

Sheridans Join 199th's Arsenal



REDCATCHER!

199th Light Infantry Brigade

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November 1, 1969

Loeffke Becomes Lt. Col

XUAN LOC, Lieutenant Colonel Bernard Loeffke, commanding officer of 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf, 199th Light Infantry Brigade, was promoted to his present rank in ceremonies at fire support base Blackhorse, headquarters for the battalion.

Brigadier General Warren K. Bennett, commanding general of the 199th, pinned on the silver oak leaf representative of Lt. Col. Loeffke's new rank.

Commenting upon the occasion, General Bennett stated, "It takes a great deal of imagination to fight this kind of war and Colonel Loeffke has that imagination."

The General could not have made a more appropriate statement. Since assuming command of the Old Guard, Colonel Loeffke has instituted many programs which directly affect the morale and fighting ability of his men and their allies.

For example, he has started a program which not only helps build the morale of his men but also allows him to keep in touch with the average line soldier and his problems. "Guard of the Night", as it is called, brings an outstanding individual from the field and puts at his disposal all of the comforts usually reserved for the commanding officer. In some instances Colonel Loeffke assumes the soldier's place in the field to gain a first hand view on how the war is going.

Other "firsts" include the use of the Hamlet Upgrading Force (HUF), an organization composed of US Advisors, ARVN personnel and members of Bravo Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf.

It is their duty to form territorial evaluation teams to train, participate with, and grade Popular Forces on the techniques of ambush. Nine hamlets have been tested in this manner with good to excellent results achieved.

More recently, instruction similar to our Basic Combat Training has been made available to the Popular Forces under the Stamina, Accuracy, Marksmanship (SAM) course. This course teaches the use of hand grenades, rifle marksmanship, bayonet assault and other combat techniques. (see page 8)

In addition to his many other duties Colonel Loeffke took it upon himself to prepare two booklets on the history of the "Old Guard" and lessons learned on ambush patrol. He has also been instrumental in the preparation of his unit's yearbook.

As General Bennett stated, it does "take a great deal of imagination to fight this war" but for men such as Lieutenant Colonel Bernard Loeffke, imagination seems more a way of life.



Newest additions to, D troop, 17th Cav, 9 new General Sheridan Armored Recon Vehicles, will enhance the brigades firepower and will add greatly to the capability of D Troop. (PHOTO BY SSG SINES)

"Warrior" Night Search Yields Four Enemy

FSB LIBBY—Four Viet Cong were killed and 29 suspects detained by "Warriors" of the 5th Bn, 12th Inf, 199th Inf Bde working with PF, RF, National Police and ARVN elements in a cordon and search operation. The operation was conducted in the Bau Ham Village area, about 12 miles northwest of Xuan Loc.

The operation was initiated as a result of contacts made by "Warriors" of "Apache" Co operating in the vicinity. Using night ambushes and patrols "Apache" Co joined forces with local Popular and Regional Forces and elements of the 18th ARVN Div to complete the cordon team. National Police were present to question all detained persons.

"Considering the results of previous military operations in the area, the results of this one were very impressive," said Major Powell Johnson, battalion operations officer. "The cooperation of all the military and paramilitary units permitted smooth and efficient conduct with both the cordon and the search," he continued.

"Apache" Company encircled the village during the early morning hours while local and ARVN units prepared for the search of all the buildings. At first light, the allied forces moved on the village. All exits were immediately blocked, denying escape to any enemy personnel possibly hiding in the village.

During the search National Police and ARVN forces detained 3 known VC suppliers, 8 draft dodgers, 15 illegal residents, and 3 persons carrying false ID cards.

"Warriors" and ARVN Civil Affairs units entered the village while the search parties were still at work and set up two Medcap Stations. Approximately 550 local residents were treated by the doctors and medics during the day.

One man was dusted-off for hospital treatment after he was bitten by a dog. In the evening, the villagers were shown a movie for their entertainment by the Civil Affairs teams.

Continuing the cordon of the village, the force set up numerous night ambushes covering all approaches to the village. An "Apache" element made contact with 13 enemy soldiers traveling near the village. Firing on the group the "Warrior" force killed four of the enemy. Two AK-47 weapons were seized by the "Apache" element in the action.



ARVN
Rangers

Story Page 6

Quickdraw "Guardsman" Wins Shootout

FSB BLACKHORSE—It wasn't high noon, and the setting wasn't a hot, dusty street in front of a Dodge City saloon. Instead of low-slung six-shooters, the weaponry consisted of an M-16 and an AK-47.

But aside from that, a recent quick-draw gunfight that took place between an "Old Guardsman" of the 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf and an NVA soldier seemed to have been an excerpt straight from the colorful saga of the old Wild West.

Actually, it was a grey, drizzly afternoon, and Private First Class James Allen Reed, 21, of Independence, Mo., was pushing his way along a slippery jungle trail southeast of here. "We'd just come upon this fresh trail," explained the Alpha

Co point man, "and it was covered with sandal tracks and footprints."

An element was deployed by Captain Robert M. Hartley to recce the trail. "We went easing down the path," Reed continued, "and then, up ahead in a bamboo thicket, I saw movement."

