

"Cottonbalers" Discover Cache



SP5 Randy Bueche of Rocky River, Ohio, an RTO for the "Cottonbaler" TOC, checks weapons recently found in cache discovery near fire base Melinda. (Photo by SP4 Pete Nazarino)

BOSS GETS A 'DEAR JOHN'

EDITOR'S NOTE -- Reproduced below is a translated letter captured from a North Vietnamese Officer within our area of operation during the latter part of last December. For the most part, the letter is completely intact. Locations, names and unit designations have been deleted and replaced with general terms.

Dear Commander,; We will be unable to carry out our combat mission during Jan 70 because there is no ammunition. The transportation of ammunition across the river is postponed because there are no boats. Also, the corridor is blocked due to the deployment of the enemy (US) troops along the river.

The personnel in this region have refused to transport across the river if they are not paid rice, tea, or cigarettes. My comrades report that they are to pay the personnel in the region 3,000P for each transportation trip across the river.

There is no rice or beans in the area and my men have to eat unripe bananas. Our rear service agencies can do nothing to relieve the famine of the friendly (VC) troops. I have to borrow money to purchase food for my men.

We cannot get the bananas which grow wild in the local village because the inhabitants demand to be paid for their bananas.

The wooded areas in the vicinity of the base camp of the communication and liaison elements and our base camp has been destroyed by the enemy (US). If we are attacked, we will move. The concentration of my battalion in this area will be impossible.

Except for the two attacks by fire conducted on the Long Binh area in November 69, no other attacks were carried out by my unit because we were out of ammunition.

Various cadre and combatants have been demoralized due to the difficulties encountered in

food supply. The combat spirit of certain individuals is poor because they have little to eat. My assistant political officer will be subject to disciplinary action for failure to accomplish his missions.

(Cont'd on Page 8)

by SP4 Pete Nazarino

FSB MELINDA -- Members of Alpha Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf, located a large enemy weapons and ammunition cache near here Feb 19.

At the time of the discovery, the "Cottonbalers" were on a reconnaissance mission 7 miles south of the area in which the 3rd Mobile Strike Forces recently uncovered one of the largest caches of the Vietnam conflict.

US Weapons

Many of the captured weapons, found 30 miles northeast of Xuan Loc in War Zone "D", were World War I and II vintage US-made rifles and sub-machine guns.

Included in the cache were: 15 SKS rifles, 5 US Browning Automatic Rifles, 8 Thompson sub-machine guns, 7 US M-3 grease guns, 11 Springfield rifles with 14 barrels, a US carbine complete with four additional barrels, 9 unknown-type single shot rifles, 17 unknown-type

barrels, 3 Czech machine guns, and 5 M-29, 1924 model French machine guns.

forward observer in a recent interview.

No Bunkers

Some of the "Cottonbalers" secured the cache area while others continued to search for the base camp.

When no bunkers or other evidence of a camp were found, the cache was extracted and the weapons handed over to the Brigade's 179th Military Intelligence Det. The ammunition was destroyed at the site of the discovery.

Ammunition

A majority of the US weapons similar to those found by the "Cottonbalers" and now used by Viet Cong and NVA soldiers fell into Communist hands in the Pacific region following World War II.

The ammunition included in the cache consisted of 38-81mm mortar rounds, 45-47mm recoilless rifle rounds, and over 10,000 small arms rounds.

Weapons Exposed

Members of the 2nd platoon of Alpha Co and the company command group were in search of a suspected bunker complex when the cache was discovered. The weapons were laying exposed in a deep hole near clearing in the jungle.

"It was an unexpected place to find a cache," said Second Lieutenant Gary Masuda of Honolulu, Hawaii, Alpha Co's

Men Receive Rifles

The SKS rifles will eventually be returned to members of the 2nd platoon while the rest of the weapons will be turned over to the 199th Brigade Museum at Camp Frenzell-Jones.

"The weapons will be put on display and Alpha Co will be given credit for their capture," said the museum's supervisor, Sergeant Ken W. Weitzel of Orlando, Fla.



REDCATCHER!

199th Light Infantry Brigade

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ARVNs Battle 'Charlie' - Kill 57

