

A "Warrior" of Bravo Co., 5th Bn, 12th Inf walks along the edge of a 500-pound bomb crater during a recent operation 10 miles northwest of Xuan Loc. (Photo by SP4 Todd Weber)

4/12 'Tiger Patrol' Kills Seven While 'Charlie' Takes a Break

By PFC David Hauser

FSB NANCY—"They sat down right in front of our claymores," stated Specialist Four Barney Bihm from Palmetto, La.

Wastes No Time

"Warriors" of the 4th Bn, 12th Inf's "Tiger Patrol" wasted no time Dec 21 getting into position as Private First Class Obie Jones of Jackson, Miss., spotted 10 to 15 enemy about 15 meters from their position some 21 miles northeast of Xuan Loc. An enemy officer had stopped to give directions to his point man while the remainder of his element rested in the peanut field, according to members of the "Tiger Patrol."

Tosses Hand Frag

"I blew the claymores," said Sergeant Glenn Isaacs of Edwardsville, Ill., "and we opened

up with everything we had."

"When the claymores went off it really threw the enemy into a shock," added Specialist Four William Meditz of Ardsley, Pa.

"Instead of running away, one ran toward our position. Another tried to crawl away, so we started tossing hand frags and hit him on top of his head and stopped him right in his tracks."

Levels Three

"Bihm didn't waste any time. He got up on the back of the gun jeep and poured out lead with the M-60," recalled Specialist Four Patrick Victor from Staten Island, N.Y. "Bihm blasted away 1,100 rounds at 'Charlie' before the night was over and leveled the three I had spotted through the starlight night scope."

A reconnaissance of the area followed the contact.

Runs into Difficulty

"Our 'Kit Carson Scout' is definitely one of the greatest," said Meditz. "He was right up there putting up illumination and hand flares so well it was like daylight."

According to SGT Isaacs, two of the "Tigers" out on the sweep ran into some difficulty. "After going out about 75 meters, the two men began receiving sniper fire from what appeared to be a

wounded enemy with an AK some six meters to their front."

"Scrambling for cover SGT Chasar lost his weapon and SP4 Victor found he was low on ammunition. They were yelling for support from us," SGT Isaacs said, "when our 'Kit Carson Scout' grabbed an M-79 and stuck a few rounds in his pocket along with a couple of frags and low-crawled out to where they were. When he got there he threw the M-79 rounds and frags over to them which resulted in their killing the sniper."

Calls in Art

This freed Chasar and Victor to get back to the main element and call in the artillery. Bravo Btry, 5th Bn, 42nd Arty and Charlie Btry, 2nd Bn, 40th Arty combined their efforts to provide three missions simultaneously from "Nancy" in support of the "Tigers." They fired HE, illumination, and time variable mis-

"Chasar and Isaacs did a great job calling in the support," commented Captain Tom Waraksa, 4th Bn, 12th Inf artillery liaison from Shemokmin, Ohio.

"Charlie" Traveling Heavy

The combined efforts of the soldiers of the "Tiger Patrol" resulted in seven enemy killed, and the capture of three AK-47 rifles, a carbine, and a K-54 pistol. A sweep of the battlefield the next morning revealed 12 pairs of trousers, 13 shirts, 16 ponchos, 500 pounds of food and five pounds of quinine as well as various other medical supplies.

"It looked like 'Charlie' was traveling kind of heavy," commented Specialist Four John Hudson from McGredie, Miss. "Maybe that's why they stopped in front of us to take a rest. Anyway they didn't rest very long."

Lieutenant Colonel Robert H. Clark, commander of the 4th Bn, 12th Inf, praised the "Tigers" for their outstanding job as did Brigadier General William R. Bond.

In ceremonies two days following the contact Bond presented each soldier in the "Tiger Patrol" a Bronze Star with "V" device for his heroism.

Bond Praises Tigers

"This operation," Bond said, "was quite professional and contributes to our total task. Such actions as these demand a lot of teamwork on the part of the men involved: the intelligence commander, the tactical operations center, the battalion commander and company commander."

"This is an outstanding battalion," he said, "composed of five outstanding companies. If we continue to be more professional, constantly, we will do even better than we do now."

"You are professionals," he told the soldiers present, "and you are doing superbly well. "You did a very fine job, an outstanding job. I congratulate you on it."

199th Light Infantry Brigade

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'Old Guard,' 4/12 'Warriors' Gain New Commanders

XUAN LOC—The 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf and the 4th Bn, 12th Inf each received new commanders recently during ceremonies held at their respective forward base camps.

Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin F. Ivey assumed command of the "Old Guard" Dec 15 at fire base "Blackhorse," and 21 days later, on Jan 5, Lieutenant Colonel John R. Black received command of the 4th Bn "Warriors" at fire base "Nancy."

Outgoing 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf commander, Lieutenant Colonel Bernard K. Loeffke completed his third tour in Vietnam when he left the "Old Guard" and is currently attending the Armed Forces Staff College at Norfolk, Va.

Lieutenant Colonel Robert H. Clark, previous commander of

the 4th Bn, 12th Inf, simply exchanged places with Black, former Brigade executive officer.

Brigadier General William R. Bond passed the battalion colors at both ceremonies. At fire base "Blackhorse," he presented a Bronze Star for meritorious achievement and the Distinguished Flying Cross to Loeffke, who also received two Silver Star Medals for heroism during his five months as the "Old Guard" commander.

Band Plays

At fire base "Nancy," the commanding general presented Clark with a Bronze Star Medal (First Oak Leaf Cluster) for meritorious achievement during his six months as commander of the "Warriors" in addition to an Air Medal and an Air Medal with "V" (First Oak Leaf Cluster).

The ceremony at "Nancy" was highlighted by the playing of both the Vietnamese and US national anthems by the USARV 266th Army Band.

LTC Ivey is serving his second tour in Vietnam. He received his commission through the ROTC program at Presbyterian College, Clinton, S.C. in 1949. He has attended the Command and General Staff College, graduating in 1961. His prior duty stations include the Panama Canal Zone, Korea, and Europe.

Comments on Duties

He holds the Legion of Merit (First Oak Leaf Cluster), Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal (First Oak Leaf Cluster) and Combat Infantryman's Badge.

Concerning his new duties, Ivey said, "I am proud to be a member of the 'Old Guard' battalion and the 199th Brigade. I am confident that the men of this battalion will continue to bring distinction and honor to the 'Old Guard'."

LTC Black served as commander of the 2nd Bn, 508th Inf at Fort Bragg, N.C. before coming to the 199th as executive officer last September.

He came on active duty in the Army during May, 1951,

after graduating from the University of Idaho. He has attended the USAF Air War College in addition to holding several positions at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

The awards and decorations he holds include the Silver Star and Bronze Star Medals, the Air Medal, Senior Parachutist

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LTG William R. Bond receives the 4th Bn, 12th Inf colors from LTC Robert H. Clark and is about to present them to LTC John R. Black at the change of command ceremony at fire base "Nancy," Jan 5. (Photo by PFC David Hauser)

'M' Co Rangers Uncover Bunker Complex

XUAN LOC—Two Brigade Ranger teams discovered an enemy base camp Jan 3, complete with two training areas and a medical aid station 20 miles southeast of here.

Bravo and Foxtrot teams of M Co, 75th Inf, attached to the 199th's 7th Spt Bn, spent two days of the long-range reconnaissance mission in a triple canopy jungle area under intense NVA Regular and Viet Cong activity.

"The whole experience was shaky," said Sergeant Robert Sampson, assistant Foxtrot team leader, from Honolulu, Hawaii. "During my 14 months in

Vietnam, this was the best laid out bunker complex I've ever seen." The base camp was a 12 acre bunker complex, surrounded by supplementary bunkers stretching for a two-mile radius.

One of the training areas was discovered by the Foxtrot team inside the main base camp, while the other was found by Bravo team about a mile from the center of the base camp.

"Strands of vines were woven together to resemble barbed wire," Staff Sergeant Mike Sims, Foxtrot team leader, said. "We found a mock tank

(Cont'd on Page 12)

Something New

In case you haven't noticed, some changes are being made in your Brigade newspaper.

First, this issue contains 12 pages rather than the customary eight. This has been done to amend for skipping the January 15 issue of Redcatcher!

We are now resuming publication twice monthly, although in the future publishing days will vary from the former dates of the first and 15th of each month.

These changes are due to our acquiring a new printer—Stars and Stripes in Tokyo—following this issue.

In the future, you will probably notice some changes in the "look" of Redcatcher! The most noticeable of these will be a change in the quality of the paper we will be printing on.

The staff of Redcatcher! hopes to continue serving you, the members of the 199th, and we sincerely hope you will find interesting and enjoyable reading in our product.

Your Legal Officer



A Public Trial

By CPT John A. Fox, SJA

The military judge took the bench. His solemn look signified another ordinary but busy day, in his circuit. The trial counsel shuffled through the papers of trial only hesitating long enough to make sure he had the necessary orders and charge sheets, remembering only too well the oversight the previous day. The defense counsel checked the long list of authorities compiled after careful study. Although the accused looked indifferent, there was a certain silence that could only reflect the seriousness of the present situation.

The military judge asked if the defense and government were ready to proceed with their cases. When he received affirmative replies from both sides he called the court to order. While preparing himself to record all pertinent details of the proceedings, the judge asked all persons who were going to be appearing as witnesses to leave the courtroom. Only the military judge, the trial counsel, the defense counsel, the reporter, and the accused remained! Where were all of the spectators?

During the recent past months the courtroom has been bare of spectators during the trial sessions. The reason could be that either there is a lack of interest concerning our trial procedures or there is a belief that courts-martial are held in closed sessions. This author would rather believe the latter and wishes to take steps to alleviate this.