Dropping down to one knee, he signaled an alert back to the rest of the element.

"An NVA came 'round the edge of the thicket and stepped into the trail. He was carrying an AK, and as soon as he saw me kneeling there, he jerked the rifle up to his shoulder," Reed continued. "I fired, hit him three times, and he fell without ever firing a shot. "We received a few rounds of enemy fire," said Reed, "but we soon silenced it."

"The Sheridan is extremely maneuverable and can turn around in place," Beidler said.

Each Sheridan has an elaborate weapons system consisting of a 152mm main gun, an M-73 co-ax machine gun, an M-2 50 caliber machine gun and eight grenade launchers—four on each side of the main gun. The entire weapons system can be fired from inside the vehicle.

"I specifically like the 152mm main gun," Beidler stated. "It gives us a tremendous increase in fire-power."

The Sheridans are capable of firing the Shillelagh missile, but Beidler explained, "these Sheridans do not have the launch capability. The main gun fires conventional ammunition."

The Sheridan also has the M-73 co-ax machine gun that fires 7.62mm ball ammunition. The machine gun is mounted on the turret and is bore sighted with the 152mm main gun. Attached to either side of the turret are the grenade launchers. The M-2 50 caliber machine gun gun supplies additional fire power.

The Sheridan will not throw a track as quickly as an ACAV, due to a better suspension system. It also has the ability to swim.

The D-Troopers are starting a training program to learn how to fully utilize the Sheridans. "If we prepare amply and learn about the vehicle during the training period, we will be very successful in using the Sheridans in the field," Beidler stated.

The authorized equipment strength will be increased for Delta Troop by the addition of the Sheridans. The advanced weapons system and the maneuverability will add greatly to the capability of the troops.

"We will be able to put out a tremendous amount of fire power," Beidler said.

"The 152mm gun is a direct fire weapon with an indirect fire capability," he continued. "It is an extremely advanced weapons system and the best thing the army has to offer."

The crew of this vehicle consists of a driver, a loader, a gunner and a vehicle commander who lives with the vehicle from the time they arrive in country until the day they depart.

"Each platoon will now have six ACAV's and three Sheridans," Beidler concluded.

Your Legal Officer

What is a Good "Article 31" Warning

By CPT Chris Ledwidge

The "Article 31" warning is probably the most misunderstood of military law. This is clearly demonstrated by the fact that it is a rare warning given to a defendant of a special court-martial that has been ruled acceptable by a military judge.

The need for the warning is simple. An individual, whether in civilian life or in the military, has certain rights. These rights are so vital and basic to our system of justice that the Supreme Court has ruled that each person suspected of a crime must be advised of these rights before he is interrogated.

A failure to explain to the individual each and every element of these rights will result in rendering any confession or admission stated in the subsequent interrogation inadmissible in court. It does not necessarily mean that the case will be dismissed. It simply requires the government to prove its case without relying upon the illegally obtained confession or admission.

For a confession to be admissible, it must be voluntary. It is voluntary if it is not the product of coercion, unlawful influence, or unlawful inducement. It must have been made after the accused or suspect had been made aware of his rights, and had knowledgeably chosen not to exercise them.

To assure that these conditions are met, the interrogator should obviously avoid any hint of physical or mental abuse and of any threat or inducement, and he must advise the accused or suspect of the following:

1. The offense that he is suspected of committing, describing the act rather than citing the code section.

2. His right to remain absolutely silent about the transaction (i.e., event or occurrence from which the offense arose).

3. The certainty that anything he does or says will be used against him if at all possible.

4. His right to hire, consult and have present with him during any questioning a civilian attorney, financed solely by himself.

5. His right to request, consult, and have present with him during any questioning a named attorney in the military, if he is reasonably available, at the expense of the United States.

6. His right to request, consult, and have present with him during any questioning an attorney appointed by the armed forces and paid for by the United States.

According to a new MACV directive, any person purchasing a Money Order must present an addressed envelope to the selling authority before the sale can be made. This allows the selling agency to mail the money order immediately and is an ad-

ditional effort to curtail the misuse of money orders. When you wish to purchase a money order, be sure to have an addressed envelope and have all the items to be included in it ready to be mailed.

7. His right to exercise his rights to remain silent and to obtain the services of an attorney at any time, even though he may have started to make a statement or to answer questions.

After the rights are read to the suspect, the interrogator must question the individual to insure he understands them. The following points must be remembered:

1. It is insufficient to read the suspect Article 31 alone. Article 31 does not touch upon the necessity of counsel.

2. It is insufficient to ask the suspect if he is aware of his rights and merely accept an affirmative answer. The interrogator must inform him of all his rights.

3. It is improper to continue interrogating a suspect after he has requested counsel.

At times, a confession may be the critical basis of a case. It is imperative, therefore, to insure that the suspect is completely aware of all his rights to insure that any subsequent confession will be admissible in court.

It is inherent in our judicial system that a man is not required to give evidence against himself and that he shall receive a fair trial, hence the right to remain silent and the right to have counsel. An accused should not hesitate to insist upon these rights.

