

'Cottonbalers' Surrounds Huge Enemy Camp



REDCATCHER!

199th Light Infantry Brigade

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VIP's Pay Visit To 199th

By SP4 Bruce Bolinger

XUAN LOC—Brigadier General Warren K. Bennett, commanding general of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade, was on hand here Aug 22 to join other US and South Vietnamese military commanders in meeting the Honorable Stanley R. Resor, Secretary of the Army, and General Ralph E. Haines, United States Army, Pacific (USAPAC) commander.

A Vietnamese army band and a formation of soldiers from the 18th ARVN Div welcomed Secretary Resor as he arrived.

The Secretary of the Army attended a short briefing and spoke with each of the US commanders present before continuing on his tour.

Presented Plaque

General Bennett presented him a plaque bearing the Brigade crest and an inscription commemorating his visit to the 199th's area of operations.

Prior to greeting the Secretary of the Army, General Bennett met here with the commander of USAPAC, GEN Haines.

After being briefed by the Brigade's commanding general, Haines traveled to the 199th's forward headquarters at fire support base "Blackhorse," 7 miles south of here.

There he was met by deputy commanding officer, Colonel Richard M. Ripley, who, after a brief talk, escorted the USAPAC commander to Dinh Quan, 19 miles northeast of here.

At Dinh Quan, the four star general exchanged gifts with a local Vietnamese official before meeting with 4th Bn, 12th Inf commander, Lieutenant Colonel

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General Ralph E. Haines, USAPAC commander, talks with Sergeant First Class Ulysses H. Pallard and Captain Willard G. LaRose during his recent visit to fire support base "Joy." Both Pallard and LaRose are members of Delta Btry, 2nd Bn, 40th Arty.



Members of Bravo Btry, 2nd Bn, 40th Arty send another "105" round on its way during the Aug 20 bombardment of a huge enemy tunnel and bunker complex located by the 3rd Bn, 7th Inf. (Photo by PFC John Smith)

'Warriors' Kill 10 in Brief Contacts

By SP4 Frank Segreto

FSB JOY—A total of 10 enemy soldiers were killed by "Warriors" of the 4th Bn, 12th Inf in scattered incidents during a five day period beginning Aug 15.

The series of brief contacts with small sized VC and NVA elements involved Alpha,

Bravo, "Commanche," and Echo Co's of the "Warrior" battalion, and each separate contact occurred within 15 miles of this fire base.

Members of Alpha Co were on a bomb damage assessment mission Aug 15 following B-52 air strikes 18 miles northeast of Xuan Loc, when they first contacted the enemy.

Blowing Bunkers

As they were blowing a group of abandoned enemy bunkers, the "Warriors" received small arms fire to their rear from an estimated squad size element of NVA.

Alpha Co returned the enemy fire with M-60, M-79, and small arms while the enemy force fled.

A subsequent search of the area revealed two NVA bodies

and one AK-47 rifle.

Four days later, on Aug 19, an element of Bravo Co, operating 21 miles northeast of Xuan Loc, sprung an evening ambush on another estimated squad of enemy soldiers.

"We opened up on 'Charlie' with claymores, grenades, M-79's, M-60's, and small arms fire before he knew that was happening," explained Captain Dale Lloyd of Aberdeen, Idaho, Bravo Co commander.

Once again the enemy fled, and a search of the area following the contact turned up a Viet Cong body.

Later that day, "Commanche" Co, operating 9 miles northeast of Xuan Loc, was conducting a ground reconnaissance mission

(Cont'd on Page 8)

By PFC John Smith

FSB MADELEINE—A total of 34 enemy were killed and 73 bunkers destroyed Aug 20 by tactical air strikes, artillery fire, and gunships after the 3rd Bn, 7th Inf surrounded a huge bunker and tunnel complex 17 miles south of Saigon.

"Cottonbalers" of the 3rd Bn, 7th Inf have been operating in this area of the Mekong Delta for the past two months under the operational control of the 9th Inf Div.

Members of Charlie Co discovered the complex Aug 19 during a routine airmobile operation, but the vast size of the base camp was not realized until after massive

air and artillery strikes literally leveled the area late the following day.

8th Inf Div Huey gunships called in by Charlie Co Aug 19, killed five enemy soldiers after the initial discovery of the complex.

Early the next morning, both Charlie and Bravo Cos were airmobiled back into the area effectively surrounding the enemy stronghold.

Original plans called for Bravo Co to serve as a blocking force while Charlie Co swept through the camp, but after the units were inserted air strikes were judged necessary.

Combined Barrage

"We were just unloading the trucks when the first jet strike was put in," commented Second Lieutenant Glen D. Dreyer of Ravenna, Ohio, Charlie Co's second platoon leader.

A combined barrage of air strikes, arty, and gunship fire followed, lasting about two hours," recalled 2LT Dreyer.

Artillery fire was provided by Bravo Btry of the 199th, 2nd Bn, 40th Arty and Bravo Btry of the 5th Bn, 42nd Arty with two other nearby artillery units helping out.

Gunships were again supplied by the 9th Inf Div.

During the strikes, Bravo Co, on the opposite side of the base camp received heavy enemy small arms fire.

"We held our return fire because we were notified that a friendly unit was about to engage the enemy," explained Bravo Co's third Platoon Sergeant Allen Foote of Crewe, Va. Shortly after noon the "Cottonbalers" called in additional artillery fire and air strikes.

Accurate Grazing Fire

As the second barrage began, Charlie Co received very heavy and accurate grazing fire from an estimated 15 to 20 enemy soldiers.

Immediately fire was returned, and air and artillery strikes were adjusted on the enemy soldiers initiating the fire.

At this time a company of the 5th Bn, 60th Inf, 9th Inf Div joined the "Cottonbaler" elements, and a 9th Div psychological operations plane began circling the area.

With the additional troops, the perimeter around the base camp was tightened, and two enemy soldiers rallied to 9th Div forces

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199th Association: Membership Drive

The general membership drive for the newly organized Redcatcher Association is being kicked off Sept 22 with the presentation of the first membership card by Brigadier General Warren K. Bennett, commanding officer of the 199th.