The Constitution guarantees to every man the right to a "speedy, public trial". Hence, as a general rule, the public shall be permitted to attend open sessions of courts-martial as well as trials in civilian courts. However, unless otherwise limited by directives of the Secretary of a Department, the convening authority, the military judge, may for security or other good reasons direct that the public or certain portions thereof be ex-

cluded. All spectators may be excluded from an entire trial over the accused's objection only to prevent the disclosure of classified information. The authority to exclude should be cautiously exercised, and the right of the accused to a trial completely open to the public must be weighed against the public policy considerations for exclusion. For example, it may be proper to exclude spectators when a child witness cannot testify coherently before an audience. It would be proper to exclude persons when the courtroom is overcrowded, or to exclude persons who might interfere with the administration of justice. Persons other than the accused have no standing to object to the exclusion of spectators.

When practical, notices of the time and place of sessions of courts-martial will be published so that persons subject to the code may be afforded an opportunity to attend as spectators, provided that attendance does not interfere with their assigned duties. The taking of photographs in the courtroom during an open or closed session of the court, the broadcasting of proceedings from the courtroom, or the recording of the proceedings for public release will not be permitted.

Spectators are encouraged to attend during the trial sessions. Contact the Staff Judge Advocate for advice and assistance.

"Redcatchers" are reminded that USARV and MACV regulations specifically prohibit the use or possession of any privately owned weapons by servicemen in Vietnam. Too many injuries have resulted from careless handling or misuse of these weapons. No weapons other than those authorized for the Brigade can be carried or used by members of the 199th.

During the month of January, the Finance Office prepared wage and tax statements for the calendar year 1969. These statements, or W-2 forms as they are more familiarly known, were filed in each man's finance records rather than distributed to each individual.

This procedure will reduce to a minimum the number of instances of lost W-2 forms which would require the issuance of a duplicate form.

Since personnel now serving in RVN have 180 days after their return to CONUS in which to file a tax return for the calendar year 1969, there is no need to have the W-2 in the individual's possession. However, should an individual desire to file a tax return prior to his rotation, he may come to the finance office and pick up his W-2 form.

'Duo' Relays Messages

By SP4 Peter Nazarino

SIGNAL MOUNTAIN—The 313th Signal Co plays a vital role in retransmitting information. On Signal Mountain, the 313th has a relay station operated 24-hours a day by two RTO's—the "Dynamic Duo."

The relay station on Signal Mountain is operated by Specialist Four Donald Towe of Brooklyn, N.Y., and his partner Specialist Four William Stewart of Pittsburgh. As the title implies, it is used for the sole purpose of relay for units of the 199th. "If any unit has trouble reaching another unit in the Brigade's area, they can use our relay station to make contact," explained Towe. "For example, a battalion might lose contact with one of its line companies; the battalion contacts Signal Mountain and asks us to help establish contact."

The relay station is composed of FM retransmitting equipment.

The Chaplain Speaks



A Time of Change

By Chaplain (CPT) Kendrick A. Gould

A few years ago, I was able to return to Boston where I began my college career. The year I left to enter the Air Force, the college relocated in Western Massachusetts, consequently, as I returned to visit the old buildings quite a change had taken place. The men's dorm had been made into an apartment house. The main building was transformed into a house of worship.

As my wife and I walked down the street, I pointed out the various changes to her. The street, buildings, and community seemed to echo with memories. The change gave me mixed feelings. As is true with memories there was a certain sadness associated with the visit. Yet, there was a happiness in knowing that the changes were for the best. The college had been able to move out of those inadequate buildings to a beautiful spacious campus. Change produces mixed reactions within each of us.

When we return home from a tour in Vietnam we will have to adjust to changes back in "The World". Our children will have grown older. Our communities will have changed. Almost everything will have changed somewhat during our absence.

In adjusting to changes, we have to realize that they are inevitable. Psalm 103, verses 15 and 16 read, "As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourishes. For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more."

Fred B. Chenuault has recorded these words, "Wendell Johnson recalls that the old Greek Heraclitus said, 'You can't step in the same river twice.' The river changes, and the man also changes. If the river stood still and failed to continue its course to the sea, it would become a menace to the health of the communities through which it passes. The fact that it moves continuously is a sign of its healthful and life-giving waters."

Everything around us changes, including ourselves. The most dramatic changes are yet to come. First Corinthians chapter 15, verses 51 and 53 read "Behold I show you a mystery: we shall not all sleep, but we shall be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality." This is a change that all Christians will be involved in.

How can we adjust to these changes of the present and future? We need something or someone stable to anchor to or we will become like so many others and become frustrated or have a sense of hopelessness. We ought to turn to God and commit our lives to him, for only God is stable, steadfast and changeless. God is the only one to whom you can turn to find security in this changing world.

The Army Adjutant General wants all mail addressed to Army people to carry Social Security numbers in place of Service numbers.

The Army moved to the nine digit Social Security numbers July 1. Since then, Major General Kenneth G. Wickham said, the longer set of numbers has become the key for establishing positive identification of the addressee.

He asked for "wholehearted cooperation" from the public.



"I hear the A & P will be moving in here soon, Sir!"



REDCATCHER!

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"Silent Night" is sung at the closing of the show. (Photo by SP5 Richard Blair)

GIs Welcome Hope's 19th Visit

By SP4 Frank Segreto

An audience of over 25,000 gathered in Long Binh's amphitheatre Dec 28 to watch Bob Hope perform for his 19th consecutive Christmas tour to US troops abroad.

Unlike previous performances, security was lifted on the performers for coverage by live TV to a potential audience of 300,000 throughout Vietnam.

The two and a half hour show presented by the Hope troopers consisted of songs, dances, a juggling act and Hope's usual comic antics.

Featured in the show were Connie Stevens, co-star of the former television series Hawaiian Eye; the Gold-Diggers, currently appearing on the Dean Martin Show; Teressa Graves, co-star on the popular Rowan and Martin Laugh In; Suzanne

Cherney, broadway musical star; Eva Reuber Staier, Miss World 1970; and Les Brown and his Band of Renown.

A guest appearance by astronaut Neil Armstrong, the first man to walk on the moon, brought the biggest applause of the day.

Over 1,000 seats were reserved for members of the 199th and transportation to the amphitheatre was provided by USARV.



A portion of the "Redcatchers" present applaud the show. (Photo by SP4 Ronald Shaw)



Hope delivers his opening monologue. (Photo by SP4 Bruce Whitley)



Cherney's dancing delights the crowd. (Photo by SP4 Bruce Whitley)



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: PFC Brian R. Johnson; PFC Robert L. Gibson; PFC Lawrence Meneses; SP4 John R. Smith; SP4 Albie J. Wyce Jr.
2nd Bn, 40th Arty: SP4 Dewey V. Chastain Jr.; 1LT Paul A. Davis; 1LT James F. Deebel; 2LT Horold S. Hogue.
3rd Bn, 7th Inf: SGT Robert R. Bandy; SP4 Jimmie L. Bender; SP4 Monty L. Brant; SP4 Eddie L. Burrell; 1LT Walter R. Cooper; SGT Alan W. Cope-land; PFC John R. Greene; 2LT Marshall B. Harmon; SSG Douglas S. Ideson; SFC Otis V. Jones; SGT Raymond W. Manley; SSG Robert L. Martin; PFC Marc J. Mehler; PFC Marc J. Mehler (1st OLC); SP4 Nicholas Mikula; SP4 Robert E. Perkins; SP4 Robert E. Perkins (1st OLC); SP4 Edward M. Quifunes; SSG Larry D. Thomas; PFC Larry M. Toner.

4th Bn, 12th Inf: PFC Perry Hall; SSG Raymond D. Willey Jr.

5th Bn, 12th Inf: SP4 Gary L. Braun; SGT John Breenman; SP4 William J. Donesek; SSG Paul Dominguez; PFC Michael J. Donish Jr.; CPT James M. Forsythe; SP4 Douglas E. Hall; PFC Angelo F. Hoeft; PFC George D. Horner; SP4 Sammy B. James; SP4 Steven R. Keiser; SP4 Steven R. Keiser (1st OLC); SGT Richard I. Laus; PFC George A. McFarland; PFC George A. McFarland (1st OLC); SP4 Sidney L. Rogers; 1LT Alan D. Rude; PFC Jesus P. Torres; SGT Larry L. Turney; SGT Larry L. Turney (1st OLC); SP4 Leonard Zarkowski.

Co M (Rangers), 75th Inf: SGT Joe F. Acosta; SGT Herdy Christian III; SGT John F. Patrick; SGT Bobby Yowell.
87th Eng. Co: SP4 Freddie L. Long (1st OLC).

Army Commendation Medal (Val-

Commo's Vital Link

By SP4 Peter Nazarino

XUAN LOC—"Redcatcher" Forward, Sir, may I help you?"—these words are spoken by some of the busiest people in the Brigade—the switch-board operators.

Working 24 hours a day and operating two switchboards, the men of 313th Signal Co connect the line battalions to Brigade forward or rear.

During the course of the shifts there is one major problem that is evident to all of the operators. "People don't realize that we are busy. For example everybody tries to get 'Plantation' at the same time. We can only let one person use the line at a time," explained Specialist Four Kenneth Young, forward senior operator, from Winchester, Ky.

"Plantation" is one of the main switchboards for the Long Binh complex.

"Our peak hours during the day start at 9:00. It slows down during chow. During the night we get most of our calls from 9 to 10," said Young.

Besides taking calls from the battalions, the switch handles all of the calls for the Brigade's Tactical Operations Center (TOC). "Most of our calls are made by TOC," said Young.

In a communications system the switchboard operator plays a vital part. In the 199th, its the vital link between the battalions and Brigade.

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3rd Bn, 7th Inf: PFC Arthur E. Bruneau; SP4 Alan W. Cope-land; PFC Frankie B. Johnson; SGT Dennis P. Krzyzaniak; SGT Lee T. Lebeck; PFC Marion A. Sanders; SP4 William F. Verbeten; SP4 Tony L. White.
5th Bn, 12th Inf: PFC Desmond Gibson (2nd OLC); SP4 Desmond Gibson; PFC Clarence Brewer; SP4 Thomas P. Burkhardt; SP4 Charles D. McGraw; SP4 Ralph B. Olson; PFC Harold Pillion; SP4 John J. Pirozzi; PFC Carl J. Reid; SP4 James W. Riley; SP4 Leonard Rugh; PFC Jeffery A. Rupnick; PFC Robert Sanchez; PFC Ronald C. Shaw; PFC Felipe Silva; SP4 Richard M. Sunseri; PFC David G. Twilley; SP4 Duane Winkelman.

