same battalion found a Chicom grenade booby trap and one RPG round.

### March 23:

While conducting sweeps in the Binh Chanh area 7 miles southwest of Saigon today, "Warriors" from Alpha Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf found a small cache hidden in several haystacks. It contained five RPG boosters, two maps and one small packet of documents.

Two Viet Cong road blocks were also discovered in the same area. They were constructed from mounds of dirt surrounded by concertina wire. Viet Cong propaganda signs and pamphlets were found in the area around the road block. Several booby traps were found and destroyed along with the road block.

### March 24:

The Brigade Civil Affairs Section (SS) continued to help the people of Ho Nai village rebuild their homes, many of which were destroyed during the post-Tet fighting last month.

To date, the villagers have received over 20 truckloads of lumber, 300 bags of cement, and 800 sheets of tin roofing from the S-5 office. The villagers perform the actual construction work.

Captain Melvin R. Chatman of Detroit, Brigade Civil Affairs Officer said, "We expect to have over 8 homes rebuilt in about 5 months."

### March 25:

In activities west of Saigon today, two Brigade operations netted small weapons caches and resulted in one Viet Cong killed by artillery.

Popular Forces working with "Warriors" of 5th Bn, 12th Inf uncovered a 55-gallon drum containing 25 new AK-47 rifles and 15 loaded magazines while on a cordon and search operation 5 miles southwest of Saigon. The cache, found in a hamlet of Tan Kien Village, had been in place about one month.

Operating in the "pineapple" region west of Saigon, "Old Guard" infantrymen from Bravo Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf found another 55-gallon drum buried in a dike 6 miles southwest of Duc Hoa. Thirteen B-40 rocket rounds were found inside the drum.

Towards dusk, the Brigade's forward air controller (FAC) spotted one Viet Cong in the northern pineapple region 3 miles south of Duc Hoa. Captain Charles F. Thomas of Denver, Colo. said, "I was flying in support of a bunker-destruction mission when I spotted at least one pajama-clad Viet Cong near a canal infested with bunkers and fighting positions." Thomas called in and adjusted two 2nd Bn, 40th Arty batteries resulting in one Viet Cong killed and 11 bunkers destroyed.

### March 26:

"Warriors" from Alpha Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf discovered 60 homemade grenades in a hootch 7 miles southwest of Saigon today. One bunker was also destroyed.

### March 27:

"Warriors" of 5th Bn, 12th Inf this morning continued a reconnaissance-in-force operation begun yesterday 8 miles southwest of Duc Hoa.

(Continued on Page 6)



Lieutenant General Frank T. Mildren, USARV Deputy Commander, presents the USARV Reenlistment Trophy to Sergeant First Class Donald Fleming, Brigade career counselor, for achieving the highest reenlistment rate among brigade and group size units in Vietnam during 1968. (Photo by Hassenfratz)

## Brigade Awarded Re-up Trophy For Highest RVN Totals

The 199th Brigade was recently awarded the USARV Reenlistment Trophy for achieving the highest reenlistment rate among brigade and group size units in Vietnam during 1968.

Lieutenant General Frank T. Mildren, USARV Deputy Commander, presented the trophy to Sergeant First Class Donald E. Fleming, Brigade career counselor. Fleming received the award on behalf of the reenlistment program of the 199th, commanded by Brigadier General Frederic E. Davison.

In earning the trophy, the Brigade reenlisted 206 men in the selectee and 1st Term RA categories. During the year, 12.2 percent of selectee eligibles reenlisted while 63.5 percent of eligible 1st Term RA soldiers took the oath of reenlistment. In addition, 127 career soldiers reenlisted. All percentages were

well above Department of the Army and USARV goals.

A 16-year veteran of career counseling, Fleming pointed out that he had never felt "such strong command interest and support for the reenlistment program." The Brigade is continuing to set the pace in 1969, maintaining the highest reenlistment rate in Vietnam for the first two months of the current year.

According to Fleming, "bunker hopping" was the key to the success of the Brigade's career program. "My aim has been to reach every qualified individual in the Brigade regardless of his location," said Fleming, "and to that end, I have flown an every kind of helicopter, ridden every conceivable vehicle, and walked through paddies and across streams to reach the men."



# Fire

Story

The evening silence is shattered! Gun crews scramble to their positions as the field phone barks the command, "Fire Mission!" The forward observer radios—"Estimated 25 Victor Charles in the open!" Grid coordinates are quickly plotted. Then, "Battery, one round. Fire." Within seconds six rounds are out and on their way to a rendezvous with the enemy. Gun section members know their jobs well and speed is the byword. Proficiency comes from intense training and actual combat experience.

Batteries of the 2nd Bn, 40th Arty have an important mission: To deliver timely, accurate and devastating fire in support of 199th Brigade infantrymen and associated ARVN elements.

The keystone of a 105 mm howitzer battery is the individual gun section. Each has six men, including the gunner, assistant gunner, fuse cutter, loader, ammo man and section chief. Every man has a specific job to do, however, a section is self-sufficient in that every man is qualified in all jobs, should any member become incapacitated.

