

Pres. Unit Citation Awarded D, 4/12



REDCATCHER!

199th Light Infantry Brigade

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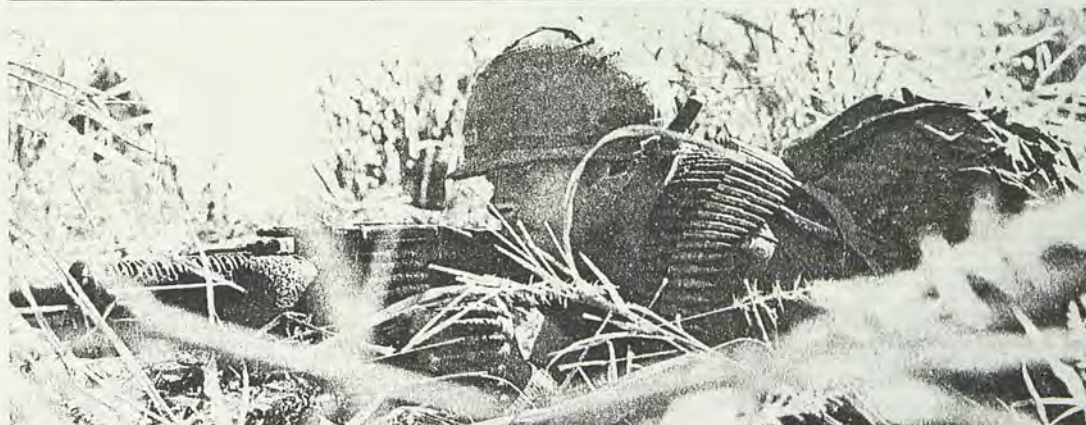
By SP4 David Hauser

FSB NANCY—The United State's highest military honor, the Presidential Unit Citation, was bestowed upon Delta Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf in ceremonies here Nov. 23.

The citation was awarded to the company, now commanded by Captain Michael G. Jones, and attached units "who distinguished themselves by extraordinary heroism during the period May 5 through May 10, 1968 while engaged in military operations against a hostile forces in the Republic of Vietnam."

"Serving as a blocking element to deny hostile forces approach routes into Saigon and portions of Binh Chanh District, Delta Co and attached units repeatedly displayed outstanding acts of valor against superior forces in offensive, defensive and ambush operations."

"These actions significantly contributed to the defense of Saigon."



WAITING FOR CHARLIE can sometimes prove to be long, but for Redcatcher's such as this machinegunner adjusting his sights

during an ambush patrol 9 1/2 miles south east of Xuan Loc, it is a vital job. (Photo by PFC Jerry Poindexter.)

Presenting the award to Delta Co was Major General Warren K. Bennett former Brigade commander. General Bennett, accompanied by Lieutenant Colonel Robert H. Clark, 4th Bn, 12th Inf commander, and battalion Command Sergeant Major Robert J. Smith, attached the infantry blue streamer with "Saigon" written in white to the company's guidon making official the award from the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, President Richard M. Nixon.

The Presidential Unit Citation for Delta Co adds another first to the battalion's list of recognitions. The battalion, part of the 12th Infantry which has a tradition of bravery and valor dating back to 1798, also has the honor of courting among its past members the only Medal of Honor winner in the 199th Brigade.

Captain Angelo J. Liteky, former battalion chaplain, is one of six chaplains to ever receive the Medal of Honor. In addition, all five recipients of the Distinguished Service Cross in the 199th Brigade have come from the 4th Bn, 12th Inf. One of these was Captain James F. Dabney, commander of Delta Co of the battalion, who received his award for the same period during which his unit has been awarded the Presidential Unit Citation.

The Presidential Unit Citation for Delta Co is the Brigade's highest unit honor thus far in the Vietnam conflict.

Two Silver Stars Given Cottonbalers

FSB MACE—The Silver Star Medal, the nation's third highest award for valor was awarded to "Cottonbalers" of Charlie Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf at a ceremony here Nov. 11.

Former Brigade commander Major General Warren K. Bennett presented the medals to Captain George Watts, III, of Chipley, Fla., and Specialist Four James W. Martin of Jonesboro, Tenn., for their actions during a contact last Aug. 20.

At that time the 3rd Bn, 7th Inf was under the operational control of the 3rd Brigade of the 9th Inf Div, operating out of fire support base "Madeleine" near Can Giuoc, 8 miles south of Saigon.

On the morning of Aug. 20, Charlie Co, under the command of Captain Watts, was engaged in a cordon of a suspected battalion-size enemy base camp.

"Shortly after we began sweeping," Watts explained in a recent interview, "someone yelled that 'Charlie' was up a head. Moments later the enemy opened up just a few feet from our positions and one man was seriously wounded."

The wounded man fell within ten meters of an enemy bunker emplacement, and Specialist Four Martin, Charlie Co's senior aid man, maneuvered through enemy fire to administer first aid to the injured soldier.

After extracting the wounded rifeman, Martin crawled under the intense fire of the enemy soldiers who were attempting to escape from the cordon, in order to reach and aid two other wounded "Cottonbalers."

Martin then organized litter operations and assisted in the evacuation of all wounded personnel, administering first aid

until a "dust-off" chopper arrived.

Watts began reorganizing his men after the initial moments of the contact. Because of dense nipa palm growth and the tight formation of the "Cottonbaler" squads, effective shooting was temporarily prevented.

"We were also in waist deep water with mud all around us," Watts explained, "and 'Charlie' had his bunkers on high ground."

Standing erect in the middle of an open rice paddy, Watts

formed his men into a skirmish line, "so that they wouldn't be shooting at each other." The "Cottonbalers" then began to return fire.

(Cont'd on Page 8)

Bond Assums Command

CAMP FRENZELL-JONES—Brigadier General William R. Bond assumed command of the Brigade Nov. 28 in ceremonies conducted at Camp Frenzell-Jones.

