

BG Bennett Assumes Command of 199th



RED-CATCHER!

199th Light Infantry Brigade

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NEW BRIGADE COMMANDER, Brigadier General Warren K. Bennett, turns to face Command SGM O. O. Valent after accepting the colors from USARV Deputy Commander, Lieutenant General Frank T. Mildren.

Viet Civilians Get Prizes in 'Sweepstakes'

It wasn't the Irish Sweepstakes, but you might have thought so from the looks on the faces of the "lottery" winners at a recent GVN-199th Brigade combined cordon.

The "lottery," held nightly at the Combined Holding and Interrogation Center (CHIC) near Can Gio, Vietnam, was a new idea designed to both entertain and aid Vietnamese citizens being processed at the CHIC.

It worked like this: propaganda leaflets with numbers on them were handed out to the Vietnamese as "lottery" tickets; slips of paper with corresponding numbers on them were picked from a hat and the numbers announced; the Vietnamese who produced the tickets showing the winning numbers received the prizes—one-gallon cans of salad oil and bags of flower and cornmeal.

The prizes were surplus goods donated to Vietnam by the people of the United States. Supplies were plentiful, so many people each night came away winners.

The "lottery" was the combined idea of Brigade Psyps Officer, Second Lieutenant Andrew D. Duskie of Concord, N.C. and Brigade Civil Affairs Officer, Captain James V. McGinnis of Stanford, N.C. If the facial expressions of the winners were any indication, the idea was a success.

"We are not just entertaining these people here. They are also getting something out of this," commented Duskie.

One night, when many children were in the CHIC, a tug-of-war was also held, with the winning side receiving a good supply of candy.

In addition, the usual services and activities found at other Brigade cordons, such as medical and dental care, meals and Vietnamese language movies, were provided.

Four Months of Cordons Wreck VC Infrastructure

As the enemy waged his winter-spring offensive, the Brigade combined with ARVN units to launch a series of cordon operations southwest of Saigon aimed at breaking the Viet Cong infrastructure, or village "shadow government."

About 24,000 men, women and children from six contested villages near Saigon were affected by the cordons which began in February and ended last month. Almost 9,000 villagers required to have ID's were processed through the "combined holding and interrogation center" (CHIC), a tent city located near the target areas and run by U.S. and Vietnamese military.

In the five cordons completed, a total of 249 Viet Cong and VC supporters were eliminated from the enemy ranks, including 45 killed in action along the cordon perimeters and nine who rallied under the GVN's "Chieu Hoi" (Open Arms) program. A total of 176 VCI (Infrastructure) and 19 VC military were weeded out in the screening and interrogation process at the CHICs. Also detained were 41 draft dodgers and seven ARVN deserters.

Results Significant

"The elimination of almost 250 enemy from an infiltration belt in the Capital Military District is significant and has served to frustrate the Viet Cong's objectives and efforts," commented Brigade Intelligence Officer, Major Dennis F. Hightower of Washington, D.C.

U.S. losses were light in the operations, each of which lasted from a few days to a week and involved over a dozen 199th and ARVN companies. Numerous weapons and munitions caches were found, including 39 small arms, two 107mm rockets, 4 RPG launchers with 47 RPG rounds, 1 complete 60mm mortar, seventy 75mm RR (recoilless rifle) rounds, one-hundred and four 82mm mortar rounds and

thousands of rounds of small arms ammunition, blasting caps, fuses and charges.

ARVN units with the 199th included regiments of the 5th ARVN Ranger Group, the 50th Regt of the 25th ARVN Div,

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NO CHURCH IS COMPLETE without its belfry, and the Brigade's new chapel is no exception. The chapel was dedicated May 25. (Photo by Gragg)

By SP4 James G. Low

The 199th Light Infantry Brigade has a new commander—Brigadier General Warren K. Bennett—who received the colors from Brigadier General Frederic E. Davison in a ceremony May 28 at Camp Frenzell-Jones.

General Davison, who joined the Brigade as its deputy commander in November 1967 and became its commanding general in September 1968, will become Assistant Inspector General of the United States Army at the Pentagon.

General Bennett, holder of the Silver Star, Legion of Merit with two Oak Leaf Clusters and the Bronze Star Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, was Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans, Headquarters, III Marine Amphibious Force (MAF) in Vietnam before coming to the 199th.

Born in Dallas County, Mo. in February 1919, he received a Bachelor of Science degree in business from Southwest Missouri State College, Springfield, Mo. in 1939. After working for the Burroughs Corp. for two years, he enlisted as an Army private in June 1941.

After basic training he graduated from Infantry OCS at Ft. Benning, Ga. in February 1942. He was then assigned to the 7th Infantry Division, where he remained until March 1946.

War Service

While with the 77th, he participated in operations on Guam, Leyte, Ie Shima and Okinawa. He accompanied the division during occupation duty on the Japanese island of Hokkaido until March 1946 when the unit was inactivated.

His next assignment was with the Plans and Training (G-3) Section of Headquarters, Second Army. In January 1948 he volunteered for duty in Greece and served as an operational advisor with the IX Greek (Mountain) Division until July, 1949.

He next attended the Command and General Staff College and then served on its staff and faculty for three years.

After attending the Armed Forces Staff College and a Field Officer Refresher Course, he

served briefly in early 1954 in Japan where he requested duty in Vietnam.

While in Vietnam he served as a plans and operations officer. His assignment included such tasks as evacuation of refugees from North Vietnam and their resettlement in South Vietnam, establishing an initial joint US-French-Vietnamese mission, and duty as the first US Army field advisor to the Vietnam Army.

In Germany

A three-year Pentagon tour followed his return to CONUS in mid-1955. Attendance at the National War College preceded an assignment to the 8th Infantry Division in Mainz, Germany in mid-1959. He was reassigned on an emergency permanent change of station in November 1959, and there he served in the Office of the Chief of Staff, US Army.

In July 1964 he became Chief of Staff of the 3rd Infantry Division in Würzburg, Germany. Following his promotion to Brigadier General in April 1966, he served concurrently as Brigade Commander and Assistant Division Commander until June 1966, when he was reassigned as Assistant Division Commander and Airborne Task Force Commander of the 8th Infantry Division in Bad Kreuznach, Germany.

He returned to the United States in June 1967 to serve in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, Plans and Operations, Headquarters, US Army and remained until he again volunteered for duty in Vietnam in September 1968 and was assigned to the III MAF.

New Chapel Dedicated At BMB

Redcatchers now have a new chapel at Brigade Main Base in which they can attend services or just relax and meditate.

The chapel, located across from Brigade Headquarters, was dedicated in a ceremony May 25 in which Brigadier General Frederic E. Davison and Brigade Chaplain (Lieutenant Colonel) A. A. Farrow participated.

The new building can seat 350 people, compared to 90 in the chapel previously used. "Our old building was too small and has been substandard by other BMB facilities' standards," said Chaplain Farrow. "This will be a beautiful boost to our religious facilities."

Built from the same plans as the USARV Post Chapel, the structure was erected entirely by the 87th Engr Co. The building is cooled by a central air conditioning system and lighted mostly by chain-hanging chandeliers.

Outside is a small, stone grotto, which will provide a quiet, private place for meditation. It has an altar, the military chaplain's symbols, and the Ten Commandments on a brass plaque.