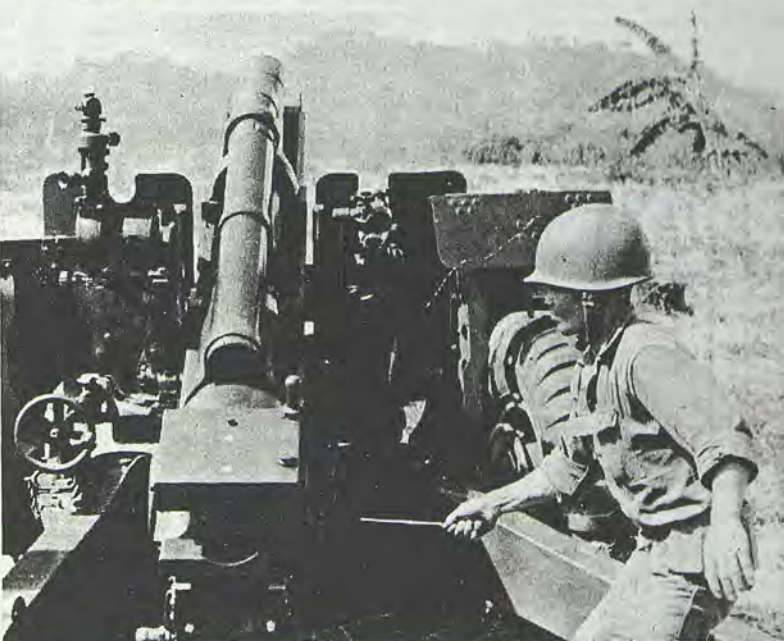
XUAN LOC -- During a recent two week period, beginning Feb 9 to Feb 23, elements of the 18th ARVN Division battled large enemy forces in War Zone "D" killing 57 and capturing over 150 enemy weapons.

The engagements began when the 2nd Bn, 43rd Reg, 18th ARVN Div was airmobiled into War Zone "D". Their mission was to uncover arms and ammunition the enemy might have brought south from a huge cache discovered by the 3rd Mobile Strike Force near Rang Rang earlier this month. The 2nd of the 43rd's area of operations was approximately 16 miles directly south of that cache, astride an enemy supply route along the Rang Road.

Brigadier General Lam Quang Tho, commanding general, 18th ARVN Division, the man who planned the operation, was not surprised when the 2nd of the 43rd overran a bunker complex on Feb 18 capturing 53 new CKC rifles, with no casualties suffered.

Continuing to sweep the area the next day, the ARVN's came under fire of an estimated VC Company. A light fire team was summoned for air support and received intense anti-aircraft fire from 30 caliber and 51 caliber machine guns. The infantry in the meantime fought their way into the base camp, sighted the guns and drove off their operators. Three 51 caliber and three 30 caliber machine guns were captured and three VC were killed. A cache containing 17 Czechoslovakian rifles, 30 M-1 carbines and 30 CKC rifles were also uncovered.

Simultaneously another company of the 2nd of the 43rd encountered the enemy one mile



ARVN artillery fires in support of recent contact in War Zone "D." (Photo by SP4 Pete Nazarino)

to the west, with no results. However, to the south of that contact another element of the regiment ran into more enemy positions. This time a light fire team was called and 11 enemy were reported killed. Sweeps of the contact area near dusk uncovered three more bodies to bring the total to 14. As in the earlier battle, the ARVN unit suffered no casualties.

Fighting resumed on the 20th as the 3rd company, 2nd of the 43rd encountered the enemy in the same area. The VC fired D-40's and withdrew after half an hour with the ARVN pursuing. After searching the area nine VC were found dead.

Later that morning on the 20th, the 1st company, 2nd of the 43rd ran into the enemy who were "dug in" within a

bunker complex. A light fire team, a hunter killer team and tactical air support found 11 VC killed. Further searches the next day found 20 more enemy killed by the air strikes.

After seven contacts 57 enemy were killed and 150 enemy weapons were captured. The ARVN unit suffered no casualties when the operation was completed on Feb 23.

Your Legal Officer



Domicile: A Legal Home

by CPT John A. Fox, Legal Assistance Officer

Numerous individuals seek advice of how they can change their domicile; many are faced with the problem of identifying their legal domicile. Servicemen who have been in the Army for many years claim that they have no legal home. Every serviceman who is a citizen of the United States and if he has not acquired a domicile in a foreign country has a legal home in one of the states, District of Columbia or possession or territory of the United States.

The word "domicile" is derived from the latin "domus" meaning home or dwelling house and domicile is the legal conception of "home." Domicile is that place where a man has his true, fixed and permanent home and principal establishment and to which whenever he is absent he has the intention of returning.

From birth to maturity, a person is domiciled normally where his father or guardian has his domicile. Upon reaching maturity and leaving home a person may acquire a domicile of his own. The domicile of a married woman is the same as her husband's domicile. It is possible that a married woman living apart from her husband may acquire a domicile of her own.

Persons in the military retain the domicile that they had upon entering active duty and do not change it by their dislocation from one duty station to another. The military refers to this as the individual's "home of record."

A person may establish a new domicile. The serviceman should be physically present in the new state with the intent to abandon the former domicile and to make the new location his permanent

home. Sending the family to a new state while on a short tour is not sufficient unless there is an intent to permanently make that location a legal domicile.