During fire missions, the section chief supervises his men and mans the field phone linked to the fire direction control

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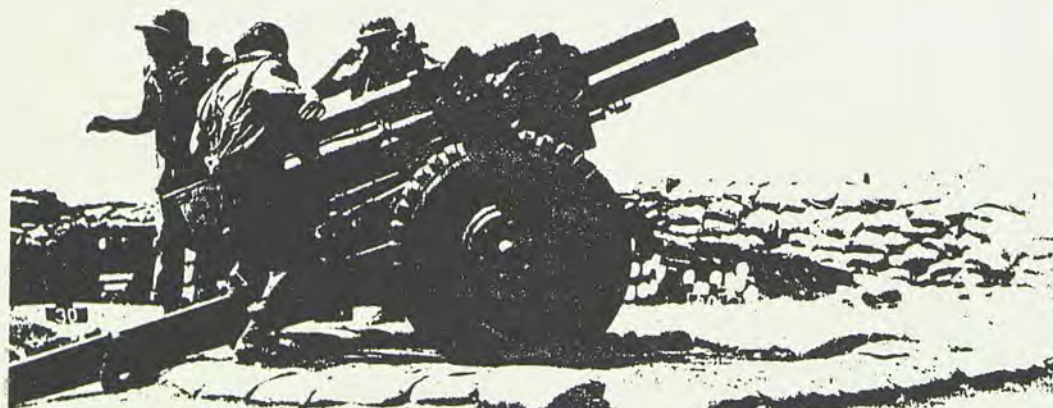
**DITCH-DIGGING** wasn't in the contract, but paddy-land conditions south of Saigon make it necessary for Specialist Four James Lauman to control the waterflow around his artillery piece.

(Photo by SP5 Joseph F. Whinnery)



**CHIEF OF THE INSPECTION TEAM**, this python can really get to the bore of the job while helping specialist Four Larry Blevins of Franklin, Ohio clean his big gun.

(Photo by Hassenfratz)



**ANOTHER** round is on its way to a rendezvous with "Charlie" as these members of Charlie Btry give indirect fire support to the troops in the field.

(Photo by Hassenfratz)



**A ROUND'S EYE VIEW** of the land the round spin so it will maintain



# Mission!

Story By SP4 Michael D. Cannon

center. The gunner is charged with setting and maintaining the correct deflection of the gun while the assistant gunner adjusts the range and yanks the lanyard that sends a round on its way.

One of the most crucial roles is played by the fuse cutter. He must screw either a variable time (VT) or point detonating (PT) fuse onto each projectile, and in the case of VT fuses, must insure accurate settings to avoid possible detonation over friendly positions. The ammo man keeps a constant supply of rounds for the loader who extracts the expended shell casing and shoves a new round into the breech.

Section crews perform daily maintenance on their howitzers to insure perfect functioning at all times and in all weather conditions. Ammunition is constantly "humped" to the section area, as a shortage could mean disaster for an infantry unit in a tight situation.

Since speed and mobility are essential, a battery must prepare to fire shortly after moving into position. The guns are initially aimed in a certain direction (azimuth) and then trained over aiming stakes to provide further accuracy (laying the guns). If

two batteries switch locations, three guns remain laid at all times.

In today's modern artillery, the computer is used extensively. When the initial "Fire Mission" command echoes over the FDC (Fire Direction Control) radio, the FADAC (Field Artillery Digital Automatic Computer) is activated. A single operator feeds in initial data and the machine computes the range and quadrant elevation, and selects the optimum powder charge. After a round is fired, the computer instantly calculates all changes necessary to alter the strike of the next round. One FADAC can control five different batteries simultaneously and is capable of retaining data on 88 different targets and nine forward observer locations!

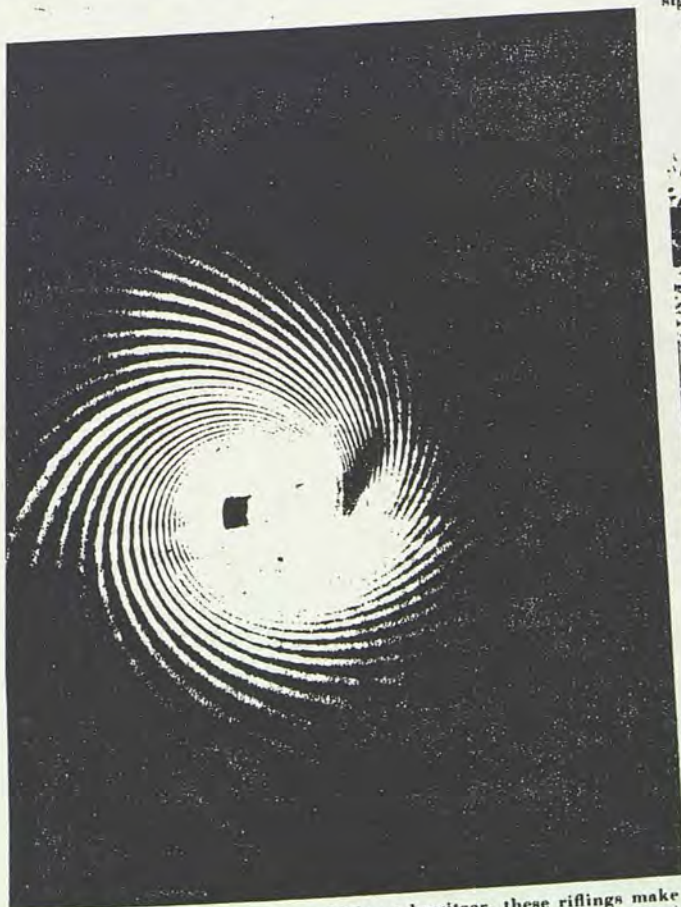
All 2nd Bn, 40th Arty batteries remain ready to provide indirect fire support for 199th soldiers around the clock. The safety of infantrymen and the successful completion of their mission often lie solely in the hands of the artillery, because artillery fire is capable of neutralizing opposing forces to such a degree that within seconds after contact, our infantry can assume fire superiority.