During the dedication ceremony, the Chaplain unveiled a

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REDCATCHER!

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Brig. Gen. Warren K. Bennett
Maj. Dominic J. Bernardi, Jr.
SFC Fred D. Egeler
SP5 Ford P. Fuller, III

Commanding General
Information Officer
NCOIC
Editor

Staff Writers: 1st Lt. Bennie D. Brown, 1st Lt. Larry D. Muse, SP5 Peter Gyalay-Pap, SP4 Bruce Bolinger, SP4 Robert F. Loughran, Jr., SP4 John E. Buchanan, SP4 James G. Low, and PFC Arthur S. Jaeger. Photographers: SSG Thomas O. Sines, SP5 Robert R. Gragg, SP4 Robert Collins, SP4 Robert Hassenfratz, and PFC Jerry L. Folindexter. Clerk-typist: SP5 Ed Beitelbacher.

High Time, High Pay

By SFC Robert E. Jones

Want to have a good time, turn on, forget your cares, expand your consciousness, take a trip without going on R&R?

Cheap, too, over here—if you don't mind giving up to 5 years of your life to Sam. That's the price, measured in time, not dollars. And the time is all bad.

American cigarette packages now bear the warning "Caution: Cigarette Smoking May Be Hazardous to Your Health." Marijuana smokers should be told, "Caution: Marijuana Smoking May Be Detrimental to Your Future."

Call the product what you will—Mary Jane, Mary Anne, Mary Warner, gow, hemp, gauge, hash, grass, pot, muggles, keif, weed, reeffers, joints or sticks—they all mean trouble and anguish for the pusher, the buyer, the smoker.

Marijuana poses a medical question mark. First, its physical properties vary in relation to the region where it is grown. Second, cigarettes from the same batch will have different effects on each user.

Although in use in India and the Middle East for hundreds of years, there is little knowledge about marijuana.

No controlled experiments on a scale large enough or duration long enough to have scientific meaning have been conducted. Therefore, Sam considers it dangerous, classifies it as a drug, and imposes stiff penalties for those involved in its traffic or use.

The use of marijuana in the Army was considered a small

problem until involvement in Vietnam made sources readily available. In a few years the number of soldiers experimenting with it once, or occasionally, has increased to proportions that alarm the Army, which feels that once is too much.

As a consequence, the chances of getting caught have also increased. The Criminal Investigation Division now has many more investigators and informers working in the narcotics field, with the emphasis on marijuana, and their job is to stop its traffic and use. To them it makes no difference whether it's a man's first or one-hundred-and-first cigarette; if it's marijuana, he will be arrested. If convicted, he will almost certainly do stockade time. He will also be registered with the Government as a narcotics user. The possibility of a discharge under other than honorable conditions is far from remote.

Realize, the Army is death on marijuana, and when the Army doesn't like something, it can really stack the odds against it.

Think it over hard. If you know someone thinking of perhaps trying it once, tell him to think it over.

Maybe you wouldn't mind the silver wrap-around at LBJ—that's hard to tell. But it's tough to see a buddy, who really hasn't a thing wrong with him and really shows promise of a great future back in the world—see him get ready to go to jail for doing some crazy thing like smoke marijuana.

Your Legal Officer

Loans on Insurance

By Capt. Francis P. Dicello, SJA

If one is forced to borrow money he is well advised to examine the loan provisions of his life insurance policy before contacting commercial lending agencies. Many insurance companies will grant a policy loan with a minimum of delay and at a nominal rate of interest.

Guaranteed cash surrender values accumulate in all life insurance policies except those providing for term insurance. This includes both National Service Life Insurance (GI) policies as well as those offered by commercial insurance companies. This cash surrender value serves as collateral or security against which the insurance company will lend money to the policyholder. Most companies will lend up to 100 percent of the cash surrender value; however, a National Service Life Insurance policyholder may only borrow up to 94 percent on loans on GI insurance.

That portion of the loan-plus-interest not paid at the death of the policyholder will be subtracted from the amount payable at death. In like manner, any portion of the loan not repaid when the policyholder elects to cancel the policy will be deducted from cash surrender value.

To illustrate the workings of the policy loan, consider a \$5,000 "Ordinary Life" plan taken out at age 25. Cost of this coverage will be approximately \$94.60 per year. The cash surrender or loan values build up slowly during the early years of the contract so that at the end of the third year of payment the cash surrender value will be only \$45.00 although \$283.80 in premiums would have been paid. At the end of five years, cash surrender value has risen to \$206.00 while the total premiums paid amount to \$483.00. Six hundred twenty-five dollars may be borrowed on the policy at the end of 10 years for a paid premium of \$946.00. After 20 years \$1,415.00 will be available as a loan, compared to the \$1,892.60 paid as premiums. Thus we see that each year the cash surrender or loan value becomes greater in proportion to the total premium paid.

In addition to guaranteed cash surrender or loan values, many companies return a portion of the premiums paid by the policyholders. These are called dividends and either may be left to the company to accumulate at compound interests or with-

drawn. If left with the company, they will be held separate from the guaranteed cash values. Before borrowing on the policy, it is well to check the dividend accumulation for it may be sufficient to make borrowing unnecessary.

One should not borrow money from any source unless it is absolutely necessary, but if creditors are beating on the door or an emergency arises, then the life insurance policy may be an excellent instrument for obtaining the necessary funds. Unlike most lending agencies, most insurance companies do not add carrying charges, interest rates are comparatively low, no additional security is required, and the loan can be procured with a minimum of delay. Some policyholders have received their loans in a matter of hours, and the time seldom runs beyond a week.

Publications Not Acceptable As Free Mail

Army postal officials today reaffirmed that unit newspapers and magazines may not be sent home as free mail.

A Military Assistance Command directive (MARV Dir 65-2) explains that free mailing service is limited to personal letter mail, post cards in the usual and generally accepted form, and sound recorded communications. Tape recordings must have the character of personal correspondence.

Enclosures such as pictures or clippings which are incidental to personal letters may be included. Complete issues of magazines or newspapers cannot be considered as clippings, however.

Printed matter—such as newspapers or magazines—can be sent at the regular first class rate, or at a lower rate if sent clearly labeled "printed matter."

The Chaplain Speaks



City Bus

By Chaplain (Capt.) William F. Peterson

Back in the world ever take a ride on a transit bus? They're the ones that handle the commuters in the cities. You would usually find them taking up half a boulevard on busy streets.

They are a thorn in the side to the automobile drivers. But they are necessary for the life and industry of a city. Ask anyone late of New York City. Step in one of those buses during the rush hour. Look around if you can. Watch out for an elbow in the nose. Not deliberate. Just that part of the trip which is hazardous.

Notice the people sitting and standing. Graying men in their fifties. Good looking young ladies only a few years out of high school. Middle age women going downtown for shopping, lunch and a show. College students doing a review perhaps for a test. A world of people. Maybe mankind seems on one busy ride. These are not bunker people.

These are the people I live with in the world. They don't recognize me. They don't even know me. I might travel this bus every day and they would probably never even notice me unless I stepped on someone's foot. But each person has his own private world, his own personal life, different from anyone else in creation, known only to himself and God.