Although the act of establishing a new domicile appears quite simple, it is difficult to prove the required intent to the satisfaction of interested government officials. Actual residence in the state, the purchase of a home or a lease of an apartment, payment of local taxes, registration to vote and registration of motor vehicles as well as the sale of the dwelling place in the former domicile area are primary factors which would convince a legal authority that an individual has changed his domicile.

Domicile is important since the courts of the domiciled state have jurisdiction relating to divorce, child custody, income and property taxes, disposition of personal property and the probate of wills. Domicile also affects welfare benefits, college tuition and the right to vote in the state.

It is quite important that an individual identify his domicile. Many states require that an individual domiciled there pay a state income tax. The changing of states to avoid payment of state taxes is not sufficient to change one's domicile. But the purchase of a retirement home with the intent to make that dwelling place a permanent home together with other considerations may change an individual's domicile.

Domicile is an important factor in the conduct of the individual's personal affairs. All "Redcatchers" with questions concerning domicile are encouraged to contact the Staff Judge Advocate's Office for advice and assistance.

A Polaroid Friendship

by SP/5 James Sheehy

GIA RAY -- An innovation to a recent Brigade Foodcap, has the people of this village thinking "Cheese."

The program, which involves the use of a Polaroid camera, is apparently a quick ten seconds to friendship. Initiated by the S-5 office, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf, it involves taking pictures of families and various individuals of the village and presenting them with a picture of themselves on the spot.

"It's an extremely effective addition to our current schedule," commented Captain John Green of Wooster, Mass., S-5 for the "Cottonbaler" battalion. "It impresses the people and gives them something lasting to remember us by," he continued.

A large turnout of people testified to the success of the new program. Entire families turned out to have their pictures taken, and upon receiving their copy immediately began circulating around among their friends proudly displaying this most recent acquisition.

The only problem that confronted the Foodcap team occurred when several people couldn't wait for their pictures to be coated. The snapshots were carefully retrieved, coated and returned to their owners.

"This is one of the best idea's that has come along," stated CPT Green. "We plan to use the Polaroid on an even greater scale in the future. It just may well become our biggest seller among these people."

As a veteran of the Vietnam conflict with two years service who did not complete high school before entering the service, you can finish high school at the government's expense. Check into the Veterans Administration benefits available to you. (ANF)

The Chaplain Speaks



Come To Your Senses

by Chaplain (Maj) David W. Williams

"If only I were ten years younger and knew what I know now!" That is hindsight. Animals don't have it, man does.

"Why didn't someone tell me this stuff could blow my mind?" That is regret. Animals may have it, man definitely does. It is also the wish for foresight. Animals don't have it, few men do.

"If I come out of this in one piece, I'll never . . . again!" That is hindsight, which has the chance of becoming foresight if the man making the statement really wants to change, and takes steps to change. A year in Vietnam gives us the unusual opportunity to see ourselves clearly for the first time in our lives. Removed by time and distance from our routine life "in the world" we see ways of living we would change if given the chance. At least that is our good intention. Those of us who have taken for granted the love of our wives, the presence of our children, the sacrifices of parents, and the freedom of our country find that a tour away from these things brings us to our senses. We begin to see how precious these really are to us. The wise man is the man of 20 or 30, 40 or 50, who having seen himself as he really is, decides to become the man he can and ought to be.

Following Zaccheus' meeting with Jesus he is reported to have written a letter to his friend Malluch:

"He didn't yell or preach at me Malluch, or call me sinner. But Malluch, his eyes as he looked at me! I saw two pictures in those eyes. Oh, if I could forget the first picture!

I saw myself as I really was; I saw that I was a thief, a cheat, a betrayer of my people; I saw that all my fine clothes, all my gold, my home were not really mine. I saw how great a sinner I really was.

How could this good man come home with me, even though I had fine food and a fine house? But there he was. He was in my home looking at me with a love that I had seen only a few days before in the eyes of Mary and Bartemaus. Then I saw another

Zaccheus in his eyes—the Zaccheus that I ought to be; the Zaccheus that I could be. My name really means "holy." This picture I saw in his eyes made me stand up, made me do the strangest act of my life.

I told Jesus, "half of my goods I give to the poor; and to those I have cheated I give four-fold." Then I heard the happiest words of my life. Jesus said, "This is salvation come to this house."

No, Malluch, I am not crazy. I have come to my senses.

A year away from home gives each of us "the breathing space" in which to see each of our lives clearer; gives each of us the opportunity to turn ourselves around from unappreciation to grateful husbands and sons; gives each man the chance to come to his senses and see his need for God's love in his own life.

Carrying a New Testament in a pocket won't make a Christian out of a man anymore than entering a garage turns him into an automobile. God's Word when read and practiced in speech and deed brings men to their senses. God helping us, we can turn ourselves around now while we have the opportunity of a lifetime.