Receiving the first general membership will be Specialist Four Bobby J. Gouge, assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company as a clerk in the office of the S-1.

The Redcatcher Association is a private organization of the 199th having no official connection with the military, according to Major Dominic J. Bernardi Jr., secretary-treasurer of the Charter Board of Governors.

Membership in the Association is voluntary and is open to all past, present, and future members

of the 199th. The general membership fee is \$1.00 per person.

Objectives of the Association are to improve the morale and welfare of the men of the 199th, and to publicize the accomplishments of the 199th, according to Major Bernardi. The organization will serve to foster the image of the 199th soldier as a professional doing his job as an infantryman or in some other capacity.

When General Bennett first announced the formation of the Redcatcher Association, he stated that the opening effort would be a charter membership drive, followed by a general membership campaign. With the first of these goals nearly achieved, the Association is now prepared to make membership available to all.

Message...

From the Commander

I want all "Redcatchers" and those who support us to know that the 199th Light Infantry Brigade is making increasingly greater progress in accomplishing its three-fold mission of supporting pacification, upgrading RVN armed forces, and conducting military operations to locate the enemy, keep him from interfering with the pacification effort and eliminate him from the battlefield.

With one week still to go, Aug 1969 is already the fourth most productive month in "Redcatcher" history, in terms of the number of enemy eliminated from the battlefield. Only in the months of January, February and May 1968 (months of enemy "Tet" and "Mini-Tet" offensives) were larger numbers of enemy eliminated. Further, the enemy now being eliminated are being found, captured, destroyed, or induced to "Chieu Hoi" in very small groups, normally no more than one to four or five at a time.

This means that "Redcatcher" units are becoming increasingly more proficient in the demanding and time-consuming tasks that must be carried out with imagination and precision if our mission is to be accomplished; by this, I mean digging out hard intelligence concerning the VC local forces; conducting wide-ranging but detailed search operations with small units to locate the elusive enemy; and getting positive results from each contact through aggressive and imaginative operations which confuse the enemy, keep him off balance, and make him more and more vulnerable to our superior mobility and firepower.

All "Redcatchers" are doing a tremendous job. Keep up the good work.

Brigadier General Warren K. Bennett
Commander, 199th Light Infantry Brigade

GED Records Best Year

Participation by personnel in the Army's worldwide General Educational Development (GED) program reached an all-time high during fiscal year (FY) 1969, according to the Office of the Adjutant General.

The Army's vast GED program, which supplements military training with civilian-type education, provides academic and vocational courses from the elementary through college level for personnel who wish to continue their education while on active duty.

The average number of enrollments and course completions increased markedly over FY 1968. A total of 895,403 GED course completions were reported for FY 1969, a 22 per cent increase

over FY 1968. In courses related to Military Occupational Specialties alone, 495,000 completions were recorded, representing an increase of 60,535 over the previous year.

More than 500 Army persons completed work on baccalaureate or advanced degrees through GED, while 60,674 soldiers qualified for high school diplomas or equivalent certificates.

The GED program is operated at 295 educational centers located at Army installations around the world. Twenty-four of the centers are in the Republic of Vietnam. The Army employs approximately 400 professional civilian educators to administer the program for local Army commanders.

Christmas Contest Beginning

Headquarters of USARV plans to print an illustrated Christmas card this year with a theme depicting both the spirit of Christmas and the life of the American soldier in Vietnam.

A contest is being held for the designs submitted with prizes to be awarded for the best entries. All persons are encouraged to submit as many designs as they like to ensure the widest possible selection. Men in field units are especially encouraged to participate in the contest.

Both line-drawings and scenes in color are acceptable for entry and all designs should be approximately 5 inches by 7 inches. The entries must be submitted to the 199th Brigade's 44th Military History Detachment by September 17 or be sent directly to CSM Cannon, Headquarters, USARV by September 18.

With each drawing submitted, include your name, rank, organization, and your hometown.

A recently approved DA policy change now allows former Army members discharged in grades E5 and below to enlist under AR 601-210 without loss of pay grade within 30 months of separation. Previously, only a 90 day "grace" period existed and that was further restricted to E5's and below with less than four years service for pay.

35mm Viewing

By PFC Jerry Poindexter

Many times amateur photographers are confused by the different types of color slide films available to them in Vietnam. There are four main types of slide film to choose from at most PX's.

Ektachrome-X (ASA 64) is a medium speed film that is best used out of doors. It rec-

ords blues and greens most vividly making it ideal for Vietnam.

High Speed Ektachrome (ASA 160) is best used in adverse lighting conditions and out of doors. Its high speed makes it an excellent film for existing light photography.

High Speed Ektachrome Type B (ASA 125) is used only for indoor shooting under existing tungsten lighting conditions. It has warm color rendition, and pastel colors are rendered well. If used out of doors, pictures will be excessively blue in color.

Kodachrome 11 (ASA 25) is a very "warm," slow speed film best used out of doors. A "warm" film tends to highlight yellows, reds, and oranges. It is also preferable for indoor lighting conditions.

Something easy to remember about choosing color slide films is that higher speed film goes more towards greens and blues. Slower speed film goes towards reds and oranges. In addition slower speed film has less grain and consequently makes better, finer grain prints. Higher speed film, although it is grainier, is preferable for poor lighting conditions.



REDCATCHER!

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"When you came back, bring the canteens over here. They're in a hole over there."



Awards and Decorations

Bronze Star Medal (Valor)

ISG Loyd J. Parton—C, 3/7 (1st OLC). While on an operation July 14, an element of Parton's company came under intense fire from a well-planned enemy ambush. Parton delivered such a volume of small arms fire to divert the enemy that his company was able to move out without suffering a single casualty.

1 LT Douglas G. Grapes—B, 3/7 (1st OLC). Shortly after his unit made contact with an unknown size enemy force on June 9, the enemy fled. Grapes led a small force in pursuit across a canal in a captured sampan, caught the fleeing enemy force and neutralized it.

CPT John E. Daniels—C, 3/7 (1st OLC). On July 14, Daniels and his men were being transported by naval river craft when they came under heavy rocket and automatic weapons attack. Disregarding his own safety, he positioned himself atop the craft to effectively direct his men and gain fire superiority without suffering a single allied casualty.