See that tired mother with the baby in her arms desperately clinging to the hand strap? No

one offers a moment's rest. The old lady getting off at the rear doors, with her shopping bags fallen to the pavement because the driver was impatient and started too soon. The haggard-looking fellow snoring with his head pressed against the window.

These and other worlds of men come together on this bus ride. And I include my world with theirs.

Why today should I notice the people I live with simply on this ride? I live each day so often concerned only about my world. Your world is so often important for what value it can give me. Sound selfish? I guess I'm selfish.

But then that occasional act of love I witness, maybe even partake in, shows me the world of mankind that God must have planned. The old Negro gentleman gets up and gives the young mother his seat. The tired bus driver stops his machine and moves to help the lady on her knees and shopping bags on the street. The smiles of people to one another as the bus driver breaks out in song. Even myself apologizing for stepping on that foot and being genuinely concerned about the other people.

Man can be good to people. These worlds can live together. No man need be an island. Even on a bus ride a bridge can exist from island to island. A bridge of concern and love, back there and back here.

Watch Your M-16!

If you are in a tight spot and can't clean your M16 properly, post-poned the cleaning but lube all the working parts with LSA frequently and generously.

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 FRENZEL-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)

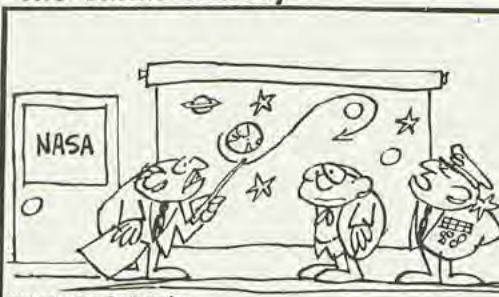
	Sunday	4:30 p.m.	Catholic Mass
		7 p.m.	Religious Films
		8 p.m.	Protestant Service

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.

the small society

by Brickman



AND JUST
HOW DO YOU
PROPOSE
HOLDING
ON TO THE
TERRITORY
WITHOUT
INFANTRY?

11-25

BRICKMAN

Awards and Decorations

Bronze Star Medal (Valor)

SSG Larry L. Miles-3/7. While under heavy contact, he repaired and used a disabled machine gun while simultaneously calling in artillery support and directing the maneuvering of his unit Feb. 27.

SP4 Charles E. Nowry-3/7. Nowry's squad came under fire while crossing a canal on Nov. 16, 1968 and after an enemy grenade exploded near him, he destroyed the enemy position and its three occupants with an accurately thrown grenade.

CPL Sampson Brown-2/40. On April 15, Brown received wounds from a mine and another man was seriously injured. Despite his own injuries, Brown carried the other man to safety.

SGT David A. Crawford-2/3. While pursuing three enemy on Dec. 12, 1968, Crawford's men tripped a booby trap. Although one of his legs was severed, Crawford personally directed the treatment of the other wounded and called for evacuation. Only after the other men were treated would he permit his own evacuation.

PFC Carey C. Prosser-5/12. While serving as a platoon medic March 19, Prosser exposed himself to enemy fire in order to administer medical aid and arrange for evacuation of wounded. His actions saved the life of one of his comrades.

PSG Kenneth L. Moore-5/12. While his platoon was crossing a heavily booby trapped area Feb. 16, Moore and others were wounded. Moore continued crossing the area in spite of his painful wounds in order to administer aid to others. He refused to accept aid himself until the other wounded had been evacuated.

SP4 Ronnie P. Bales-5/7. While on a search and clear operation Dec. 12, Bales watched a supporting helicopter make a forced landing a short distance away. Leaving his weapon behind, Bales with two other men swam a canal, under intense enemy fire to try and aid the helicopter's wounded occupants.

OPT Eugene R. New-8/3/7. When his unit came under attack Jan. 29, New continuously exposed himself to enemy fire in order to effectively deploy his men against a well entrenched enemy.

SGT Jose C. Munoz-3/7. After coming under intense fire from an enemy position on Jan. 28, he maneuvered himself and his men to successfully destroy the position with grenades.

SP4 James R. Gibitz-4/12. On Feb. 26, after coming under heavy fire, Gibitz maneuvered the lead element of his unit to eliminate one enemy position and placed suppressive fire onto another position.

Army Commendation Medal (Valor)

1LT Thomas J. McSweeney-C, 2/3; MAJ Dennis F. Hightower-HHC, 199th; SP4 Stephen D. Boudreau-D Trp, 17th Cav; PFC Harry R. Gamble-B, 3/7; PFC William Stanganelli-HHC, 4/12; SP4 Larry A. Childress-D Trp, 17 Cav; SP4 Eugene T. Hanson-E, 3/7; PFC John R. Rodarte-B, 3/7; PFC Ellis L. Dimmitt, Jr.-B, 3/7; PFC Donald Hendrick-E, 3/7; 1LT John F. Masters-HHC, 199th Inf Bde; SP4 Larry E. Woodbury-B, 3/7; SP5 Ramiro Garcia, Jr.-HHC, 2/3;

Army Commendation Medal (Valor)

1LT Ernest C. Daniels Jr.-C, 5/12; SSG Howard H. Pruett-C, 5/12; PFC Andrew W. Petschauer-HHC, 2/3; SSG Kenneth O. Mundy-A, 3/7; PFC Milton E. Briley-C, 2/3; 1LT Donald G. Jong-A, 2/40; SGT John R. Baucom-C, 2/3; SGT Horace A. Jones-C, 2/3; SP4 Robert W. Hecker-E, 4/12; PFC John T. Miller-C, 5/12; SSG Homer M. Maynard-D, 17th Cav; PFC Gregory J. Mayer-C, 2/3; 1LT George H. Gardner-A, 3/7; PFC James M. Scott-C, 2/3; PFC Angelo L. Rojas-B, 2/3; SGT Merrill G. Wells-B, 2/3; PFC Ronald E. Posey-E, 4/12; PFC Danny E. Lewis-C, 5/12; SP4 Timothy P. Duncan-HHC, 2/3; SGT Roberto Berni-A, 3/7; CPT Oliver Murray-HHC, 2/3; SSG Ronald R. Lambright-C, 5/12; SGT Lawrence E. Sanders-C, 5/12; SGT James R. Carlson-C, 2/40; SP4 Donald C. Whiting-HHC, 2/3; 1LT Aubrey C. Howard-HHC, 199th Inf Bde; SFC Benay C. Bowman-C, 5/12; SP4 Andrew L. Jones-A, 3/7; SP4 Dillard D. Pennington-A, 3/7; PFC John C. Bellner-A, 3/7; SP4 Frank A. Hutter-E, 2/3.

Trackman Earns BSM For Foiling VC Attack

Say "tracks" and the average infantryman thinks of lumbering tanks carrying him to and from operations, of blocking forces on sweeps, of dry traveling during the wet season. He thinks that the life is pretty good.

But he often forgets that when the enemy hits the Armored Cavalry Vehicles, he has to hit them hard to be effective. Specialist Four Philip Clufo of Delta Trp, 17th Cav was recently reminded of the protective value of his track.

Clufo was with his unit at fire support base "Sue" and was scheduled to pull night guard. When he came on duty two men were asleep nearby, one in a bunker and the other on the track.