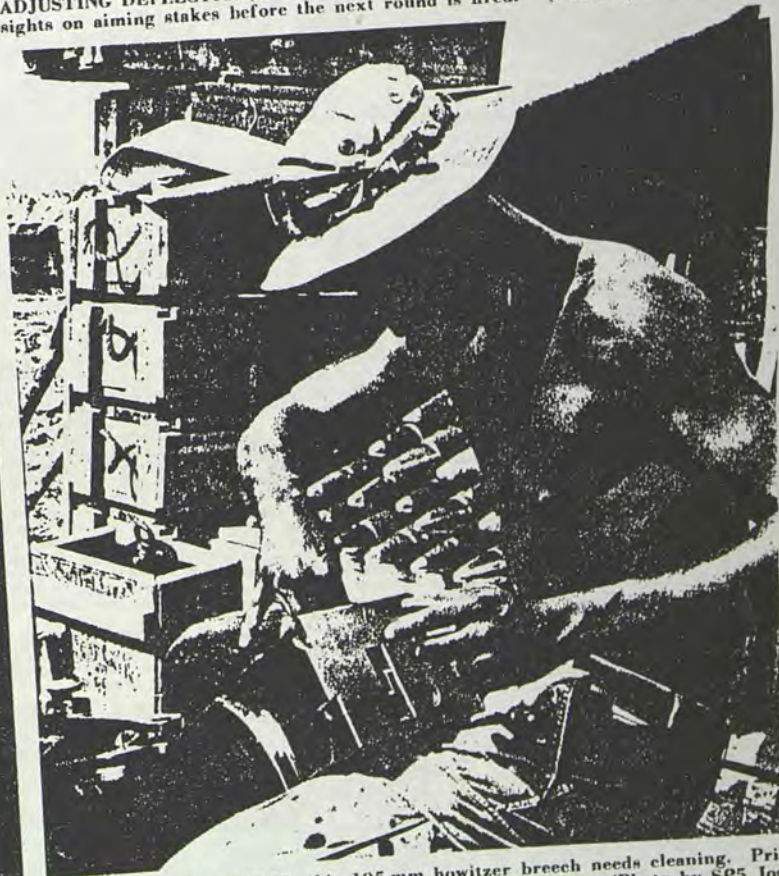
**LOADING ANOTHER ROUND** into a 105 mm howitzer as an expended shell casing drops to the ground, a gun crew brings rapid, effective fire into enemy positions while supporting Redcatcher infantrymen. (Photo by Hassenfratz)



**ADJUSTING DEFLECTION**, Private First Class Danny Star of Rigby, Idaho takes sights on aiming stakes before the next round is fired. (Photo by Hassenfratz)



**FW of the lands and grooves** in a 105 mm howitzer, these riflings make will maintain a true trajectory to its target. (Photo by Hassenfratz)



**LIKE ALL EQUIPMENT**, this 105 mm howitzer breech needs cleaning. Private First Class James Anderson of Detroit shows how it's done. (Photo by SP5 Jos F. Whinnery)



## 7th Spt Bn Weekly Medcap Aids Ap Bau Ca Village

Story and Photos By PFC Kenneth Chaivre

It was hardly like an operating room at Mayo Clinic, but for the medics of Charlie Co, 7th Spt Bn the white brick schoolhouse in Ap Bau Ca village was more than adequate.

The village desperately needed assistance and Brigade S-5 suggested a Medcap would help the most. So once a week a battalion medical team visits Ap Bau Ca and within minutes of their arrival, villagers are crowding around the doors and windows of the schoolhouse-turned-dispensary.

The village has over 200 families, most of them refugees from the north. At least 75 percent of those visiting the dispensary suffer from a fungus which can be cured by good personal hygiene habits. Children are afflicted the worst.

Two small boys about 10 years old had sores which looked like large mosquito bites on their insteps and ankles. Specialist

Five Robert Ernst of San Antonio washed the boys' feet and applied ointment and bandages. Minor treatment is sufficient for healing most of the infections.

"A girl about 9 years old came in two weeks ago with sores all over her head. I gave her a bath," said Specialist Five Anthony Misklevitz of Dundee, Calif., "and showed her how to wash properly." He then gave her some soap and told her to scrub her head every day. When she came back, the sores were almost gone.

But soap alone is not the answer to Ap Bau Ca's health problem: Malnutrition and hunger are also common. While the medics distributed vitamin pills, Captain Dale Bergsten of Claycenter, Kan., handed out oranges, corn flakes, sugar and meat.

