

5/12 'Warriors' Repel Enemy Assault



REDCATCHER!

199th Light Infantry Brigade

By SP4 Peter Nagurny

FSB LIBBY—"Warriors" of the 5th Bn, 12th Inf killed 12 enemy soldiers Nov 22 and captured five weapons in a three hour fire-fight near the outskirts of Binh Loc hamlet. The weapons platoon of "Dakota" Company fought an estimated company size enemy force in the predawn attack on their tiny outpost 3 miles north of Xuan Loc.

The enemy force initiated the attack using RPG and mortar fire. More than 20 rounds landed within the camp's perimeter. A human-wave type attack followed the initial shelling, with the enemy advancing to the "Warriors' defensive wire.

The attack was repelled by the "Dakota" element's fire power, re-enforced by the platoon's own 82mm mortar. Many of the "Warriors" stood on the small dirt perimeter of the camp and threw hand grenades into the charging enemy force.

The battle was focused on three sides of the outpost as the enemy force attempted to use nearby protective cover to launch their attack.

Gunships Called In

Charlie Horse gunships, "Shadow", and other aircraft supported the 23 man force of defenders from the enemy onslaught. Private First Class Robert Sanchez of Salt Lake City, Utah, 60 caliber machine gunner, reported, "We fired over 1,500 rounds into the first wave when they hit us, they were right to the wire, but that's as far as they got."

The Dakota force was assisted in the defense of the outpost by a small band of Regional Development Cadre and Regional Forces personnel. Capt Kay M. Moon, of Albuquerque, N.M., Dakota company commander said, "The Vietnamese forces did an outstanding job with their sector of the perimeter. They never let Charlie get near the wire, and prevented the enemy from taking advantage of our small number."

Artillery Helps Out

Supporting Artillery fire from Xuan Loc and Kiem Tam was directed into the area by an artillery liaison officer to cover possible means of escape by the beaten enemy force.

The bodies of the enemy were taken from the outpost's outer wire at first light, along with the recovered weapons. Three AK-47 rifles, one RPG Launcher, and a K-54 pistol were found by the "Warriors."

Receive Cross of Gallantry

Nine of the Dakota "Warriors" received the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Bronze Star for their actions in the contact in a joint awards ceremony held at Kiem Tam Dec. 3. Lieutenant Colonel Bui Duc Diem, Xuan Loc Province Chief, presented the valor awards to the men at the 43rd ARVN Regiment headquarters for their part in the Battle at Binh Loc hamlet.

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'Warriors' Upgrade RFs, PFs

FSB NANCY—"Because of the Hamlet Upgrading Team training in Dinh Quan District, the Popular and Regional Forces are acting more and more like professional soldiers," commented Sergeant First Class Robert C. Kraft from Vermilion, Ohio, the MACV advisor to the RF and PF in Dinh Quan District.

SFC Kraft gives much of the credit to the 199th Inf Bde now operating in the area. "Through the combined operations of the 4th Bn, 12th Inf, 199th Lt Inf Bde with the PF and RF units, and the work of the battalion's Hamlet Upgrading Team," Kraft stated, "a definite sense of esprit de corps has developed among the RF and PF platoons."

The Hamlet Upgrading Team, which teaches ambush tactics and procedures as well as marksmanship and weapons maintenance, began training in October shortly after all the PF and RF platoons in the district were completely outfitted with M-16's (rifles).

"They really like the M-16's," stated Kraft, "and it makes the training easier, now that they all have the same weapons."

"This is one of the more important things we can do," commented Lieutenant Colonel Robert H. Clark from Griffin, Ga, Commander of the 4th Bn, 12th Inf, who initiated the HUT program. "After we are gone it is the Vietnamese people who will carry on."

Working with the Vietnamese units is nothing new to the 4th Bn, 12th Inf. One of the primary objectives of the battalion's moving into the present area of operation was to work closely with upgrading the local Vietnamese units in Long Khanh Province. To accomplish the task, combined operations with

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Two members of "Dakota" Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf and a Regional Force soldier examine weapons captured at Binh Loc Hamlet following heavy contact there Nov 22. (Photo by SP4 Peter Nagurny)

4/12 Returns to FSB 'Joy'

By SP4 Todd Weber

FSB JOY—Two small elements of the 4th Bn, 12th Inf temporarily returned to this isolated fire base northeast of Xuan Loc early last month to supply mortar fire for a nearby "Warrior" reconnaissance operation.

The camp, once the battalion's forward headquarters, had been unoccupied since the "Warriors" evacuated it last August.

A mortar section and one platoon of Bravo Co returned to furnish fire power for an operation that was beyond the reach of mortars and artillery at the battalion's current headquarters, fire base "Nancy."

Bravo Company's 2nd platoon conducted short recon missions

around the fire base and re-established a defensive perimeter.

Joked platoon leader, First Lieutenant Quentin Schillare of Watertown, Conn.: "Mostly, we were there to make sure no one

killed the mortarmen."

The large fire base was too big for the two small elements so the "Warriors" only manned one corner of the old perimeter. Concertina was stretched across the open section securing the mortar element's position.

The men found "Joy" pretty much as they had left it four months before: barren except for a few sand bags, concertina, burm and mud. When the battalion moved out, bunkers were torn down, claymores were blown, culverts, lumber, and anything else salvagable, including the troops, were transported out by Chinook. Bull-

155's Support 'Cottonbalers'

By SP4 John Smith

FSB MACE—Recently the "Cottonbalers" received a boost on available fire power when three self propelled howitzers of Alpha Battery, 2nd Bn, 35th Artillery from II Field Force moved into Mace.

"The 155mm howitzers were brought here to add more fire support to the infantry in our area of operations," stated Captain Austin Nixon, 22, "Cottonbaler" Artillery Liaison from Buffalo, N.Y. "Now we can surprise Charlie with the extended range of supporting fire, when compared to the range of the 105mm battery."

During one six day period, the battery fired more than 1200 rounds in support of the "Cottonbalers." As a result of these six days, over 50 bunkers and numerous other fighting positions were eliminated.

"We will fire between 150 and 200 rounds a day, depending on the type of target we have," commented Specialist Four Edward Rodriguez, 21, a gunner from Grant, Mich. "At present, the majority of the targets have been contact and fortified fighting complexes."