A routine check by "starlight" scope revealed two figures at the firebase gate just before they tripped one of the security flares that were in place around the camp. Thrown into sudden, sharp relief against the surrounding darkness, the figures turned and fled.

By the light of the flare Clufo could now count three men run-

ning away from his position. He opened fire, receiving small arms and mortar fire in return. Mortar rounds eventually hit every track in the area that night without causing damage.

Clufo not only "kept his cool" but maintained continual fire on the field in front of him. He also helped both men who had been sleeping near him to safety. Forty-five minutes later the fighting was over. Infantry elements who had been pinned down in bunkers could now help the track elements guard the perimeter.

A damage estimate was made the following morning and it was learned that one rocket propelled grenade, one mortar shell and a number of AK-47 rounds had hit Clufo's position without giving him a scratch.

For his actions, 22-year-old Clufo of Hubbard, Ohio, was presented the Bronze Star Medal for Valor by Brigade Commander Brigadier General Frederick E. Davison, during a May 1 ceremony at fire support base "Stephanie."

Tips Offered On Converting SGLI Policies

Your present Servicemen's Group Life Insurance policy expires 120 days after your separation or discharge. Should you desire to continue this coverage, you must make arrangements to convert your policy to a permanent form of insurance.

Such conversion is especially advantageous to veterans who otherwise might have difficulty obtaining a commercial policy at standard rates because of some disability or condition not related to service.

Veterans with service-connected disabilities may apply to the Veterans Administration for a special nonparticipating National Service Life Insurance policy. The only requirements are that you be in good health except for the disability and that you apply within one year of the date the VA confirms your disability is service-connected.

Applications should be made early because the term insurance premiums go up as the policyholder grows older, and the benefits decrease. Permanent insurance premiums are slightly higher at first, but they never go up.

In the Field Brigade Summary

May 1:

Nine enemy soldiers were killed in a firefight late last night and early this morning by 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf "Old Guard" and supporting Army gunships. A sweep of the area produced one 107mm rocket, two RPG launchers with 11 B-40 rounds and eight boosters, two AK-47 rifles, 22 quarter-pound blocks of TNT, 12 Chicom grenades, 11 rifle grenades, 41 blasting caps, five pounds of plastic explosives, one Russian anti-tank grenade plus food, clothing and medical supplies.

Later in the day, "Cotton-belters" of 3rd Bn, 7th Inf killed one VC hiding in nipa palm. Another was killed during the night by Alpha Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf as he tried to escape through the perimeter.

Elsewhere, elements of the 3rd Bn, 7th Inf detained two persons who were later identified as Viet Cong Infrastructure.

May 2:

Bravo Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf killed one VC within the cordon and detained another man a short time later. The detainee

had an AK-47, two Chicom grenades and two B-40 rounds.

May 3:

Nine miles southwest of Saigon, Vietnam Regional Force units sweeping with Bravo Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf spotted and engaged three enemy. Two of the enemy were killed while attempting to break through the cordon perimeter and a third was captured.

May 4:

One Viet Cong was killed during action 14 miles southwest of Saigon. In addition, six Viet Cong Infrastructure and three VC were detained.

May 5:

"Redcatchers" and Government of Vietnam forces brought to a close a six-day cordon and search operation 13 to 15 miles southwest of Saigon.

A total of 4,200 Vietnamese civilians were processed by the Brigade, which resulted in 55 infrastructure personnel, nine Viet Cong and nine VC suspects detained. This was the third large cordon and search operation of this nature conducted.

May 6:

A moonlight stroll through the nipa palm trees southwest of Saigon ended abruptly for two VC when members of the 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf killed them.

Artillery and mortar fire from fire support base "Elvira" were called into the area nine miles southwest of Saigon and the bodies of two other VC were sighted in a canal by Brigade "firefly" (gunships equipped with spotlights) helicopters.

A VC cache was uncovered in the afternoon as an element of the 3rd Bn, 7th Inf swept an area 4 1/2 miles west of Saigon. The cache contained: one 122mm mortar, one AK-47, 260 AK rounds, one B-41 round, one B-41 propeller, 16 60mm mortar rockets, 17 charges believed to be for 82mm mortars, three pounds of plastic explosive, and assorted items of clothing and equipment.

May 7:

The 3rd Bn, 7th Inf, along with GVN forces threw a cordon around the village of Tan Tao 7 miles southwest of Saigon. Of the 350 people processed, two detainees were held.

Elements of the 4th Bn, 12th Inf destroyed 22 bunkers and one booby trap in an area 2 1/2 miles south of Duc Hoa.

May 8:

Action was scattered throughout the Brigade's area of operation. Bravo Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf destroyed nine bunkers 21 miles southwest of Saigon.

May 9:

Working in the "pineapple" region 14 miles west of Saigon with Army and Air Force air support, Redcatchers destroyed an enemy bunker complex.

A total of 29 bunkers, concealed under the thick jungle vegetation, were located and destroyed.

Elements of the Echo Recon platoon and Bravo Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf were inserted into the area in the morning after airstrikes by the 604th Special Operations Squadron had worked the area over. In their sweep, Redcatchers destroyed 22 bunkers.

A 3rd Sqdn, 17th Cav "firefly" mission spotted and engaged a bunker complex, destroying six of the bunkers. They also observed a possible 107mm rocket on a tripod and fired on it, causing a large secondary explosion.

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KEY "BUILDING BLOCKS" for defensive positions are the omnipresent sandbags being filled here by Staff Sergeant Robert Isley and Private First Class James Haynes at FSB "Claudette." (Photo by Bolinger)

LTC Schillings Becomes CO Of 'Warriors'

The "Warriors" of 5th Bn, 12th Inf received a new commander in a May 12 ceremony when Lieutenant Colonel Dan E. Schillings accepted the battalion colors from outgoing commander Lieutenant Colonel Albert W. Malone.

Colonel Schillings came to the Brigade from II Field Force Headquarters where he served with the plans and operations staff.

Schillings was born in St. Joseph, Mo. and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Wichita in 1951, receiving his Army commission in July of that year. In 1955 he graduated from the Com-

mand and General Staff College at Ft. Leavenworth, Kan.

Commenting on his new unit, Colonel Schillings said, "I think the 5th Bn, 12th Inf is a fine battalion, and I am proud to be here. They've had a tough job to do, and they've been doing it well."

Although born in Missouri, the 40-year-old colonel now calls Ft. Benning, Ga. his home. He has two daughters and a son who is just completing his third year at West Point.

Colonel Malone, former commander of the battalion, is now the Brigade plans and operations (S-3) officer.



WRING OUT THE OLD! Near a base camp south of Saigon, Redcatchers get the mud out of clothing and equipment or just swim and relax. More like the Okefenokee Swap than, say, Lake Winnepesaukee, this watering spot nevertheless serves its purpose. (Photo by SP5 Joseph F. Whinnery)



RE-ARMING against mosquitoes and other insects is break-time activity during a recon in the "pineapple" region. First step in malaria prevention is not getting lanced by mosquitoes if avoidable. (Photo by SP5 Joseph F. Whinnery)

Persc

From the top of your head to the tip of your toes, you're vulnerable, to parody an old song.

Especially in the field. Awake or asleep the human body is one long moveable feast—or picnic—for a variety of predators that is gloriously enriched by the heat and water of south Vietnam.