Co M (Rangers), 75th Inf: SGT Joe F. Acosta; SSG P. Baker; SGT Ozelle Frazier (2nd OLC); SP4 Lucion E. Garland; PFC David L. Hyatt; SP4 Michael J. Lang; SP4 Neftali Saldana-Gonzales.

Air Medal

4th Bn, 12th Inf: LTC Robert Clark; SGT Daniel L. Hias; 1LT Lamont E. Maeux.

3rd Bn, 7th Inf: SSG Gregory D. Ahlf; SP4 James B. Fitzsimmons; SSG Robert L. Martin; SP4 Emeril Mendez; SGT Mark W. Wall.

5th Bn, 12th Inf: LTC David A. Beckner; CPT James M. Forsythe; SP4 Monty R. Smith; SGT David A. Spencer; SGT Kenneth W. Stewart.

HHC Co: SP4 Raymond A. Battista; WO1 Ronald Burkevich; SP4 Robert W. Pridmore Jr.

Purple Heart Medal

2nd Bn, 3rd Inf: SP4 Larry H. Morford; PFC Gerald C. Rawson.

3rd Bn, 7th Inf: SP4 Wayne Gibbs; SGT Richard F. Walz; PFC Colvin F. Youngblood.

4th Bn, 12th Inf: SSG Paul C. Anderson; PFC Dalton E. Thompson.

5th Bn, 12th Inf: PFC Sherill Martin.

4/12 'Warrior' Is Former Prop Man

By SP4 Frank Segreto

FSB NANCY—The stars, bright lights, glamour, excitement it's all a part of show biz.

But what about the people behind the scenes, the cameramen, screen writers, stage designers, prop men or special effects man?

There's not too much glamour in these jobs but there are a lot of long, tough hours.

How does Hollywood look, from behind the stage? "It's a very competitive field," said Bill King, 21, of Hawthorne, Calif., a former special effects and prop man for 20th Century Fox Studios. "You either have it or you don't."

King, presently serving with Echo Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf, comes from a family of studio workers.

"My mother and father have worked with stage designing and special effects all their lives; presently they are also with 20th Century Fox," Bill explained. "And my brothers work with special effects, too."

Bill, having worked with stage settings and in the art department where sets are designed, has had ample opportunity to meet and work with celebrities.

"I guess my favorites that I have worked with are Julie Andrews, Barbra Streisand, James Stewart, and Dean Martin."

Bill has worked behind the scenes on such popular TV



SP4 Charles H. Krambeck

In the Field

Brigade Summary

Dec 8:

In action today, "Charliehorse," 3rd Sqdn, 17th Cav located four enemy bodies approximately 10 1/2 miles north of Xuan Loc. Three of the KIA's were credited to the 2nd Bn, 40th Arty, while the fourth was the result of an earlier contact with Delta Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf.

Later in the day, elements of the 5th Bn, 12th Inf located a small cache consisting of ammo and weapons parts. 2nd Bn, 40th Arty fired on a reported active enemy base camp. Three bunkers were destroyed with four secondary explosions recorded.

The recon element of the 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf engaged 15-20 enemy with small arms and automatic weapons approximately 6 1/2 miles southeast of Xuan Loc. Three enemy were killed in action, two AK-47 rifles were captured.

Dec 9:

In action 12 1/2 miles northeast of Xuan Loc, Delta Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf located and destroyed a four-bunker base camp with overhead cover. A Chicom grenade, an RPG round and miscellaneous gear were also discovered.

Alpha Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf engaged two enemy with small arms and automatic weapons fire 7 miles east of Xuan Loc, killing one and capturing an AK-47 rifle.

A fifteen-bunker base camp was discovered and destroyed 9 miles north of Xuan Loc, by elements of Delta Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf.

Later on the same day elements of the 5th Bn, 12th Inf with two teams of Co M (Rangers), 75th Inf uncovered a cache consisting of



34 cases of 82mm mortar rounds, 40 B-40 rounds and 12 RPG-7 RL rounds. All were destroyed.

The cache was discovered 8 miles north of Xuan Loc.

Charlie Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf engaged and killed two enemy 13 miles northeast of Xuan Loc. Two AK-47 rifles and three Chicom grenades were captured.

In continued action, elements of the 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf, during a sweep of an area 7 miles northeast of Xuan Loc, located and destroyed six bunkers, two kitchens and two latrines. The sweep also uncovered six mortar charges, eight firing caps and a

mortar position.

Dec 10:

Delta Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf, assisted by a visual recon team, located and destroyed a base camp with 29 bunkers and 15 fighting positions. The action took place 15 miles northeast of Xuan Loc.

Later in the same area, the "Warriors" located an additional cache containing a Chicom grenade and an NVA helmet. The cache was destroyed.

Bravo Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf engaged three enemy soldiers 7 miles east of Xuan Loc. One enemy was killed and one was detained. An AK-47 rifle and a K-54 pistol were also taken.

Later in the day, Delta Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf engaged an estimated two enemy platoons. Small arms and automatic weapons fire were exchanged with a resulting four enemy killed. The action took place during a sweep 8 miles east of Xuan Loc.

Seven miles north of Xuan Loc, Alpha Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf located and destroyed five bunkers, 12 structures, a cache consisting of two RPG rounds, six rifle grenades, and an NVA gas mask. In the same area, the unit discovered two enemy bodies. The 5th Bn, 12th Inf was credited with the kills.

Bravo Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf, in a sweep of an area 11 miles northeast of Xuan Loc, destroyed a base camp consisting of eight bunkers and 27 fighting positions. Delta Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf located and destroyed an 11-bunker base camp 5 miles southeast of Xuan Loc.

Dec 11:

Delta Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf, while on a sweep of an area 6 miles east of Xuan Loc, found a dead enemy soldier in a nine-bunker base camp. The unit was credited with the kill. Also uncovered were cooking utensils, clothing, two AK-47 magazines, VC dog tags, a cooking hooch and a table.

Charlie Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf engaged eight enemy with small



Sgt Bill King is at work plotting coordinates recently on his "temporary" job with Echo Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf at fire base "Nancy." (Photo by PFC David Houser)

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Village Welcomes 'Old Guard' Docs

By SP4 Larry Woody

FSB BLACKHORSE—The little girl was perhaps four years old, her dark eyes wide and frightened under her straight-cropped raven bangs. A week before, she had had her ears pierced, as is customary with Vietnamese children. A length of black thread had been inserted through the pierce to keep it open, and infection had begun. She had been brought to the 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf's Medcap for treatment.

Treats Infected Ear

The medic, Specialist Five Dorsey Bass of Huntington, W.Va., removed the thread, cleaned the wound, and applied a disinfectant. Another Medcap patient, one of almost 200 that day, had been treated.

Medcaps (Medical-Civic Action Programs) and ICAPs (Integrated Civic Action Programs) are probably the most effective means of village pacification, according to Staff Sergeant Steve Kukla of Vermillion, S.D., of the "Old Guard's" psychological operations section. They are designed to render medical and civic assistance to the villages and hamlets sprinkled throughout the area.

Effective Pacification

"Aside from Medcaps, medical care in many of the remote rural villages is virtually negligible," Bass stated. "Only the more extreme cases receive attention, and sometimes even they go untreated." The most common ailments center around cuts and

abrasions and resulting infections. More serious are internal disorders, such as respiratory and intestinal diseases. "The ratio of tuberculosis is amazing—or, more accurately, frightening," said one medic recently. "Many of the most advanced cases have never had a single treatment, unless you count the questionable homespun remedies."

"Like anyone in the profession, we get our share of psychosomatic or imaginary illnesses," claimed another Medcap worker. "All the patient needs is to be told by a doctor that there's nothing wrong with him. Those are the easy ones," he continued. "What's really sticky is when an old lady comes in with her teeth decayed away to the gums, or a child with a ruptured appendix. Evacuation to the nearest hospital or clinic is all we can do in cases like that." What would have been done with such extreme cases if the Medcap had not been here?

Assist in Hamlet Work

"I can't imagine," he said.

Medical treatment isn't the full extent of the Civic Action Program. "We help supply needed building materials, such as lumber and wire," commented Captain Stephen Voris of Indianapolis, Ind., the officer in charge of the 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf's psychological operations. "We assist in a variety of hamlet work, from building renovation to recreational projects for the children."

"By our helping the villagers, we hope they'll help us," Kukla

said. "Often they will relate valuable information to our IPW or intelligence personnel concerning enemy activity in their area. In one hamlet outside the Xuan Loc District, for example, it was learned that Viet Cong frequented the village, warning the populace against cooperating with US and Allied personnel. 'Though entire villages have been under intimidation, we've yet to have one refuse our help,' Kukla stated.

Visits Not Frequent

The Medcap and ICAP itinerary is drawn up on a rotation basis. "We pick villages to treat that have gone longest without attention," said Kukla. "With hundreds of little villages spread around, that means quite a lapse between visits." The "Old Guard" performs an average of four ICAP and Medcap operations weekly.

Beginning to Understand

And so the work goes. From building a school room to distributing Chieu Hoi leaflets; from treating dysentery to giving maternity advice. The villagers are beginning to understand that inhaling smoke from smouldering herbs is not a cure for tuberculosis; that tape on the forehead will not drive away headache. Increasing numbers come to the Medcaps and ICAPs, where they are treated.

Did you know that if you have four months or less left in country you can submit a request for almost any school the Army has and you have a good chance of getting it?

Here are a couple of possibilities:

Computer programming, MOS 74F20. Prerequisites are credit for a course in high school algebra or a standard score of 45 or higher on GED Test 5, and a standard score of 110 or higher in aptitude area CL. Good manual dexterity is also a must.