Gifts Cheer Sad Yule

XUAN LOC—Five boxes of food, given in memory of a medic who died in action recently, made a sad Christmas just a little brighter this year for the dead soldier's friends in Charlie Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf.

Members of Charlie Co's 2nd Platoon received the food here Dec 7. Originally, it was to have been a Christmas present for their dead comrad, Specialist Five William Larson.

The boxes, containing over 50 pounds of home-made candy, taffy, popcorn, and canned fruits, were sent to the men by friends of Larson's sister, all of whom attend San Diego City College in San Diego, Calif.

When they received word, shortly before sending the gift, that Larson had been killed, the group sent the food, along with four letters, to his platoon "in memory of" the medic.

It took the men only three days to eat all 50 pounds of it.

One of the letters accompanying the gift said in part, "We would like to thank all of you for what you have done. We hope that this small token of our appreciation will brighten your Christmas and give you joy for the holidays."

Larson, in addition to serving with the 2nd platoon, was also Charlie Co's senior medic at the time of his death.

Although he had been in Vietnam eight months, Larson volunteered to remain in the field with his friends in the company.

"He said he enjoyed being out with us," Sergeant Robert Vearile of Cincinnati, a team leader with the 2nd platoon, said later. "He

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Specialist Four Bernie P. Liswell of Baltimore, Md., 7th Spt Bn mail clerk, looks as if he is up to his neck in Christmas mail. Liswell was one of the many mail clerks in Vietnam who worked long hours to see that Yuletide greetings from home were delivered quickly.

Your Legal Officer



Search and Seizure

By CPT Richard C. Tufaro

It is important for both officers and enlisted men to be aware of their rights and limitations under the law of search and seizure. The rules grow out of our philosophy as a nation that each individual has a right to be secure in his person and possessions. This right is balanced against the requirements of government to employ reasonable measures in order to insure enforcement of law.

Military law envisions five situations in which a search may be lawful: (1) pursuant to a search warrant; (2) incident to an arrest; (3) with the consent of the individual; (4) under circumstances demanding immediate action to prevent the removal or disposal of goods believed on reasonable grounds to be criminal goods; and (5) upon probable cause by a commanding officer. These five circumstances are more specifically defined by Army regulation, military and federal case law.

It is the purpose of this article to discuss more fully the search incident to a lawful apprehension and the search authorized by a commanding officer. These two kinds of search recur most frequently in the service and therefore are of most interest to us.

Members of law enforcement agencies of the service, MPs and CID, as well as officers, NCOs and others, properly delegated the responsibility, are authorized to apprehend servicemen upon probable cause. "Probable cause" requires a showing that the individual making the apprehension had reasonable grounds to believe that an offense under the UCMJ was being committed and to believe that the person

apprehended committed the offense. If this is established, the arrest is lawful and the arresting official is authorized to conduct a search of the individual's person, including clothing, and property in his immediate control. The reasons underlying this rule are that the arresting officer should be allowed to discover weapons, anything which might be used to facilitate escape or to recover contraband goods from the offense just committed.

If a lawful arrest is demonstrated, a search conducted of his person is lawful whether or not the individual was advised of his Article 31 rights, whether or not he consented and whether or not unexpected contraband is found. To give an example, an MP sees a GI pay a Vietnamese national with MPC. He arrests the GI, searches him and in the course of the search discovers marijuana. The arrest is lawful, the search reasonable and the marijuana admissible in a court-martial against the GI.

With regard to the second kind of searching, the military has established the commanding officer as a kind of magistrate or judge with the power upon probable cause shown to order a search of the property and possessions of members of his command. This power is in addition to the power to hold routine inspections or shakedown inspections. The commander may delegate his power. In any case, he is bound to recognize the individual serviceman has certain rights to privacy. It is his responsibility to protect those rights and to insure that they are interfered with only for good cause.

Re-up NCO Reenlists

CAMP FRENZELL-JONES—When Sergeant First Class Leslie G. Ploense of Pasadena, Calif., reenlists in the US Army, he believes in keeping the ceremonies in the family.

Ploense, the career counselor for the 7th Support Bn., reenlisted for three years with the ceremonies being performed by his brother-in-law, Air Force Major Robert Manns, of Long Beach, Calif.

Manns, who is an Air Force navigator on a "Spooky" gunship, made a 300 mile trip by plane to Bien Hoa Airbase and then traveled to Camp Frenzell-Jones to reenlist Ploense.

Social Worker Eases Tensions

By PFC Jon Sweet

CAMP FRENZELL-JONES—When the pressures of war combine with the day-to-day mental and physical strain, man is faced with one of his most challenging feats of endurance.

When the pressure becomes overpowering and explodes into a thousand pieces of dead-end solutions, the American soldier in Vietnam may find an avenue of relief by seeking professional help.

Such a professional is Specialist Five Robert A. Hinnen, a Wisconsin State University graduate in psychology and sociology, who is now the 199th Brigade's social worker.

"Combat fatigue, drug addiction, marijuana-smoking and alcoholism, marital difficulties, and situational maladjustments are the most frequent problems the soldiers bring to us," Hinnen of Kenosha, Wis. said. "We also come in contact with occasional

psychotic and neurotic abnormalities."

The soldier is counseled by Hinnen and a physician at the 7th Spt Bn dispensary. Both evaluate the case and make the decision on whether to refer the case to the 935th Psychiatric Clinic in Long Binh or handle it locally.

"Combat fatigue is a nervous condition usually resulting from physical exhaustion and fear of the field," Hinnen said. "The soldier might have seen his best friend killed and fears the same thing might happen to him."

The average combat fatigue patient is placed under sedation for three days and then usually sent back to the field.

"We usually plan a follow-up check on the patient within a week after his release," explained Hinnen. "In most cases they come out all right."

One patient who expressed fear of returning to the field was sent to a psychiatrist who found the patient had a passive-aggressive personality with features of emotional instability. The patient was subsequently assigned to a job in the rear.

"Most of our marital problem cases usually result when the soldier and his wife have been married for a short time prior to his coming to Vietnam," Hinnen said. "They haven't really learned how to live together and form a common bond of trust."