PSG Charles H. Bivins—D, 3/7. While Bivins was leading his platoon on an assault against an enemy position June 16, he exposed himself to enemy fire in order to direct his men. After setting his men in position, he endangered his life again in order to warn the others of the ambush.

SP4 Richard D. Blanc—D, 3/7. Blanc was leading his squad June 16 when it came under intense enemy fire. Unhesitatingly he directed his men on line and led a successful assault to overrun the enemy position.

SP4 Marlin L. Helsel—D, 3/7. While on an operation July 2, a sister unit to Helsel's element came under intense enemy fire. Realizing the eminent danger to his own unit, he charged the enemy position, placing effective fire upon them and contributing significantly to the defeat of the enemy.

SP4 Gary L. Garneau—D, 3/7. Garneau was leading his squad on June 16 when it came under intense enemy fire. Unhesitatingly he directed his men on line and led a successful assault to overrun the enemy position.

SP4 Jimmy L. Bryson—D, 3/7. Bryson was leading his squad on June 16 when it came under intense enemy fire. Unhesitatingly he directed his men on line and led a successful assault to overrun the enemy position.

PFC Reynold A. Torres—D, 3/7. On June 16, Torres' squad was pinned down by intense hostile fire from a well fortified enemy position. Torres exposed himself to the enemy fire in order to return accurate fire and was instrumental in silencing the enemy position.

SGT John Taber—D, 3/7. Taber was leading his squad on June 16 when it came under intense enemy fire. Unhesitatingly he directed his men on line and led a successful assault to overrun the enemy.

PFC Ronald B. Wiley—D, 3/7. While on an operation June 16, Wiley's platoon was ambushed by a well-fortified enemy force. He took up an exposed position from which to return fire and to warn the others in his platoon of the ambush. Directly to Wiley's front was a Viet Cong position which was holding down the rest of the platoon. Disregarding his own safety, he charged the enemy enabling the platoon to advance.

SGT Jerry L. Bierman—D, 3/7. Bierman was leading his squad on June 16 when it came under intense enemy fire. Unhesitatingly he directed his men on line and led a successful assault to overrun the enemy position.

SGT Richard H. Jiles—B, 3/7. On June 5, Jiles was leading his squad on an ambush operation when he observed movement beyond his position. He told his men to hold their fire while he moved to a position of better observation. As the enemy moved into close range, he initiated an ambush which neutralized the enemy force.

MAJ Max Lankes—4/12. After a member of Delta company was wounded during a battle May 29 with an enemy unit, Major Lankes, who had been directing the combat operations from his helicopter, exposed himself and his ship to heavy fire while directing his craft into a small landing zone to evacuate the soldier.

Army Commendation Medal (Valor)

1LT Ronald W. Poux—D, 3/7. Poux was a forward observer on a search and destroy mission on June 16 when his unit came under intense fire. He repeatedly exposed himself to the enemy force to adjust artillery fire which was instrumental in neutralizing their positions.

PFC Alan C. Harnack—D, 3/7. Harnack was on an operation with his squad on June 16 when the unit came under fire. He maneuvered on line, exposing himself to enemy fire, and continued to advance until

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Major Bernard Loeffke

EM Commands Bn For a Day

FBS BLACKHORSE—The dream of every infantry field trooper: To exchange places with his battalion commander, sleep in his quarters, use his radio and shower, write letters in his office, watch a movie or TV, settle back in a swivel chair and put his feet on the desk....

Just a dream, and nothing more, you say? Well, for men in the 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf, the "dream" is becoming a reality!

The "Old Guard's" battalion commander, Major Bernard Loeffke, has devised a unique morale boosting program, that works like this: The battalion commander helicopters to a line company's field bivouac area. Then, after consultation with the company commander, he selects the specialist four or below whose individual performance during the past week merits the distinction of being named the company's outstanding soldier for that week.

The chosen infantryman is then transported, complete with weapon and equipment, back to battalion headquarters via chopper.

When the line company's "Guard of the Week" arrives here at battalion headquarters, he is given a clean change of clothing and made comfortable in Major Loeffke's office-quarters, with complete access to all facilities normally available to the commander. Major Loeffke, meanwhile, remains with the forward line company, occupying the vacancy of the selected infantryman, complete with all the conveniences (?) of the field.

The following morning, the commander and the field trooper return to their respective places and resume normal duties.

VRE is not able to render any assistance with problems encountered with the Pacific Mail Order System.

In the Field Brigade Summary

August 9

"Cottonbalers" of Alpha Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf, on a night ambush patrol 8 miles southeast of Saigon, killed one enemy soldier. The VC was in a sampan when taken under fire.

August 11

"Warriors" of the 5th Bn, 12th Inf engaged enemy forces in two widely separated battles, killing four. An element of Charlie Co engaged an unknown size enemy force in a five-bunker complex 11 miles north of Xuan Loc. One enemy was killed immediately and two more were killed by supporting air strikes. Members of Alpha Co, operating 9 miles southwest of Xuan Loc, sighted one enemy soldier following them. They engaged him with small arms fire, killing the enemy.

August 11

"Cottonbalers" from Delta Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf held three detainees while supporting gunships accounted for one enemy killed during night ambush operations 9 miles southeast of Saigon.

"Cottonbalers" of Echo Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf, while working with Air Cushioned Vehicles belonging to the 9th Inf Div 13 miles southeast of Saigon, killed one enemy soldier in thick nippa palm while capturing one AK-47.

"Warriors" of Charlie Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf, while operating 9 miles north of Xuan Loc engaged an unknown size enemy force killing one.

August 13

An element of Alpha Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf sighted three enemy near an LZ 15 miles northeast of Xuan Loc. The "Warriors" took the enemy under small arms and automatic weapons fire killing one. Several hours later, Alpha Co located and destroyed an enemy mess hall complex.

Members of Charlie Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf engaged four to six enemy with small arms fire 9 miles north of Xuan Loc, killing one.

August 13

"Cottonbalers" of Delta Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf killed two enemy and detained one suspect 9 miles southeast of Saigon. The enemy were engaged by a canal, and an AK-47 rifle and 300 rounds of ammunition were recovered from the area following the contact.