Under normal paddyland conditions, perhaps the most momentarily vicious and painful foe is the red ant but, although sometimes hard to avoid, at least he can be seen.

The unseen enemies are the worst, last the longest, cause the most damage and are the hardest at times to eradicate. These cause or can aggravate the fungus, boils, abscesses, immersion foot, and a host of other ailments whose effects may range from slight discomfort to incapacitation.

You can't swat bacteria, nor can you step on a microbe and kill it. Soap, water and sunshine are their natural enemies and the surest way to prevent their establishing a rampart within the human body.

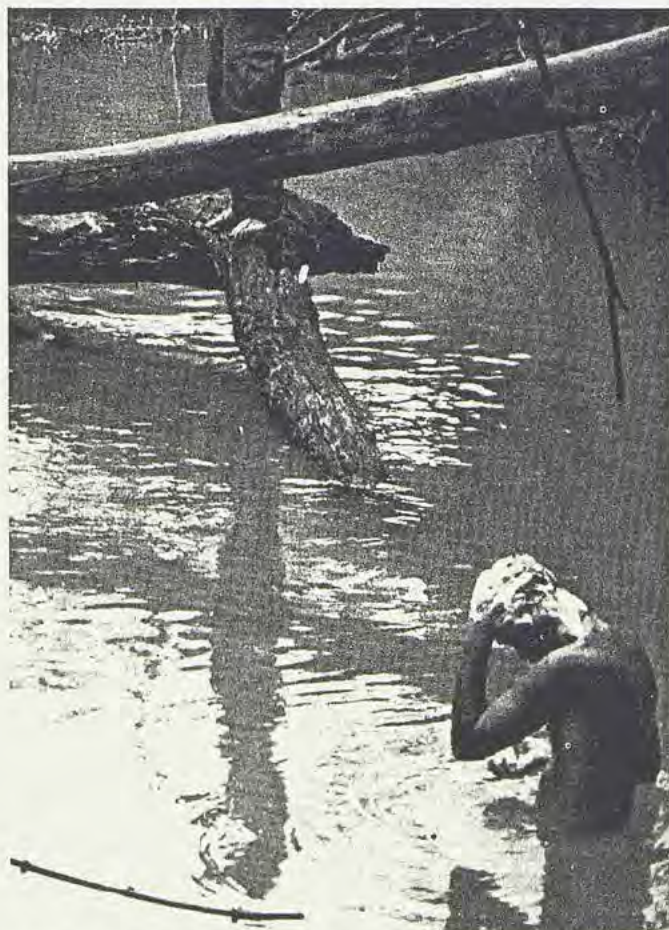
Enter Through Pores

Make no mistake: They don't need an opening as large as the mouth or nose to enter. Working under fingernails suits them fine; a hair follicle is larger for them than the Lincoln Tunnel.

So it pays to discourage them in the first place by a continuing program of personal hygiene.



NEATNESS COUNTS! The forward area barbershops aren't elaborate and it's hard to find a good manicurist, but the soldiers are kept neat and comfortable. (Photo by Gyallay-Pap)



HEAD AND SHOULDERS ITCH? Try soap and plenty of water, a 4th Bn, 12th Inf fire support base west of Saigon. (Photo by Gy)

Personal Hygiene In The Field

Pedcatchers in the field recognize this and combat bacteria in the best ways they can. Dips and washes in streams and canals; showers or sponge baths with clean water whenever possible; field laundering of clothes to at least wash the mud out; airing feet whenever feasible and frequently changing or wringing out socks—these are some of the means used as basic preventives by men serving in one of the muddiest and filthiest areas in Vietnam.

Malaria Most Common

Of the truly deadly maladies possible to contract in this environment, the most common is malaria, and here again prevention is easier than cure. Mosquito repellent and nets help in the former, and the daily and weekly anti-malaria pills help the body resist the disease. The most pernicious form of malaria was introduced here during the 1968 Tet period when NVA soldiers became infected in the Central Highlands region and carried the new type south with them. The seriousness of preventing this often fatal form of malaria is shown by the alarm of some public health officials who fear a possible epidemic in the United States because of the policy of not quarantining returning soldiers, some of whom might still carry the disease in their blood.

In view of the not only unsanitary but biologically dan-

gerous field conditions, it's easy to see that short hair makes sense because it is simple to wash. Daily shaving makes sense for the same reason. Even a dip in a muddy pond can make sense if it's all you've got.

Follow the basic rules of soap, water and sunshine, take re-

quired malaria pills, and you have a good chance of returning stateside with all your hair, no fungus, no malaria—in short, no unseen bugs inside or out.

In short, the best way is to discourage bugs at the start. Otherwise, to them you're just a beautiful banquet.



THAT FINAL TOUCH is often the difference between a winner and an also ran. And when a driver is busy wheeling and dealing, double-clutching and jamming gears, he doesn't have time to worry about his personal appearance. (Photo by SP5 Joseph F. Whinnery)



BEST FRIENDS also come under the good grooming policy. Among the best cared-for members of the Brigade are the Sheps and Labs of the 49th Scout Dog Plt. and 76th Combat Tracker Team. Their masters know it pays. (Photo by SP5 Jerry Van Wyngarden)



this soldier is doing at
llay-Pap)



EVEN IN THE FIELD you never know when you'll meet a pretty face... or your battalion commander. For all we know, the visages of Generals Grant and Lee might have been different had they owned safety razors and known about aerosol lather. (Photo by Gyallay-Pap)

'Kit Carsons'—Life-savers, Cache-finders

By SP5 Peter Gyallay-Pap

Dinh, was born near the Michelin Rubber Plantation in Binh Duong Province in 1937. He went to school for nine years in his village about 50 miles northwest of Saigon, but was forced to leave to help support his family.

He found a job on the plantation in Dan Tieng District, but after a while he became dissatisfied and quit to return home to work in the fields with his family.

In 1965, Dinh was recruited by members of the Viet Cong Phu Loi Battalion. After months of training and indoctrination in VC tactics, ideology and politics dealing with the "war of liberation," he became a Viet Cong warrior.

Eighteen months later, he "raided" under the GVN's "Chieu Hoi" (Open Arms) program that grants amnesty to enemy soldiers who repatriate. Slowly it had dawned on him that what the Viet Cong were saying and doing was untrue and wrong.

While attending the reorientation course at the National "Chieu Hoi" Center in Saigon, Dinh felt a desire to redeem himself for his life as a Viet Cong. After being contacted by a representative of the 199th's Kit Carson Scout (KCS) program, he decided he could best help his country by working with the Brigade as a scout.

Joins 199th.

Dinh joined Alpha Co of the 3rd Bn, 7th Inf on Jan. 15, 1968 and has since proven himself invaluable as a scout and brave soldier. Captain James A. Smith of Homestead, Fla., his latest company commander, cited the following incident:

"We inserted into a 'hot' LZ (landing zone) in the 'pineapple' region and, while most of us were pinned down, Dinh was running around popping shots at NVA troops in bunkers and fighting positions. He killed five or six and eliminated a machine gun nest. He seemed to know exactly where and how the enemy were entrenched. And though wounded himself, he wouldn't leave until all the Americans were evacuated." Dinh has been recommended for a high valor medal.