Hinnen estimates the majority of patients seeking help can be counseled at the local level, two out of every 10 are referred to the Long Binh center, and possibly one out of every 30 or 40 is returned to the states for treatment.

The Chaplain Speaks



Where is God?

By Chaplain (CPT) John J. Giammona

People often look for God in strange places and not surprisingly they find him. Where is God? In Heaven, in Church, in the Bible, in Nature, everywhere. Those who look for God in these places will find a Heavenly or Scriptural or Natural or Ubiquitous God. Myself, I find these pictures of God difficult to personalize and love in a human and real sort of way. I look for God in you. A strange place? Maybe, but not surprising that is where I find Him—in you. I figure God gave me a clue where to look for Him when He Himself became man to live among us and He loved us in a very human way. God is alive and well in you. To know you is to become aware of Him. As a Chaplain I find God in you, not when you pray or attend services put when I encounter you at the fire base, in the bunker, at the mess hall, along the road or back at BMB on standdown. When you are most yourself, laughing, talking, working, drinking, singing or just sitting around thinking and wondering about home and deros.

Through you I become more aware of who God is and what He means to me. Essentially God is someone who cares because you care, about your girl, wife, parents, brothers, sisters, men in your squad or platoon. I would say that is the most outstanding insight into God that you give me. There are innumerable others similar to this, but I think you get the picture.

3/7 Clerk Also Nurse

By SP4 John Smith

FSB MACE—Specialist Four David C. Lay, a 25-year-old registered nurse from Waukon, Okla., is presently working as the supply clerk in Headquarters Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf, 199th Lt Inf Bde.

"I have held eight different MOS's since I joined the Army, ranging from infantryman to typist," said Lay.

After graduating from nursing school, he worked for a year in a Catholic Hospital in surgery. When he entered the Army, Lay did volunteer nursing in a stateside Army Hospital. Then in Germany, to help keep up with his profession, he worked in a civilian hospital.

For the last three months, Lay has been helping the "Cotton-baler" medics by working in the forward aid station and on MEDCAP's.

Explained Lay: "This has allowed me to keep up with changes in the field and to learn more about the types of diseases associated with a tropical area such as Vietnam."

After completion of his service, his plans call for college to work towards a degree in nursing.

Numbah "10" is having a "FNG" on third watch.



"Looks like 5/12 found another cache."



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 actions reflect credit upon themselves, the 199th Infantry Brigade and the United States Army.

BRONZE STAR MEDAL (Valorous)

2nd Bn, 3rd Inf: SSG David P. Adams; PFC Stephen S. Battcock; PFC Michael A. Bothfuh; SP4 Darrell E. Bowen; PFC Alin J. Brock; 1LT Connie A. Brown; SP4 Gary W. Buquo; PFC Donald A. Burcham; SGT William J. Carter; PFC Lawrence Dicamillo; SP4 Richard Dixon; SP4 Richard H. Fulk; SP4 Peter Giorgio; PFC Bernard A. Johnson; SP4 Theodore Miller; SGT John D. Oxner; PFC Michael J. Porter; SP4 John W. Riler; SP5 Manual Roach; SP4 Michael Romano; PFC Lloyd R. Ross; SP4 George J. Siener; SP4 Larry F. Sincell; PFC Douglas E. Weaver; PFC Larry L. Wilson; PFC William D. Wilson. 2nd Bn, 40th Arty: SP4 Larry W. Daye.

3rd Bn, 7th Inf: SSG Ronald J. Hanson; SP4 John W. Hinkle; CPT George W. Watts, III.

4th Bn, 12th Inf: SP4 Carl Belmont; SP4 Barney M. Binh; SGT Eddie Brown; SGT Michael D. Gervasio; 1LT John Gwizdak; 1LT Peter C. Joannidis (2nd and 3rd OLC); SP4 Emanuel L. Johnson; PFC William Lantzenbach; SP4 Walter B. May; PFC David McClosky; SGT Rex C. Moss; SP4 Thomas J. Replogle; SP4 Gary Thompson; PFC Limon A. Turner; SGT Victor C. Valva; PFC William A. Yadeska.

5th Bn, 12th Inf: SGT John W. Bronson; SGT Donald C. Crosby; SFC Fabriciano Diaz-Diaz; SP4 David I. Ernsberger; SP4 Felix Felix-Gonzales; 2LT David E. Freeman; PFC William P. Kilcoyne; SP4 Eddie E. Lamb; SP4 Robert T. Lewis; SP4 John J. Pirozzi; SP4 Timothy Smith; SGT Robert F. Stewart, Jr.

Trp D, 17th Cav: PFC Elbert P. Hulsey. 87th Eng. Co.: SP5 James W. Jones; SP4 Ted W. McDaris.

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL (Valorous)

2nd Bn, 3rd Inf: PFC Ronald Coleman; SGT Buddy A. Fairchild; PFC Eugene M. Galbreth; PFC Mark B. Goodman; PFC Charles J. Gramberg; PFC Larry H. Morford; SP4 Robert G. Nicholson; SP4 John J. Price; SFC Johnny L. Rogers; PFC Willie L. Thomas. 3rd Bn, 7th Inf: 1LT Oakland B. Adams, Jr.; PFC Mark S. Bundy; SP4 David F. Frick; SP4 Wayne A. Gayton; SP4 Dennis J. Honaker; SSG Earl M. Merdeath; PFC Joseph D. Murphy; SP4 John Yannuzzi.

4th Bn, 12th Inf: SP4 Terry Ackman; SGT Paul Anderson; PFC Johnny Babbs; SGT David E. Bockenfeld; SP4 Roland Doyon; SP4 Jerry Gurley; SSG Kenneth R. Kroehler; SP4 Michael McIver; PFC Joseph S. Moorhead; SP4 Regalard C. Pendleton; PFC Curtis Snyder, Jr.; PFC James Wright. 5th Bn, 12th Inf: PVT Morris Abrams; SP4 Charles E. Angel; SP4 John W. Cook, Jr.; SP4 Michael L. Wall; PVT David R. Welch; PVT Donald C. Williams. HHC: SGT Randolph A. Baltero; SP4 Thomas F. Goodwin; SGT William P. Miller; MAJ Stanley A. Schrader. Trp D, 17th Cav: SP5 Patrick Dunningan; 1LT Keith F. Young.