C-Ration Connoisseur

by SP/4 David Hauser

FSB NANCY -- A "Warrior" from "Comanche" Co has come up with a C-ration recipe to improve the ham and chopped eggs that most GIs usually don't eat.

"First, you mix the ham and eggs real well," suggested Private First Class Thomas Owens of

Dayton, Ohio. "Next, melt a can of hickory smoked cheddar cheese and stir it in with the ham and eggs. It makes a great ham and cheese omelet," he said.

And for a light breakfast with a lot of energy, Owens suggests, heat up a can of peanut butter until it softens and spread it on a cracker.

NEWFER by Mycol



Boy! I THOUGHT A SAPPER
COLLECTED RUBBER FROM TREES



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: SGT Robert C. Stanard; PFC Steven J. Snow; 1LT David W. Carr; SGT John D. Oxner; SP4 Albion J. Wyce Jr.; SP4 Joseph C. Johnson; PFC Donald M. Black; 3rd Bn, 7th Inf: SP4 James H. Snow; PFC Jerry Tolson; 1LT Ronald J. Beemiller; PFC John W. Pringle; CPT Patrick A. Schmader. 4th Bn, 12th Inf: PFC Jimmie C. Harkins; SGT David Kuenzler III; SP4 Micheau; PFC Levi Jones; SP4 Austin M. Leap; PFC Edward A. Hoff. 5th Bn, 12th Inf: CPT Peter T. Kozak. Co M (ranger), 75th Inf: 1LT Deems C. Watkins.

Army Commendation Medal (Valorous)

2nd Bn, 3rd Inf: PFC James F. Garrett; 2nd LT Ernest D. Minichello; SP4 Harold V. Campbell; SP4 Samuel G. Hill; 3rd Bn, 7th Inf: PFC Kenneth D. Novak; PFC George E. Blackmon Jr.; 4th Bn, 12th Inf: SP4 Austin M. Leap; SGT Millard M. Williams; SP4 Jan Scruggs; SP4 Edward E. Lohr; 2nd Bn, 40th Arty: PFC Louie C. Meadows; SGT Michael E. Hall; SGT Ronald G. Clawson; PFC Ronnie A. Reinbold; CPO David Burgess; Co M (Ranger), 75th Inf: SGT Michael L. Sims.

Air Medal (Valorous)

4th Bn, 12th Inf: MSGT George W. Andreas. HHC: SP5 Eddie D. Lowe.

Operation "Enchilada"

by SP/4 Dave Schaffer

FSB Mace -- On February 20 and 21 the 52nd Regiment, 18th ARVN Division, and the "Cottonbalers," 3rd Bn, 7th Inf, distributed food to the montagnards of Gia Ray Village as part of a joint program, now named "Operation Enchilada."

"The 52nd Regiment's Civil Affairs Office suggested a program for food distribution to benefit the montagnards of Gia Ray Village," said Captain John Green of the "Cottonbaler" S-5 shop, from Worcester, Massachusetts. "We were fortunate enough to be able to contribute to this program by obtaining various foodstuffs through the brigade S-5."

Among other goods gained from brigade S-5, 1,520 cans of enchiladas and 200lbs of potatoes were used in "Operation Enchilada."

Some 219 montagnard families (approximately 1,250 persons) moved to Gia Ray two months ago seeking the village's safety from the VC. Most of them work in the woodcutting industry in the area.

Because the montagnards have long been physically isolated from the mainstream of Vietnamese life, and thus have very different customs and history, most of the people have had little sense of identification with South Vietnam and are not easily assimilated within the community.

"Operation Enchilada" came about in part to help bring the montagnards into the village and to include them in the development of the community.

"Operation Enchilada" got under way as representatives of the local government and the 52nd Regiment's S-5, the montagnard hamlet chief, and a "Cottonbaler" S-5 team visited the montagnards in Gia Ray.

Food was distributed to the heads of each family by the hamlet chief, but the kids weren't left out. As their parents met with the hamlet chief, other members of the program passed

out candy to delighted hands.

Also along were two photographers equipped with Polaroid cameras. Amid the clamor they wandered about snapping pictures of families--mothers proudly holding their children, fathers happily grouping his family. Ten seconds later the photos were presented to eager faces which seemed to say, "Hey, look, that's me, and there's my son!" "We really had a good time," said Green. "All of us think 'Operation Enchilada' was a worthwhile program."

All Redcatcher Association members who are DEROSing are reminded to fill out a postal locator form. Cards are available at the Association office or from your mail clerk. All cards are to be forwarded to the Redcatcher Association in care of the Information Office.



On a recent fire mission at fire support base Crystal two crewmen of Alpha Btry, 2nd Bn, 40th Arty, bring "smoke" on "Charlie."