General Bond accepted the Brigade colors from Major General Warren K. Bennett, who departs the 199th for duty as Director of International and Civil Affairs, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Military Operations in Washington, D.C. The New commanding general of the "Redcatcher" Brigade is the eighth commander to lead the 199th since its formation at Ft. Benning, Ga. in 1966. It was in November of that year that the 199th was deployed to Vietnam.

Since coming to Vietnam, the 199th has distinguished itself during its three years of service. It received the Valorous Unit Award and Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm for its

4/12 Aids Polio Victim

FSB MACE—Through recent efforts of Captain Jon Davis, a Vietnamese mother will receive help for her polio stricken baby.

Davis, who heads the Civic Action Team for the 4th Bn, 12th Inf said he discovered the disabled child after the mother brought her baby to a local MEDCAP held in Phu Lam Hamlet.

"Just as soon as I saw the young boy's legs," the 31-year-old Los Angeles native recalled,

Through the aid of the Civic Action Team's interpreter, Davis offered to have the child examined by an Army doctor to see what could be done to help the young boy learn to walk.

"The mother, my interpreter told me, wants very much to 'I knew he had been stricken with polio and I was determined to get help for him.' Davis, who spent five of his boyhood years at Father Flanagan's Boys'

(Cont'd on Page 8)

2/40 Fires 800,000th

FSB GLADYS—On Dec. 30, 1966 the 2nd Bn, 40th Arty fired rounds in support of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade.

Thirty-four months and eighteen days later on Nov. 17, 1969 Major Gen. Warren K. Bennett, former Brigade commander, pulled the lanyard to fire the Battalion's, 800,000th round.

Numerous memories of the heroics of the 2nd Bn, 40th Arty were recalled as the white phosphorus time round exploded 300 meters in the air, illuminating the skies along the Dong Nai River. Highlighting the successful accomplishments of the past three years in Vietnam were the defense of Saigon, the Brigade's operations in the "Pineapple" and the "Rice Bowl" and a well-deserved Meritorious Unit Citation which was awarded for excellence during the Tet Offensive of January, 1968.

The ceremony of the firing of the 800,000th round and presentation of awards was held at FSB Gladys, where three 105mm Howitzers of the battalion's Delta Battery are located. Captain James T. Dowdy, battery commander, chose his talented sixth gun section under Section Chief Sgt. Franklin D. Peck to fire the round.

Another phase of the festivities involved the presentation of four Bronze Star Awards and nine Army Commendation Medals

(Cont'd on Page 8)



A GIFT OF LIFE is presented to a vietnamese mother of a crippled child aided by Warriors of the 4th Bn, 12th Inf.

(Cont'd on Page 8)

Interpretive Report On The 199th Brigade

By SP4 Frank Segreto

XUAN LOC—"The VC infrastructure had grown in the province like a cancer," explained Major John Keutmann, the Brigade's operations officer, a former MACV advisor in the 1 corps area. "The South Vietnamese," he continued, "were no match for 'Charlie'. The ARVN's in the province, along with the Regional and Popular forces were wanting in confidence, mainly because of shortages in support assets, supplies, and leadership."

When the Brigade first moved into their present area of operation in mid-June, the enemy was literally working in the open without threats from the South Vietnamese.

"Redcatchers spotted uniformed NVA troops nonchalantly walking along the highway and crossing open fields without fear of being engaged," Major Keutmann explained.

The "Redcatchers" were also faced with an entirely different kind of war from the one they had previously fought.

The Pineapple region, approximately 15 miles southwest of Saigon, the Brigade's former area of operation, found the "Redcatchers" fighting reluctant VC, traveling in small groups. The biggest threat made by the VC was "bobby traps".

Now the "Redcatchers" were in the midst of NVA regulars, and a division of ARVN's lacking in the essentials to become a formidable foe to "Charlie".

"We moved into the province with a threefold mission: to promote pacification, to upgrade the ARVN, Popular, and Regional forces in the province, and to eliminate the enemy within the area," commented Major Richard Cloy, 4th Battalion, 12th Infantry executive officer of McComb, Miss.

Within a few short weeks the 33rd NVA regiment was pushed completely out of the province into war zone D, an unpopulated area offering no food supplies, Maj. Keutmann commented.

Intelligence reports from numerous Chieu Hois and other sources told of the regiments condition, complete fatigue and near starvation.

Other main force units still remaining were forced to break up into smaller groups, limiting their effectiveness as a fighting body.

Civic affairs programs were set up to assist in the province's medical, social, and economic needs, which to date have proven to be successful. Daily medevac runs bring medicinal facilities to every corner of the province.

"Providing security from VC tax collectors has allowed the farmer to cultivate the fields, reaping the benefits of his labor which were formerly confiscated by pilfering enemy units," said Maj. Keutmann.

Highways within the province which were once traveled at one's own risk are routinely used today without fear. Farmlands have spread farther off from the roads, where jungles once covered the area up to the roadside.

Mobile training teams work with ARVN companies providing on-the-job training by actually conducting operations against enemy units.

The 199th designed programs to Vietnamize the province; programs designed to work with the Vietnamese on a equal basis.

"Each battalion has been counterparted with a regiment of the

(Cont'd on Page 8)



RC Gives Ditty Bags

CAMP FRENZELL-JONES— The field office of the American Red Cross here is currently involved in a Christmas "Ditty Bag" program for the Brigade.

"The ultimate goal of this program is to provide a gift for each serviceman in the 199th, and in the entire Republic of Vietnam," stated Mr. John P. Downs, the Brigade's assistant Red Cross field director from Denver, Colo.

These gifts are cloth bags which include such items as writing material, shaving gear, soap, cards, and in one bag a reel of recording tape.

The items in the bag are for the most part, donated by individuals back in the U.S. to their Red Cross chapter in their home towns.

The project actually begins in April or May, at which time the Red Cross appeals to civic clubs, churches and schools for

their donations. Working on a deadline of Oct 1, the chapters in the states collect the items, put them in the gift bags along with the donor's complimentary card. The gift bags are then crated and shipped by commercial air ways or ship to the various units in Vietnam on an allotted basis.

Between Dec 15 and 22 each unit of the 199th will be picking up the packages for the troops.