The Vietnamese in Ap Bau Ca are now beginning to help themselves. They are building a permanent dispensary behind the schoolhouse. "We are training a Vietnamese nurse and midwife to run the dispensary full time," explained Captain Larry Merkle of Allentown, Penn. "It's not enough to treat the sick and then leave. If we do the village will go right back to the condition it was in." Before long the Vietnamese nurse will be treating the people and the medics will only handle serious cases.

There is still much to do in the village, but a start has been made.

## Brigade S-5 Gives Civilians English Lessons

English classes are being taught to civilian employees of the 199th Infantry Brigade in an effort to promote better employer-employee relations and customer understanding.

Members of the Brigade Civil Affairs office (S-5) learned that many of the simple problems existing between civilian employees and Brigade servicemen are a result of the language barrier. In many cases, it is a matter of the workers misunderstanding simple English words.

"For example," said Captain Chatman, Brigade S-5 officer, "kitchen help were instructed to clean a hundred pounds of potatoes and mistakenly washed a hundred pounds of tomatoes. Similar situations were noticed in other areas where civilians are employed," he added.

In discussion with the Civilian Personnel Office it was learned that many of the civilians working on the compound could speak broken English but would become fluent with more training. Key personnel whose increased knowledge of the language would benefit each section, were chosen to attend the classes. Out of 700 employees 85 were selected.

Classes are held on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons and are separated into three sections: beginners, intermediates and interpreter-translator levels. Lieutenant Gilbert Hatcher, assistant S-5 officer, handles the advanced course and Captain Chatman the intermediate class.

The beginners' class, which has the most students, is taught by a staff of three instructors and a Vietnamese interpreter. The instructors are Specialist Four Ernest Villa of Venice, Calif., Specialists Five Richard Memia from Cincinnati, and Thomas Mann of Rumford, R.I. All three are members of Alpha Co, 7th Spt Bn.

"Emphasis is always placed on job-related topics," said Chatman. "Daily homework assignments are given and students are periodically tested to see if they have improved enough to be moved to a higher class." The texts used were obtained from the Vietnamese-American Association in Saigon.

## 3/7 Medcap Cures Burn Victim

"Put her down for anything, she just wants vitamins," said a medic, and a 3rd Bn, 7th Inf Medcap at Binh Tri Dong Village went on as usual.

The operation had been strictly routine. A jeep ambulance took the medics, a Vietnamese interpreter, and all needed medical supplies from Fire Support Base "Stephanie" to the Medcap site. The supplies were broken out, and the interpreter began obtaining information about ailments while the medics passed out medicine for respiratory infections, skin diseases, stomach aches, and cuts.

Then a small commotion broke out. The Medcap was being held in a schoolyard at the time crowded with refugees from a large fire that had left about 100 families homeless. Several children had run to an elderly man just entering the schoolyard and were following him as he approached the medics.

He had been in the fire and had escaped with his life—at a terrible cost. He had burns over his head, neck, and shoulders, some of them swathed in bandages. The wounds were severely infected and the man was in great pain. After obtaining his medical history, the medics began treating the burns to stem the infection.

Six weeks later, the wounds are clean. The patient looks as though he is recovering from a case of sunburn instead of from wounds suffered in the fire that destroyed so many homes.

The medics who originally treated him have since been transferred. The Medcap facilities have also been taken over by local civilian nurses. The patient is still changing too, getting healthier and healthier each time the medics stop to visit him.



EXPLAINING how to take the medicine, Specialist Five Anthony Misklevitz talks to the young girl and her brother through an interpreter.



THIS ELDERLY RESIDENT of Ap Bau Ca village is crippled by arthritis. He and other members of his village are helped regularly by a medical civic action team from 7th Spt Bn.



SKIN INFECTIONS are a common problem in the village. Specialist Four Douglas Wilson treats this boy for a neck sore.

## Summary

(Continued from Page 3)

southwest of Duc Hoa.

A bunker complex containing at least 20 bunkers was discovered and destroyed by Alpha Co, with 10 additional bunkers being destroyed by other battalion elements. Over 20 bunkers were discovered and destroyed by Alpha Co, with 10 additional bunkers being destroyed by other battalion elements. Over 20 spider holes were found in the same area as the bunker complex and were also destroyed.

The "Warriors" also found and destroyed 10 Viet Cong sampans found submerged in a nearby canal.

A bag of Viet Cong medical supplies was also discovered hidden under a poncho and one Viet Cong Claymore mine, one 82mm mortar round, and one 55-gallon drum of fuel were found and destroyed.

Elements of 4th Bn, 12th Inf held one detainee and found and destroyed five booby traps and three bunkers while operating 3 miles southwest of Saigon. One of these bunkers had concrete walls covered with Viet Cong slogans.

In light action 5 miles southwest of Saigon, members of the 3rd Bn, 7th Inf "Cottonbalers" found and destroyed four B-40

rocket rounds, four bunkers and one booby trap. A 50 lb. bag of rice was also found.

March 28:

Brigade elements today killed six Viet Cong and captured two suspects in afternoon action 6 miles southwest of Saigon.