After all, it is for the protection of these and similar rights that we are in Vietnam.



On a break in the jungle this soldier takes time out to read a letter from home.

As I Look Back

By CH (CPT) Burleson

By the time these words are presented and you are reading them I will have returned to the States. My wish is that we were all back in the "world" with those we love. Because of things that have happened and decisions which have been made, that is impossible.

When I stop and think about what I have seen and done I can only hope that someday this whole situation will change. As we all know, there have been times when we were very happy and also other times when we wish we could cry, but don't because "Men

don't cry". We fight our situation, an inner war, as well as the war we find all about us.

There have been times when we have been hungry and there have been times when we have been thirsty. On other occasions we have been so tired we wonder how we could take another step. We have had blood and sweat dripping from our bodies. We have lived and died during this year in Vietnam. On some occasions we have been able to rest our bodies and restore our souls but these times seem to be few and far between.

I write all of this because as we all know this has by no means been the best year of our life. For most of us, it has and always will be what seems to be a nightmare, but we know it is real, so real at times we could not believe it.

With all of this, each one of us has changed. We are not the green replacement we were when we arrived. It only remains to be seen whether this year makes or destroys us. It is my hope that from what we have experienced in twelve months a better person and citizen of the United States will emerge.

As I leave this place it is my prayer that God will be with each one of you whether you are walking through the thick jungle, the wet rice paddy, or protecting a fire support base, or at BMB. Wherever you are God will be very near if you allow him. He is there in a fire fight or a mortar attack. He is there in times of frustration and exhaustion. He is near, call upon Him, He will help.

There is a passage in Ecclesiastes, chapter three, verses one through nine. I believe this passage describes our situation here in Vietnam. Read it when you get a chance.

New Postal System in RVN

A new automatic mail system will begin operations for servicemen in Vietnam Nov 15. The system was conceived as a result of joint efforts of the U.S. Army Postal Service Agency and the Post Office Department.

A key factor in the processing of mail will be the use of the Social Security Account Number instead of the old Army service number, since only SSAN will be carried in the memory banks of the system computer.

Finance: Your First Aid

Services offered by the Brigade's Finance Office place "Redcatchers" among the best financially cared-for men in Vietnam.

Each month the Finance Officer pays some \$1.7 million in cash to men in the Brigade for salaries, in addition to \$250,000 in Treasury Checks. "Redcatchers" also are putting \$59,000 into the U.S. Savings Deposit Program, which returns ten per cent interest.

"Taking into consideration various highs and lows," Major Alan Sebert, Brigade finance officer, said in a recent interview, "we can expect to pay out around \$18 million this year."

At least ten per cent of the members of the 199th are participating in the "Big Ten" savings deposit program, and 75 per cent are enrolled in a government savings program.

"Our savings deposit enrollment is three times the USARV average," Major Sebert explained, "and the 199th's participation in the government savings program is also above the USARV average."

The Brigade Finance Office has services which men in other units sometimes go without—including 24-hour operation, the ability to carry soldier's money forward on his pay voucher and the opportunity for a soldier to send checks to his bank at home.

"I don't know of any other finance office that is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week," Major Sebert commented. "We have the capability of preparing travel vouchers and allotments and answering questions at any time, day or night."

"Our office initiated a special request to USARV to utilize Red Cross messages as evidence of the birth of a child," Major Sebert said. "It was approved and adopted for all finance offices in Vietnam. This saves the E-4's and below from having to obtain a photostatic copy of a birth certificate in order to get an additional allotment."

Cashiers, who are part of a 49-man administrative team in the office from Alpha Co, 7th Spt BN, remain on call 24-hours a day to process emergency leaves.

When a new arrival comes to the 199th, a special effort is made by the Finance Office to see that he gets paid within three days.

In addition, a Finance Office representative, usually Major

Sebert, explains the 199th's finance programs to all new arrivals in a class at the Redcatcher Combat Training Center.

"It is our belief in this office that we can put personalized service back into finance," Major Sebert summarized.

Buy

Bonds



REDCATCHER!

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"No, No, Grumby! I said clean the Mortar tube!"



The awards presented the men of the 199th Infantry Brigade are justly earned and are small reward for the outstanding job done. The men have shown great devotion to the Brigade and to their comrades in their units. The men's actions reflect credit upon themselves, the 199th Infantry Brigade and the United States Army.

BRONZE STAR MEDAL (VALOR)

SSG Thomas Cooley—D, 2/3; SSG Dennis Day—M Co, 75th Inf; PFC Roland Lange—E, 3/7; PFC Russell Larson—E, 2/3; 1LT Craig Maize—D, 2/3; SP4 Anthony Petote—D, 2/3; PFC Albie Wyce—HHC, 2/3; SGT Michael Wood—M, 75; SP4 Dorn Westfall—D, 3/7; SGT Calvin Hutchings—D, 5/12; SP4 Ozelle Frazier—M, 75; 1LT Albert Watson—A, 3/7; Pfc William Stewart—A, 4/12; P4 Richard Mallard—HHC, 2/3; 2LT John Lawrence—D, 3/7; CPT Dale Lamke—D, 3/7; SP4 Tommy D. Burch—E, 3/7; SP4 Warren Pitts—HHC, 4/12; CPT George Dails—C, 4/12.