These packages will then be distributed to personnel at BMB and to the forward headquarters and fire bases. "The idea of this distribution system is to get the packages out to the troops as close to Christmas as possible," commented Downs.

"The gifts will be distributed on Christmas Day in coordination with the Red Cross girls from Long Binh Post," stated Downs. "They will be visiting each fire base to help distribute the gifts." The Brigade's chaplains will also be visiting the bases along with the girls.

Mr. Downs requests that when the soldier receives his package, he write to the person who donated the gift. "A thank-you card would be sufficient," stated Downs, "to let the people back in the states know you received their gift." A card will be enclosed in all the packages with the donor's name on it.

Did you know that 1,600,000 veterans and servicemen have been trained with benefits available under the GI Bill since the newest Bill went into effect June 1, 1966?



By Chap. (Capt.) John Giammona

The Chaplain Speaks

Each year the birth of Christ is remembered with religious and commercial excitement. For us in Vietnam, Christmas may be a poignant reminder of home and family many thousands of miles away. Perhaps a gift box or Christmas card from home will remind us with nostalgia of Christmas trees and tinsel.

Our first reaction may be to feel sorry for ourselves because of our separation from loved ones on this joyful Holiday.

But perhaps we may learn from our experience of Christmas in Vietnam a bit more about the

true meaning of this great day. Stripped of all the frill and folly, Christmas can be seen for what it really is, the birth of the God-Man Christ.

The spiritual event that gives meaning to history and to our individual lives. His birthday must be a stark reminder to all mankind that love, peace and harmony are the only ingredients which can unite us to one another as they unite us to Christ. Christ's birth cannot be merely remembered it must be relived in each succeeding generation.

His love, His concern, His peace and joy must be reborn for our world today in and through all of us who recognize Christ as the Prince of Peace, as God's only Begotten Son. Even here in Vietnam each of us must ever keep clean in our minds the message and hope of Christmas, that only love can bring eventual peace to mankind and that hate brings war.

And the sad fact is that in every human being there is too much hate and not enough of Christ-like love. If God's promise of Peace on Earth is ever to be fulfilled, you and I must let the love of Christ be born anew this Christmas in our hearts.

VA Calander

In applying for Veterans Administration benefits, certain deadlines must be met.

Retirees have from their date of retirements:
120 days—To retain insurance protection by converting Servicemen's Group Life Insurance to an individual policy without examination. Members must apply to any private participating insurance company.

1 year—From date of VA disability rating notice to obtain GI Life Insurance because of service-connected disability.

1 year—To file for service-connected dental treatment.

8 years—To complete GI education. (Course must be started in time to finish in 8 years.)

9 years—To complete Vocational Rehabilitation (9 years from discharge except certain cases of serious disability or delay in establishing eligibility.)

10 years—To obtain GI Loan. (Plus one year for each 90 days active duty. Benefits for all World War II veterans expire July 25, 1970; Korean War, Jan. 1975.)



I want the big blue teddy bear on the top shelf.



REDCATCHER!

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Awards and Decorations

The awards presented the men of the 199th Infantry Brigade are justly earned and are a 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 action reflects credit upon themselves, the 199th Infantry Brigade and the United States Army.

3-Lv. Star Medal

3En., 3rd Inf: CPT George Watts III, SP4 James W. Martin.

Bronze Star Medal (Valor)

4th Bn., 12th Inf: SGT Eddie Brown, SGT Rex C. Miss, SP4 Garry Thompson, SGT Victor C. Valva. 5th Bn., 12th Inf: SGT John W. Branson, SP4 Felix-Pelx Gonzales, 2LT David E. Freeman, S-4 Eddie E. Lumb, SP4 Robert T. Lewis. 8th ENG.: SP5 James W. Jones, SP4 Ted W. McDaris. 2nd Bty. 40th Artillery: SP4 Larry W. Days. D Trp. 17th Cav.: PFC Elbert P. Hulsey.

Army Commendation Medal (Valor)

4th Bn., 12th Inf: SP4 Terry Ackerman, SGT Paul Anderson, PFC Johnny Ebbas, SGT David F. Lockenfeld, SP4 Roland Dyon, SGT Jerry Gurley, SSG Kenneth R. Kroshier, SP4 Michael Melver, PFC Joseph S. Moorehead, SP4 Reginald C. Peadleton, PFC Curtis Snyder Jr., PFC James Wright. 5th Bn., 12th Inf: PFC Morris Abrams, S-4 Joe N. Ruffin. 2nd Ln. 3rd Inf: PFC Mark B. Goodwin, PFC Larry H. Morford, man, PIC Larry H. Morford, SFC John L. Rogers. D Trp. 17th Cav.: S-5 Patrick Dunningan, 1LT Keith E. Young.

Air Medal

3rd Bn., 7th Inf: SGT Jerry L. Bierman, SFC Charles H. Bivins, SP4 Richard Blis, SP4 Jerrell H. Chatham, SGT Gary A. Cole, SSG Dale M. Luchaty, SP4 Alan C. Hornack, SGT Marlin L. Helsel, SP4 John P. Jewel, SP4 James W. Lawson, 1LT Daniel R. Mahesone, SP4 Wilfredo R. Manlo, SGT Thomas McClean, S-4 Dennis H. Norling, SP4 Dennis L. O'Donnell, SP4 Paul S. Phillips, SP4 Jose A. Reyes, SP4 Roy D. Sandridge Jr., SP4 Dale A. Thompson, SP4 Kenneth C. Thompson, SP4 James R. Tidd, SP4 Gary R. Tirevold, SP4 Reynold A. Torres, SP4 James E. Ware, SGT Dorn E. Wellish, PFC Ronald B. Wiley. 4th Bn., 12th Inf: SSG Frank E. Chasas.

Purple Heart

2Pn. 3rd Inf: PFC Stephen H. Battmer, SP4 Edward C. Gancarz. 5th Bn., 12th Inf: SGT Jerry W. Bland, PFC Michael J. Kulpa. 4th Bn., 12th Inf: SP4 Kenneth W. Jones.