"He saved my life," is an oft-repeated statement by Redcatchers who have worked with Kit Carson scouts—ample testimony to the scouts' effectiveness and the program's success. The scouts draw upon their former experiences as enemy soldiers in detecting mines, booby traps, bunkers and base camps, knowing when the enemy is near and where weapons caches and food supplies could be found.

"Dig Here"

Due, a scout for Alpha Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf, was walking point for his unit 50 miles east of Saigon when he suddenly stopped and told the men to start digging in the "middle of nowhere," according to one trooper. Logs were soon uncovered and, underneath, a 15-foot long tunnel loaded with scores of communist small arms, heavy machine guns and several crew-served weapons.

Not far away, Ngoun, the Delta Co scout, detected a booby trapped area. He told the com-

pany to halt, took a small contingent around the suspected flank and approached the area from behind. In the ensuing four hours, Ngoun and other U.S. pointmen disarmed or destroyed 97 booby traps and discovered a large enemy base camp.

First KCS

The first KCS in the Brigade was Mat, who joined the same company on Jan. 1, 1967, he had rallied to a month before—Bravo Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf, the unit for which he still works. Before the turn of the current year, the 199th received an influx of Hoi Chanh (returnees) from the various Chieu Hoi centers in the Saigon area. The goal of the program, according to KCS program director, First Lieutenant John S. McBride of St. Louis, is to "attain approximately 100 quality Kit Carson scouts for the Brigade, or one scout per platoon and one pen squad for the recon platoons." The goal is close to being realized.

The scouts are selected from among a group who volunteer for the program at the several Chieu Hoi centers in the Saigon area. McBride and his Vietnamese counterpart, Man, chief of the 199th scouts and a former scout for Alpha Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf, conduct the recruiting. Man, however, who rallied to the "Warriors" in May, 1967, has the final say.

Local Men Preferred

He claims he looks for former Viet Cong soldiers (rather than NVA regulars) who have preferably worked in the Brigade's area of operations for a number of years. Those with the highest rank, up to company commander, usually get the nod and make the best scouts. "Of course, we're not always that lucky," remarked McBride.

When a scout reports to his designated company or platoon for the first time, he is often received with a cool politeness or even suspicion. An enemy soldier only months before, the scout is usually not accepted as "one of the boys" by American infantrymen until he has proven himself in the field. Sometimes an especially engaging personality will do the trick, but spotting mines and booby traps or saving lives usually clinches the friendship.

(When Ngoun, now chief KCS for the 4th Bn, 12th Inf, got married, the civil affairs section and members of the battalion pitched in to help build his house.)

An American buddy is assigned to the scout to see after his personal needs, quarters and equipment. The platoon leader often takes on this task, as the scout will work with him the closest. The language barrier is usually the biggest problem in the initial weeks, but scouts have proven able to acquire basic English expressions in a short time.

Brief Language Training

South Vietnamese interpreters are often present to solve the

language problem. However, all new scouts go through a nine-day training program recently instituted by McBride at Brigade Main Base. "The training program attempts to impact basic communication skills concerning tactics, weapons and essential personal needs," the lieutenant explained.

Performing beyond the call of duty one night was Minh, an Alpha Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf scout. Set up in ambush positions deep in the "pineapple" region west of Saigon, Minh's element spotted a squad of NVA approaching.

Recommended for Medal

Instead of opening up on the enemy, Minh jumped out and told the NVA he was part of a friendly VC element and just to continue on their way—right into the alerted second, third and fourth U.S. ambushes, which caught the NVA in a cross-fire. He has been recommended for a medal.

Nam, of Delta Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf, pulled the point element of his company out of a tight spot by some loud, fast talking—to ARVNs no less. Pointman Specialist Four Richard V. Garcia of San Antonio related. "Our platoon was moving into a cordon position in the middle of the night, and as we were about to pass an ARVN camp, we heard shouts from the perimeter and rifle bolts snapping."

As the Redcatchers began to scatter for cover, Nam was quickly summoned and he hastily explained what was what to the unknowing ARVNs. Quite possibly a tragedy was averted.

McBride summed up: "Kit Carson scouts have proven themselves invaluable to the Brigade because of their familiarity with the terrain, people and tactics of the enemy."



GETTING THE WORD from a Hoi Chanh, a KCS is shown enemy positions. The KCS, also a Hoi Chanh, talks to new Hoi Chanh to get immediate information that might otherwise cost the lives of many men to learn. (Photo by SP5 Jerry Van Wyngarden)



IMMEDIATE INTELLIGENCE value of articles found in a cache are discussed by a KCS and an interpreter. Scouts often deliver on-the-spot intelligence which saves lives and yields caches and enemy locations. (Photo by Sines)

Hitches Ride, But 'Charlie' Gets Caught

By PFC Arthur Jaeger

Two good scouts from the 199th recently had their good turn take a strange turn, but the episode ended happily anyway.

Well, happily for most. Radio operator, Specialist Four David L. Williams (Tampa, Fla.) and heavy equipment mechanic, Specialist Four Gerald A. Gabenstatter (Batavia, N.Y.) were driving through a village 7 miles southwest of Saigon, on a mission during a combined cordon operation. Suddenly they saw a Vietnamese beside the road and he looked sick. He bent forward, holding his stomach and groaning. Williams slammed on the brakes and backed up the jeep. "Let's get him to the dispensary!" he said.

"Right," said Gabenstatter, and he helped the man onto the rear seat. They guessed he was an ARVN soldier because of his fatigues, even though they were wet and muddy.

At first the man was hardly able to talk or move, but as the jeep sped toward the nearby dispensary he began pointing his arm, then pretending to shoot a rifle towards the roadside field. He also attempted to grab Gabenstatter's M-16 rifle. The Americans became suspicious.

As they approached the cordon headquarters area, they saw a group of ARVNs beside the road and decided to let them question the man. The ARVNs checked identification papers, asked him some questions, and then took him into custody. As they led the prisoner away, they thanked the soldiers. Later it was learned the prisoner was a Viet Cong.

Williams said, "We're both from 7th Support Battalion and it isn't often support troops get a chance to pick up suspects. You might call this just dumb luck. We were trying to do our daily good deed, and he fell into our laps."

'Old Guard' Infantrymen Discover New Pastime

By SP4 Bruce Bolinger

It may not be the Bavarian Alps, but for cheap thrills a radar tower, a snap link and a rappel rope are pretty hard to beat in the rice paddies of Vietnam. At least, that's what some of the men of the "Old Guard," 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf, are discovering.

Adding a novel touch to their recreation program the men at the forward battalion base camp have taken up walking down the side of the 50-foot tower in their spare time. In mountain climbing circles, it's called "rappelling." But Old Guardsmen and lesser sportsmen the world over think it's pure fun.

This mountain climber's technique is taught to the Army's Rangers and to Airborne and Special Forces units as a self-confidence builder as well as a tactical expedient. The men are taught that they can overcome their natural fear of heights

with little effort.

And now the men from the "Old Guard" battalion are getting into the act, too. Captain Steven Rees from Clearwater, Fla., assistant operations officer, and his assistant operations sergeant, Staff Sergeant David E. Redman of Parksville, Tenn., are conducting classes for the men who want to try rappelling.