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL (VALOR)

Pfc Dean Benda—E, 2/3; SSG Dennis Day—M, 75; PFC Mario Deleon—C, 4/12; SGT Jerry Dernard—M, 75; SP5 Alan Ginoza—HHC, 4/12; SP4 Jeryl McKinney—E, 2/3; PFC Glenn Miller—M, 75; SP Howard Outerbridge—E, 2/3; PFC Gail Schwarte—M, 75; PFC Denver Wells—C, 4/12; SP4 Johnny Williams—M, 75; SP4 Bobby Yowell—M, 75; SP4 Gary Motteshead—M, 75; PFC Dennis Malawy—M, 75; SGT Herdy Christian—M, 75; SP4 Anthony Crosetti—M, 75; SGT John Patrick—M, 75; SP4 Roland Doyon—HHC, 4/12; SSG Robert Standard—E, 2/3; SP4 Lawrence Tyson—HHC, 4/12; P4 Leland Durbin—E, 4/12; 1LT Peter Joannides—E, 4/12; PFC Raymond Bean—C, 4/12.

PURPLE HEART

SP4 Herman Beute—C, 5/12; SP4 James Clarkson—C, 5/12; SSG Thomas Marcotte—B, 2/3; SP4 William Nesmith—B, 2/3; PFC Hugh Ross—B, 2/3; SSG David Garnett—B, 4/12; SP4 Lewis Lowe—B, 4/12; SP4 Robert Carel—B, 4/12; SP4 Terrence Gueter—B, 4/12; PFC Edward Heard—B, 4/12; PFC Wayne Whitham—B, 4/12; PFC William Scarborough—C, 5/12; 1LT Craig Maize—D, 2/3; PFC Joseph Natividad—A, 2/3; SP4 Harold Upton—D, 2/3; SP4 Thomas Stojcevich—A, 2/3; PFC Danny Mabe—B, 2/3; PFC Michael Collins—B, 2/3; PFC Jon Rich—C, 5/12; PFC Ronald Schaller—D, 2/3; SGT Robert Boak—B, 5/12; SP4 Lonnie Hooker—B, 5/12.

2/40 Chooses Bn's Best

On Sept 1, one section from each Battery in the 2nd Bn, 40th Arty were in competition to seek out the "Best in the Battalion".

Items which were carefully checked were the individual areas, the ammunition, knowledge of the weapon, and the ability to react as an efficient team during a fire mission. Walking away with the honors were the men of the sixth section of Delta Btry, presently situated at FSB "Maria".

Redcatcher! recently visited with the honor section for September and noted how smoothly it operates under their Chief of Section, Sergeant Ronald Templeman.

Templeman spoke highly of his crew, who have worked together on their 102A Howitzer at four different positions since coming to Vietnam.

Their gun is named Delilah II, after that famous woman of ill-repute in Biblical times. And on many occasions our villainy has cast her shells of ill-repute on the enemy inflicting numerous casualties.

Members of the sixth section for Delta Btry who serve under Templeman are Corporal Joe Mille (gunner), Specialist Four Wayne Channon (assistant gunner), Specialist Four Sam Hahn (number one man), Private First Class James Goad (number two man), Private First Class Don Roach (number three man), Private First William Davis (number four man), Specialist Four Ray Guntrum (recorder), and Private First Class Garfield Stanley (driver).

Lieutenant Colonel William A. Greynolds, commanding officer of the 2nd Bn, 40th Arty, was on hand at FSB Libby to congratulate the sixth section for winning the first of this type of contest in the battalion. In recognition, each man will receive a 3-day, in-country, R&R and the section will be given a plaque.



Girls in their native dress on the banks of the scenic Necker River that flows through the picturesque medi-evil city of Heidelberg.

European Option Available For Re-Up

ED Note: The staff of the Redcatcher! took time out from its busy schedule to interview Sergeant First Class Gerald A. Caulfield of Fargo, N.D. Caulfield is a Brigade Career Counselor. We were interested in a European tour following our stay in the beautiful Land of the Dragon. The conversation is between a typical US and his benefactor.

REDCATCHER: I am a Specialist Four and have been in the Army for a year-and-a-half. I've been in Vietnam for eight months and I would like to get to Europe. How do I go about this, Sarge?

CAULFIELD: Because of the cutback of forces in Vietnam we would have to get your application into the Department of the Army for an assignment as soon as possible.

REDCATCHER: Must I reenlist to go to Europe? CAULFIELD: Yes, you must be qualified in a PMOS for which an overseas requirement exists. If you do not have a PMOS that is needed in Europe we submit a secondary in which you might be qualified to serve.

REDCATCHER: What if I'm qualified as an Infantryman and possess no other skills?

CAULFIELD: The primary mission of the Army in Europe is to provide security. There are in

fantry units in Berlin, Mannheim, Augsburg and other European cities.

REDCATCHER: Can you guarantee me an assignment in Germany?

CAULFIELD: No, I can't, but you will receive an assignment somewhere in the European Theater.