August 14

"Warriors" of Delta Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf operating 18 miles northeast of Xuan Loc, sighted and engaged six to seven enemy

with small arms and automatic weapons fire, killing two. The "Warriors" followed the retreating enemy into a base camp and destroyed a total of 7 bunkers there.

August 14

Two enemy were killed and four suspects were detained by an element of Echo Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf while it was working with Air Cushioned Vehicles 12 miles southeast of Saigon. One Chicom pistol was also recovered during the mission.

August 15

"Warriors" of Alpha Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf, while operating northeast of Xuan Loc, located 7 bunkers and made contact with an unknown size enemy force, killing two.

August 16

"Warriors" of Delta Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf, on an operation 18 miles northeast of Xuan Loc, sighted an estimated 30 enemy soldiers and called in artillery fire on their suspected



position. "105's" fired by Delta Btry, 2nd Bn, 40th Arty killed one enemy soldier as a result.

August 18

Members of the reconnaissance element of the 5th Bn, 12th Inf engaged five to six enemy with small arms and automatic weapons fire 1 mile northwest of Xuan Loc, killing one.

August 19

Members of the reconnaissance element of the 4th Bn, 12th Inf engaged an estimated squad of enemy soldiers with small arms and automatic weapons fire 18 miles northeast of Xuan Loc, killing one.

"Warriors" of "Commanche" Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf made contact with an estimated squad of enemy soldiers northeast of Xuan Loc, killing three in a short firefight.

A total of five enemy soldiers were killed by 9th Inf Div supporting gunships during an air-mobile operation conducted by "Cottonbalers" of the 3rd Bn, 7th Inf 17 miles south Saigon. Three AK-47 rifles were recovered by the "Cottonbalers."

August 20

A total of 34 enemy soldiers were killed by air strikes, artillery fire, and Huey gunships 17 miles south of Saigon after elements of Bravo and Charlie Cos of the 3rd Bn, 7th Inf surrounded a huge enemy bunker and tunnel complex.

Members of the reconnaissance unit of the 4th Bn, 12th Inf sighted four enemy soldiers 19 miles northeast of Xuan Loc and engaged them, killing two.

An element of "Commanche" Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf engaged an estimated squad of enemy

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VN Mailing Privileges

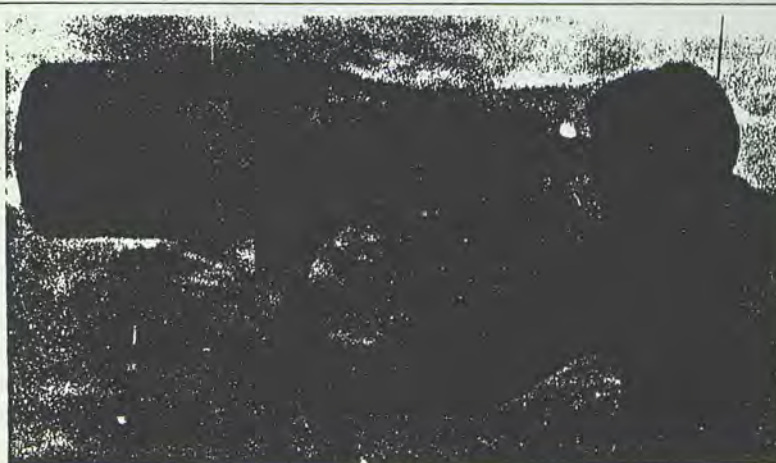
"Redcatchers" are reminded that free mailing privileges extend only to personal letters and voice recordings.

The limits on personal mail require that the letter not exceed 5x11 1/2-in. dimensions. Enclosures in personal letters are limited to snapshots. Magazines and newspapers, including Redcatcher!, cannot be mailed free.

A word of advice: Mailings that violate these rules are not returned to you. The person who receives them has to pay the extra postage.

So do yourself and your friends a favor. Observe postal regulations.

Your M-16A1 rifle has a screw in the rubber butt plate, and the head of the screw has a hole in it. Ever notice?



Jungle Yields LZ's to Hard-Working

Story and Photos by SP4 James Low

The 87th Engineer Company, the combat work-team of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade, has a new job.

In addition to handling all the construction needs of the Brigade at its main base, forward headquarters, and base camps, the engineers are now the primary builders of "landing zones" for "Red-catcher" line companies.

Jungle terrain limits mobility both on the ground and in the air. A major question confronting any unit planning an airmobile operation in the Brigade's area of operations is, "Where can we land our choppers?"

The 87th Eng Co supplies the answer.

Recently, the engineers were called upon to do just this for members of Bravo Co, of the 4th Bn, 12th Inf 3 miles west of fire support base "Joy." The operation was typical of those performed by the engineers since the Brigade moved into the jungles.

The "Warriors" were on a search operation, and they requested an "LZ." With no clearing near the desired location large enough for even one helicopter to land, the third platoon of the company had to take the initial steps.

Using only their machetes, the "Warriors" hacked away at the jungle growth, and within 24 hours, the mini-landing zone could accommodate one Huey.

Within a short time, one squad each from the

first and second platoons of the 87th Eng Co was flown in to begin the major part of the task. Bravo Co's third platoon remained in the area, providing immediate security and added muscle-power for the job.

While some of the engineers clear away brush with chain saws, axes, and machetes on operations like this one, demolition crews emplace explosive charges around larger obstacles. C-4 explosive—often as much as 50 pounds—is used to blast away larger trees and stumps.

"The charges make it much easier to knock down large trees that would be nearly impossible to fall otherwise," explained Specialist Four Lloyd Hauge of Torrence, Cal., a demolition specialist. "It makes a person a little nervous handling that much explosive," he added, "although there's really no chance of its exploding prematurely."

Bangalore torpedos, shaped chares, and det-cord are employed to eliminate many of the smaller stumps and much of the brush.

Often, up to a dozen charges of various sizes are set and linked together by det-cord in a "daisy chain," all to be detonated at once. In this way, several trees, stumps, and a great amount of underbrush can be blasted away simultaneously.