A Binh Chanh Regional Forces company working with Alpha and Bravo Co's of the 4th Bn, 12th Inf "Warriors" received initial contact from a Viet Cong force 1 mile south of the strategic Binh Dien Bridge. The RF's returned fire with unknown results as air support arrived within five minutes.

An air strike in support of Alpha Co, killed five Viet Cong with 20mm cannon fire, while Bravo Co killed an additional enemy soldier and wounded another. The wounded soldier and one suspect were detained in the action.

March 29:

Redcatchers engaged the enemy southwest of Saigon today, resulting in three VC killed and two detainees held.

Infantrymen from Bravo Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf killed two VC and detained one suspect 8 miles southwest of Saigon, while 14 miles southwest of the capital, Bravo Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf

"Warriors" killed one VC and detained one suspect.

Seven miles south of Saigon, infantrymen from Alpha Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf chased and captured one wounded suspect. Three bunkers, containing 60 rounds of AK-47 ammunition and 2 B-40 rounds, were discovered where the suspect was hiding.

Elsewhere, members of Delta Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf detained one person who was later identified as a Viet Cong. While on the sweep, the "Warriors" found a 55-gallon drum containing 80 B-41 rocket rounds, three B-40 charges, two AK-47 rifles, and two cases of small arms ammunition. Minutes later, another 55 gallon drum of gasoline was discovered buried three feet underground. Later in the day, Delta Co infantrymen also uncovered a complete 82mm mortar, 149 B-40 boosters, one hundred twenty-three 60mm mortar rounds and 51 cases of fuses.

March 30:

Redcatchers today killed six VC in action 8 miles southwest of Saigon.

ARVN soldiers operating with Alpha Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf contacted an estimated five Viet Cong while sweeping an area south of Binh Chanh. Alpha Co quickly moved to support the ARVN's and killed all five VC.



# American Indians

## Serve 3/7

By PFC Thomas Reilly

Making onetime foes into useful allies has long been characteristic of the United States. The U.S. Army's Kit Carson Scout is an example of this tradition in Vietnam. Another example, often overlooked, is the American Indian.

The "Cottonbalers" of 3rd Bn, 7th Inf have a long and distinguished record of service in the Indian Wars which broke out as the Far West was opened to settlement. Alpha Co has two descendants of the Indians who fought the Cottonbalers between 1860 and 1880 as the United States made its last great push through the Far West to the Pacific.

Private First Class Raymond Jenks is from the Ouray Reservation in Utah. His people, the Ute Indians, fought the cavalry (including the 7th) in a series of comparatively minor skirmishes for 20 years before they settled on the reservations. Unfortunately, his family's history during this period was lost. Another Redcatcher of the Cheyenne tribe is Private First Class Gary Medicine Bird from Canton, Oklahoma, who remembers stories told by his grandfather, Night Killer, about the West he'd known in his native Cheyenne.

He lived to be well over 100, and as a young man had joined the Sioux to fight against Custer in the Battle of Sand Creek. The Cheyenne brave and the Sioux finally caught up with Custer and his weakened force near Montana's Little Big Horn River in the summer of 1876. The result is a permanent part of American History.

# First Ambush Nets Three VC

An estimated squad-size enemy force walked into a Bravo Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf night ambush March 30, leaving behind two dead. One suspect was detained.

The ambush patrol from the first platoon had been in position near fire base "Jeanie" for about six hours when the VC were spotted walking straight towards them across an open paddy. Their mission was never accomplished.

Lying behind a rice paddy dike the ambush element from Bravo Co had a clear view of the file of enemy soldiers approaching their position from across the open paddy.

Private First Class Michael W. Thompson from Monticello, Ind. had just reported to Bravo Co from the Redcatcher Training Center and was on his first combat operation with his new company. He was manning a 90 mm recoilless rifle.

"I spotted the VC just as our Claymore daisy chain was blown," said Thompson, "and I opened up with my 90." Two VC were killed immediately.

"It would have been impossible to miss them. They were all in file and right in front of me," exclaimed Thompson.

The rest of the enemy force escaped.

Although the concept of a professional soldiery goes back far beyond the Legions of Rome, standing armies have seldom been popular for long periods. Consequently, the idea of mercenary soldiery was developed. Again in the case of Rome, soldiers were recruited from the various areas of Europe colonized by the Romans of that period.

# VC Propaganda Techniques Don't Faze Redcatchers

Pointing perhaps to the success of the Allied Psyops and Government of Vietnam (GVN) "Chieu Hoi" programs, the Viet Cong in Binh Chanh District southwest of Saigon, have attempted various psychological gimmicks of their own; but Redcatchers aren't buying.

Although most of the Viet Cong's propaganda efforts go into declaiming the GVN, they have also been directing their psyops activities at Redcatchers operating in the area.

Leaflets crudely printed and with misspellings are the most common type of propaganda vehicles employed. Their theme urges the G.I. to refuse to go out in the field, not to resist the "Liberation Army," and if engaged, to lay down his weapons "for lenient treatment." This, the VC propagandists say, would bring not only an "early restoration of peace in South Vietnam," but also an "early return home" for you, the "G.I."