"Hello World?" MARS Calling"

By 1LT Bland Khalifah

CAMP FRENZELL-JONES— A long distance call back to the world is a small electronic miracle within itself. But an 80 per cent completion rate by one station is almost unheard of in Vietnam.

However, the MARS station which serves the 199th Brigade from Camp Frenzell-Jones can proudly boast of such a performance. Cables and wires, which have been buried to prevent natural interference, and a powerful unidirectional antenna which became one of the clearest, strongest, and sharpest signals in Southeast Asia account for the highly successful operation. The station, which has an operation at the Brigade's forward headquarters at Xuan Loc, can reach any area in the continental US and Hawaii with almost pinpoint accuracy.

According to Specialist Four Donald Pearson of Shellsburg Iowa, one operator at the MARS station, the best time to place a call to the world is during the very early morning hours. "A surprisingly small number of calls leave Asia at this time of the day," states Pearson. "This would enable the soldier calling home to reach his family at the optimum time."

The cost of a MARS call is surprisingly small. Once contact has been made with a outside MARS station, the only cost is the reverse charge from the receiving station to your home phone.

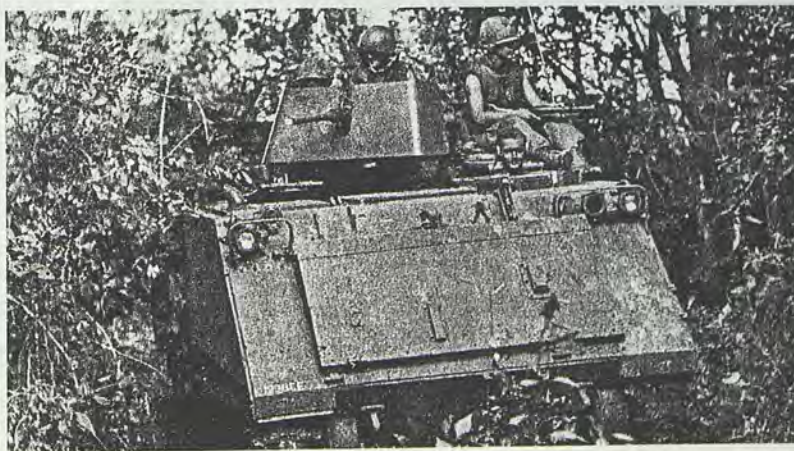
To make a call a person needs only to telephone the MARS station and inquire if a "hot" connection is available. Only when the contact is established does the caller need to actually

visit the station to complete the call.

(Editor's Note: MARS is calling for help. Only four people are operating the station at present. A minimum of six personnel are required. If you have any background experience or training in amateur radio and would like to help other Redcatchers call home, contact the 199th MARS station for further information.)

Redcatcher!

Redcatcher!



A Track from D Trp. 17th Cav. moves searchingly through the jungle 10 miles Southwest of Xuan Loc. (Photo by PFC Jerry Polindexter.)



Brigade Soldier of the Month for December, SP4 Larry Cornish of the Judge Advocate's Office.

Cornish Brigade SOM

CAMP FRENZELL-JONES— Specialist Four Larry Cornish, Stone Ridge N.Y. was selected as the Brigade Soldier of the Month for December. As Soldier of the Month, Cornish received a Certificate of Achievement from Brigade commander, Major General Warren K. Bennett. In addition he received a \$25 savings bond, a tailored suit and a three day incountry R and R to Vung Tau. As Soldier of the Month he will travel with the Brigade commander for a month. He will also be promoted to Specialist Five.

Cornish entered the Army in February of this year and arrived in Vietnam in July. After having served in a combat line unit, for which he received the Combat Infantryman's Badge and the Army Commendation Medal, he was assigned to the Judge Advocate's Office as a legal clerk.

Cornish graduated from Rondout Valley Central High School in 1963. He received a bachelor of arts degree from George Washington University in 1963 and was enrolled in law school when he was drafted.

ARMY RESEARCH DEVELOPS FACIAL WOUND TREATMENT New methods of treating severe jaw and facial wounds have been developed by Army dental researchers.

A new technique can restore temporarily the softest maxillo-facial tissue using silicone rubber. A broken jaw is repaired by molding a splint directly against the mandible.

In the Field Brigade Summary

NOV 8:

Alpha Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf found a cache containing 1,000 pounds of beans and 300 pounds of tea 10 miles east of Xuan Loc.

Later Alpha Co engaged two enemy. With small arms fire and support from artillery and light fire teams, Alpha Co killed one enemy and captured one AK-47. Alpha Co also found and destroyed an eight-bunker complex with six-inch overhead covering. Later in the day, Alpha Co again engaged four enemy. With small arms and automatic weapons, the "Cottonbalers" detained one enemy.

During a sweep of an area, Delta Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf located and destroyed two launching tubes and tripods for 122mm rockets.

NOV 9:

Sweeping an area 10 miles east of Xuan Loc, Charlie Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf found three enemy bodies estimated to be two weeks old. Charlie Co also found one body killed by small arms fire approximately three days old.

Alpha Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf, operating in an area 12 miles northeast of Xuan Loc found one body approximately a week old. Bravo Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf engaged four enemy, killing one. In support was a light fire team which engaged the enemy.

Delta Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf found and destroyed a three-bunker complex with two feet of overhead covering in an area 15 miles northwest of Xuan Loc. Later Delta Co found and destroyed 300 pounds of rice and a bunker.

NOV 10:

Echo Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf made contact with an estimated enemy contact, 5 1/2 miles east of Xuan Loc. Receiving RPG and mortar fire, artillery was called in. With small arms, the "Cottonbalers" killed four enemy and four enemy were killed by artillery.

While sweeping an area 5 1/2 miles east of Xuan Loc, Charlie Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf found three bodies. One KIA was credited to the "Cottonbalers" and two KIA to the artillery from a Nov 8 contact.

The Recon element of the 5th Bn, 12th Inf located and destroyed a four-bunker complex with overhead covering 10 miles northeast of Xuan Loc.