AIR MEDAL:

3rd Bn, 7th Inf: SFC Charles H. Bivins.

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ARVN Trades Rifle for Wrench

By PFC Jon Sweet

At the 199th Lt Inf Bde's 7th Spt Bn Motor Pool, "Charlie" seems to have his wrench in just about everything.

Luan Huu Loan, known as "Charlie" to the men of the 7th Spt Bn, was employed by the 199th at the motor pool a year-and-a-half ago after he retired from the Republic of Vietnam Army with 21 years of service, attaining the comparable U.S. Army rank of Sergeant First Class.

"I was a farmer before I entered the Army," said the 47-year-old Vietnamese through an interpreter. "I learned how to be a mechanic from the Vietnamese Army when I worked in a motor pool."

Battalion Maintenance Officer First Lieutenant Lee Durren of Rochester, Mich, said Charlie can work "without any supervision at all."

"There's not a thing in this motor pool he can't do," Durren explained. "He understands very little English, so we just tell him that 'Engine run Number 10' and he figures out what's wrong."

"I've seen him pull a transmission and repair it without using any technical manual or references," Durren continued.

"Charlie also adds continuity to our repair service," Durren said. "What a new man doesn't know about a particular vehicle, he can learn by watching Charlie."

Charlie works an eight-hour day, six days a week. He rides

his Honda to work each day from a neighboring village where he lives with his wife and their 10 children, ranging from nineteen years to one-year-old.

"We are going to have another baby pretty soon," the proud mechanic said.

Numbah "10" is getting your SP pack and only finding Pall Mall's and Camel's.



Members of the 60th Land Clearing Co move through the jungles southwest of Xuan Loc on a track personnel carrier. The men were engaged in an operation coordinated with the 199th Light Infantry Brigade near the Dong Nai River.

199th Award Figures Released

By PFC Jon Sweet

CAMP FRENZELL-JONES

Latest figures released by the Brigade's Awards and Decorations Section show Redcatchers have earned more than 13,500 awards during the year 1969.

"Army Commendation Medals for Achievement and Service are the largest percentage of awards earned by Redcatchers," said Specialist Five Victor A. Rivera, A&D administrative supervisor from Altadena, Calif. "Fifteen percent are valor awards."

During November alone the 15-man A&D staff processed 2,500 awards submitted by unit A&D clerks.

"Because there are so many awards, we have to man our office 24 hours a day," Rivera said. "Supply shortages cause us problems too. For a long time we couldn't get ARCOM certificates, so we finally wrote directly to the manufacturer in Baltimore, Md., and got them."

Rivera said processing awards takes from a matter of hours for medals such as the ARCOM and Bronze Star up to two years for the Medal of Honor, the Army's highest medal, which is granted by the President.

"An outstanding soldier in the field could earn 10 different U.S. while he is over here," Rivera, a member of A Company, 7th Spt Bn, said. "He'll receive his CIB, Air Medal, a couple of Valor awards, and occasionally a Purple Heart in addition to his achievement and service awards."

"He can also receive the Vietnamese Service and Campaign medals," Rivera continued. "Other Vietnamese medals such as the Cross of Gallantry are issued by the Vietnamese government for exceptional efforts."

Final approval for ARCOMs and Bronze Stars is given by Brigadier General William R. Bond, Brigade commander. As of mid-November, approval for 27 Silver Stars for Redcatchers has been given by Lieutenant General Julian Ewell, II Field Forces commander.

The only Redcatcher to receive Presidential approval for the coveted Medal of Honor is Chaplain (CPT) Angelo J. Liteky, who earned it for his heroic performance when Alpha Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf engaged the enemy on Dec 6, 1967.

"With our new spot award system, the Brigade commander can recognize men in the field with Bronze Stars or ARCOMs soon after their valorous action," Rivera said.

In the Field Brigade Summary

NOV 21:

Alpha Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf, while sweeping an area 10 miles northwest of Xuan Loc, engaged an estimated 15 to 20 enemy with 90mm recoilless rifles and claymores. The enemy quickly withdrew leaving behind one dead and one wounded enemy and one enemy pistol.

Meanwhile, approximately 20 miles north of Xuan Loc, the 1st Platoon of Comanche Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf located and destroyed six enemy bunkers. Near the complex the "Warriors" also found four enemy bodies estimated to be four weeks old. The bodies were credited to the "Warriors" battalion from a previous contact.

NOV 22:

"Warriors" of Delta Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf received small arms, automatic weapons, RPG and mortar fire on their position 3 miles north of Xuan Loc from an estimated enemy company. The "Warriors", with support from Charlie Horse

contact, withdrew immediately. While continuing to sweep the area the "Cottonbales" located and destroyed 20 enemy bunkers.

NOV 25:

While conducting a ground reconnaissance, 25 miles northeast of Xuan Loc, an element of Echo Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf engaged an estimated 15 enemy with small arms fire. One enemy was killed in the action, and one AK-47 was captured along with numerous enemy equipment.

NOV 26:

Charlie Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf, operating approximately 4 miles north of Xuan Loc, found three enemy bodies. The bodies were



gunships, "Shadow", and other aircraft returned fire with small arms, automatic weapons and 81mm mortars. The results of the three-hour contact were 12 enemy killed, and one K-54 pistol, one RPG launcher, three AK-47s and assorted enemy equipment captured.

Shortly thereafter, Comanche Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf, while sweeping an area 30 miles north of Xuan Loc engaged an estimated four enemy soldiers with small arms fire. Artillery was called in for support resulting in one enemy killed by artillery.

Later that same day Alpha Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf engaged two enemy approximately 14 miles southeast of Xuan Loc. One enemy was killed.

NOV 23:

Approximately 15 miles southeast of Xuan Loc the First Platoon of Alpha Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf engaged six enemy with small arms. The enemy broke

believed to have been killed by the 5th Bn, 12th Inf in a previous contact.

Alpha Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf, searching an area of a previous contact, located a bunker complex consisting of 26 bunkers with a trench surrounding them. Included in the find was 75 pounds of beans, 15 pounds of salt and one mess hall for up to 15 persons. The complex was destroyed.