A more recent trick has been to depict crude facsimiles of an American handwriting style on leaflets purported to have been written by an American prisoner of war. In one such leaflet—a Vietnamese typed translation appears on the reverse side—a named photographed serviceman allegedly claims that his captors' treatment is "very good," and urges his former compatriots not to "go on field operations to avoid being engaged," and to "demand peace and a quick return home."

Another leaflet is the Viet Cong's equivalent to the GVN's Safe Conduct Pass, called the "Bill for Special Fair Treatment." If the orange-embossed bill is presented upon "rallying" or being captured, the U.S. serviceman can supposedly count on preferred treatment and likely prospects for release.

What do Redcatchers think of the enemy's propaganda-leaflet foray?

"Bunk!" replied Private First Class Barry Ford of Dallas, Tex.

It's some of the funniest reading I've come across in a long time," said Private First Class Ivan G. Shaw of Detroit.

Other methods used by Viet Cong propaganda squads, comprised of local guerrillas supported by a larger psyops unit, include painting slogans on schools and houses as well as signs along roads, boasting of a Viet Cong/NLF (National Liberation Front) victory in the war, degrading the GVN, and painting an unfavorable picture of American servicemen. "Yan-

kee Go Home!" signs are among those used by the enemy.

"They (VC propagandists) have been known to go into people's homes to talk with them in much the same manner as the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) Armed Propaganda Team does," said First Lieutenant John J. Cwiklinski of Norwich, Conn.

"They seem to know they're losing the war," he continued, "and their activities seem to be desperate attempts to reverse a losing situation for them in Binh Chanh." Lieutenant Cwiklinski, who is a team leader for the 6th Psyops Bn, 4th Psyops Gp, assigned to the Brigade, said the GVN receives an average of two "returnees" or Hoi Chanh, from the area each week.

In recent months, the Viet Cong have attempted more bizarre, and for them, physically grueling projects in the area. They have spent hours under cover of darkness to stack large mounds of clay and dirt on the road for roadblocks which are often booby trapped and marked with warning signs.

Bravo Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf recently made the unusual discovery of a 250-meter fence in the middle of a rice paddy separated along a dike by two concrete pillars 12 feet high and 12 inches in diameter. A sign on one of the pillars, which flew a Viet Cong flag, read: "We Kill all ARVN Soldiers and Build a New Village at My Lgon." Between the pillars was a booby trapped pile of hay with a U.S. helmet and web gear on top.

The fence was made of three strings of barbed wire with dry leaves and rice paddy clay perched alongside. Several "Tu Dia," or "Danger" signs were evident and a careful search yielded six Chicoms booby traps with percussion detonation devices.

"It's merely a psychological weapon to remind everyone the Viet Cong are still in the area," said Captain Theodore H. Lackland of Chicago, the company commander. "The interesting part, aside from the idea itself, is that it was built a few days before in complete darkness."

The Viet Cong also built a crude raft replete with posters, leaflets, banners and slogans, both anti-American and denunciatory of the GVN. They floated the attraction downstream to a bridge manned by Redcatchers, who after checking for booby traps, dismantled the propaganda vessel for souvenirs.



HOT IN THE BOONIES, HUMPER? Looking for a shady tree to relax under and enjoy a tall, cool one? The tree ain't so shady, but the tall, cool one looks delicious. Name's pineapple-punch. Hate that name!

# 'Cottonbaler' Sweep Uncovers Varied Cache

The 3rd Bn, 7th Inf "Cottonbalers" embarked on a block and sweep operation March 27 six miles southwest of Saigon near Fire Support Base "Stephanie," netting several caches that contained everything from rocket rounds to a tube of toothpaste.

Eleven B-40 rocket rounds, a Chicoms Claymore mine, grenades,

VC ponchos, a cooking stove, chopsticks, pots, bowls, canteens, rice, and, of course, the toothpaste were uncovered by the combined Redcatcher-ARVN force.

The battalion's Charlie Co moved into position near Tan Tao village early in the morning and began to sweep south. Delta and Bravo Co's joined the Delta Troop, 17th Cav tracks in setting up a blocking force parallel to the Korean Road and the An Lac Highway. Flanked by squads of ARVN soldiers, Charlie Co moved at sunup through thick nipa palm and water, encountering numerous booby traps. The recon-by-fire sweep began in late morning.

A patrol boat from Charlie Co began cruising the Song Nuoc Long River just ahead of the blocking force. The boat crew tossed grenades into the water at intervals to prevent possible escaping Viet Cong from using the river bottom for concealment. The caches were discovered soon afterwards by the combined U.S.-ARVN force. Several bunkers were blown in the same area where Bravo Co had destroyed a platoon size enemy base camp several weeks ago.

By the time all elements were withdrawn the enemy had lost substantial supplies and munitions. But losing his toothpaste shouldn't hurt "Charlie" at all. With all that infantry breathing down his neck he won't have time to find a toothbrush, let alone use it.



THREE TIRED "WARRIORS" of Alpha Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf await helicopter pickup after a sweep 10 miles south of Saigon. (Photo by Bolinger)





**HEARING THE VOICE** of his girl for the first time since coming to Vietnam, Private First Class Douglas J. McLean appears dreamy-eyed as the MARS station completes connections to her home in Connecticut. (Photo by Hassenfratz)

## Antenna Poses Tricky Problem For Signalmen

The problem: a 60-foot pole and three hundred pounds of 30-foot antenna to go on top. The solution: A Huey, of course.