Operating in the same area, a recon element of the 4th Bn, 12th Inf engaged two enemy. With small arms and automatic weapons fire, one enemy was killed and one SKS rifle was captured.

Bravo Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf engaged three enemy 8 miles northwest of Xuan Loc. Using automatic weapons and an M-79, the "Warriors" killed two enemy, and captured a ruck sack and one 50-gallon drum.

NOV 11:

In continued operations, Bravo Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf in a sweep of an area 8 miles east of Xuan Loc located two enemy bodies killed a day earlier by Echo Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf.

Co M, 75th Rangers engaged an enemy five-man element with automatic weapons, and claymores. Support was given by

the Light Fire Teams, resulting in six enemy killed.

During a sweep of an area, Bravo Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf located and destroyed a three-bunker complex.

NOV 12:

Alpha Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf engaged three enemy, killed two and captured one AK-47, 7 1/2 miles east of Xuan Loc.

NOV 13:

On an operation 4 1/2 miles southwest of Xuan Loc, Delta Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf engaged two enemy with small arms and automatic weapons fire. The "Cottonbalers" killed one enemy and captured one AK-47.

NOV 14:

In continued operations 13 miles northwest of Xuan Loc, Bravo Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf engaged one enemy with small arms and automatic weapons fire, killing the enemy and capturing one AK-47 with four magazines.

NOV 15:

Charlie Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf located and destroyed a four-bunker complex with overhead covering while on an operation 4 1/2 miles east of Xuan Loc.

While sweeping an area, Bravo Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf found one NVA believed to be dead for one day and killed during a "Warrior" contact.

Delta Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf, during a sweep 8 miles southwest of Xuan Loc, located and destroyed a small six-bunker complex, two forty-pound chicom claymores, one 80mm booby trap, and two 105mm booby traps. The "Old Guardsmen" also destroyed one RPG with seven rounds.

NOV 16:

A recon element of 5th Bn, 12th Inf, operating in an area 10 miles north of Xuan Loc, engaged two enemy, killing one with small arms and automatic weapons fire. One K-51 and a medic bag containing medical supplies was captured.

During a sweep of an area Charlie Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf located and destroyed one bunker 12 1/2 miles northwest of Xuan Loc, containing 45 pounds of foodstuffs.

During a sweep of an area, Bravo Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf located and destroyed a seven-bunker complex and 300 pounds of rice.

NOV 17:

In a continued sweep of an area 12 1/2 miles northwest of Xuan Loc, Charlie Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf located and destroyed a four-bunker complex and two fighting positions.

NOV 18:

During a sweep of an area 12 miles northwest of Xuan Loc, Charlie Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf engaged and killed one enemy. Also found was one body killed by artillery.

Operating in the same area, Co M, 75th Rangers engaged and killed one enemy.



Rome Plow Team To Build New Fire

Story by SFC Fred Egel

Up in the helicopter, the boss pointed out the door toward the winding river below as the pilot made a steep turn.

"That's the place we want it!" he said into the headset. "There on the left bank so that the arty can reach up there across the river into 'Charlie's' sanctuary."

The dense jungle in the area was reported to be an area of heavy enemy traffic with many bunker complexes that house both troops and supplies.

The job of clearing the area was turned over to the "Jungle Eaters" of the 60th Engineer Co (Land Clearing) of the 62nd Bn of Long Binh. This is a one of a kind unit in the United States Army who have equipment specially designed for their job. A Rome plow has a cutting blade with a special extension. The company really lives up to their nick-name and can clear up to a 150 acres per day depending on the thickness of the forest, the weather and enemy contact.

Delta Troop, 17th Cav. is assigned the job of security during the operation. "We provide ACAVs and Sheridans for protecting the plows when they are at work cutting the area where the FSB will be," stated Captain Michael Doyle, Delta's commander.

"When we return at the end of the day we pull our vehicles into defensive positions to assist the infantry in securing the night perimeter," Doyle continued, "The plow operators must do all their maintenance after we return so that they are ready to go in the morning. That's their primary mission and they leave 'Charlie' to us."

"Charlie" is not the only enemy lurking in the

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With 199 Bases

ature provides some exciting moments in
of the "Jungle Eaters".

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the trees are so huge that they have
d several times to bring them down.

y nature of this action causes all sorts
to fall into the cab such as scorpions,
ipers, kraits, centipedes and a host of

e operation," related Captain William
e "Jungle Eaters" commanding officer,
vas cutting a large tree and a monkey,
ighed about thirty pounds, fell out of
monkey bounced off the headache bars
ct the driver from falling trees and
the cab. There was a brief struggle
operator lost and dove from the cab
g bitten several times."

ring the day in the cut, you see a plow
become engulfed in colored smoke. This
another "enemy" has emerged from the
attack the unwary operator.

my is not on the offensive, but on the
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has made his home and the plow has
its way of life. The large bees swarm
plow in an undescrivable rage and the
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rge bulldozers of the 62nd level it off.
sive perimeter, berms and pads for the
ieces are prepared in a hurry as the in-
move in to set up.



Warriors Provide "LIFT" for RF's PF's

PFC Peter Nagurney

FSB LIBBY—For the first Platoon of Charlie Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf, the war in Vietnam temporarily has been taken out of the jungles and put into outdoor classrooms.

This select group of soldiers has been assigned the mission of conducting refresher training to the Regional and Popular Force (RF's and PF's) units located within Kiem Tam District.

Operation LIFT (Local Improvement of Forces Team) was put into effect by the battalion early this month. It includes

operational training of military personnel, their dependents and local civilians plus PSYOP and intelligence collection activities.

The main purpose of the LIFT program is to better prepare local forces for providing security for the people and villages within their area of operation.

Second Lieutenant David F. Heller of Washington, D.C. is the platoon leader in charge of the operation. According to Heller, "Our mission directly supports that of the 199th Brigade. We are here to assist in

the instruction of the local forces and to conduct combined operations. In doing so, we are upgrading the combat effectiveness of the units."