Although explosives greatly speed the operation, much work is still done by hand. Trees that fall into the landing area must be cut into

sections small enough to be carried away, and all stumps of smaller brush are hopped to the ground.

As the landing zone emerges from thick jungle, it is shaped to some extent by the engineers.

"A good LZ requires more than just a clear area for several helicopters to land on," explained First Lieutenant Charles Spoerer III of Greensburg, Pa. "It must also have 'runways' the choppers can use for approaching and leaving the area. The larger trees far outside the actual zone in two directions must be cut down so the ships do not have to descend and climb out vertically."

The work on an LZ usually lasts for several days, and members of the 87th Eng Co remain in the field each night until the job is completed.

On the second day out with Bravo Co, the Brigade engineers were interrupted in their work when the "Warriors" made contact with the enemy 600 meters from their partially completed landing zone. Immediately, the engineers moved into a defensive position around their perimeter, and work did not resume until the firefight ended.

When the landing zone was large enough to accommodate five choppers, members of the 87th Eng Co were withdrawn.

It wasn't long, however, before the group was out again, working on another LZ, elsewhere in the Brigade's area of operations.



Machine and muscle combine to fell a tree.



A tree is cut into sections for removal from LZ.



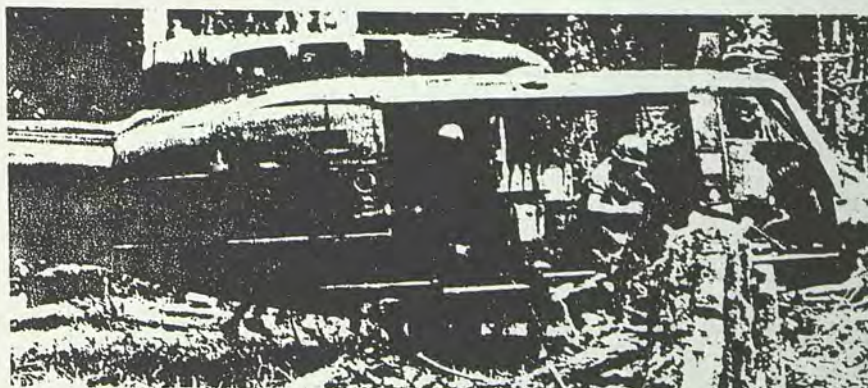
Fifty poun



Engineers



ounds of C-4 in net to blast large tree.



Before work begins, the LZ barely accommodates one chopper.



Much hard work is required to remove all obstacles.



Demolitions are used extensively to greatly speed the removal of brush and trees.



Sergeant Kenneth E. Doyle, of Echo Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf, practices up on the "green" outside his company orderly room. (Photo by SP4 Frank Segretto)

'Warrior' Infantryman Former Pro Golfer

FSB JOY—The transition from golf pro to supply sergeant could be a difficult one, but Sergeant Kenneth E. Doyle, of West Hartford, Conn., has handled it with little trouble by turning in his golf shoes for a set of jungle boots.

Doyle, a former professional golfer, is currently serving as a supply sergeant with Echo Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf.

After competing as an amateur in many stateside golf tournaments, Doyle turned pro just before entering the Army. In the West Virginia Open he won first place for amateur competition while Sam Snead took first place for the pros.

He won the West Virginia State College Tournament while playing on the Morris Harvey college golf team.

Played for Army

A low 70's shooter, Doyle "was looking forward to playing golf for the Army" when he came into the service—and play golf for the Army he did.

"I competed in professional golf tournaments across the country in between a job as assistant golf pro at Fort McPherson, Ga.," Doyle said recently.

"I played mostly in one day state tournaments in Georgia, Alabama, and Florida," he added.

Doyle was playing in the Third Army Tournament at Fort Rucker, Ala., when he was informed of orders reassigning him to Vietnam.

"I was leading in the first half of the tournament, but suddenly I began to play very poorly," he recalled. "After I heard that news it was all down hill."

Doyle first became interested in golf during the summer months between high school and college.

"I spent the summer months with my uncle in Florida, who is a fanatic about golf," he explained. After spending a summer as his uncle's caddy, Doyle became interested in the sport

himself.

Before long he was working for Horace Erving, the head pro at the Meadow Brook Golf and Recreation Club in Charlestown, W. Va.

"I really benefited from working there because I was close to the game, and I still earned enough to by a set of clubs," he said.

Even during his tour of duty in Vietnam, Ken practices whenever possible. "Professional golf is my career," he explains. "I hope to keep in practice so I can compete in tournaments again when I return to the States."

A number of Army and joint service organizations/agencies require that enlisted personnel have special qualifications for assignment.



5th Bn, 12th Inf trucks move out from fire support base "Libby" on a muddy monsoon morning. (Photo by SP4 Robert Collins)

Army/Air Force Exchange Places

Anyone observing an element of Alpha Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf heading out on night ambush recently might have done a double take at one of its members.

But no, a second look would have shown that it WAS an Air Force sergeant moving out on ambush with Army infantrymen.

Recently, both the 4th and 5th Bns of the 12th Inf and the 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf had members of the Air Force join them temporarily. The men were involved in a unique two-day personnel exchange program coordinated between the Army and Air Force.

"Operation Team Work," as the program is called, was established by the two services to re-enforce the working relationships and the mutual understanding of each branch. By temporarily exchanging personnel, valuable information on procedures and operating techniques can be passed between the Army and Air Force.

For two days after arriving in the 199th, four Air Force NCO's participated fully in the activities of their "adopted" units, studying daily routines to see first-hand how the Army functioned, particularly on joint operations with their own branch.

While visiting the 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf, Air Force Sergeant Reynel Lucero, a 25-year-old native of Albuquerque, N.M., went on ambush patrol with Alpha Co. "I was impressed with the ways the guys operated—working so smoothly and with complete coordination, even after dark and in the thick jungle."

The only action Lucero was exposed to was a gunship's night mission. "Again the co-ordination and efficiency was amazing," he stated. "The radio operator called in the co-ordinates and in a few minutes the gunship was on the spot."