Those were the circumstances that led to the aerobatics show that took place at the Brigade's Main Base March 30. The antenna was for the new MARS (Military Affiliate Radio System) station which recently became the seventh station in the Vietnam MARS network. It is an aluminum tubing, high gain antenna for transmitting and receiving distant signals and is 30 feet long and 20 feet wide. The 60-foot telephone pole which it was mounted atop was set up several days earlier and the mounting fixtures were ready to receive the antenna. All that remained was to get it up there.

"We had two choices of how to do it," said Major John Roland, Brigade Signal officer. "There wasn't a crane tall enough available so we used a Huey."

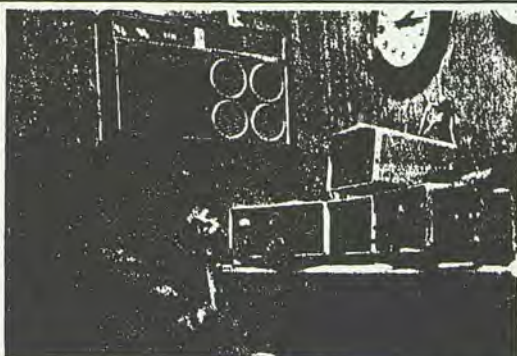
Once lifted, someone had to be at the top of the pole to secure the antenna. Two line-men from 313th Signal Company, Specialists Four Jerry Reynolds of Galatin, Mo. and Ernest Eva of St. Petersburg, Fla., volunteered.

As the chopper lifted the antenna, the area was engulfed in dust and flying sand. "I didn't think the pilot could see us on top of the pole in all that dust," said Reynolds. "We sure couldn't see him!" But as the Huey got higher and moved over the pole, the dust cleared. Then came the touchy job of lowering the antenna base onto the clamps.

"Our biggest problem was the wind, which was gusting from the south," said Warrent Officer David Watters of Wilmington, N.C. "We were in a hover for about 12 minutes, but we weren't close to using maximum power, and had plenty of reserve."

"It looked like it would be tough at first," said Eva, "but they got the hang of it real quick and it went okay." There were four men on the ground with guide lines attached to help steady the antenna and ease it into position. After a few attempts, the base slid into the supports and the helicopter above released the line and departed.

Reynolds and Eva welcomed the cold juice that was given them after returning to earth as they tried to calm their shaky knees. "Yeah," Reynolds said, "I'm glad I'm down." And Eva agreed.



"PATCHING" another call, Staff Sergeant Ira Crowder, supervisor of the new "MARS" station, gives a name and phone number to a stateside station so an anxious Redcatcher can talk to his family.

(Photo by Hassenfratz)

## MARS Station (Continued from Page 1)

to switch the radios from transmit to receive."

Calls placed from forward substations are relayed by radio to the MARS transmitter at BMB. Conversation is then carried on in the same manner. The MARS caller pays only the standard rate from the city of the stateside receiving station to that of the party he is calling.

Another service available through the MARS program is a "MARS-Gram." Similar to a telegram, the MARS-Gram is placed by writing the message, usually under 25 words, on a prepared sheet which is sent by teletype through Hawaii to the States. "This service is very convenient for birthday, anniversary and holiday messages," Crowder added.

The MARS equipment at BMB is housed in a new, air-conditioned building next to the library in the recreation area. The building has two enclosed phone booths, a comfortable waiting lounge and two rooms for transmitter equipment. Persons using the facilities can watch the MARS operators through a large window between the lounge and the transmitter room.

The transceiver equipment was manufactured by the Bob Collins Radio Corporation and has a transmission power of 1,000 watts. The stations call letters are AB8AAM.

There are now seven stations operating in the MARS Vietnam network. The network is used as a backup emergency system for Vietnam-wide instantaneous transmission of information. The BMB station has two transceiver units, one for MARS telephone calls, the other for continuous monitoring of the MARS network.

The station is staffed by six operators who work in pairs for eight-hour shifts. It will operate 24 hours a day.

## NCO Receives Direct Commission

A former staff sergeant in the 5th Bn, 12th Inf was recently commissioned a second lieutenant in a ceremony at the Brigade's forward headquarters.

John B. Lynch, Jr. was discharged April 1 and moments later received his gold bars from Brigadier General Frederic E. Davison, commander of the 199th Brigade. He was also awarded the First Oak Leaf Cluster to the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service from April 1968 to April 1969. Lynch had served as a squad leader and liaison noncommissioned officer with the "Warrior" battalion's Alpha Co., and later as a noncommissioned officer with the Brigade Tactical Operations Center.

When the 5th Bn, 12th Inf was formed at Ft. Lewis, Wash., Lynch, who was a sergeant at the time, was assigned to the battalion as a squad leader in Alpha Co. He came with the unit to Vietnam when it was transferred here in March, 1968.

The 21-year-old native of Orlando, Fla. was promoted to staff sergeant March 6 and 15 days later was recommended for the direct commission.