Refrigeration equipment repair, MOS 51L20. The prerequisites are normal color perception, and a standard score of 100 or higher in aptitude area GM. The 11 week course at Ft. Belvoir, Va. covers the theory of refrigeration, internal combustion engines system maintenance and the fundamentals and components of refrigeration systems. The training will apply to ice making machines, air conditioners, and all types of refrigeration units.

If you are interested in these or any other reenlistment options, check with your unit reenlistment NCO and then contact SFC Wilson, Brigade reenlistment NCO, at BMB.

The Army has developed a two-quart collapsible canteen for use in tropical areas. The canteen, made of flexible, plastic-like material, folds like a bladder when empty. It can be stored in a case that has pockets for water purification tablets. ANF



SSG Larry D. Lewis and his brother, SGT Danny E. Lewis, both of Charlie Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf, demonstrate bayonet techniques for PFCs during a recent LIFT class. (Photo by SP4 Peter Nagurny)

'Warrior' Brothers United

By SP4 Peter Nagurny

199th's Brigade Main Base.

The brothers took a break from their LIFT operation recently to tell the story of how they both got into the same company.

Tried Changing Orders

"When I got my orders for Infantry AIT, Danny was just getting ready to graduate from Junior College. Since I knew that I would be going to Vietnam I told him he should sign-up so he could avoid being sent overseas," said SSG Lewis. "I had just gotten my orders for NCO School at Fort Benning when he reported for basic training at Fort Lewis. That's when our figuring started to get messed up. He got his orders for Infantry AIT just about the time I began my OJT. Danny received orders for NCO School a couple of weeks before he was to finish AIT, and I told him he was going to have it made. Two days before he graduated, the orders were changed to Vietnam. We tried to have his orders changed at Oakland, but since I was still in OJT they couldn't do it," he explained.

"Well, I arrived in country and received my orders to report to the 199th. I was later assigned to the 5th of the 12th and then to Charlie Company. Larry refused to have his orders changed because he felt that it was his fault that I was in Vietnam and he should go too. He requested to come to the 199th when he got in country, and then to Charlie Company," said SGT Lewis. "One thing for sure, next time Larry says to join something I'll think twice about it," he continued.

The brothers finished their story so they could begin second class of the day. Between claymores and rifle practice they added that they were both getting short and would be going home soon to Lemore, Calif.

If you don't want to end up at the bottom of the waiting list, you'd better take the first flight you're offered when traveling space is available.

The Military Airlift Command (MAC) recently established this new policy which applies to all military persons and dependents.

The new MAC policy prevents travelers from refusing a seat on one flight in hopes of getting better accommodations on another.

Those refusing seats are placed at the bottom of the list and must file a new request to reach their destination. This not only causes delays for you but also results in unnecessary shuffling of paperwork. So take MAC's advice and get on that first flight!

Ho Nai Gets Shot in Arm

By SP5 Arthur S. Jaeger

HO NAI—Nearly 4,000 children here are being inoculated against disease under an immunization program organized by the 199th's rear civil affairs office.

The program, directed by Captain Donald D. Haas of York Springs, Pa., assistant Brigade civil affairs officer, brings a Mobile Inoculation Team here once a month to immunize children from two months to four years old.

Inoculates Children

Sponsored by the Seventh Day Adventist Welfare Service in Saigon, the Inoculation Team supplies its own equipment and serums for whooping cough, tetanus, diphtheria, typhoid and polio.

Combines Efforts

The civil affairs office coordinates with local officials for the monthly visits but, CPT Haas explained recently, "a combination of efforts contributes to the success of this program."

Popular Force soldiers from the village and four National Policemen attached to the Brigade's 179th Military Intelligence Det, for example, are needed to keep the crowds organized on inoculation days.

The Ho Nai Refugee Hospital makes its facilities available for the visits, and hospital personnel issue shot records to the children who must receive a series of inoculations for polio and other diseases.

Provides Leaflets

Prior to last month's visit, 50,000 leaflets were dropped over Ho Nai to make more citizens aware of the program. The 6th Psychological Operations Bn provided the leaflets and a helicopter from the Brigade's aviation section was used to drop them.

The leaflets seem to have paid off, for on Dec 22, the three-member Inoculation Team handled 3,779 children between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., giving each initial doses of typhoid and polio vaccines.

In mid-November the group had inoculated 1,300 children for diphtheria, tetanus, and whooping cough.

During the coming months, the

nurses will return to give second inoculations to those children returning with shot records indicating they have received the first series.

Student Missionaries

Ruthita Jensen, a student missionary from Loveland, Colo., is in charge of the group. When she leaves Vietnam in May, Miss Jensen will have spent 12 months working with the Seventh Day Adventist Welfare Service here.

One of only two student missionaries in Vietnam at the present time, Miss Jensen, in addition to her work with the 199th, travels to schools, churches, and orphanages to inoculate children and adults throughout the III Corps area.

Uses Military Escort

She works only occasionally with a military escort and she will travel to any facility that asks for her team. On several occasions she has traveled to areas known to be under the control of the enemy in order to serve the citizens of a nearby hamlet or village.

A Vietnamese nurse and an assistant from the Seventh Day Adventist mission in Saigon aid Miss Jensen on her visits to Ho Nai and other villages.



BG William R. Bond stands with 21 new first and second lieutenants who arrived in the Brigade recently.



Scout dog "Duke" leaps easily over a raised 55-gallon drum on the 49th Scout Dog Plt's training course at BMB.



"King" alerts to a threat down a path.

Early Warning Scout Are a Soldier's Best

Story and Photos by SP4 Jon Sweet

CAMP FRENZELL-JONES—Frequently leading the point element of an infantry unit, the German Shepherd of the scout dog platoons in Vietnam have often proven they can be among the soldiers' best friends when the going gets rough.

"Basically our dogs provide a silent warning system," said First Lieutenant John Anderson of Erie, Pa., commanding officer of the 199th's 49th Infantry Scout Dog Plt of the 7th Spt Bn.

Trained Extensively

"They are put through extensive training to detect ambush sites, snipers, enemy holdouts or stay behind groups," Anderson continued. "They will locate caches of weapons, food, and ammunitions, and they assist in village search and sweep operations."

Anderson's platoon pulled 1,500 missions last year—among the highest number of missions undertaken by any scout dog unit in Vietnam. While some units remain "on call," the 49th has teams in the field constantly with each battalion.

"Our two 'specialists'—Rebel, a tunnel dog, and 'Lobo,' a mine dog—remain in the rear until requested in the field," Anderson said. "We also keep several dogs on reserve for emergencies such as assisting ARVN and Thai troops."

The operational importance placed upon the 199th's Scout Dog Plt has paid rich dividends.

Uncovers Cache

"Dusty" led a 4th Bn, 12th Inf, unit to an enemy bunker complex last summer consisting of 30 tons of food, equipment, and supplies—the largest cache uncovered in the 199th's history.

"King," a four-year Vietnam veteran, broke away from his wounded handler when their point element encountered enemy sniper fire. The 100-pound German Shepherd instinctively dashed to the rear of an enemy fortress, killing one of the snipers and frightening the other two away—an unusually aggressive action for dogs trained at sniffing out rather than attacking enemy.

"When a scout dog senses the enemy, he usually procks up his ears and points his head in the enemy's direction," said Sergeant Gary Hefley, of Huntington Beach, Calif., the 49th's training NCO. "You

can usually look between his ears. The scout dog's training begins school at Ft. Benning, Ga., some 24 months ago.

"The dog and his handler are made at BMB Scout Dog School," Anderson said. "They get acquainted at BMB before they go to the field."

"After a handler and his dog are replaced by a new team," Anderson said. "They get acquainted in the rear just

praised.

Regular scout dogs are rewarded from their handlers. Special tunnel dogs, are tightly rationed on