"We take only volunteers," said Rees. "Sergeant Redman learned rappelling when he was with the 1st Air Cav at Ft. Benning, Ga., and he is our main instructor. We have made it as safe for the men as rappelling can be. They get as good, if not better, instruction here than they would get in the States; and safety is stressed at all times."

Every evening after chow, the men who have free time gather around the tower to either rappel or just watch. Two nylon ropes are attached to the top of the tower and thrown to the ground. Rees, Redman, and Corporal Bill S. Decory from Rapid City, S.D. and a member of Charlie Co, give a demonstration of rappelling. Some of the men who have become proficient at it also take a few turns.

For the next 10 to 15 minutes, the rappelling students receive detailed instruction on how to put on a rappel seat, attach the rope to the seat and control their descent.

Perhaps the best testimony to any instruction is the way the students react to it. Subtle testament that it was, one student on descending for the first time looked back up the tower and simply smiled broadly. The next lesson is basic yodelling.



How AER Helps You

When it comes to problems, the Army in Vietnam takes care of its own. This is where the Army Emergency Relief program gets into the act and helps the soldier who is in financial straits. Army personnel in Vietnam contributed over \$273,000 in 1966 and 1967. These funds are available to the soldier in Vietnam in emergency situations. Support the AER campaign in your unit.

marked the S-5 officer.

"We are having trouble getting the materials right now," he added. "Soon we hope to be able to furnish all the lumber, roofing, nails, and cement needed, along with a little whitewash to give the houses some color."

About eight of the families leaving Tan Kien Three last year have lived along the wall in front of a factory near the 199th forward headquarters.

"Most of the people are moving back into the village," remarked Phan Tuyen, interpreter for S-5, as he spoke for the village chief, Nguyen Van Banh. During the conversation, the chief expressed the appreciation of his villagers for help given them by the American soldiers.

As simple as the plywood houses are, they would be costly in terms of the local economy. The plywood, mostly salvaged from shipping crates, along with the tin roofing, provide sturdy protection in comparison to the thatched huts the people were accustomed to.

Approximately 80 people are living in the 11 houses already built. With 16 still to be constructed, there will be much more shelter for the families of Tan Kien Three.

Tan Kien Abuilding With Help From 4/12

By SP4 John E. Buchanan

Working with materials furnished by the Civil Affairs Office (S-5) of 4th Bn, 12th Inf, the villagers of Tan Kien Three, located beside the Binh Dien Bridge 7 miles southwest of Saigon, are rebuilding sturdy new homes for themselves.

"The project got underway after three of their homes were burned down by flares in February," said First Lieutenant Richard F. Madala, of Tulare, Calif., S-5 officer for the "Warriors."

Immediately after the homes were destroyed the battalion moved in and provided food and shelter for the people until a reconstruction program could be organized. After the three original homes were rebuilt it was discovered that many families had been left homeless when their houses were destroyed after VC occupied them early in 1968 and heavy fighting in the area resulted. The homes were never rebuilt.

"We had some materials left over from the first group so we distributed them throughout the village and everyone pitched in to help. Now a total of 11 houses have been built, with 16 more to get underway as soon as we can furnish the materials," re-



MANY CONVEYANCES were utilized during a recent "Battalion Shuffle." Here equipment is loaded onto a landing craft for a ferry trip to a highway. (Photo by Sines)

Moving A Battalion Is No Easy Task

By SP4 Robert F. Loughran, Jr.

Lightweights are expected to move faster than heavyweights and the 199th Brigade was designed to move much faster than the normal infantry division or even brigade.

But for a battalion to make major moves twice in two days? "Oh, no! Sarge, you gotta be kidding me!"

He kidded not. Recently Battalion X, located south of Saigon, was scheduled to switch places with Battalion Y, which had the southern "pineapple" region for its area of operations. Total distance was in the neighborhood of 30 miles.

While gear and supplies were being packed for truck and air shipment, both tactical operations centers were still receiving and sending messages, and operations activities were carried out up until the last minute prior to the move.

The day of the move, the switch was accomplished in seven hours with the help of a few Chinook sorties and a couple of dozen deuce-and-a-halves. The TO&E of around 800 men for each battalion, plus essentials ranging from commo generators to messhall silverware, were transferred without a hitch. With full participation, both fire support bases were

at maximum effectiveness again by nightfall.

But, Oh, Sarge! Not again! The unwelcome news came to Battalion X men just before dreamtown. The unit was told to move northeast of Saigon to help support other "Redcatcher" elements. Its vacancy would be filled by Battalion Z, then about 7 miles south of Saigon.

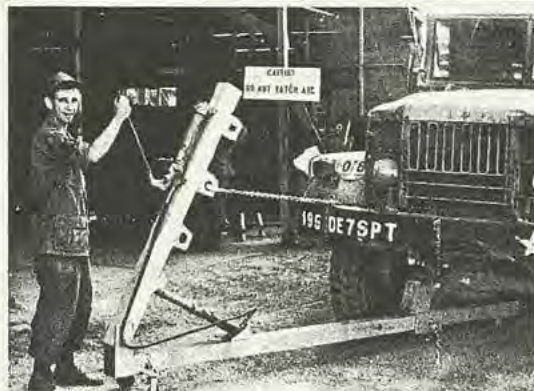
By early afternoon the next day the second "checker-board shuffle" had been made, the usual Chinooks, trucks and manpower operating fluidly until the last of everything from ammo canisters to cans of soda had been relocated.

Tailored in concept and training to be capable of rapid movement at short notice, the 199th's motto is "Light, Swift, Accurate." Under less than the ideal conditions related, Brigade battalions have fought in heavy engagements one day, packed up, and then found themselves in similar situations the following day at distant locations.

The normal AO of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade is the south and west inner defense circle of Saigon. When needed, however, it becomes a Fire Brigade and can go anywhere trouble is, and in a hurry.



HOW'RE THE RAYS? Not too bad when they're on the likes of Janine Reynaud. Janine is currently starring in a new release "Succubus." Come to think of it, I could use a little sun myself. (Photo Courtesy of American International Pictures)



DEMONSTRATING his invention, Private First Class Charles Ashley, a body mechanic from Portland, Ore., applies mechanical muscle to a 2 1/2-ton truck bumper. (Photo by SP5 Vernon Pryor)

Cordons

(Continued from Page 1)

and Regional Forces from Gia Dinh Province and Binh Chanh District. Two 5th ARVN Rangers were killed in the third cordon.

After the cordon were sprung, sealing approximately 30 square kilometers each, local Regional Force companies conducted detailed and systematic searches of the hamlets and surrounding area. National Police Field Force units collected the villagers and brought them to the CHIC, capable of accommodating over 1,000 people at one time.

Psyops Active

While at the holding area, the villagers were under the care and jurisdiction of the Brigade's Civil Affairs section, charged with enhancing the pacification effort to strengthen GVN control among the populace. The villagers in family groups were seated under rolled-up tents, including one huge parachute tent to await processing through the screening and interrogation area.

During the waiting period, the villagers were fed rice, fish and bread by a Saigon Social Welfare Team and entertained by a Vietnamese Culture and Drama Team. Water and cups were kept in supply in the tents. The villagers also availed themselves of a Brigade Medcap and Dentcap (Medical and Dental Civic Action Program) set up under a smaller parachute canopy and mobile van in the holding area.