Lynch began his Army career in March, 1966 with basic training at Ft. Benning, Ga. and received advanced individual training at Ft. Ord, Calif. He was promoted to private first class and specialist four while at Ft. Ord.

After returning to the States in April, the lieutenant will attend the Infantry Officer Basic Course at Ft. Benning and plans to apply for Ranger School.

As a civilian, Lynch worked as a stock clerk with a grocery store chain while attending Maynard Evans High School in Orlando, Fla. His plans are not definite but now call for a military career.

## 'Warriors' Thwart Enemy

(Continued from Page 1)

mortar rounds, 80 B-41 RPG rounds, 149 B-40 boosters, 264 fuses, two AK-47 rifles with two cases of ammunition and one 55-gallon drum of gasoline.

Also found near the drums was a complete 82mm mortar, well-greased and wrapped in a

poncho. The base plate was found buried 25 meters away. In all, seven booby traps were found and destroyed in the area, and no injuries to Redcatchers were sustained.

Closer to Brigade forward headquarters, an element of Alpha Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf spotted and engaged one Viet Cong carrying an AK-47 rifle in the afternoon just west of Korean Road. The Viet Cong was wounded and apprehended within minutes. Brigade Commander Brigadier General Frederic E. Davison, flying over the area, picked up the detainee in his helicopter and brought him to headquarters for medical treatment and interrogation.

Just before the capture, the 199th's FAC (Forward Air Controller) spotted five additional Viet Cong who fled into a nipa palm grove. Brigade artillery was directed into the position with unknown results.

The last two days of March saw more of the same, heavier-than-usual action, as Delta Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf engaged an unknown size Viet Cong force by the King Sanh canal in Tan Nhut, killing one VC and capturing a suspect, along with two AK-47 rifles, one pistol and two pounds of explosives.

That night, one of the company ambushes engaged an estimated 15 Viet Cong who returned the fire but withdrew after drawing powerful 90mm recoilless rifle fire. A follow-up sweep by Bravo Co in the early morning hours yielded two VC KIA and a wounded captive who rallied to the GVN when picked up. Two AK-47 rifles were also recovered.

In what has been a matter of routine for Redcatchers operating near Saigon's western perimeter, scores of bunkers and booby traps were found and destroyed by all Brigade units. Alpha Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf found a dozen booby traps on the last day of March one mile northwest of Binh Chanh District Headquarters. All, including a 105mm round, were destroyed, with no casualties.

In the flurry of activity that marked the closing days of March for the "Warriors," overall casualties were reported light with no fatalities.

## Sgt. 'Followed' By Friend For 10 Years

Ever had the feeling you were being followed? Staff Sergeant Kenneth Mundy of Alpha Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf has had it for over ten years.

Mundy, a native of Brown's Valley, Minn., first met Joseph Zapiro in 1958 while both were serving with the 8th Div in Germany. They became friends and later went their separate ways, supposedly for good.

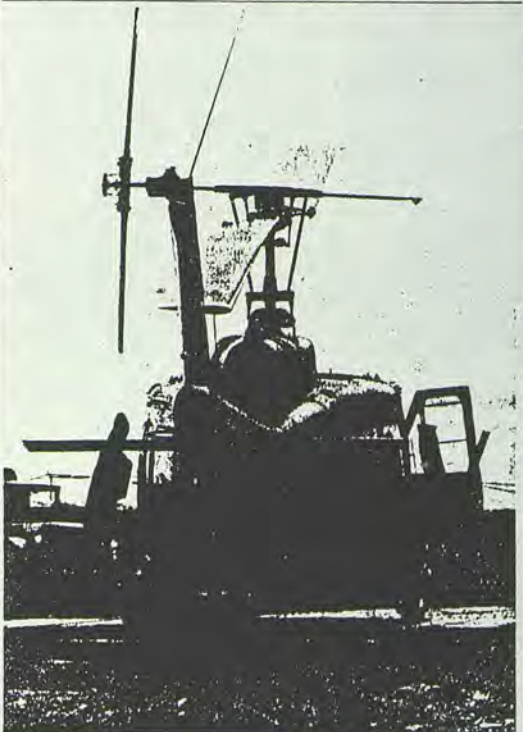
Sergeant Mundy was in Korea two years later and ran into Zapiro again. This time they were in different Cav units (Mundy with the 12th and Zapiro with the 5th) but still in the same area.

Back they went to Germany in 1952, Mundy to the 5th Corps and his friend to the 8th Div once more.

Just as the pattern was becoming familiar, the trend was broken. Mundy went back to Korea, returned to Germany in 1965, then left the Army without seeing Zapiro again. He re-enlisted several months later and came to Viet Nam.

Not long ago, Sergeant Mundy decided to go to the NCO Club and guess who showed up? "It was kind of funny," said Mundy. "A friend and I were talking about Zapiro when he came walking in." Seems that Zapiro now works with an ARVN detachment at Long Binh.

Mundy will soon be leaving Vietnam. But he and Zapiro will no doubt cross paths again. It just seems to be their fate.



**SLEEPING DRAGONFLY?** Resting Huey? It's the "War Watcher", the commanding general's helicopter awaiting another observation flight over the Brigade's operation areas. (Photo by Collins)

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