discover a mine or tunnel and the

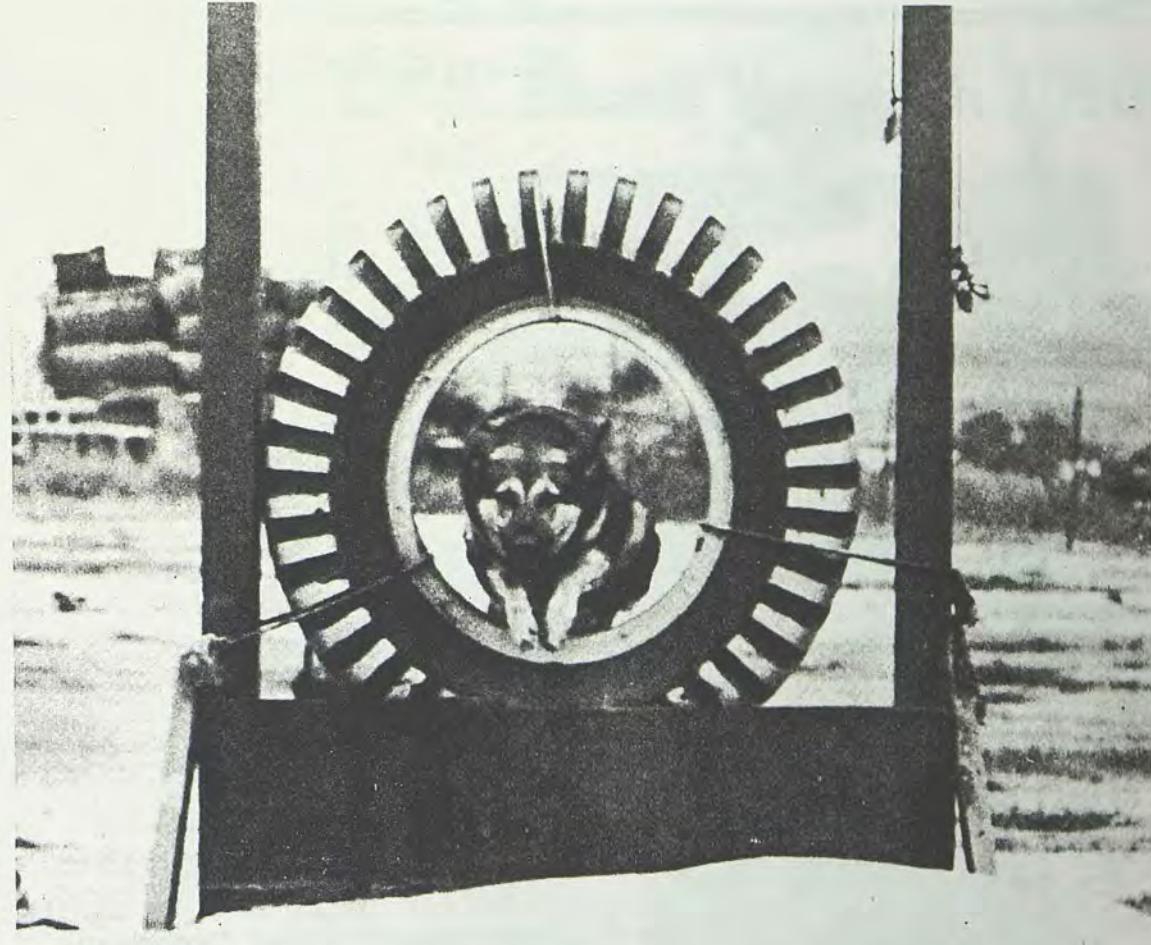
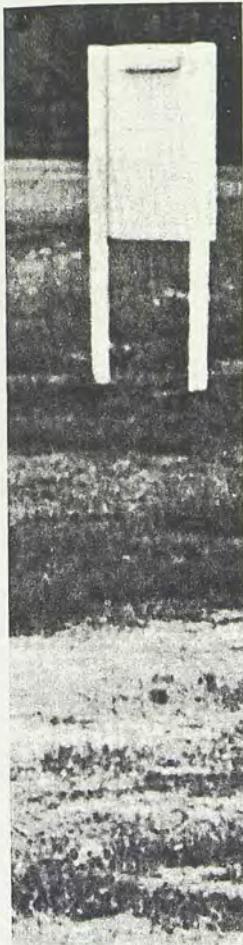
At the 49th, incurable diseases like Leptospirosis (lepto) and Idiopathic are the worst dog killers in Viet Cong. The platoon's veterinary technician is working with the 936th Bn in an effort to find a cure for

Lepto affects the liver and kidney bleeding in the facial area, limb swelling in red and white blood cells.

Cannot Be

Primarily because of the presence of dogs cannot be shipped back to carriers. Also, once the German Shepherd cannot return to civilian life temperament.

"Sure, I know I'm going to miss I said his handler, Sergeant Jay Bea. "It's kind of like losing an old friend. I'll probably never forget."



Dogs Friend

id spot the enemy."

the Army's scout dog training

weeks before he arrives in Viet-

nam when they arrive at the

on said. "They spend two weeks

an additional week of training

nd a week in the field, they are

continued. "We conduct daily

keep everybody sharp."

ly verbal praise and encourage-

y dogs, such as the mine and

od while on a mission until they

are fed a full meal.

more dogs than enemy bullets.

ic Hemoragic Syndrome (HIS)

am," said Sergeant Ron "Doc"

nician from Madisonville, Tenn.

Veterinary Detachment in Long

these diseases."

ys, while HIS causes excessive

sling, weight loss, and a reduc-

e Civilian

of these incurable diseases, scout

states for fear they might be

pherd is branded a military dog

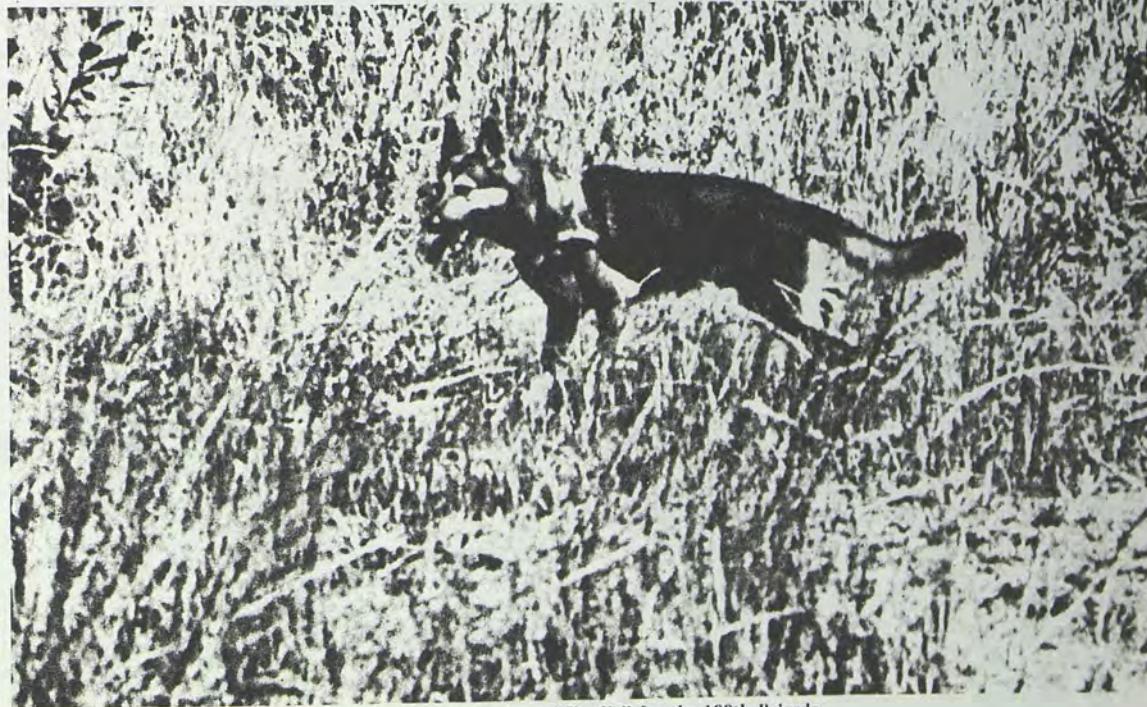
because of his combat-instilled

bo' when I return to the world,"

of Page Park, Ft. Meyers, Fla.

He's given me some memories

A mounted tire is no problem for "King," a 49th Plt scout dog.



A scout dog tracks down "Charlie" for the 199th Brigade.



SP4 John Hastings displays the snake he "recruited" while on an operation recently with Bravo Co., 4th Bn, 12th Inf. (Photo by PFC David Hauser)

A Snake in Uniform?

By PFC David Hauser

FSB NANCY—"I think it's great. It's our friend," commented a "Warrior" medic assigned to Bravo Co., 4th Bn, 12th Inf about a recent recruit to the company's ranks—an eight foot python captured by Specialist Four John Hastings of Farmington, Mo.

Hastings is the assistant forward observer with the company, and has been collecting snakes as a hobby since he was very young. "I guess I got interested in snakes from my father," he admitted. "We used to go snake hunting quite a lot.

"At home," he said, "we have three boa constrictors and over 50 snakes we have collected from all over Missouri."

The python, captured on a recent operation, was spotted by several "Warriors" in Hastings' platoon. "It was in a hollow log," Hastings recalled, "when they called me over to take a look at

it. It struck at me three times before I finally caught it and when I did, the guys went running in all directions."

Hastings' interest in snakes has led him to know much about the habits of reptiles and other wild animals which he collects.

"The python is a non-pit-viperous snake," Hastings said. "It is found throughout the tropical regions of Southeast Asia. It makes its diet from swallowing small animals, such as rats and rabbits. A python can live off one good meal a month, and like all cold-blooded animals, its body temperature is the same as its surroundings."

A month ago, Hastings caught a twelve-foot-long python while on another operation in the jungle and carried it in his pack until he returned to the fire base. There he left it with some of the men in his company's mortar platoon. "I kept it about a month," he said, "and let it go. I thought about sending it home but decided it would be too much trouble."

At any rate not many companies have a snake as a mascot and even fewer can say they have an amateur herpetologist in their ranks!

New Lieutenant Extension Rule

Due to a recent policy change, non-regular first lieutenants nearing the end of their two-year obligated active duty tours must now decide whether they want to leave the service or accept promotion to captain and stay an additional year not later than 90 before their ETS.

Previous guidelines indicated that either promotion declination statement or an extension request could be submitted at the 30-day-to-ETS point. Many lieutenants held off almost until the last moment, thereby complicating the Army assignment planning process.

This modification in no way changes the procedures for requesting Voluntary Indefinite or Regular Army status.

Individuals with less than 90 days to ETS desiring to remain on active duty in a career category status may still apply.

Additional information is in DA Message 917956 and also will be in a forthcoming change to AR624-100, ANF.

Did you now that about 50,000 men are going to school this year with benefits available under the GI Bill?

'Guard' Relates Field to Forward

By SP4 Larry Woody

FSB BLACKHORSE—When the "Guard of the Night" program was initiated in mid-July by then 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf commander, Lieutenant Colonel Bernard K. Loefke, its primary intent was to reward combat soldiers from the battalion's line companies; namely, to bring one man per night in from the field, permit him to shower, relax, have a hot meal and enjoy the conveniences here at the battalion's forward headquarters.

Now, five months later, the program has evolved into a more elaborate project. "In fact," maintained LTC Loefke, shortly before rotating back to the states last December, "the 'Guard of the Night' program has expanded to such a degree that it is now a principal communications tie between the battalion's two operational echelons—field and forward."

Explains Company's Role

The "Guard of the Night" selection is given a tour and briefing of the battalion forward facilities, an aspect of the battle effort that the field soldier is normally entirely unfamiliar with. He is escorted through the battalion TOC (Tactical Operation Center) and shown how airmobile operations are planned and executed, the reasoning behind specific troop movements and deployments; and an explanation of his own company's current role in the area of operations.

Accompanies Resupply

The "Guard" is then taken to S-4, or resupply headquarters, and briefed on supply operations. He also accompanies an actual resupply mission, from the loading of sundries at S-4 to the final unloading or kick-out from

a chopper to the troops in the field.