Among the principal topics of instruction are marksmanship and zeroing of weapons, correct firing positions, ambush techniques, employment of claymores and trip flares, use of map and compass, and first aid. Other subjects are presented by the LIFT group based on requests from the local unit commander and the Kiem Tam District Chief.

"Most of the Regional Force soldiers that we have instructed to date have impressed me with their ability to learn so quickly. They all could fire very well, and the only thing we had to show them was the proper way of holding the weapon," said Private First Class James Randolph of Fayetteville, West Virginia.

Chosen for the teaching assignment as a result of their field experience and ability, every member of the LIFT platoon has been in combat with enemy units in the area, and has lived for sustained periods of time in the jungle.

The presence of NVA within enemy local forces has reemphasized the importance of advanced training of the RF and PF units, which are primarily responsible for hamlet and village security.

"With the benefit of extra training that the local units have received from us, we hope that we can leave this area, if required, without endangering the local population's welfare or property," said Heller. "The soldiers that have completed the training have demonstrated that they can handle themselves well

in the field."

Spending two days in each of the smaller outposts that dot the Battalion's area of operation, the LIFT team is assisting in the accomplishment of one of the principal goals of the 199th Brigade; the upgrading of the Territorial Forces within Long Khanh Province.

This Brigade activity has done much for the pacification program, since it has allowed many Vietnamese to return to a reasonably normal life in areas formerly VC dominated, and it has proved that Saigon itself can be attacked only at night risk.

Cordon and search techniques, coupled with Medcaps and educational lectures, have been most effective in recent months in pacifying the areas south and west of Saigon. Five combined 199th-GVN cordons which have taken place in recent months have greatly undermined the Viet Cong Infrastructure and the villagers in the 199th area of operation are well on their way to the free and peaceful lives which the Viet Cong have denied them for so long.

Although the history of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade has been relatively short, the Redcatchers have left their mark wherever they have gone. In the coming years, they will undoubtedly continue to do so.

**'Light,
Swift,
Accurate'**



"REDCATCHER EXPRESS" on the Go

By SP4 Arthur Jaeger

CAMP FRENZELL-JONES— When the pace of the Civil War slowed in the 1860's, American soldiers on both sides of the Mason-Dixon Line enjoyed relaxing to the hit tunes of the day plunked out by a friend or a beat-up old banjo.

And if Hollywood's class "C" movies are to be believed, there was hardly a squad of G.I.'s in World War II that didn't include at least one incessant harmonica player who frequently delighted his companions with the popular songs of the early '40's.

Today the songs have changed, along with the instruments, but the basic urge remains the same.

American fighting men, it seems, have traditionally turned to the music of their day to rebuild spirits and boost morale. Nothing seems to delight them more than to hear that music played by their friends—the guys they have served with and in some cases fought with.

The recent formation within the 199th Light Infantry Brigade of the "Redcatcher Express," a popular music group composed of members of the unit, seems certainly to be in line with this tradition.

The six-man "combo" is currently working full time to bring "jazz, rock, blues, and soul" to other members of the Brigade.

The idea for the group originated this fall with former Brigade commander, Major General Warren K. Bennett. After reading in the Sept. 1 issue of *Redcatcher!* that Private First Class Enrique "Henri" Mora, an infantryman with Echo Co., 4th Bn, 12th Inf, had worked extensively as a professional musician before entering the Army, General Bennett put the 26-year-old trombonist in charge of locating talent and organizing a unit musical group.

In less than three weeks Mora auditioned over 15 applicants for the combo, selected the people he needed, and rehearsed with his group about 25 songs.

After practicing up at recent "farewell parties" for out-going Brigade Commander General Bennett and deputy commanding officer, Colonel Richard M. Ripley, Mora is now ready to take his group "on the road" to visit the 199th forward elements.

"We hope eventually to visit all the Brigade fire bases," the group's leader said in a recent interview, "in an attempt to boost morale and entertain the guys out in the field. We want to spend as much time as we can with guys who can't normally go to an EM club every night because they need the entertainment the most."

Between performances, the "Redcatcher Express" practices—sometimes up to 11 hours a day.

"We've all had professional experience," Mora explained, "and I think with a little more work we will be on the level with a professional group back in the States."

At the same time, the group has been trying to locate better quality instruments than they have now.



"REDCATCHER EXPRESS" (from left) top, John Fitzgerald, Henry Morfi, bottom, Henry Mora, Bob Nowell, Chuck Fagan, and Bob Zimmerman.

"We're glad to have the things we have scrounged," Mora said, "but we're still trying to get more and better instruments."

Brigade Special Services officer First Lieutenant Ray J. Fisher of Oakland, Calif. used "supply channels, begging, borrowing, and other means," to initially locate equipment for the group, and currently his office is appealing to the 199th Open Mess System for money to buy better equipment.

Currently working with the "Redcatcher Express" are men from both jobs in the field and jobs in the rear. Five of the six plan on making music a career.

Henry Morfi, Jr., 22-year-old drummer from Pemberton, N.J., came to the group from Bravo Co., 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf. His professional experience prior to entering the Army included traveling throughout the United States, Canada, and the Caribbean with "Up With People." He also attended the Juillard School of Music for a brief period.

John W. Fitzgerald, 20, of Baltimore, Md., the group's guitarist, worked as a clerk before coming to the "Redcatcher Express." He has had two years' experience as a professional traveling with groups in the Baltimore-Washington area.

Electric bass player, Robert Zimmerman, 21, of Park Ridge, N.J., a former member of Echo Co., 4th Bn, 12th Inf, has been playing guitar and base for 12 years.

Charles E. Fagan, 20, of North Chicago, has been playing the trumpet since he was in the third grade. His experience includes playin with several bands around the Chicago area. Before joining the "Redcatcher Express," Fagan worked as a clerk for the Brigade Adjutant General.

Singer Robert E. Nowell, 24, of Philadelphia, came to the group from the 199th Brigade Special Services. He worked for three years as a singer, dancer, and "emcee" in the Philadelphia area before entering the Army. Recently he appeared on AFVN's "Star Search."