SP/4 Miracle

March SOM Is A 'Miracle'

CAMP FRENZELL-JONES -- Specialist Four Jeff Miracle, 21, of Middlesboro, Kent., has been chosen Soldier of the Month for March.

As Soldier of the Month, Miracle receives a \$25 savings bond, a tailored suit and a three day R&R to Vung Tau. He will also serve as the general's enlisted aid for the month.

Miracle's past eight months with the brigade have been with Headquarters Service Battery, 2nd Bn, 40th Arty.

A former student at Eastern Kentucky University, Miracle worked as an artillery surveyor.

When asked about his future Miracle said, "I plan to return to school when my time is up in the army and shop around to find out what I want to do."

1st Div Invades 199th

CAMP FRENZELL-JONES -- The first contingent of troops from the 1st Infantry Division began arriving in the 199th on Feb. 21, according to the Brigade's Personnel Management Section.

The "Redcatcher" Brigade's quota for new arrivals in the first increment was expected to be 133 enlisted men and 11 officers. Approximately 100 of the EM's carry an 11B MOS.

The last time that the 199th experienced a large-scale influx of personnel from another major unit was during the redeployment of the 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Div in November when 154 enlisted men were transferred from the 82nd to the 199th.

In the Field

Brigade Summary

Feb 8

D Trp, 17th Cav, while conducting operations 10 miles north of Xuan Loc found and destroyed one command detonated mine consisting of two RPG rounds and 3-5 pounds of explosives. The mine was found wrapped in an NVA poncho, located in the center of a road.

"Apache" Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf, during a sweep of an area 13 miles north of Xuan Loc located and destroyed four bunkers with overhead cover and several bunkers under construction.

Feb 9

Elements of Bravo Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf, sweeping an area 7 miles east of Xuan Loc found one grave containing the body of an enemy soldier killed by small arms fire. Bravo Co was credited with the kill.

"Apache" Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf, continuing its operations 13 miles north of Xuan Loc destroyed an additional 13 bunkers with overhead cover.

"Charlie" Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf, engaged three enemy soldiers on a trail 14 miles northwest of Xuan Loc. Small arms and automatic weapons fire was exchanged, with one enemy soldier (female) killed. A K-54 pistol was captured along with two bags of documents.



Bravo Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf, while conducting a bomb damage assessment mission 18 miles north of Xuan Loc, discovered 12 bunkers that were destroyed, and captured a small amount of documents.

"Dakota" Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf, during operations 21 miles northeast of Xuan Loc, located and destroyed 25 pounds of rice.

Feb 10

Delta Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf was engaged by an estimated five enemy soldiers 13 miles east of Xuan Loc. Small arms and automatic weapons fire was exchanged and the enemy withdrew. A sweep by Delta Co following the contact uncovered one enemy killed in the contact and 13 bunkers which were destroyed by the "Old Guard."

Elements of Bravo Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf, found a cache 21 miles northeast of Xuan Loc consisting of a Chicom claymore mine, three SKS rifles, two cans

of assorted ammunition, a rifle bolt, 500 sheets of blank paper and seven pounds of an unknown explosive.

"Charlie" Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf, engaged four enemy with small arms and automatic weapons fire killing two, and capturing two AK47's, two packs and a small amount of documents. The action took place 8 miles southeast of Xuan Loc.

Feb 11

"Charlie Horse," 3rd Sqd, 17th Air Cav, engaged three enemy carrying packs and AK47s. One enemy was killed in this action which occurred 13 miles northeast of Xuan Loc.

Elements of Bravo Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf located and destroyed three bunkers and three hootches. The "Cottonbalers" also discovered one enemy body killed by small arms fire. The discovery was made 20 miles northeast of Xuan Loc.

Alpha Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf engaged two enemy soldiers 8 miles southeast of Xuan Loc, with automatic weapons and claymores, killing both.

Feb 12

"Cottonbalers" from Alpha Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf, engaged an unknown size enemy force 23 miles northeast of Xuan Loc. Small arms and automatic weapons fire was exchanged, and a resulting sweep located the bodies of eight enemy soldiers killed in this action. In addition, five more enemy bodies from an earlier contact were also found in graves to bring the days total to 13.