And finally, the "Guard" is invited to sit in on the battalion's afternoon briefing. The day's action is reviewed; plans and itinerary for the following day's missions are revealed and discussed.

Completes Questionnaire

The communication between the field and rear is reciprocal. The "Guard" selection is given a questionnaire to complete while he is at the forward headquarters. The questionnaire covers various aspects of field operations; from enemy bunker destruction to mail call. It is surprising, some of the staff personnel commented while reading through the sheaves of completed forms, how nearly the general opinions of the individual troops tend to agree.

There is, for instance, the question, "How do you suggest the load carried by the foot soldier be lightened?" The answer on virtually every paper was: "I don't believe there is a way to lighten the load without leaving out something that could help defend against the enemy. Everything we carry, we use."

Troop Morale Covered

One of the more commonly expressed concerns is over chow and resupply. The majority of the men suggested the need for more frequent hot meals in the field to break the monotony of a C-Ration diet. But one infantryman disagreed; he said that hot meals created an aroma that could be detected by "Charlie," and that he'd rather eat cold C's than have unexpected guests pop in for dinner.

Even troop morale is covered. One man wrote, likely with tongue-in-cheek, that he thought a more frequent presence of Red

Cross Volunteers would give his morale a boost! Standdowns, or chances to rest up in the rear, are repeatedly prompted.

Medical support and foot care is another subject on the questionnaire. Most of the men agreed that medical support is efficient, but several claimed they lacked the opportunity to dry socks and feet thoroughly.

Other portions of the form are devoted to ambush techniques, security, enemy intelligence, personal problems, and field religious services.

Though pragmatically intensified, the program has not sacrificed its original purpose—to give the "Guard" an opportunity to rest and share the benefits of the rear. The "Guard" selection is also granted a night and day at the Brigade Main Base, entirely on his own, following his duties at the battalion forward headquarters.

"The program gives the men in the field an opportunity to see that those in the rear are involved in the overall operation and do make a contribution," summarized Loefke.

Land Cuts Take Enemy Refuge

FSB BLACKHORSE—The heavy jungles north of Long Binh, once almost unchallenged enemy sanctuaries, are rapidly becoming less and less secure hideaways for the NVA-Communists operating in the area. The reason is, simply, that the jungle is disappearing in huge chunks—known as land cuts—before the blade of the giant Rome Plow.

These plows are capable of reducing a sizeable area of jungle to cleared, bare acreage almost overnight. Generally, the land cuts are made ribbon-like through the jungle, making travel through the area without crossing the clearing, virtually impossible. And, when the enemy steps from his protective cover of jungle foliage into the open, he can't be sure what will be waiting for him.

"We had positioned a man in a treecut lookout position, along the border of a land cut north of (fire base) 'Crystal,'" recounted Specialist Four Rass Mussen, leader of the 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf's recon element, "and the rest of the squad settled back into the edge of the jungle. We'd been set up for about an hour," Mussen continued, "when the lookout whistled, and motioned toward the opposite side of the cut."

The squad saw two figures cross the clearing and slip into the fringe of undergrowth on their side. "We guessed about which direction they were going to take," said Mussen, "and radioed the information to our security element."

The platoon maneuvered around, intercepted the two NVA, and killed both. Without the land cut, the detection and observation of the enemy would have been impossible.

A week after the recon element's encounter, a platoon of Alpha Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf engaged an estimated squad-sized enemy element along a similar land cut in approximately the same area. "We had been working along the cut all morning," stated Specialist Four James Smith of Sheffield, Ala. "We stopped for a break, and when we started to move out again a few minutes later, we came under fire from the other side of the cut." Realizing that an enemy patrol had probably inadvertently stumbled upon them during their break, the platoon returned fire immediately. The enemy retreated, leaving behind one AK-47 rifle and a heavy blood trail.



Two "Warriors" of the 4th Bn, 12th Inf discover a way to "cool it" in the hot sun 30 miles northeast of Xuan Loc. (Photo by PFC David Hauser)

Past Redcatcher! Editor Recalls Year with 199th

Editor's Note—For 364 days Specialist Five Jim Low was with the Brigade information office. Following the 199th through rice paddies and into jungles, he served in the capacity of combat correspondent and later as editor of this newspaper. We thought his reflections on 364 days with the 199th Light Infantry Brigade would make interesting and informative reading, and so, we are presenting them to you, along with a few pictures, on this page.

As you read this, I will be relaxing at home remembering as little as possible of the past 364 unforgettable days—my tour in Vietnam. But now, just before boarding my plane to fly home, my memory of the past year is as strong as it ever will be.

January 24, 1969, the plane set down at Bien Hoa Airbase. Several days later I was a member of the 40th Public Information Detachment of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade; and my tour started. For the next year I would work as a writer and photographer for the Brigade and would soon become familiar with all the units which are a part of it. I would get to know some of the units it works with and against, and the people it works for.

Adjustment began immediately and after a week of becoming familiar with the workings in the rear information office, I went to the Brigade's forward headquarters, then located in an unused fishnet factory 7 miles south of Saigon. The 199th was responsible for the direct defense of Saigon against infiltration and attack from the southwest quarter.

Terms such as "pineapple", airmobile, ragboat, eagle flight, cordon and cache all rapidly became familiar as I began to go on operations with various units to gather stories and photographs. This was my job. The first operation I joined was "Strangler I", the first of five large cordon operations extending over the next several months. All five were designed to deliver a direct blow to the Viet Cong Infrastructure in the local hamlets.

It was during the "Strangler II" cordon that I saw a war casualty for the first time—and learned how impersonal VC tactics can be. A young boy, severely wounded by a VC booby trap while fishing in a mud hole, was carried into the cordon's field headquarters by his father and grandfather. The medics gave him immediate treatment and he was flown to 3rd Field Hospital on the deputy commanding officer's helicopter.

Another term soon to enter my vocabulary was "Tet". At that time there were still many around the Brigade who could recall, first hand, the Tet-Offensive of 1968. Intelligence reports indicated that the 199th's forward headquarters was to be a prime target. Alert unit actions and the dis-



SP5 Jim Low on an operation shortly after arriving in Vietnam.



Low snapped this shot of the first war casualty he saw in Vietnam.

covey and capture of many large caches during several weeks preceding the Tet holidays broke the back of the enemy plans and the offensive was never mounted in our area.

It takes about three months for complete adjustment over here—for being in Vietnam to become a way of life. Also, after three months, realization comes that the time actually does pass and someday there will be an end to the year's tour. The dust and mud, the heat, the stagnant paddy-water, the sometimes warm, sometimes cold beer, the occasional rocket attacks, the practice alerts, though never enjoyed, become common-place, and even second-nature as a person adjusts to being here.

But if a routine is established, it never seems to last long. June 15, the 199th moved its area of operation from the familiar paddylands to the entirely different jungles of Long Khanh Province.

Though—by record—it was a return to the jungles for the Brigade, there were few remaining in its ranks who had been there before. It was entirely new terrain with new problems and new fighting tactics. The Brigade's forward headquarters moved to the 11th Armored Cav's fire base "Blackhorse". With the move, the Brigade assumed a new over-all mission which included extensive programs for training and upgrading the 18th ARVN Division and the local Regional and Popular Force units.

After joining several training missions and operations by advisory teams, I gained a new and needed understanding of the problems that face Vietnamese units; an appreciation of the handicaps they face and their needs to overcome them. With it I also began to see what finally—after all the talk and promises—might bring about the solution, and end, to the US involvement here.

Near the end of August, Brigade forward headquarters moved from "Blackhorse" to Xuan Loc and at that time my sojourns into the field ended as I went to the rear office to become assistant editor and finally editor of the unit newspaper until the end of my tour.

As I look in retrospect upon the past year, I realize and am thankful for a very fortunate tour. I spent time with all the 199th's units and at all its fire support bases. Part of this time was spent with the infantrymen—the backbone of the Brigade—on operations in their domain. I will always have respect and admiration for them and the job they do. I have only sampled their way of life—still it awes me that they endure such conditions for months.

I had no desire to come to Vietnam, I did not particularly enjoy being here, now I am glad that my turn to leave has come. But it has proved to be a valuable experience—perhaps one I would not trade. I believe I am better for it. Assuredly, I will remember the 12 months I spent here for many years with a certain pride that others who have had successful tours here will also know.



A "Redcatcher" surveys the terrain ahead in a photo taken by Low south of Saigon.



Later in the year, Low caught this "Warrior" of the 4th Bn, 12th Inf performing a common tactical maneuver.

Tet: Many Holidays In One

By SP4 Frank Segreto

Most Americans in Vietnam associate "Tet" with fighting, destruction and death. To the Vietnamese, however, Tet is the biggest holiday of the year.

To them Tet is like Christmas, New Year and the Fourth of July all rolled into one. This year, Tet, beginning February 6 and ending February 9, marks the start of the lunar new year and spring.

Tet tradition for the Vietnamese dates back many centuries to the time of Chinese rule, although the present day ceremonies have changed a great deal. They show little resemblance to the ancient Chinese festival.

The first item on the holiday checklist is to get new clothing. Thrift is forgotten for the time.

On the afternoon before the beginning of Tet, a special ceremony takes place during which a sacrifice is offered to deceased relatives. They are invited to come back for a few days and share the festivities with the living members of the family.

At midnight, a ceremony called "Giao Thua" is held. A sacrifice is made on a candle-lit altar in the open air near the home for the spirits and ancestors. Following the sacrifice, the family breaks off a branch from an apricot tree and goes to the pagoda to burn incense and pray for prosperity during the new year. The apricot tree is used because it can scare off evil spirits. This custom is somewhat followed today but mostly by smaller hamlets.

Tradition also places importance on narcissus flowers. It is considered a good omen if they bloom on New Year's Day, so great care is given to their cultivation.

Firecrackers are also used, tradition being that they scare off the evil spirits.