REDCATCHER: Do I have to reenlist first or do you request an assignment prior to my reenlisting?

CAULFIELD: I request the assignment from DA and upon receipt at this office you can make your decision then, if you like the assignment.

REDCATCHER: What is the current tour in Europe for me?

CAULFIELD: Your tour would be 24 months as a single E4 and if you were promoted to E5 and had your dependents in Europe your tour would then be 36 months. You can also request an extension while you are there.

REDCATCHER: What are some of the reenlistment benefits I have coming to me if I want to reenlist for Europe?

CAULFIELD: You get a 30 day delay in route, three times your base pay if you have a VRB 2 (11B, E4, with 2 years service on a four year enlistment will receive \$5,000), and transportation from Ft Ord, Calif. to Fort Dix, N.J.

In the Field

Brigade Summary

Sept 27:

D Troop, 17th Cav, while engaged in a combined recon patrol with elements of the 412th Regional Force encountered an unknown sized enemy unit approximately 12 miles southeast of Xuan Loc. Automatic weapons fire was exchanged and contact was broken immediately by the enemy resulting in one enemy killed in action.

In the same area, D Troop, 17th Cav discovered seven partially buried enemy bodies and was credited with seven enemy killed. "Warriors" of Delta Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf, while on a recon patrol, engaged three enemy in a woodland. At 150 meters small arms and automatic weapons fire was exchanged with one enemy killed.

Sept 28:

A possible enemy hospital was located and destroyed approximately 15 miles south of Xuan Loc by elements of D Troop, 17th Cav. Included in the complex were four fighting positions, seven bunkers, two canteens, medical bottles, three rifle grenades and two Chicom rifles.

In fighting southwest of Xuan Loc, Alpha Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf engaged four enemy. Using claymores and small arms fire they succeeded in killing two of the opposing force.

Charlie Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf located one hootch which contained six bags of salt, one bag of rice, banana's and one bicycle. The food was turned over to the Vietnamese, and bicycle was destroyed.

In the meantime Charlie Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf found three bunkers containing ten dozen flashlight batteries, one smoke grenade, cooking utensils, assorted empty medicine bottles, three bottles of wine, six canteens, and one 82mm mortar round. All the captured equipment was destroyed.

Four enemy were killed in a confrontation with Alpha Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf, 15 miles east of Xuan Loc. One AK-47 was captured in this action.

Sept 30:

Delta Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf scored the only find of the day when they discovered four sampans and an assortment of items including 5 pair of OD pants, 600 shirts, 4 black pajama's, fishing gear, 3 pounds of rice, 1 axe, 1 machette, and 1 pair of wire cutters. An enemy hootch was also found on shore and burned.

Oct 1:

Two platoons of Alpha Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf while enroute to their observation post 18 miles due east of Xuan Loc, sighted and engaged two enemy at 200 meters. They received no return fire and later found one enemy body and one AK-47.

In the same area, units of Bravo Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf, found three graves with bodies, one old pineapple grenade and scattered civilian clothing. The three bodies, which were killed by small arms fire, were credited to the unit.

Oct 2:

In action today, elements of Delta Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf made contact with an unknown sized enemy force. Small arms fire was exchanged and artillery was called in support, until contact was broken, with the enemy fleeing southwest. Fifteen minutes later contact was reestablished and the unit, once again backed by artillery, moved in and killed one enemy while artillery killed another.

Oct 4:

In a sweep 8 miles north of Xuan Loc, elements of Delta Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf found clothing, medicine, and documents. Also captured was a GVN black list for Cam My.

In the same area Charlie Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf sighted and engaged two enemy soldiers, killing both of them. Two AK-47's were also captured.

Further south men of Charlie Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf and Delta Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf made contact with an unknown size enemy force, killing four and capturing three AK-47's.

Two enemy infantrymen were encountered by the "Warriors" of Delta Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf. The "Warriors" opened up with small arms and automatic weapons fire killing one of them. The action took place 15 miles due east of Xuan Loc.

Also in the immediate area, Delta Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf sighted five to six temporary hootches made of ponchos. There were two enemy guards and five other enemy soldiers

Cont. on Page 7



Little girl enjoys refreshments provided by American Forces.



The face of sweet innocence.

Daughter of Visits Gia Ra

FSB MACE—The sun has just dipped behind Signal Mountain as the troops begin to dismount from their vehicles in the Long Khanh Province village of Gia Ray.

In the court yard of the village school house some 800 villagers watch with anxious anticipation as the soldiers go to their posts.

For the adults of this small village some 50 miles northeast of Saigon, much of the anxiety stems from an unsuccessful raid by a VC unit on the village just two days before and from a well-bred fear of after-dark activities. But for the 350 bright-eyed youngsters organized into small groups by their school principal and supervised by their student proctors the mood is more one of eager anticipation, for this is Trung Thu.

Trung Thu, the mid-autumn festival when all the joys of Tet are reserved for the children. Trung Thu, the day of the year when the Emperor of the Moon allows his daughter Hang Nga to return to Earth to reunite with her lover Chu Cuoi, there is celebration on the Earth as the daughter of the Moon dispels the gas of darkness which threatens the Earth's children.