Leader and trombonist Henri

Mora, 26, of Los Angeles has played with the Glen Campbell and Bobbie Gentry Show and Si Zentner's orchestra.

Nora pointed out that, although his group is essentially complete at the moment, several of the members are getting "short," and he is looking for more talent.

"Our door is always open, and we will always listen to new talent wanting to audition for the combo," he added.

Peace On Earth: The Elusive Goal

By SP5 James Sheehy

Christmas 1776, a bleak time for Americans; War ravages a tiny nation and unity seems only a dream. General George Washington and his haggard army struggle to gain some semblance of victory. A victory which would be won on Christmas eve 1776.

Crossing the Delaware, General Washington was able to catch the Hessian army off guard and route them from Trenton, New Jersey, thus getting a long awaited victory and changing the course of the war.

Things have come a long way since that time, but Americans are still engaged in hostile combat for much the same purpose. Freedom comes high to the people of the World and the price must be paid. Whether in our own country or Southeast Asia, or Europe, Americans have always met the challenge and long sought Peace on Earth.

Unity seems to always elude us and we seem constantly chartered by shadowy figures who come and go in the night leaving behind tragedy and sorrow.

Yet Christmas comes and people rejoice, hoping that peace will be one of the gifts under the tree on the festive day. That dream never seems to materialize.

Perhaps it is meant to be. Perhaps man is destined to only chase but never catch his ever elusive goal of peace on earth for all humanity.

As the holy day rapidly approaches, we once again reaffirm our beliefs that good times are just around the corner and that peace will come to stay.

Maybe this year it will come to pass, and war and hate will become secondary to the real problems that face our world and more specifically our own nation.

Times have changed since Washington crossed the Delaware that cold winter night, yet the problems seem much the same.

CISM Draws 40 Nations

Take sportsmen of the Armed Forces of 40 nations. Blend in their knowledge of physical training and conditioning in addition to sports for the sake of pure competition. Mix with a spirit of comradeship and the diplomacy of good will ambassadors. Stir until only the "cream of the crop" prevails, and you have the basic ingredients for the Conseil International Du Sport Militaire (CISM).

Organized only 21 years ago, CISM has come of age and grown into the ultimate of the military sports world.

CISM sports receive high diplomatic recognition throughout the world with a number of athletic events personally hosted by heads of state.



HEY GUYS, how would you like to find this stack of goodies under your tree? Think of all the fun you could have when it came time to

unwrap everything. Incidentally, the girl behind the boxes is Linda Marsh who played in "Che!"

Vets Wanted As Policemen

The Indiana State Police is seeking trooper candidates from the ranks of the U.S. armed forces.

Interested veterans recently discharged or those nearing separation may obtain more information and application blanks by writing to: Superintendent,

Indiana State Police, Indianapolis, Ind. 46204. Applications are received year-round.

Starting salary is \$630 per month. After one year of service, the pay is increased to \$650 per month with a maximum trooper salary of \$820 per month after six years.



A BLOWOUT FOR CHARLIE is in the making as a Redcatcher prepares to destroy a bunker approximately 8 1/2 miles north of Xuan Loc. (Photo by PFC Jerry Poindexter.)

5/12 RECEIVES New Commander

FSB LIBBY—In a ceremony here Oct 17, Lieutenant Colonel David A. Beckner, 42, of Cincinnati took command of the 5th Bn, 12 Inf. LTC Beckner received the battalion colors from Major James Rink who served as acting commander after the departure of Lieutenant Colonel Dan E. Schilling. LTC Beckner entered the Army in 1950 after graduating from the University of Cincinnati. An ROTC graduate, LTC Beckner has also received a Master of Arts degree from the University of Oklahoma and a Master of Science degree from the George Washington University.

Before joining to the 5th Bn, 12 Inf, Beckner served with the Headquarters Section of the United States European Command in Stuttgart, Germany.

Former Brigade commander Major General Warren K. Bennett presented the Battalion colors to the new "Warrior" commander. "We are very fortunate to have Colonel Beckner in this Brigade," General Bennett said, "he is a fine leader and will be a great asset to the Brigade and this battalion. At the present time Colonel Beckner is on the list for promotion, but with luck we will be able to keep him with us for his tour." General Bennett commended Major Rink for his job as commander of the "Warriors".

He took command on short notice and led the battalion, in an outstanding manner," he said.

In a speech after taking command of the battalion Beckner said, "We will work together to keep this battalion the best in the Brigade, and in the Army. I am proud to be given command of the 5th Bn, 12th Inf. It is an outstanding unit and you are outstanding soldiers."

800,000th

(Cont'd from Page 1)

to members of Delta Battery who proved themselves to be outstanding in action at FSB Muere. General Bennett and Lieutenant Colonel William A. Greynolds, commanding officer of the 2nd Bn, 40th Arty personally congratulated and briefly chatted with each recipient. Corporal Joe C. Miller was chosen Battalion Soldier of the Month for November.

Cottenbaler's Silver Stars

(Cont'd from Page 1)

Watts succeeded in boxing the enemy in by repositioning his men, and, following this, he called in Huey gunship fire.

After the air strikes, Charlie Co swept the contact area finding numerous enemy documents, weapons, and an estimated squad of dead enemy soldiers.

"Our casualties were light considering the situation we were in," Watts concluded. "It was quite an action, but the men were fantastic."

The award citations for both men mention that their "valorous actions and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service." Their actions, the citations continue, reflect great credit upon themselves, the 199th Light Infantry Brigade and the United States Army.

Watts, who is currently the plans and operations officer for the 3rd Bn, 7th Inf has also

New General

(Cont'd from Page 1)

role in the defense of Saigon and Long Binh during the TET offensive of 1968.

Under General Bennett's leadership, the 199th began operations in Long Khanh Province to support Vietnamese pacification in the area and to assist and train local RVNAF forces, including the 18th ARVN Division.

General Bond brings to his new command an impressive background of staff and troop experience. He has served two previous tours in Southeast Asia, one in Thailand and the other in Vietnam. His Vietnam assignment was in 1959-60, during which he served with the Military Assistance Advisory Group. He comes to the 199th from a tour of duty in the Pentagon.