Two airmen joined the 5th Bn, 12th Inf for the two-day exchange. They were attached to two different platoons of Bravo Co. Air Force Sergeant Wayne Curran, 21, of Freeport, N.Y., traveled with the command group of the second platoon while Air Force Staff Sergeant Roger Kohout, 21 of Parma, Ohio, worked with the third platoon.

Airman First Class Amann M.

The four men were impressed with what they saw and learned from their stay with the 199th. Lucero summed his impressions with "It makes the job the combat troops do seem all the more dramatic when you realize the adverse conditions they operate under. I was impressed with what I saw the Army men do and I am proud to have served two days with them."

The four members of the 199th who joined the ranks of the Air Force spent their two days at Bien Hoa Air Base observing the airmen in action. They were shown everything from the maintenance of fighter jets to the organization and execution Coleman, a 20-year-old native of Nicholasville, Ky., remained at the 4th Bn, 12th Inf's fire support base "Joy" to learn the inner working of a combat battalion's headquarters. "I had no idea that such an efficient operation was conducted at a fire base," he commented. of the combat air missions from the control tower.

Awards and Decorations

(Cont'd from Page 3)

he succeeded in neutralizing the enemy positions.

SP4 Keith D. Tuttle—C, 3/7. While on a riverine operation on July 14, the river craft on which his unit was being transported came under fire by rocket and automatic weapons. Disregarding his own safety, Tuttle, a radio operator, positioned himself atop the craft and maintained effective communications while exposed to the enemy fire.

PFC Dale A. Thompson—D, 3/7. On June 16, Thompson was on a squad-size operation when his unit came under attack. He advanced, exposing himself, to return well-placed fire upon the enemy position, which contributed significantly in neutralizing the enemy force.

SP4 William C. Edwards—D, 3/7. After his squad came under attack June 16, Edwards found cover and began placing a heavy concentration of fire on the enemy position. He then left cover and exposed himself while advancing on the enemy force and was instrumental in neutralizing the force.

SSG Hiroshi Hino—C, 3/7. While acting as a platoon sergeant July 14, Hino's platoon leader lost radio contact with the company command group. He assumed command of the platoon while retaining communications and expertly directed artillery fire onto an enemy force that was attacking the remainder of the company, contributing significantly to the successful defense of his company's position.

PFC John P. Jewel—D, 3/7. After his squad came under attack on June 16, Jewel exposed himself to heavy fire to advance on the well-fortified enemy position. He expertly delivered such a volume of fire that he was instrumental in neutralizing the enemy force.

PFC Kenneth R. Munger—D, 3/7. On June 16, Munger's unit came under intense enemy attack from a well-entrenched force. He exposed himself to the fire in order to assault the position and was instrumental in neutralizing the enemy force.

SGT Craig D. Holm—3/7. After coming under attack on June 16 by a well-fortified enemy force, Holm was wounded while trying to cross a mine field to reach other injured comrades. Despite his painful wounds, he continued to fight and aid his injured friends.

SGT Curtis Wright—D, 3/7. While his squad was on an operation June 16, it came under attack from a well-fortified enemy force. Wright immediately exposed himself to the fire and directed his men in an aggressive assault in which he and his men were successful in overrunning the enemy position.

PFC Roger A. Johnson—3/7. After his unit came under attack from a well-fortified enemy force on June 16, Johnson, a radio operator, disregarded his own safety to cross a mine field to aid fellow soldiers. While maneuvering from man to man he was wounded by enemy fire; but he continued to aid his comrades and assist in their evacuation.

PFC James R. Titus—D, 3/7. On June 16, while on an operation, the squad Titus was with came under heavy hostile fire. Disregarding his own safety, he exposed himself to the enemy fusillade and returned such a well-directed field of fire that he was instrumental in neutralizing the enemy position.

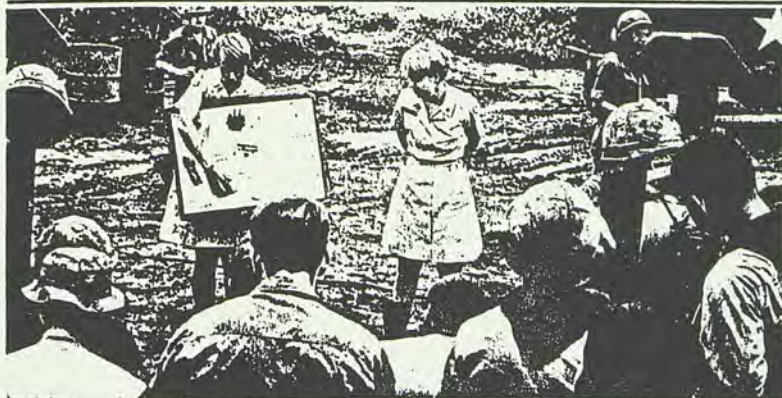
PFC Richard B. Free—2/3. Free was on a search operation June 23 when his unit came under intense fire from an NVA force. During the initial confusing moments of contact, Free assumed command of his squad and directed an effective suppressive base of fire. As the platoon sergeant resumed command, he began assisting in the evacuation of all wounded personnel.

SSG Ernest H. Hickie—2/3. As Hickie's unit was departing an aircraft March 1 during an operation, it came under intense fire from an enemy force. One man was seriously wounded, in a state of shock and exposed to the enemy fire. Hickie exposed himself to assist the man to a covered position and to administer first aid.

1LT Franklin V. Cox—2/3. As Cox's unit was departing an aircraft during an operation March 1, it came under intense fire from an enemy force. One man was seriously wounded, in a state of shock, and exposed to the enemy fire. Cox exposed himself to assist the man to a covered position and to administer first aid.

Air Medal (Valorous)

WO Jerry D. Kelley—HHC 199th Bde. While flying a mission to investigate a report of an enemy along the Ben Luc River June 2, Kelley expertly maneuvered his aircraft into a position from which effective fire could be placed upon the enemy. Disregarding his own safety Kelley hovered dangerously over the enemy's position so the other personnel aboard could rout the enemy from their covered position with small arms fire.