Sergeant First Class Yung of the Political Warfare Section of the 52nd Regiment, Army of the Republic of Vietnam, takes his bullhorn in hand and begins to issue instructions. Behind him soldiers of the 52nd Regiment fade into the side streets as security for the events about to transpire.

More trucks arrive, this time carrying Americans. Twenty-one-year-old Captain Gerald L. Stolze of Burbank, Calif., Civil Affairs Officer of the 3rd Bn. 7th Inf., 199th Light Infantry Brigade, directs his "Cottonbalers" of the Echo Co. Reconnaissance Platoon as they unload the vehicles. For Stolze, this will climax several weeks of planning.

There is a sudden outbreak of chatter as the children see that the GI's are carrying containers of Kool-Aid and many, many trays of cakes, brownies and cookies. Yung responds immediately and, using his bullhorn, diverts the attention of the children by leading them in a song about Chu Cuoi and Hang Nga.

First Lieutenant Michael D. Cordy of Toledo, Ohio directs his medics as they set up an aid station. In the middle of the crowd

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Author and friend.

the Moon y Village

Story by 1LT James Bowers

Photo by SP5 Bob Collins

there is a commotion as Sergeant Richard Brown of San and Tuk, a member of the Armed Propaganda Team and a regular, set up a movie projector.

fun begins. Side by side members of the Recon Platoon and Regiment pass out the gifts they have brought for the Gia Ray: balloons, lanterns, school kits, and tee-shirts. First Lieutenant Robert Sickie, Recon platoon leader, balloon and hands it to a petite brown-eyed little girl. ably disciplined proctors, themselves students, begin to e cake and Kool-Aid. Cordy helps to wipe the crumbs of a little boy who ate his share too exuberantly.

dark. Many of the parents show marked signs of agitation. members of the Recon Platoon reluctantly slip from the ildren to their posts around the school yard.

utenant Andrew Duskie of Concord, N.C. hands a reel own and the people of Gia Ray are treated to glimpses of

travelers of the moon; the Apollo astronauts, followed by

names variety shows.

Yung: "This is the first time in five long years that the Gia Ray have seen movies and the first time they have had of night time celebrations, since the VC are generally at night." As he speaks a young boy comes up and plays his new Government of Vietnam Tee-shirt.

olize remarks: "I'm quite pleased with the operation. was to let the ARVN's handle it themselves with just us." Duskie adds: "The enthusiasm is fantastic. This

or the children and the excellent co-ordination between

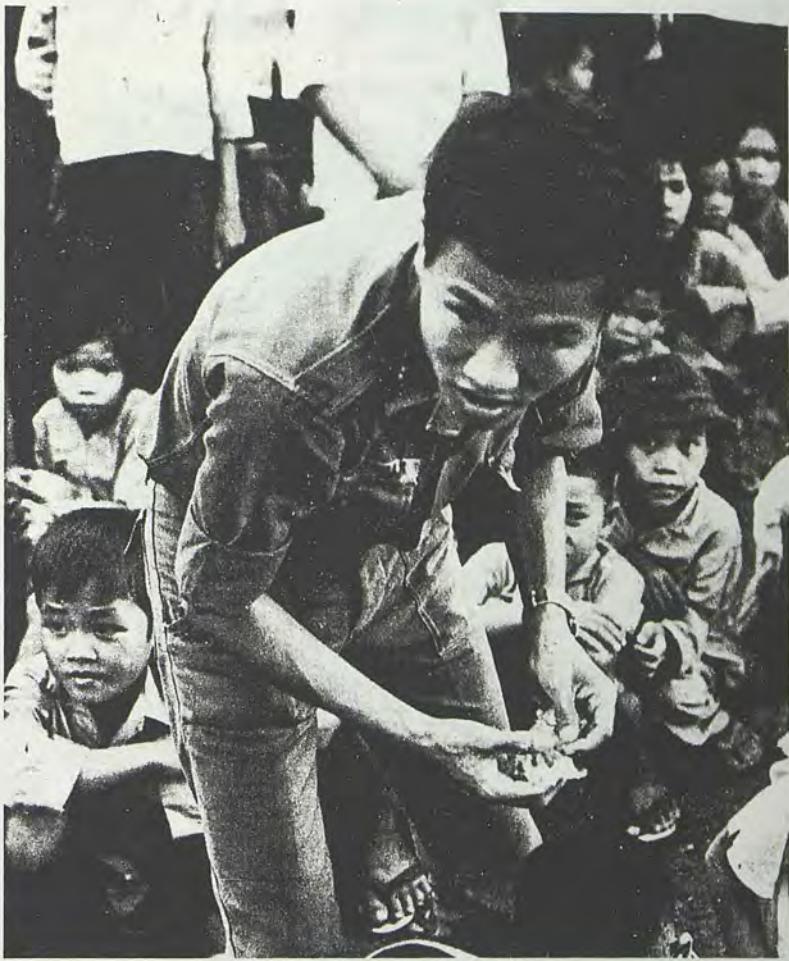
ers and the ARVN's made this a magnificent night to

ters away, the last few feet of film slip through the d the program is over. The people disperse and are esir homes by the soldiers of the 52nd Regt. The Americans their vehicles and return to FSB MACE.

ance artillery fire marches toward the horizon and per-

a time when the people of Gia Ray will need only

ughter to dispel the darkness which threatens their



ARVN soldier gives candy to children.