Supporting Elements

A squad of former enemy soldiers (Hoi Chanh) assigned to the Civil Affairs section assisted in population control measures and distributed thousands of leaflets, flags, T-shirts and balloons with GVN colors. A psychological operations unit attached to the Brigade played tapes asking the people to support the GVN and its "Chieu Hoi" program. Other tape subjects ranged from information on health and sanitation to music and entertainment.

The villagers passed through the screening process in family groups when possible. Identification cards were checked and photographs taken of the family groups for census purposes. Suspected Viet Cong military or infrastructure members were moved through a number of procedural checks, and were then classified. Innocent civilians were immediately released and returned to their homes.

Legislation passed last year improves GI Bill benefits by permitting servicemen with from 18 to 24 months of service since Jan. 31, 1966 to receive a full 36 months of educational benefits.

Summary

(Continued from Page 3)

ers, including a command bunker with five L-shaped fighting positions around it.

Late in the night an ambush patrol from the 5th Bn, 12th Inf spotted movement outside its night defensive position six miles southwest of Saigon. The VC were taken under fire and an immediate search of the area revealed two dead.

May 9:

While searching nipa palm lined canals 2 1/2 miles southwest of Duc Hoa, elements of the 4th Bn, 12th Inf and 3rd Bn, 7th Inf came into a large burned-off area. A thorough search revealed 30 fighting positions, three individual weapons, one mortar aiming stake, and one 82mm mortar fuze. Three B-40 rounds were discovered hidden in the thick nipa palm along a nearby canal.

May 2:

Redcatchers began the fourth combined cordon in recent months with ARVN Rangers and Popular Forces cordoning an area 11 miles south of Saigon. Eight infrastructure members and six draft dodgers were detained from a total of 580 civilians processed during the interrogation.

May 3:

Two Redcatchers from Brigade's 7th Spt Bn, while helping whom they thought was a sick ARVN soldier, discovered they had captured a Viet Cong. (See story, page 7.)

May 5:

During the combined RVN-199th cordon operation, a "lottery" was held nightly which was designed to both entertain and aid Vietnamese civilians being processed at the CHIC. (See story, page 1.)



AN INFANTRYMAN of Alpha Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf lobbs a hand grenade into a suspected Viet Cong position during an operation near the Binh Dinh bridge.

(Photo by Gragg)

'Fender Bender' Succeeds Well For Inventor

By SP4 Kenneth Chaivre

Private First Class Charles E. Ashley of Portland, Ore. decided he didn't have enough "pull" in the 7th Spt Bn maintenance yard so he devised a plan to increase his pulling power.

The problem was crumpled bumpers and fenders which had to be removed and banged out by hand. This was a time-consuming process and worked well only on light gauges of steel.

So Ashley designed a simple device that can pull out bent fenders, bumpers and frames on any vehicle from a jeep to a 5-ton truck. The machine is made from two sections of 4-inch-square duct, one 4 ft. long, the other 10 ft. The two sections are joined together in an acute angle and a pneumatic pump slowly increases the angle towards 90 degrees.

The long arm is positioned underneath the vehicle while the short arm pulls away from the vehicle as the pressure increases. A chain stretches from the vehicle to the end of the moveable arm, pulling the crumpled bumper or fender back into shape.

According to Ashley, his machine will "straighten out anything." The time-saving device was designed from a similar machine he used at the auto body shop where he worked before entering the Army. He plans to open his own body shop when he completes his military service.

Redcatcher Allied Liaisons Work With ARVN Units

By SP4 Thomas Reilly

The road through the tiny country village of Tan Tao had always been one of the main infiltration routes for enemy forces until the 55th ARVN Bn was assigned to introduce a regional pacification program in the area.

The ARVN unit has been operating near Tan Tao since the May 1968 offensive against Saigon. Commanded by Captain Nguyen Quyen, the battalion's jurisdiction covers a huge area split in two sections, beginning about 6 miles west of Saigon and blocking the main VC infiltration routes to the capital.

almost never varies.

The battalion's night ambushes return to the ARVN base camp in early morning. About an hour later the two American advisers on operation shift that day are out with one of the line companies. Two of the advisers left behind check perimeters and weapons while the third monitors radio communications.

Advisers sometimes accompany the night ambush patrols. During the day, medic Sergeant Walter Archibald of Tacoma, Wash., assists the ARVN medics as they help area villagers.

Extensive Schooling

To qualify as an adviser one must attend a special school where tactical training, Vietnamese language study, national history, local customs, and techniques for improving public relations are stressed. Upon graduation these men are assigned to various detachments of the South Vietnamese Army.

The team at Tan Tao has built its own two-room house inside a barbed wire compound ringed with bunkers. "We've had this house for over a month now," said Captain David Yoder of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., team supervisor, "and we've made ourselves very comfortable in it. A dining table and chairs, books, a miniature chess set, a plank floor, double bunk beds and occasional trips to 'Stephanie' or Saigon all help to ease the isolation."

Results Are Evident

Even solitude fails to diminish the rewards of working with an ARVN unit and seeing the results, little by little. Each adviser speaks very highly of the battalion's performance in the field, especially when they are on combined operations with U.S. forces.

The Vietnamese soldier's reputation for knowledge of terrain and Viet Cong tactics, coupled with American know-how and support, help to make him one of the most effective means of combating the Communist forces.

May Cordon and Sweep Yields Nine Hoi Chanh

During six days early in May, nine "Hoi Chanh" rallied to the Government of Vietnam (GVN) under the "Chieu Hoi" or "Open Arms" program through the efforts of the Brigade psychological operations team.

Second Lieutenant Andrew Duskie of Concord, N.C., Psychological Operations (Psyops) Officer, explained that six of the Hoi Chanh rallied because of aerially broadcast messages. "All six told me that the message we played over our aerial loudspeakers convinced them to rally to the Government of Vietnam," he added.

The messages were broadcast over the area where a large joint 199th-GVN cordon and sweep operation was being staged in the Binh Chanh-Ben Luc districts 14 miles southwest of Saigon.

Duskie, attached to the 199th

from the Bien Hoa-based 6th Psyops Bn, said the messages were "appeals with names of some of the VC working in the area. We emphasized that our cordon and search operation was closing in on them."

Of the nine "returnees," one was a Viet Cong entertainer and one was a VC draftee who said he had no choice: the VC had taken over his home. Three of the returnees brought their AK-47 rifles with them to turn over the Redcatchers. One explained that his brother had written to him encouraging him to rally to the GVN.

All of the Hoi Chanh said they had been lied to by their leaders and that there was a great lack of supplies and food. They all volunteered to record tapes and to help with the making of leaflets for the continuing Psyops operations.

Chapel

(Continued from Page 1)

memorial plaque bearing the names of men of the 199th who have died in combat. The money for the plaque, which was made in Saigon, came from voluntary contributions by the men and officers of the Brigade. The plaque will remain with the Brigade wherever it moves.

"This is the first time we have been able to hold Catholic services in a chapel," Chaplain Farrow said. "In the past we have had to hold them in a mess hall due to lack of room." About 14 services will be held each week.

"The new facility will give us a basis on which to build a really strong religious program," the chaplain said. "It will unify our religious services."

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