NOV 27:

Alpha Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf, conducting a bomb damage assessment mission 30 miles south of Xuan Loc, located 10 enemy bunkers. Continuing their mission the members of the "Old Guard" discovered two enemy bodies believed to have been killed by artillery.

NOV 28:

Elements of Alpha Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf, operating 20 miles southwest of Xuan Loc, made contact with four enemy resulting in two enemy killed and two AK-47s captured.

Later in the day Alpha Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf engaged five enemy with small arms, killing one.

First platoon of Bravo Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf engaged four enemy at 20 meters approximately 14 miles southwest of Xuan Loc. The result of the action was two enemy killed and two AK-47s captured.

Meanwhile Charlie Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf, conducting operations 8 miles southeast of Xuan Loc, received sniper fire from surrounding trees. An exchange of small arms fire followed. Three enemy were killed, two AK-47s, one SKS, and assorted field gear were captured.

A reconnaissance element from Echo Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf, conducting a ground recon 8 miles northeast of Xuan Loc engaged two or three enemy at 50 meters with small arms and automatic weapons. Artillery was called in for the action resulting in one enemy killed and one AK-47 captured.

DEC 1:

Co M Rangers, 75th Inf engaged and killed one enemy 17 miles northeast of Xuan Loc.

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January: Capturing weapons caches stifled Tet Offensive.



July: Huge food and supply caches captured.

Looking Back: Re

New Years is traditionally a time for pausing to look back at past accomplishments and forward to future expectations. In view of this, *Redcatcher* thought it appropriate at this time to review, in a few words and photos, some of the high points of the 199th's last 12 months and to generalize about prospects for the future.

Just about a year ago, in January, 1969, "Redcatchers" were bracing for an expected Tet holiday attack—an attack that, due to alert "Redcatcher" units, was virtually stifled before it began. A contributing factor to the "Stifling" was the recovery of several large enemy munitions caches—munitions that could easily have been used against the Brigade and Saigon if they had remained in enemy hands.

During the next four months came the "Stranglers" and the "Caesars," a productive series of five large cordon and search operations south of Saigon. Together, the operations eliminated a total of 249 Viet Cong and VC supporters from the enemy ranks, and they still stand out as among the most successful operations in the Brigade's short history.

June was the "Move" month, when, after two and a half years of



February: "Strangler" and "Caesar" cordon operations began.



September: "Redcatchers" receive RVN Cross of Gallat



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tramping through the rice paddies around Saigon, the 199th moved for good into the thick jungle regions to the northeast.

In mid-July, "Redcatchers" of the 4th Bn, 12th Inf uncovered a large enemy cache complex near Dinh Quan. Four days of exploration yielded over 30 tons of enemy supplies including soybeans, peanuts, beans, salt, sugar, and gasoline.

The Republic of Vietnam honored the 199th in September, awarding the unit the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry for its actions during the 1968 Tet attacks on Long Binh Post and Saigon.

The last few months have seen a noticeable change in U.S. activities throughout Vietnam. "Vietnamization" became a major goal of all units and the 199th has been contributing significantly with its efforts to train and upgrade the 18th ARVN Div and also its RF and PF training programs.

Redcatcher! will not attempt to predict where the 199th will be next year at this time or what it will be doing, but we will venture a guess, based on past performance, that wherever the Brigade goes, successes similar to those accrued this past year, will go with it.

June: Brigade moves operations to jungles.



October: "Vietnamization", the Brigade gets a new mission.

Signal Mountain: Key Communications Link

Story and Photos by SP4 Peter Nazarino

SIGNAL MOUNTAIN—To the Vietnamese, it is called "Nui Chau Chien". To the Americans, it depends on what unit they are in. To the men of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade, it's Signal Mountain. To the men of Charlie Co, 53rd Signal Bn, it's "Hill 837". To the pilots of the 205th Support Helicopter Co. (Geronimo) who drop in supplies, it's Gia Ray Mountain.

This multi-named mountain, a familiar site to many who operate in the 199th area of operations, has an important role in the communications system of the Allied units operating in Long Khanh Province and III Corps area.

"This hill is a key position for relay. We have both VHF (very high frequency) communications and FM communications. Units which could not contact other elements in the past can now contact each other through the equipment on this mountain," explained Captain Bruce Baccetti of Charlie Co, 53rd Signal Bn, commanding officer of the units on hill 837.

Signal Mountain and Nui Ba Den are the primary relay stations in the III Corps area.

Signal Mountain, first occupied by the 53rd Signal Bn, in August 1966, is now inhabited by men from various Army and Allied signal units.

Carrying out the mission of relay are the signal units of Charlie Co, 53rd Signal Bn; 11th Armored Cav; 2nd Bn, 35th Artv; 2nd Bn, 45th Artv; Alpha Co, 44th Signal Bn; 313th Signal Co of the 199th; a signal element of the 3rd Bn, 7th Inf; a line unit of the 199th whose base camp is below the mountain, 18th ARVN Division, MACV Advisory Team 87, 104th Signal Squadron and the 1st Field Force of the 1st Australian Task Force.

The non-signal units are the 82nd Engineer Co, 507th Engineer Bde, which has the task of water purification for the hill units and the 169th Engineer Bn, 20th Engineer Bde whose personnel clear the perimeter of dense bamboo growth and trees.

Security is provided by the 199th Light Infantry Brigade. A platoon of infantrymen from the various line units of the 199th who have had field experience and usually have 90 days or less left in country, man the bunkers surrounding the perimeter and make ground reconnaissance

patrols. The platoon is commanded by First Lieutenant Robert Chamberlain, a former platoon leader in Bravo Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf and the platoon sergeant is Sergeant First Class Frederick Strang.

Logistical support is provided by the 53rd Signal Bn and the 199th Light Infantry Brigade. Bringing the valuable supplies to the men of the hill are the Chinooks of the 205th Support Helicopter Co (Geronimo) every three days.

Medical problems are handled by two II Field Force medics. If the problem is a serious one, the man is flown to a hospital by helicopter. Dental problems are handled by mobile dental teams from II Field Force or the 199th Light Infantry Brigade.