First Lieutenant Cordy, 3rd, Bn, 7th Inf presents balloon to child.

Rangers Teach ARVN'S Tricks of Trade



Boarding the chopper for their first recon mission.

Story and Photos by PFC Jon Sweet



Helping each other get ready



Interpreter and students in classroom.



Jump off time nears.

XUAN LOC—Nine volunteers from the 18th ARVN Division are receiving on-the-job training with the 199th's 75th Ranger unit as part of the total allied effort to give more combat responsibility to South Vietnamese soldiers.

Prior to a joint Ranger-ARVN mission, First Lieutenant Ronald Harper, commander of Company M, 75th Inf (attached to the 7th Spt Bn) assembled several of his team leaders to present a block of instruction on Rangers techniques to the ARVN.

"We can go out and kill the enemy," Harper told the team leaders in a briefing, "but if the ARVN's can't do it, it's not going to do us any good in the long run."

Four of the nine volunteers had received previous training with Australian troops and were Airborne qualified. In addition to the nine volunteers, about 15 other ARVN soldiers assembled in the tin-roofed training rooms as the instruction session began.

"We don't let the enemy see, hear, or smell us," Harper told the ARVN's through an interpreter. "The VC are very noisy. We are quiet."

One of the ARVN's asked Staff Sergeant Dennis Day how fast the Rangers moved through an area.

"We move very slow and quiet so we can observe all areas at the same time," Sergeant Day said. "All men must be alert and work as a team and fight as a team. They must have strong desire to succeed."

The next morning, the Rangers returned to the ARVN camp to inspect the gear of their soon-to-be teammates.

Four teams were made up of two ARVN's and four Rangers, and the fifth team had one ARVN and five Rangers.

To help bridge the communication problem, the Rangers gave each of the ARVN's English nicknames. Uniform signals were established for jungle maneuvers.

The Rangers and ARVN's returned to the Ranger headquarters where each team leader gave his men their final briefing.

Two teams would take a 2-1/2 ton truck to FSB Libby for insertion by chopper east of the Dong Nai River. Three teams would remain at Xuan Loc for insertion south of the Dong Nai.

Camouflage was applied to their faces as the Rangers waited for the helicopter. There had been a minor delay because of reported enemy activity in the area.

The Hueys arrived. Each team member shook hands with one another—a Ranger sign of good luck.

The chopper inched its way off the ground in the drizzling rain. The systematic whirl of the propellers blew particles of rain into the open compartment where the Rangers sat.

No one spoke.

Several times Sergeant Dave Reeser and Specialist Four Louis Arell pointed to the green checkered area below.

As they crossed the snake-like river, Sgt. Reeser said, "That's it!"

The pilot, Warrant Officer Frank Wright, C Trp. 3/17 Air Cav, veered the Huey at a 45 degree angle and professionally lowered it into the LZ.

The team took a split second to evacuate the chopper and automatically disappeared into the underbrush.

Wright pushed his Huey above the treetops and above the misty scattered cloud layer. The rain had stopped.

OJT for the ARVN's began.



Captain John Delano accepts a Redcatcher Association Card from the Association President, Lieutenant Colonel John Hazelwood. Delano just reported in for his second tour with the Brigade.



Red Cross Volunteer Mary Wilson working in Gulfport, Miss., on the Camille Disaster Program.

Help Camille Victims

GULFPORT, MISS—Hurricane Camille's screaming wind and high waters affected more than 72,000 families along the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Mary Wilson of Brandenburg, Ky., is one of the 567 Red Cross volunteers and staff hard at work in the disaster area helping the victims return to a normal way of life.

normal way of life.

Mary's husband is Captain Richard E. Wilson. He is serving a tour of duty in Vietnam with the 152nd MP Platoon, 199th Brigade. Mary lives with her parents, Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) and Mrs. Herbert O. West, in Brandenburg and has been working as a volunteer recreation worker at Ireland Army Hospital at Ft. Knox, Ky.

"When I heard the hurricane had struck the Gulf Coast and learned how very bad it was, I wanted to come and help," she said.

After arriving in Gulfport, she went to work as a case-worker in the Red Cross registration center in Gulfport. Already more than 30,000 families have registered for emergency and long-range recovery assistance at the 20 Red Cross registration centers in the stricken area.

The attractive blonde says, "I love the job I'm doing. I really

feel good about being able to help the people here." In turn, victims appreciate her. She recently was invited to the 50th wedding anniversary celebration for two Camille sufferers. She had helped the elderly couple in getting their damaged home repaired.

Red Cross disaster experts say the organization will spend more than 20 million in helping the victims of Camille's fury. The disaster workers will be busy in the stricken area for many months. The casework being done by Mary and her fellow workers requires much legwork and many hours.

Already more than five million dollars have been spent by the Red Cross for assistance to the victims. All Red Cross assistance is an outright gift to the victims from the American people through the Red Cross.