On the last day of Tet, the Vietnamese believe their ancestors return to heaven. On this day people visit the grave to act as escorts for the departing souls. The shops reopen and life returns to normal.



Members of the 199th await the arrival of a medevac chopper. (Art work by PFC Mycol Winston)

'Flying Ambulance' On Call 24 Hours a Day

XUAN LOC—"We've extracted everything from splinter cases to the seriously wounded," explained Warrant Officer Two Bob Henley of Richland, Miss., an aircraft commander with the 45th Medical Co.

Henley's Medevac ship, under operational control of the 199th Brigade, is on call 24 hours a day.

"We have two crews working with the 199th; one works from Sunday to Wednesday and the other crew comes on from Wednesday to Sunday," said Henley.

"Normally it only takes one ship to handle the job, but if we can't handle it we call for assistance from Long Binh."

Henley's crew consist of a copilot, Warrant Officer One James W. Goodman of Tempe, Ariz.; a medic, Specialist Four Carl Riordan of Sacramento, Calif.;

and a crew chief, Specialist Five Bill Mostek of Bonners Ferry, Idaho.

Henley insists that the service of a Medevac ship is only as good as the people on the ground make it.

"If a given platoon calls in for a priority dustoff when it's only a routine and another platoon has a real priority," continued Henley, "this forces us to decide which one is picked up first and it just may be the wrong one."

The 199th's area of operation presents a few problems for the Medevacs, too. "Because the area is mostly double and triple canopy jungle, we are forced to utilize a jungle penetrator more than we would like to. Hovering above the troops is dangerous, but so far we've been pretty lucky, having no accidents," Henley explained.

On a recent mission 15 miles southeast of Xuan Loc, Henley's crew received a routine call from fire base "Maco." Ten minutes after the call was received two men were dusted off and were on their way to the 45th Dustoff Center in Long Binh.

Setting up the equipment was next on the agenda. "The most difficult time I had was explaining how the water is purified," said Mitts. "But by mid-week the men had 50 percent knowledge of the whole operation."

The operation roughly consists of setting up the generators for electricity and pumping, connecting of hoses, assembling the water tank, and mixing of chemicals.

"This machine can purify any kind of water except salt water," commented Mitts.

As the week progressed, the Vietnamese had little trouble in purifying. On the sixth day, the men set up at the 1st Bn, 43rd Regt dependent housing in Xuan Loc. Under the watchful eyes of Mitts, the men purified and distributed water to the dependents after correcting a minor generator problem.

"After instructions are completed, the men will teach other men of the 18th ARVN Div," says Mitts. "With more men and machines they could support the whole division just as the 87th is doing for the 199th."

Vietnamization encompasses training, pacification and upgrading. Of the three, train can be said to be the most important. Americans training Vietnamese provide for their own needs, in this case—a man's greatest need—water.

Engineer Teaches Purification

By SP4 Peter Nazarino

XUAN LOC—In Vietnam, the task of purifying water is a small but one of the more important jobs in any unit. Potable water is made available to "Redcatchers" through water purification teams of the 87th Eng Co.

Specialist Four Robert Mitts of Kansas City, a water supply specialist for the 87th Eng Co, recently spent seven days instructing Vietnamese soldiers of the 18th ARVN Div in the important job of purifying water.

The engineer section of the 18th ARVN Div had acquired a water purification machine but no one knew how to operate it. The 87th assigned Mitts the job of teaching and the 18th supplied the interpreter and the men to learn. The Vietnamese class consisted of two men from each company in the 1st Bn, 43rd Regt.

The machine used to purify the water processes 600 GPH (gal per hour) and is mounted on a deuce and a half trailer. The system consists mainly of generators, a regulator and hoses.

"My first step in instruction was teaching them the parts of the machine," explained Mitts. "At the same time we cleaned each part of the machine because it had been in storage so long."



PFC Ronald C. Vogel of the 5th Bn, 12th Inf gives oral polio vaccine to a little girl during a

RFs Receive OJT

By 1LT Louis Day

FSB TERESA—The essence of Vietnamization—whereby the Vietnamese are trained to assume an increasing combat role—is the student-teacher relationship known as "on the job training" or OJT. The success of this training can only be tested under battlefield conditions.

The barometers for success are as diverse as the training which the OJT provides. However, when the students begin to perform competently with the same degree of consistency as the teachers, there can be little doubt of the program's worth. The RF training provided by Bravo Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf is perhaps a microcosm of what Vietnamization was meant to be and what it can become.

Until recently the concept of combined operations was one in which "Redcatchers" and Regional Force units operated together—but side-by-side, each as an integral unit. Now, however, the "Cottonbalers" are conducting a different kind of combined operation. For every GI that goes out on an operation from fire support base "Teresa"—located five miles southeast of Xuan Loc—there is an RF soldier. He fights and maneuvers along side his American counterpart.

A platoon-sized operation normally consists of 15 to 20 "Redcatchers" with a matching force provided by the RFs.

"Our platoon leader is usually in command but he consults with the RF senior NCOs on any major decisions," explained First Lieutenant Robert J. Stickle, Bravo Co commander. "This is truly a combined operation. We even

alternate point men."

Tactical planning is coordinated with Captain Nguyen-Quoc-Ngu, the RF subgroup (roughly equivalent to a US battalion) commander. "Each morning we discuss and exchange ideas of what we want to do," stated 1LT Stickle. "He has his ideas and I have mine. We then wait on the intelligence reports to make a decision. We've never had any problem in reaching agreement."

The RFs receive training in the use of claymores and trip flares as a part of their OJT. However, this training has been mutually beneficial. Through association with their counterparts, the men of Bravo Co have become proficient in locating bunker complexes and caches.

The problem of communication during operations has been overcome by the use of broken English and Vietnamese between leaders and a series of hand and arm signals.

Both RFs and "Redcatchers" maintain separate radio communications with the company tactical operations center. Information is then exchanged between Stickle and Ngu.

Although Bravo Co has been conducting these "integrated" combined operations for only a short time, the results are obvious. "They learn by example," replied Stickle in response to a question concerning the reasons for the RF's success.

"When we blow a claymore, they blow one; when we assault, they assault. They are aggressive and have a willingness to learn."

And how does the students' record compare to that of the teachers? "They have killed as many as we have on these operations," admitted Stickle.

Brigade Supply: 199th Providers

CAMP FRENZELL JONES

The 199th's supply operations have two things in common with Sears Roebuck and Montgomery Ward—service and volume.

Figures for the year 1968-1969, released by the Brigade Supply Office of the 7th Spt Bn here, show "Redcatcher" units consumed 11,379 tons of food, shot 14,116 tons of ammo, and submitted 81,875 requisitions for end items and general supplies, which include everything from Sheridan Assault Vehicles to 3/8 inch sockets.

"Each man consumed approximately two tons of food during the year," said Major Dan Webb, Brigade supply officer. "With that tonnage, one could operate the chain of Howard Johnson restaurants along the Pennsylvania Turnpike for the same period."

Year-end figures also show "Redcatchers" ate off of nearly three million paper plates, used 4.3 million plastic spoons, wore 23,760 fatigue jackets, 38,862 trousers, and 17,406 socks, and emptied 83,616 cans of insecticide spray.

The Brigade Supply Office is equipping a van to visit fire support bases for the purpose of direct exchange for personal clothing and equipment.

"This innovation will be on a trial basis," Webb said, "in an effort to provide timely, efficient, and responsive supply support."

"We take pride in providing the best service support to the best combat outfit in Vietnam," he added, "and we only went through 8,437 aspirin tablets last year!"

recent Medcap at Gia Keim village, 8 miles northwest of Xuan Loc. (Photo by SP4 Peter Nagurny)

'Diamond Stars' Fall on 'Redcatchers'

By SP4 Todd Weber

FSB LIBBY—The "stars" fell on fire base "Libby" recently while excited "Warriors" of the 5th Bn, 12th Inf waited for a chance to meet people from the "world."

Dropping from the sky in light observation helicopters were major league baseball stars Tug McGraw, Ron Taylor, and Pete Ward, who were participating in a USO sponsored goodwill handshaking tour. Also accompanying the group was baseball's "Dean of Sportscasters", Bob Elson. Bob is the "Voice" of the Chicago White Sox.

The group also visited the forward CP at Xuan Loc and several other Brigade installations.

McGraw and Taylor, who played for the world champion New York Mets, began telling jokes and shaking hands with the captivated infantrymen at "Libby" as soon as they landed. The situation was soon reversed, however, as the ball players were offered an opportunity to try their hand at the

infantryman's trade. With suitable coaching from the enthusiastic "Warriors" on the sidelines, the men from the "Cinderella Team" fired the 90mm recoilless rifle, the M-60 machine gun and the M-16 rifle.

Pete Ward, who plays for the Chicago White Sox, and Elson promised a brighter future for the Sox while at the same time entertaining everyone with their inexhaustable supply of baseball anecdotes.

The group began its tour of Vietnam two weeks ago. Originally they were accompanied by ace Detroit pitcher, Denny McLain, but the 30 game winner was forced to cut short his visit and return home to deal with an unexpected emergency.

Elson conducted interviews with "Warriors" from the Chicago area for broadcast when he returns to the states, while the others talked with troops. Finally, the "stars" boarded their "loaches" and took off to visit other units in the Brigade.



"Get some for the old Gipper, guys!"

199th, 52nd Build Dispensary

XUAN LOC—Dependents of the 52nd Regiment of the 18th ARVN Division have improved medical benefits and a new dispensary thanks to the combined effort of the 199th and the soldiers of the Regiment.

The 52nd Regt has been without a complete dispensary for quite some time. They wanted to build one but lacked the material to start the job. The Brigade's S-5 became involved and solicited the help of the 87th Eng Co to help with the job.

Needed Material

One of the assistant S-5 officers, First Lieutenant Charles Jackson of Fort Meade, Fla., coordinated the project. "We had

the engineers lay the foundation and put up the frame and the roof with the agreement that the 52nd Regt would complete the dispensary. They needed some tools and the material, which we supplied, and they started to work," Jackson said.