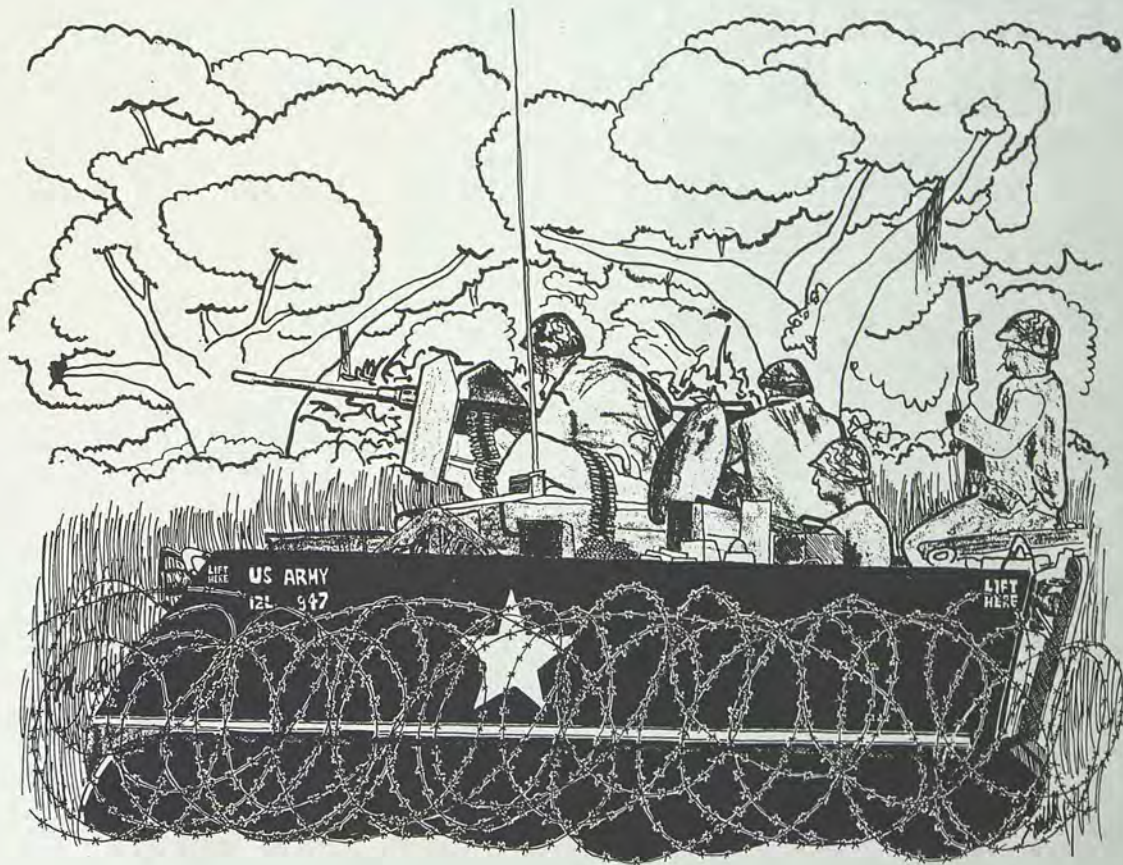
In action 18 miles north of Xuan Loc, a "Warrior" Patrol from 5th Bn, 12th Inf, sighted two enemy soldiers carrying packs. The unit adjusted artillery fire on the two who immediately dropped their packs and fled. The "Warriors" recovered five packs and a miscellaneous amount of foodstuffs.

(Cont'd on Page 8)



REDCATC





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Combat Art:



ARVN'S TRAIN AT BLACKHORSE



An ARVN trainee, in his last week of AIT, goes through ambush training (Photo by ILT Louis Day)

by ILT Louis Day

FSB BLACKHORSE -- This is where Vietnamization begins in Long Khanh Province. The 18th ARVN Division Training Center, located on the rolling plains of Blackhorse eight miles south of Xuan Loc in proximity to the 43rd ARVN Regiment Headquarters and Headquarters of 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf is representative of the vast Vietnamization effort throughout Vietnam.

The center was first established in May 1966 at Nui Thi Mountain, west of Xuan Loc. Since that time it has conducted training at Gia Ray and Nui Duc. It moved to its present location in October of

last year.

The ARVN soldier that emerges from the training center is the product of an intensive 10 week program - five weeks of basic training, four weeks of AIT, and one week of psychological training and outprocessing.

"Basic is almost identical to that provided back in the States," says Major Kenneth C. Lewis, a member of ARVN Advisory Team 87.

"Organization, military courtesy, confidence course, physical training, tactics, weapons, infiltration, escape and evasion - these are all part of the basic course."

AIT seeks to gain proficiency in the vital areas of weapons and tactics introduced in basic. Course on revolutionary development, airmobile operations, and squad in the attack are also a part of the four week "cram" course.

The final week of the 10 week training is devoted to outprocessing - shots and issuing equipment. Some orientation into the methods and areas of operation of the 18th Division is also provided.

The schedule calls for a six-day week. Training begins at 5:30 in the morning with physical training and usually concludes 12 hours later, except when 'night problems are conducted.

New classes begin every 7-10 days. With a training capacity of 10 companies of 200 each, the center graduated 7,000 soldiers in 1969. In November alone 2,200 were trained - a significant number in-as-much as this was the first month in which all trainees were volunteers.