During their free time the men play basketball, football and pitch horseshoes. In their dayroom, movies are shown and soda and beer are sold.

Making use of their relay position and equipment, a MARS station has been set up on Signal Mountain. This MARS station is an extension of the II Field Force MARS station and shares the same time and frequency as the II Field MARS.

During the day while the men are working, they are often entertained by the aerial acrobatics of the jet fighters strafing the area below the mountain or the rolling flips of the OV-10, "Bronco", before making a racket run.

At night the men watch "Spooky" strafe their tracers into the dark, suspected hiding places of the enemy.

Amidst all the happenings that go on below, the men on Signal Mountain, Hill 837 Nui Chau Chien, or whatever it may be called, continue their relay mission, passing that important word that could save the lives of many men or that could bring heat onto Charlie.



An RTO takes a break before heading back up Signal Mountain.



A "Redcatcher" pulls guard on the Signal Mountain perimeter.



1LT Robert Chamberlain, Signal Mountain security platoon leader, radios back a situation report during a patrol on the mountainside.



"Howard Johnson's East"—the mess hall on Signal Mountain.

S-5 Gives English Classes 'Nam Buffalo: Bully of the Paddies

By SSG George C. Conners

CAMP FRENZELL-JONES—The Brigade Civil Affairs Office is teaching English to interested Vietnamese civilians working at BMB.

Bi-weekly classes, geared to teaching conversational English with emphasis on proper grammar and pronunciation, are now open to any civilian on post who wishes to attend.

The program is under the direction of Captain Donald D. Haas, assistant Brigade S-5 officer.

"The classes are quite an experience for the students," Haas said in a recent interview. "The students learn correct grammar and with what they learn, they become more effective in their jobs. Even the teachers benefit—they learn Vietnamese as they teach English."

Students in the classes, which are held Tuesday and Thursday afternoons in the NCO Club are broken down into beginner, in-

termediate, and advanced sections.

Specialist Five James L. Hodge of Elizabethton, Ky, teaches the beginners, building conversation through concentrating on basic vocabulary and grammar. "All of my students are very eager to learn and they're advancing very rapidly," he said recently.

Specialist Four Ralph Olson of Honolulu, Hawaii, teaches the intermediate class. "It's both a challenging and rewarding job," he said. "My students really want to learn, and it's evident that they study at home from their performance in class."

First Lieutenant Herbert Thornbury of Chattanooga, Tenn., handles the advanced class. "At first I wasn't sure I could do a good job," he said, "but when I saw the enthusiasm of my students, the job became a pleasure. We use a textbook for the first 45 minutes, and then I bring out a book of pictures of the US or Europe and we talk about the land and people.

By SP4 Larry Woody

FSB BLACKHORSE—Somebody, somewhere, goofed. Whoever drew up the training schedule for Vietnam-bound troops has, either inadvertently or through carelessness, overlooked an extremely vital phase of basic infantry training. They didn't tell anybody how to cope with water buffalo.

Every GI who has humped through the marshy lowland paddies is familiar with this monster that lurks in the nipa palm and glares at you. The scowl is cold, cynical, calculating, and plain all-around unnerving.

And he's not all bluff, either. Toughened combat veterans have been known to flee without shame, in front of a charging buffalo.

You aren't supposed to hurt them. When they chase you, you have to shake your head and click your tongue and say, "Bad, bad, Buffalo! Now look what you've gone and done—tromped

all over my ole pal Elmer Friggett!" Then the buffalo'll stop what he's doing, stand statue-still, and fix those big blood-shot eyes on you. He assumes the appearance of a western gunslinger; and you know he's thinking, "You want some of the same, fella?" And you hurriedly flash your biggest, friendliest grin, and say, apologetically, "I sure am sorry Friggett got in your way, Mr. Buffalo. I hope you didn't hurt your hooves tromping over him like that. How's Mrs. Buffalo and the calves?—fine, I hope. Well, I'd better be moseying along—'bush tonight, you know. Nice to see you again, Mr. Buffalo, and again, I'm sorry that bungling Friggett bothered you!" And you back away, s-l-o-w-l-y, still grinning like a cheshire cat.

Sometimes buffalo are alone, and sometimes they go in bunches. Herds, they're called. If one buff is bad, a herd of the beasts is a downright catastrophe. They'll be standing there

in the mud, doing whatever buffalo do while they stand around in the mud. The little tick birds spot the GIs first, and blow the whistle. The buffalo glance up, and even very far away, you can see a big grin start to grow across their ugly muzzles.

One of them nudges his buddy in the side and says, "Don't look now, Fred, but there's a bunch of GIs coming across the paddy, just over your left shoulder."

GIs in a group are called an element," Fred corrects. "An element of GIs is coming."

"O.K., O.K.," says the first buff. "What say we have a little fun?" He snickers a nasty buffalo snicker.

"I wuz just thinking," says his buddy. "Let's alert the rest of the boys."

Suddenly, on cue, a unanimous bellow issues from the cluster of buffalo, and they break like a football huddle. It's the buffs vs the GIs, opening quarter. Buffs highly favored, and playing on their home field.

"Run!" hollers the point GI. "Here come the buffalo! Here come the buffalo!" The element needs no encouragement, and proceeds to scatter like leaves before a duststorm.

"Whew!" puffs one of the buffs a while later. "Am I bushed! Some fun though, eh?"

"Yeah," pants a second buff, who'd left his GI cowering in a palm tree. "Great for the old waistline, too. I'm gonna try to talk Ethel into joinin' us next time!"

"Man, that was close," gasps a GI as he lies sprawled on the ground, wheezing for breath. "Them buffalos act like they enjoy achasin' us like that!"

"Don't be ridiculous," scoffs another GI beside him. "They only wind you and instinctively react by aimlessly stampeding for cover. They likely didn't even realize we were anywhere around! Buffalo don't deliberately chase people."

And the buffalo just snickers...

New Doc 'Enjoys' The Army

Captain Clifford Schultz, newly arrived Brigade preventive medicine officer, says he has enjoyed his tour of duty with the Army very much—but not enough to ever consider joining it!

Schultz, a 29-year-old doctor from Oakland, Calif., has been on permanent assignment with the Army since coming on active duty in the Air Force last year.