The dispensary is located near the dependents' housing on the east side of the 18th ARVN Div's compound at Xuan Loc. Once the foundation, roof and frame were completed, the 52nd Regt did all the work.

The siding and walls of the dispensary had to be completed with wood from packing crates and other scrap wood found around Xuan Loc. Work went slowly at first because there were few tools. Many times the workers had to straighten out nails taken from the packing crates to continue the work.

Did Fine Job

"The workers had some pretty shoddy material, but they were willing to work. They have done a fine job on the dispensary," Jackson added.

Madame Tho, the wife of Brigadier General Tho, commanding general of the 18th ARVN Div, has helped in the project also. According to custom, Vietnamese women are not normally supposed to take part in men's occupations but Madame Tho has her own civic action program. She has hammered nails, helped with the sawing and held boards in place for nailing. She does as much as she can to help in the project.

The dispensary will be used as a clinic for the dependents of members of the Regt who are well enough to be out of the hospital but not completely recovered enough to go back to the field.

The dispensary will be run in conjunction with the dependents' school at the same location. Members of the Regt will staff both the school and the dispensary.

The 199th Brigade S-5 and the 52nd Regiment are pleased with the results of the combined project. They feel it was a solid step forward in the Dong Tien program for the Xuan Loc area.

"We are glad we were able to work with the 52nd in building their dispensary," Jackson remarked. "I think both the 52nd and the 199th come away from it with a better understanding of each other."

PACEX Inquiries Cause Delays

Already swamped with orders for merchandise in the PACEX mail order catalog, the Japan Regional Exchange now finds itself hampered by follow up letters from customers concerning the whereabouts of the goods they have ordered.

Expecting delivery within 30 days or sooner, disappointed customers only create a longer delay with their letters of inquiry, since orders are pulled from processing to answer correspondence. Customers should allow a minimum of 75 days for delivery of merchandise before writing the Exchange. According to PACEX officials, the main problem areas are tape recorders, figurines, decorative screens, jewelry boxes, dolls, tableware, flatware and china.

Delays often arise when customers fail to include a properly filled out customs declaration tag (POD Form 2966) with the purchase order. Failure to sign the purchase order attesting to a customer's status of entitlement will also create unnecessary delays. Customs declaration forms are available at PX customer service counters and at postal facilities.

A 22 per cent gain in GI Bill enrollments is expected this winter, Donald E. Johnson, Administrator of Veterans Affairs, reported recently.

'M' Co-

(Cont'd from Front Page)

made of vines which was about five feet long and four feet high, and fake Chicom grenades.

"Near this," Sims continued, "was an obstacle course similar to our 'run, dodge and jump'. It could very well have been a sapper school."

Bravo team discovered the other training school near a village and theorized it was used to brief and train Viet Cong.

Bandages Discovered

"We saw three structures," said Staff Sergeant Paul Baker, Bravo team leader, from Houston, Tex. "One was a sleeping quarters for cadre. Another was a briefing area. It even had what I'd call a picnic table in it. The other was built around a large fireplace to keep the flames from being seen."

The medical aid station also was located outside the main bunker complex. Foxtrot team found blood-soaked bandages about 24-hours old made of parachute silk scattered throughout the area.

Bunkers Connected

"Everywhere we went there were signs the enemy had been there about 24 hours earlier," Sims of Peru, Ind., said. "It was late in the day when we arrived in what we thought was just another bunker complex. Before we knew it, we were right in the middle of the base camp. It was too late to move out, so we spent the night there."

Sims said the main base camp bunkers were connected by a trench three feet wide and four feet deep. Latrines were found throughout the camp along with half-eaten ears of corn which Baker and Sims said came from the village.

Located by Stream

"The entire complex was laid out along both sides of a small stream," Sims said. "They lived at home down there. They didn't even camouflage their bunkers. They definitely must have felt that they owned the place."

Docs Teach Each Other

By SP4 John Smith

FBS MACE—"I've really learned a lot from Doctor Lam," commented Captain (Doctor) Richard A. Brand, commanding officer of the Medical Platoon, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf. "He's an intelligent man and a fine doctor."

First Lieutenant (Doctor) Lam Tuan-Kiet, the Regimental Doctor for the 52nd ARVN Regiment, is CPT Brand's counterpart—a trained physician (a graduate of the Saigon Medical School) who, like Brand, is dedicated to combating disease among his people.

The relationship between the Vietnamese doctor and the "Cottonbaler" physician has been mutually rewarding. "We learn from each other," said Brand recently. "I've learned quite a bit about diseases common to this part of the world."

Three days a week, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, the two doctors travel to Gia Ray. Medcaps are common in this small agrarian hamlet located 50 miles northeast of Saigon, and the results of four months of activity here are obvious.

At first the villagers came to the medics out of curiosity. As time has passed, however, the people who need attention are the ones who are sincere in seeking medical aid.

"The number of people who come in for treatment has decreased over a period of time," observed Brand. "The results of the medcap program are encouraging."

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



We thought our extra large edition of *Redcatcher!* deserved an extra large bonus, and here she is, Miss Carolyn DeVore. Rumor has it that Miss DeVore is the current Louisiana State Watermelon Queen, but we only report the facts.

New Commanders-

(Cont'd from Front Page)

Badge, Purple Heart, Combat Infantryman's Badge, Vietnamese Gallantry Cross with Silver Star, Vietnamese Gallantry Cross with Bronze Star, and Vietnamese Gallantry Cross with Palm.

During the ceremony at "Nancy," Black said, "It is with great honor that I take command of this battalion."

LTC Clark, now serving as Brigade XO, received his com-

mission as second lieutenant on June 6, 1954, through the ROTC program at North Georgia College. He has served a tour in Hawaii and also a previous tour in Vietnam with the Office of the Secretary of Defense Research and Development Field Unit in Saigon.

Before coming to the 199th last July, Clark served with the Office of Ceremonies and Special Events in Washington, D.C.

In a sweep of an area 15 miles northeast of Xuan Loc elements of the 4th Bn, 12th Inf engaged and killed an enemy soldier and uncovered a cache consisting of 550 pounds of rice, 600 pounds of corn, 50 pounds of beans, 20 hammock frames, medical supplies, assorted clothing and equipment, and a possible ammunition factory.



"Warriors" of the 4th Bn, 12th Inf added this expression of affection recently to the II Field

Force truck-mounted "Quad-fifty" that supports them their area of operation. (Photo by PFC David Hauser)

Brigade Summary

(Cont'd from Page 4)

arms and automatic weapons fire 9 miles north of Xuan Loc, resulting in an enemy killed, an enemy detained, and an AK-47 rifle, an SKS rifle, two backpacks, and 250 AK rounds captured.

Dec 13:

Delta Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf engaged an estimated enemy squad with small arms weapons fire, killing three enemy four, and capturing three AK-47 rifles.

Other elements of the 5th Bn, 12th Inf in a sweep 30 miles northeast of Xuan Loc discovered the bodies of four enemy. Dec 15:

In action today Bravo Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf located and destroyed 15 bunkers and 25 fighting positions 12 miles northeast of Xuan Loc.

Later in the day, Delta Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf discovered a cache consisting of 100 empty burlap bags, three 50 pound bags of rice, 10-20 pound boxes of rice, 20 large ponchos and an assortment of miscellaneous tools.

An element of the 5th Bn, 12th Inf, while operating in an area 10 miles north of Xuan Loc, found a cache which included approximately 200 D-cell batteries, a Chicom grenade, 25 pounds of rice and three pounds of salt.

Dec 17:

Bravo Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf engaged three to ten enemy approximately 10 miles east of Xuan Loc with a resulting two enemy killed.

Dec 18:

Charlie Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf engaged six enemy 5½ miles east of Xuan Loc, with a resulting two enemy killed and two AK-47 rifles captured.

Dec 19:

Three enemy soldiers were killed by Bravo Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf as a result of a contact made 8 miles southeast of Xuan Loc. Two SMGs were captured.

Dec 20:

In a sweep of an area 15 miles northeast of Xuan Loc elements of the 4th Bn, 12th Inf engaged and killed an enemy soldier and uncovered a cache consisting of 550 pounds of rice, 600 pounds of corn, 50 pounds of beans, 20 hammock frames, medical supplies, assorted clothing and equipment, and a possible ammunition factory.

Dec 22:

A recon element of the 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf, operating in an area 8½ miles southeast of Xuan Loc, engaged two enemy, killing one and capturing an AK-47 rifle. The action took place 11 miles north of Xuan Loc.

Dec 24:

An element of Delta Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf engaged three enemy, killing one and capturing an AK-47 rifle. The action took place 11 miles north of Xuan Loc.

Dec 26:

Bravo Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf engaged an estimated 15 enemy with small arms and automatic weapons and claymores, killing three enemy and capturing an AK-47 rifle. The action took place approximately 11½ miles north of Xuan Loc. Dec 30:

The recon element of the 3rd Bn, 7th Inf engaged and killed one enemy approximately 11 miles east of Xuan Loc.

Dec 31:

Bravo Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf located and destroyed three graves containing five bodies approximately 13 miles northeast of Xuan Loc. The five enemy KIA were credited to the 4th Bn, 12th Inf.

Alpha Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf located one dead enemy and 30 bunkers, six B-40 rounds, a Chicom grenade, an RPG round and miscellaneous clothing.

Jan 2:

Co M (Ranger), 75th Inf located three bunkers, one hooch with a fireplace, and one picnic table. Also in the area were two training areas with models of concertina barricades. All were destroyed in this action which took place 20 miles southeast of Xuan Loc.

A recon element of the 4th Bn, 12th Inf engaged and killed two enemy soldiers 8½ miles northeast of Xuan Loc. Two AK-47 rifles were captured.

Jan 3:

Co M, 75th Rangers found 12 bunkers, five tables, three ovens and wooden models of a Chicom grenade approximately 20 miles southeast of Xuan Loc. All were destroyed.

Alpha Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf located 250-300 pounds of peanuts and 400-500 pounds of beans 12½ miles northeast of Xuan Loc.

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