Red Cross "Donut Dollies," Pam White and Annie Craycroft, entertain members of the 4th Bn, 12th Inf at fire support base "Joy." (Photo by SP4 Jerry Reach)

Smiling Faces Greet Our 'Donut Dollies'

FSB JOY—"It's one of the greatest feelings in the world knowing that you have helped, to know that in some small way you have brought a touch of home with you," said Pam White from Rossville, Ga., during a recent visit with "Warriors" of 4th Bn, 12th Inf here.

Pam is one of the many American girls in Vietnam working with the Supplemental Recreational Activities Overseas, a division of the American Red Cross.

Her job includes presenting games and recreation to the men of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade. It also includes being a friend, someone who stows concern.

"That's the most self-satisfying part of the job, showing the men that someone is concerned

about them," explained Pam.

Usually Pam and her co-worker, Laurie Craycroft from Cincinnati, try to get around to each Redcatcher battalion at least once a week.

In their most recent visit with the "Warriors," the girls were greeted by the GI's with smiling faces.

"It's a relaxing change from the war to see some American girls," said Private First Class Jim Giacalone of Twin Lakes, Wis., a grenadier in "Commander's" Co.

"Although it's not the same as having your own girls here, I appreciate the fact that they come out here to see us," added Sergeant Kelly Stillings from Atchison, Kan., an M-60 machine gunner with Echo Co.

The requirements for the job

that Pam now holds are stringent. The prospective girl must be a college graduate, have a winning personality, be an entertaining speaker, have a sympathetic ear, and be willing to spend a year in Vietnam.

There aren't many material advantages that come with the job; most of the girls could be making twice what they are making now, perhaps as secretaries or working in the field of their college degree.

"It's a big sacrifice, but I don't think any of us would trade this experience for any amount of money," said Pam.

Before you close your suitcase for the trip home, make sure you place a copy of your orders inside.

'Old Guard' Infantrymen Take Refresher Courses

By SP4 Larry Woody

FSB BLACKHORSE—"Learning is a never-ending process," an anonymous scribe once wrote. "When you think you've nothing else to learn, then you've got a lot to learn."

Perhaps this is what Major Loeffke, commander of the 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf had in mind when he ordered a series of refresher courses on night ambush tactics for his "Old Guard" infantrymen.

The program's debut was made recently with Sergeant First Class David Redman and Staff Sergeant James Towns narrating the lectures and giving field demonstrations.

Determined to find and correct deficiencies, Major Loeffke, SFC Redman, SSG Towns, and other battalion staff members have been accompanying ambush patrols at random to observe their operational procedures.

Concerning his personal experiences as an observer, Redman commented, "More noise discipline is needed, and more overall inter-element coordination and fire discipline too." He particularly stressed the latter. "One man—the patrol leader—should initiate the fire with a pre-set signal. Too often, when enemy movement is spotted, the troops become over-anxious and spring the ambush prematurely," he added. "Strict discipline is imperative here, if the ambush is to be at all effective."

And so, once the wrinkles in the operation are found, steps can be taken to iron them out. Initially, a planned lecture is given by Redman and Towns to platoon sergeants, platoon leaders, and squad leaders. "We tell them what we've found that

seems to be wrong, and what to do to correct it," stated Redman. "We go through all the procedures of a night ambush, from the warning order to the de-briefing and critique the following morning. Of course," he admitted, "most of the stuff is already known, but refreshing the basics never hurts. That's what it's all about."

Following the classroom lecture, a field demonstration is held on the firing range at fire support base "Blackhorse." Involved is the most effective deployment of Claymore mines and utilization of trip flares for maximum effect.

Shortly after a field exercise with Delta Co, company commander Captain George T. O'Malley commented, "I think it [the training] will really help. I particularly wanted the men to know the importance of element coordination and fire discipline. That's especially important when operating in small units like we do now."

Despite all the indications of the success of the enterprise, Redman and Towns remain cautious. "We're going out with each company soon after their lesson and demonstration," Redman said, "and compare their operational procedures before and after." Only then will we know if all the work is paying off. It's results that count," he concluded.

Did you know that the West Point Class of 1973, which entered the U.S. Military Academy on July 1, 1969, is the largest in history? Enrollment is 1,439 of which 131 came from the enlisted ranks.

To the "Redcatchers"
Love- Chris Noel



Beaches and bikinis provide a good combination for admirers of the feminine form. Lovely Chris Noel, sporting a brief bikini, is in fine form as she adorns the beach for Redcatcher!



Members of "Commanche" Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf "chow down" during a recent operation in the jungles north of Dinh Quan. (Photo by SP4 Jerry Reach)

Complex 'Warriors' Kill 10 Enemy

(Cont'd from Front Page)

under the Republic of Vietnam's Chieu Hoi Program.

The "Cottonbalers" spent most of the rest of the afternoon laying behind what cover they could find while saturation of the area from the air continued.

By 4 p.m., air strikes, artillery, and gunship fire ended, and Charlie Co moved in to survey the damage brought by the day long attack.

Sunk Eight Feet

"I just couldn't believe it," recalled Private First Class Gary Moffitt of Newark, Ohio, a pointman with Charlie Co's second platoon. "The area didn't even begin to resemble the one I had seen that morning. After they were done pounding it, the whole area had sunk about eight feet."

As they moved through the area, members of Charlie Co realized that they were walking through the remains of a battalion size base camp made up of large tunnels and numerous bunkers.

"The main body of one tunnel alone was large enough to hold over 100 soldiers," Charlie Co commander Captain George Watts said later.

Bunkers ranged in size from three feet by six feet with three feet of overhead cover to 10 feet square with four to six feet of cover.

One of the more elaborate bunkers was constructed of concrete and positioned under a canal.

"A passageway from this bunker led into the tunnel complex," CPT Watts explained.

73 Destroyed Bunkers

The "Cottonbalers" found 34 enemy bodies as they moved through the area along with 73 destroyed bunkers.

Adjusting fire for Bravo Btry, 2nd Bn, 40th Arty throughout the day-long bombardment was Private First Class Larry W. Daye of Birmingham, Ala. Daye, who usually fills an artillery reconnaissance sergeant's slot, was temporarily serving as a forward observer, a job normally given to a lieutenant.

For periods during the afternoon, an aerial observer was also not available, and Daye adjusted fire for the three other artillery batteries supporting the "Cottonbalers" in addition to that of his own battery.