General Bond is a graduate of the Command and General Staff College and Army War College.

199th Report

(Cont'd from Page 2)

18th ARVN Division", explained Major General Warren K. Bennett, Brigade commander.

"The battalion's are not working as advisors," he continued, "but rather on a co-equal basis."

The brigade's co-equal counterparting has yielded fruitful results.

"The program has allowed the individual American and ARVN soldiers to exchange ideas and to develop a mutual respect for the other's abilities," commented Cloy.

Regional and Popular forces of the province are now conducting operations at a greater distance from their villages and hamlets where in the past they were afraid of wandering too far from home.

Units of the 18th ARVN Division have progressed sufficiently enough to engage enemy units alone successfully, time and again without U.S. assistance.

For example, elements of the 52nd ARVN Regiment recently encountered two NVA companies situated in bunker complexes, 5 miles south of Xuan Loc.

The ARVN's set up their own blocking forces and utilized their own artillery driving the enemy from the complex and killing 16.

4/12 Aids Polio Victim

(Cont'd from Page 1)

Town in Nebraska, knows what it means to receive help. In addition, his mother, as a child, has been a polio victim and with rehabilitation had learned to walk again.

get help for her baby. A few days later I took her and the child to an orthopedist at the 24th Evac Hospital in Long Binh. The doctor gave us the name of the World Rehabilitation Fund, Vietnam Project, an

organization in Saigon, that might be able to help." Davis then wrote a letter to the organization describing the situation and a few weeks later received a reply.

It was a happy day for the mother when Davis brought her the letter of acceptance to the rehabilitation center. "When we had finished discussing the date she and the child would go and I was about to leave," Davis recalled, "my interpreter told me, 'She wishes to thank you for wanting to help her child.'"

Mobile Van Brings PX to Field

FSB MACE—On November 3rd the mobile PX truck arrived at Fire Base Mace, home of the Cottonbaler, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf. Newly paid soldiers, many of whom hadn't seen the PX at BMB in two months, greeted the truck with exuberant cheers and it's about-time grumbles.

The men of the mobile PX set their wares up quickly as a growing mob chattered impatiently at the door. Cash register finally electrified into action, the throng swept in like a swarm of women at a close-out sale.

Sergeant Dennis Mackert from Berwick, Pennsylvania, in charge of the mobile PX, spoke of the new service: "We're trying to get merchandise out to guys in the field who can't get into the PX. Last week we were at Blackhorse, now Mace, one we hope to get to all the firebases in the next couple of weeks."

"It's General Bennett's idea," added Specialist four Russel Jackson from Washington, D.C., another member of the PX crew. "To give the men a service which they would have to go back to BMB for."

"Yes, and it's a good idea," said Corporal Terry Cochran from Greenville, Ohio, still another PX worker. "Usually when the men are back in BMB, we don't have anything left."

What do the guys buy the most of?

"Food snacks—like pretzels and potato chips," said Sgt Mackert. "Electronic stuff; radios and tape recorders and personal items," said Corporal Cochran.

Like any newly formed and developing service, the mobile PX is having its problems. One of the most apparent is how to provide PX service to the bulk

of men in the field. This day only two platoons of the four line companies of the Cottonbaler were in the firebase.

"The commanders should make up a schedule," said SP4 Jackson, "either to get guys back in when we come, or to let know when the most men will be back. This is designed for the men in the field, not just for those in the firebases."

Other comments came from both men of the mobile PX and the consumer GI's.

"It's good for the men out forward," spoke up specialist 4 Dale Blankman from Hammond, Ind., "but they should bring more stuff and come out more often."

"There should be better preparation," said Corporal Cochran. "They should notify the men

and have things ready for us."

Since it's been the first time in two months since we've been able to get anything, it was number one," said Specialist 4 Jerry Burnette of Alpharetta, Georgia.

Perhaps the most thought provoking comment came from SP4 Blankman, "I think they should have little PX's at each fire base to supply the troops as they came in."

As the PX truck rumbled away in cloud of dust back to BMB, music from new radios and tape recorders sprang up in remote corners of Fire Base Mace. In spite of misgivings and grumbling, the men of Mace were happier than before the truck rolled in. A soldier's life was that much easier.



A HOT ITEM at the new mobile PX is rung up on the register as Redcatchers discover the advantages of having the store come to you. (Photo by PEF Dave Scheffer.)

Dentist Chases Cavities

By SP4 David Hauser

FSB NANCY—Having tooth trouble? Well you may be able to get some relief without going to the rear.

Recently "Warriors" of the 4th Bn, 12th Inf, were able to get their dental problems taken care of while on standdown at their forward firebase thanks to a visit by the Brigade's Mobile Dental Van.

Operated by Charlie Co, 7th Support Bn largely for "Redcatchers" in the forward areas, the Dental Van spends two weeks at each of the firebases on its schedule—Nancy, Xuan Loc, Mace, Blackhorse and Libby.

Ninety-five per cent of the dental services it provides are for U.S. soldiers while the remaining five per cent is for the Vietnamese working with various battalions of the Brigade.

"We can provide almost any kind of emergency dental care," commented Brigade dental surgeon Captain John Ruggieri who travels with the van.

"If the problem can't be taken care of here, we will send the man to the rear for special assistance. Our purpose is to get to the soldier who doesn't need such extensive treatment."

The dental assistant currently on rotation with the van is Specialist Five John Schmidt from Aurora, Illinois. "This is one of six such vans in operation in Vietnam and it is one of the finest," he said.

The 199th Mobile Dental Van is air conditioned and includes the facilities of any modern dentist's office. It even operates on an eight-to-five schedule Monday thru Friday with appointments except when there is an emergency. It can take care of 13 to 18 persons per day.

On weekends Dr. Ruggieri and his dental assistant return to BMB to take care of the new Redcatchers at the Redcatcher Training Center.

"We want to take care of the worst cases and particularly those with problems before they get to the field," he added.

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