Explaining how this unusual situation came about in a recent interview, Schultz said, "When physicians enter the service, they request the branch of the military they would most like to be assigned to."

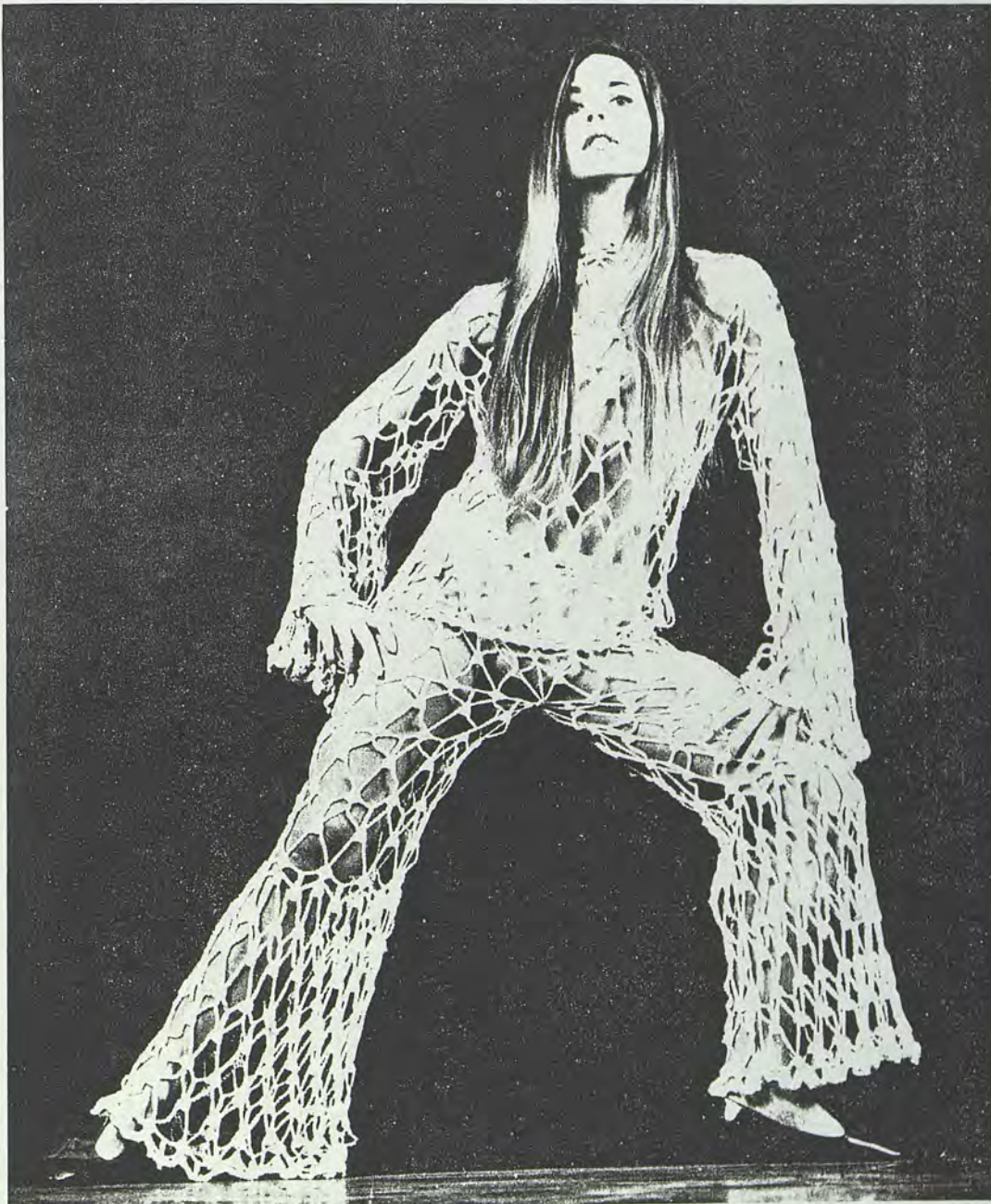
But since requisitions for medical personnel are sometimes submitted up to three years in advance, he explained, one branch occasionally ends up with an excess of doctors while another has a net deficit. When this occurs, adjustments are made by "loaning" personnel from one branch to another.

"At the present time, there are about 300 Air Force doctors assigned to the Army for this reason," Schultz said, "and between 100 and 150 of these are in Vietnam."

Schultz comes to the 199th from another Army unit, the 82nd Airborne Div.

He admits that being an Air Force doctor working for the Army sometimes leads to unusual situations.

"I get some funny looks occasionally," he said. "and I've answered the question, 'What is an Air Force doctor doing here?' about 500 times."



Correct Radio Procedure—Request permission to enter the net.....

5/12 kills 12 Enemy Teacher, Students Reunite



A tired member of "Dakota" Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf relaxes after heavy contact near Binh Loc Hamlet Nov 22. (Photo by SP4 Peter Nagurny)

(Cont'd from Page 1)

Receiving the medals were: Captain Kay M. Moon, "Dakota" Co commanding officer; Staff Sergeant Paul Dominguez, platoon sergeant; Sergeant Lawrence Turney; Specialist Four Steven Keiser; Specialist Four Leonard Zarkoski; Private First Class Michael Danish; Private First Class George McFarland; First Lieutenant James F.

Deeble, 2nd Bn, 40th Arty forward observer; and Sergeant Iri, company interpreter.

Lieutenant Colonel Diem congratulated the men for their performance during the attack. 199th Brigade commander, Brigadier General William R. Bond, also attended the ceremony. He presented three Bronze Star Medals to Vietnamese soldiers for their part in the same action.

HUT Upgrades RFs, PFs

(Cont'd from Page 1)

the PF's were planned as well as the specialized HUT training program.

"When we started talking with the PF's and RF's about participating in combined operations," Kraft recalled, "they were apprehensive about the idea at first."

The PF's and RF's lack of knowledge about Americans and what they thought would be a language barrier proved to be unfounded after their initial combined operation with Alpha Company.

According to Kraft the AWOL and desertion rate among PF's and RF's has dropped and the enthusiasm of the units has increased since the battalion began working in the area.