Assistance to the victims includes such things as food, clothing, shelter, medical care, household furnishings, occupational tools, and the repair and rebuilding of homes.

(E. D. NOTE: Donations for Hurricane Camille victims can be given to our own Red Cross Field Director at BMB who will forward all funds to disaster Hqs at Gulfport.)

Oct SOM
Picked From
A Co, 5/12

Summary

eating when the forward elements engaged the camp with small arms and automatic weapons fire killing one of the enemy. Captured in the action were one AK-47, three AK magazines, ninety rounds of ammunition, three chicom grenades, five NVA ponchos, assorted food and one personal diary.

XUAN LOC—A "Warrior" from Alpha Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf has been chosen Brigade Soldier of the month for October.

Specialist Four Ronald B. Decker of Louisville, Ky., who who serves as a radio transmitter operation for his unit and "really enjoys it" is the second man from the 5th Bn, 12th Inf to be picked for the honor in the last two months.

Decker was chosen from among the battalion Soldier of the Month nominees by a board consisting of the battalion sergeants major.

The 26-year-old soldier, a 1965 graduate of Duke University, taught school prior to entering the Army in October 1968. He plans to return to school upon completion of his service to complete his Masters Degree on which he has but 15 hours to go. From there it will be back to teaching school, a profession he feels is extremely rewarding.

For being chosen Soldier of the Month, Decker now serves as the commanding general's enlisted aid and was presented \$25 in cash, a tailored suit and a three day in-country R and R to Vung Tau.

**Buy A
Pair
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&
Freedom
Share**



April showers rain freshness and beauty. Miss April Stevens is showered with all the charms and beauty which only Spring can give.

"Old Guard" Trains Regional, Popular Forces

Perspiration streamed down the begrimed infantryman's face as he wriggled up to the burn. He rolled over on his side, jerked a grenade off his belt, and lobbed it into a sage clump to his front.

The usual deafening concussion didn't follow however; only a hollow "thunk" as the disarmed grenade landed in an empty ammunition box. The thrower sprang to his feet, grabbed his rifle, and sprinted on down the range.

The "assaulter", a member of Charlie Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf, was a demonstrator in a unique Popular and Regional Forces (PF and RF) training program sponsored by the "Old Guard" battalion. The training program has been dubbed "SAM"—Stamina, Accuracy, and Marksmanship—and bears an uncomfortably familiar semblance to a U.S. basic training course.

"In fact" said Lieutenant Colonel Bernard Loeffke, "Old Guard" commander, "a basic training course is largely what "SAM" consists of. It's simply a review and practice of the rudiments of infantry training," he continued, "designed to upgrade the efficiency and competence of the PF and RF troops in our area".

"SAM" was launched at Can Tam, outside fire support base "Blackhorse" in September, under the direction of Lieutenant Henry Billings, the battalion's recon platoon leader. "When we initially began working and coordinating operations with the Popular and Regional Forces, we immediately realized they could

use supplementary training in certain phases of combat tactics," Billings stated.

"The local-force troops receive a limited amount of training by the ARVN command, upon induction," he continued, "but many of the troops went through this training so long ago that they've forgotten it; or at least ceased to put the training into application."

The "SAM" course involves weapon assembly, on-the-back wire breeching, grenade throwing and marksmanship competition with the M-16.

The entire testing range is designed to be completed in three minutes. An RF or PF member assumes position on one of the course's five lanes. He has a disassembled M-16, two magazines of ammunition, and three disarmed hand grenades.

At Billings' signal, each man begins assembly of his weapon; once together, he snaps in and fires his magazines at a down-range target. Then he sprints down his lane to a fence of tangle-foot wire, slithers underneath, runs to the grenade burn and makes his three throws, dashes on down and retrieves his target, then runs back to the starting point, where his individual scorer is clocking him. His target is then checked and scored, along with his accuracy with the grenades.

An example of "SAM's" effectiveness was demonstrated by the grenade throwing. "The first time we ran a group of Popular Force troops through the course, they were a disappointment on the grenade-throwing phase," Billings claimed.

ed. "They were just tossing the grenades, underhanded, in the general direction of the target."

"We got our interpreter to talk them through the correct grenade-throwing procedure, and then used a G.I. demonstrator," he continued. "Next time they ran the course they showed improvement; and by the third time, they were looking like pros."

"Another problem many of the individuals seemed to have was in weapons assemblage," Billings asserted. "Also, hardly any of them had any idea of their battle-sight zero—most of them claimed they'd never even heard the term! If it hadn't been for the "SAM" course, this would have never been brought to light and consequently, never corrected."

To add incentive to the training, the 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf awards a plaque, compliments of the "Old Guard", to the individual with the highest overall score for the day's training session.

"So far," said Billings, "We've had great cooperation, and appear to be having tremendous success."



ARVN firing for accuracy test during training.



Low crawling under barbed wire is part of the training.

Story and Photos by

SP4 Larry Woody

An ARVN soldier (below) throws a hand grenade during a one-week training cycle sponsored by the 2nd Bn, 3rd Infantry. He is scored on accuracy and throwing ability.



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