All totaled during the day, four tactical air strikes, numerous passes by 9th Div gunships, and over 1,600 artillery rounds were used to destroy what had once been a large enemy base of operations.

Did you know that the Army's Rangers date back to pre-Revolutionary War days? They were organized by Major Robert Rogers in 1756.

(Cont'd from Front Page)

when contact with a small element of NVA was again made.

Well entrenched in bunker positions, the enemy opened up with a large volume of RPG, automatic, and small arms fire, but with aid from Huey gunships, "Commanche" Co dislodged the enemy from his position.

Overrun Complex

A short time later, the "Warriors" encountered another bunker complex, this one containing an estimated platoon size force.

"We called in gunships again and artillery, and we managed to overrun the complex," explained "Commanche" Co commander, Captain George E. Dials of Drexel Hill, Pa.

"After checking the area," he continued, "we found three bodies, two AK-47's, one Chi-com machine gun, 2,000 rounds of AK-47 ammunition, and 80 pounds of food supplies."

The following day, on Aug 20, the "Commanches" linked up with an element of Delta Trp, 17th Cav to continue sweeping the area.

Third Complex Found

A third complex of bunkers was found holding approximately 10 NVA, and utilizing Delta Trp tracks, the "Commanches" overran the complex.

As the "Warriors" fired on the remains of the fleeing element, two NVA bodies were discovered.

covered.

Fifteen miles away, a reconnaissance element of Echo Co was following a suspected enemy trail when it engaged still another estimated squad of NVA.

Huey gunships together with small arms fire laid down by the "Warriors" resulted in one NVA killed.

Later that day, as the reconnaissance element attempted to link up with a unit of Delta Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf, contact was again made with an estimated enemy squad.

Another NVA soldier was killed in the ensuing action as the remainder of the element fled.

LOST BONDS CAN LOSE YOU

The Army Finance Center, at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Ind., continues to get back several thousand undeliverable Savings Bonds each month. Primary causes are:

- (1) Failure of a Service member to a file change of address card when he moves.
- (2) Use of incomplete or improper address by the soldier when he initiates or changes his bond allotment.

To prevent your bond from going "astray," keep the Finance Center, U.S. Army, ATTN: Allotment and Deposits operations, Indianapolis, Indiana, 46249, informed of your correct mailing address.



Specialist Four Christopher J. Hendley, a member of the HHIC MP Platoon, scans the oncoming road during a recent 199th Brigade convoy in Long Khanh Province. (Photo by SP4 Robert Loughran Jr.)

Brigade Summary

(Cont'd from Page 3)

soldiers in a bunker 16 miles northeast of Xuan Loc, killing two.

August 21

"Warriors" of Charlie Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf engaged an unknown size enemy force with small arms and automatic weapons fire 18 miles northeast of Xuan Loc. One enemy soldier was killed and another rallied under the Chieu Hoi Program.

August 21

Members of the reconnaissance element of the 4th Bn, 12th Inf engaged seven to ten enemy soldiers 20 miles northeast of Xuan Loc, killing two.

An element of "Comanche" Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf killed one enemy soldier with small arms fire 18 miles northeast of Xuan Loc.

August 22

"Warriors" of Delta Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf discovered an enemy base camp 20 miles northeast of Xuan Loc containing 21 bunkers. Three enemy soldiers were killed in a brief contact.

VIP's Visit

(Cont'd from Front Page)

Robert C. Clarke.

From Dinh Quan, GEN Haines flew on to fire support base "Libby," 20 miles north of here.

General Bennett rejoined COL Ripley and GEN Haines at the 5th Bn, 12th Inf headquarters.

GEN Haines was given a tour of the fire base by the "Warrior" battalion commander, Lieutenant Colonel Dan E. Schilling. He visited some of Bravo Co's bunkers and talked with Bravo Co commander, Captain Donald Haas, who explained the problems encountered by his unit in their jungle operations.

GEN Haines then spoke with Captain Willard G. LaRose, commander of Delta Btry, 2nd Bn, 40th Arty, also located at "Libby."

Shown Gun Section

Members of Delta Btry escorted the USAPAC commander around one of their sections, explaining the operation of their new M-102 towed Howitzer to him.

Before leaving fire support base "Libby," General Bennett presented GEN Haines with a commemorative plaque similar to that given earlier to Secretary Resor.

Members of the reconnaissance element of the 4th Bn, 12th Inf detained one enemy suspect while operating 20 miles northeast of Xuan Loc.

"Warriors" of Delta Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf sighted and engaged 15 enemy soldiers 12 miles northwest of Xuan Loc. Five enemy were killed in the contact.

An element of Alpha Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf engaged two to three enemy soldiers 11 miles northwest of Xuan Loc, killing one.

August 23

While operating 12 miles northeast of Xuan Loc, members of the reconnaissance element of the 5th Bn, 12th Inf discovered a cache containing: 5000 AK-47 rifle rounds, 48 B-40 rocket rounds, 40 B-40 rocket booster charges, 98 60mm mortar rounds, 36 half pound packages of explosives, 72 boxes of 82mm mortar fuses and primers, 13 Chi-com grenades and one 20-pound Claymore mine.

In another action, a hunter-killer team from the Brigade's air support unit, Charlie Trp, 3rd Sqd, 17th Air Cav, engaged and killed one Viet Cong while he was trying to hide in an area 25 miles north of Xuan Loc.

Also, "Warriors" of Delta Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf chased one NVA soldier 19 miles northwest of Xuan Loc, finally detaining him. The enemy soldier was in full web gear and carried medical supplies and an SKS rifle.

August 24

Adding to the cache they uncovered on Aug 23, members of the 5th Bn, 12th Inf reconnaissance element recovered 131 82mm mortar rounds, 80 60mm mortar rounds, and 19 individual weapons in an area 12 miles northeast of Xuan Loc.

"Warriors" of Delta Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf made contact with 30 enemy soldiers 18 miles northeast of Xuan Loc, killing four and recovering one AK-47 rifle and one K-54 pistol.

The Veterans Administration reminds veterans that VA benefits are generally tax exempt and need not be reported as income on federal or state income tax returns.

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