In discussing some of the results due to the HUT training program Kraft said, "Their confidence has increased considerably since they began working with the GI's. They have learned proper ambush defenses as well as the importance of strict sound and light discipline."

On a recent ambush Kraft was accompanying one of the PF platoons when it made contact with the enemy. "They rallied immediately when we made contact," he said, "yelling 'sat, sat' (Vietnamese for 'Charge') and wasted no time assaulting the enemy."

As MACV advisor to Regional and Popular Forces in Dinh Quan District, Kraft has the job of evaluating periodically the overall performance of units to see how they are doing.

"Although there are still things they need," he said, "on the numerical and alphabetical rating scale the Army uses to evaluate the units, they have increased in both areas in the last six months."

"Now," said Kraft "you can spot-check any member of a PF or RF platoon and find his weapon clean. They are keeping their compounds policed better and are building sturdy bunkers. Overall they are taking more pride in their units."

Kraft also monitors the RF and PF's performance on combined operations with U.S. units, briefing each platoon on its performance, so they can correct any errors they might have made. "They want to get good ratings," Kraft emphasized, "so they keep their own charts for the members of the units to see just how they are doing."

Kraft stated that there is definitely an increase in responsibility among the platoons in the district. "Recently two PF platoons rebuilt bunkers, cleared weeds and secured additional materials needed to finish rebuilding an old outpost to which they were assigned." Kraft also noted that the newly trained PF's from Lam-Son Training School at Vung Tau seem to have had stronger advisors.

"In all areas," he said, "there is a greater effort to upgrade Vietnamese units so they can take on more responsibility."

"Things have really changed in the six months that the 199th has been here," Kraft concluded. "You can really tell who the soldiers are now."

Sad Christmas

(Cont'd from Page 1)

always wanted to go where he could be the most help to the most people."

Larson had been in the Army over five years, but he eventually planned to leave the service to become a civilian nurse.

A card expressing the platoon's appreciation is on its way to the San Diego College group.

Numbah "10" is going to the Aid station for your shots before and after R&R.



Members of the 87th Eng Co "hit the drink" to clear debris from the Dong

Nai River for a bridge about 10 miles north of Xuan Loc. (Photo by SP4 Todd Weber)

Brigade Summary

(Cont'd from Page 3)

DEC 2: Bravo Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf, operating 23 miles southwest of Xuan Loc located seven enemy bunkers along with 150 AK rounds, 1 mortar, medical supplies and 30 pounds of rice and wheat.

DEC 3: In continued operations Bravo Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf engaged an unknown number of enemy snipers 25 miles southwest of Xuan Loc. One enemy was killed in the action.

Meanwhile Delta Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf, sighted and engaged 14 enemy with small arms and automatic weapons fire killing two.

Approximately 17 miles southwest of Xuan Loc, a reconnaissance element of Echo Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf, killed one enemy and captured one AK-47 along with 13 pounds of rice.

That same day, 19 miles northwest of Xuan Loc, Delta Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf engaged an estimated 10 enemy. The enemy broke contact and fled leaving behind one body.

Charlie Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf found one chicom bolt-action rifle with a grenade adaptor wrapped in rags and hanging from a tree approximately 13 miles north of Xuan Loc.

DEC 5: In an operation 10 miles northeast of Xuan Loc, Charlie Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf engaged four enemy with small arms and automatic weapons, resulting in two enemy killed, and one AK-47 rifle and one SKS rifle captured.

Delta Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf, during a sweep of an area 8 miles northwest of Xuan Loc, located one enemy body believed to be killed by the 5th Bn, 12th Inf in a previous contact.

Engaging an unknown size enemy force 12 miles southwest of Xuan Loc, Alpha Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf killed three enemy using organic weapons with hunter-killer and artillery in support. The "Old Guardsmen" captured one AK-47 in the action.

DEC 6: Bravo Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf engaged an unknown size enemy force 8 miles northeast of Xuan Loc with artillery and a hunter-killer team in support. The Redcatchers killed one enemy in this action.

With a light fire team in support, Alpha Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf engaged an unknown size enemy force 11 miles southeast of Xuan Loc. The "Cottonballers" killed one enemy and detained another.

An element of Delta Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf operating in an area 12 miles southwest of Xuan Loc, engaged an unknown size enemy force, with support from artillery and a hunter-killer team, the "Warrior" element killed one and captured one AK-47.

Later that day Delta Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf discovered that a base camp was in the area. The "Warriors" called in artillery, hunter-killer teams and air strikes resulting in twenty-two bunkers destroyed and four enemy killed by artillery.

After the air and artillery attack was completed an element

of the 5th Bn, 12th Inf swept the area engaging an unknown size enemy force. One enemy was killed and 400 pounds of peas were captured.

An element of Bravo Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf during a sweep of an area 19 miles northwest of Xuan Loc found one enemy body believed to have been dead about one-month. The KIA was credited to the Recon element, 5th Bn, 12th Inf.

A platoon of Bravo Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf located and destroyed a 43-bunker complex 13 miles northwest of Xuan Loc. Also found was one body. The KIA was credited to the 4th Bn, 12th Inf.

DEC 7: In continued operations 9 miles northeast of Xuan Loc, Bravo Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf located and destroyed a base camp consisting of 7 bunkers. An element of Delta Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf engaged one enemy 14 miles northwest of Xuan Loc, resulting in one enemy killed in action.

Another element of Delta Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf operating in an area 10 miles northwest of Xuan Loc located and destroyed a 10 bunker complex.

Alpha Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf located and destroyed a 6 bunker complex containing cooking utensils 11 miles northwest of Xuan Loc.

Alpha Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf found three enemy bodies. Two of the bodies were credited to artillery and one was credited to the 4th Bn, 12th Inf.

Two enemy were killed when Bravo Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf with support by artillery engaged an unknown size enemy force 11 miles southwest of Xuan Loc.

DEC 8: The Recon element of the 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf engaged an unknown size enemy force 11 miles southwest of Xuan Loc. With support from artillery and a Hunter-killer team, the "Old Guard" element killed three enemy and captured two AK-47 rifles.

Proper wear of Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry explained by DA. If presented to an individual, the award should be worn, without frame, above the left pocket. If presented to a unit, it should be worn, with frame, above the right pocket.

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