The program is under the supervision of Vietnamese cadre who have gained experience in the field and are highly qualified. "The instructors spend six weeks in Saigon at NCO School before coming here," states Sergeant William Millen, NCO advisor and one of three NCO's TDY from the 199th. "Their training is similar to NCO School in the States except that they spend much more time on weapons."

The proximity of the ARVN Center to enemy elements tends to introduce a sense of urgency into the training program. The potential for some unscheduled OJT is more than a remote possibility. "The recruits actually maintain security of the training center," states MAJ Lewis. "They man the bunkers and put out ambushes."

Perhaps it is a tribute to the Vietnamization program that training is conducted at Blackhorse, not only because of, but also in spite of the constant enemy threat.



Two trainees familiarize themselves with their new weapon on the firing range. (Photo by ILT Louis Day)



Trainees doubletime to firing range. (Photo by ILT Louis Day)

Village Doctor — "The Curer of Pain"

FSB BLACKHORSE -- The little thatch - and - wattle hut was dank and musty, and rain dripped through the roof in a half-dozen places. A single oil lamp in the corner was small help against the gloom of the overcast day.

The only furniture -- a rickety wooden table -- was heaped with medical supplies; boxes and bottles and rolls of bandages and syringes. Beside the table worked a stocky, crew-cut medic in drab jungle fatigues. The graying, 30-year-old doctor appeared impervious to the inelegant facilities; he performed as efficiently as he had done in the Detroit Psychiatry Institute only a few months ago.

He was Major Jesus Plaza, battalion surgeon for the 2nd

Bn, 3rd Inf. -- "the Curer of Pain."

No medical team had visited the little hamlet of Bao Hoa for some time, and the line of patients was long, the ailments many. The major pressed his stethoscope to the lean, sunken chest of a wizened village elder, and instructed him to breathe deeply. He couldn't.

"This man has advanced tuberculosis," Plaza spoke over his shoulder to an aide. "Arrange transportation for him to the Xuan Loc hospital." The aide jotted something on a form, and left with the old man.

A girl, apparently in her early teens, was next in line. She cradled a baby, wrapped in a yellow towel, in her arms. She spoke to the ARVN interpreter in rapid Vietnamese. "The baby won't eat," she explained. "And she cries all the time."

The major examined the child. "Tell her the baby has internal parasites," he said. "Pair-of-sites?" asked the

interpreter.

The major smiled. "Just tell her the baby has worms!" He produced a tiny white box. "Make certain she understands the dosage."

The line dragged on. There were skin infections, ear problems, and goiter.

An ARVN soldier limped up. He'd been wounded in the leg, and the muscle was partially paralyzed. He'd visited a Medcap before.

"Tell him there's nothing more that we can do," the major instructed his interpreter. "Exercise will help; massage the muscles, use them."

An old lady came through. Her face was wrinkled and leathery, reflecting long year of arduous toil; both physical and mental. Gray wisps of hair sprayed from the edges of a soiled scarf, knotted Apache-like around her head.

Two pieces of greasy tape were stuck on her forehead because, as everyone knows, it

drives away a headache. The remedy had failed on a toothache, however, so she'd come to the Medcap and dared trust the "Bac-Si" -- the medic -- with his needles and foul-smelling drugs, and complicated instruments.

She trembled as the major gently tilted her chin back and flashed a light in her mouth. He shook his head slowly. Then, to the aide, "This lady has no teeth -- they've decayed down to the roots!" He looked again. "She'll have to be taken to a dentist," he said finally. "It's going to require a lot of work, with the correct tools, to do anything about this."

The aide began filling out an admittance slip. "I can't imagine the pain from something like that..." the major mumbled to no one in particular.

Gradually, throughout the afternoon, the line crawled to an end. It was near sundown by the time the last patient had been

treated. The equipment was stowed in the ambulance, and the drive back to the battalion headquarters at "Blackhorse" began.

The men in the jeep were tired, but alert. Twice the vehicle had been ambushed while returning too late over the deserted road, and once, a mine was discovered -- barely in time.

Tomorrow, or perhaps the day after, another Medcap, in another hamlet will be performed. And another long line of injured and sick will form, and their complaints heard and tended. And then another wild race against darkness, back to the base camp. But the major says he doesn't mind; he enjoys his work.

You can't keep a good Dau Doc down.

BOWMAN BUDDIES STICK TOGETHER

by SP/4 Peter Nagurny

FSB LIBBY -- "We've known each other for about 15 years, back home we only live a block away from each other," said Specialist Four Steve Beylund, of Bowman, N.D. Beylund and Specialist Four Sherill Martin, also of Bowman, N.D., have spent their entire Army careers together and presently serve in Dakota Company, 5th Bn, 12th Inf.

Both "Warriors" entered the Army on Jan 15, 1969 after they and three other buddies volunteered for the draft. "Of the five of us who volunteered, four lucked out and got Nam, Steve and I are the only two still together," said Martin. Their original draft numbers are almost as near as they can get, Martin's is 55932819 and Beylund's is 55932831. Their physicals were taken at the same time and both reported on the same bus to Fort Lewis Combat Training Center, Washington.

"Sherill and I both dated the same girls when we were home, once he even took out the girl I was going steady with, it still makes me mad to think about it," recalled Beylund. "We can't wait to get home so we can start all over again with two different girls," added Martin.

"We were bunk mates in both Basic and AIT. Sherill did real good in his combat proficiency testing and I did good on the PT tests, that's been the only big difference in our scores since we came in the Army," said Beylund. Both soldiers have taken their leaves together, and they traveled together to Taipei for their R&R. "We came over on the same plane sitting next to each other, and with luck we'll go home the same way," continued Beylund.

"At the present time I am the head RTO for the platoon and Steve is the M-60 machine gunner. We carry fire power plus, he hits them with the small arms fire and I call in the Arty," Martin said.

Everything seemed to come in two's where the "Warriors" were concerned. Both men got promoted about the same time. They each hold a C.I.B., Purple Heart, Bronze Star Medal with V Device, Air Medal, and Army Commendation Medal. The Bronze Star Medal was won by both as a result of the same combat action.

"We both plan to stay together if we can, but if one of us can get out of the field it's all right with the other. We would

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BRIGADE DOC LEARNS FROM VIETS

by SP/5 James Sheehy

XUAN LOC -- "Everytime I see these people I ask myself, have I done everything I can, have I forgotten anyone?" These are the words of Captain John "Doc" Howell of Tallahassee, Fla., forward headquarters brigade surgeon. He has pledged his life to ease pain and suffering wherever he finds it, and in Vietnam his job seems endless.

"They teach you a lot in medical school, try to prepare you for what lies ahead, but somehow it just doesn't seem complete, especially when you see the conditions in which these people live," Howell commented.

He was conducting an Integrated Civic Action Program at the hamlet of Ap Bao Chanh, a small farming community located 5 1/2 miles southeast of Xuan Loc.

"I feel sorry for the children, some of them have incurable skin or internal diseases. I do what I can for them and they smile up at me and I think to myself what will tomorrow bring?"

Tomorrow for "Doc" means another ICAP in another village, but for the moment the people of Ap Bao Chanh are his primary concern. They line up and patiently wait for his attention. On this day some 85 villagers have assembled, one woman having traveled three miles from her home to bring her small child for treatment.

"To me this is the most important facet of the Vietnam conflict, insuring that these people receive the proper medical treatment. Before the war some of them never saw a doctor; now we try to have a medical team visit the village at least once a week.

I think this is what will ultimately win this war -- the fact that a people of a far away country care enough to try to help them; I think they will remember that for a long time to come."

The people do remember, some of those who have been treated in the past are still around smiling and patting "Doc" on the back while uttering things like "Number One, Number One."

"Friendship can be bought, or so a lot of people say, but these people are sincere in their friendship and are not afraid to let anyone know it," commented "Doc" Howell.

As to the future of this (Cont'd on Page 8)



"Are you sure this is a family movie, Mr. Markowsky?"



"Warriors" of the 5th Bn, 12th Inf, go through simulated ambush drills. (Photo by SP4 Peter Nagurny)

"Warriors" Take Refresher Training

FSB LIBBY - "We're in contact-unknown size enemy force firing from bunkers--location.....", is heard blasting on the radio. Within seconds of reporting the contact, the unit using small arms and automatic weapons fire, began to gain fire superiority over the hostile position. Exploding mortar rounds quickly established a blocking fire around the enemy location eliminating possible routes of withdrawal.

In most cases this transmission and sequence of events would alert every soldier to the dangers ahead, but for the "Warriors" of the 5th Bn, 12th Inf, it is just another phase in their refresher training program being conducted at fire base "Libby."

"The refresher training program consists of six instruction periods dealing with small unit tactics, and to date, the squad reaction course has had outstanding results," explained First Lieutenant William Smith, battalion training officer.

The squad reaction course consists of a 1500 meter live fire range simulating tactical situations. Soldiers face everything from enemy bunker complexes to snipers in trees.

"The squad training is designed to develop small unit skill and proficiency and instill

an aggressive combat spirit among squad members," said Major Hugh Scott, the battalion's operations officer.

"The reaction course consists of five phases: preparations for operation, squad lead reconnaissance and order, movement to contact, actions on enemy contact and a debriefing and critique," continued Scott.

The platoon leader accompanies the squad as an evaluator, observer and safety officer. He describes realistic enemy situations in sufficient detail to provide the squad leader a basis for his actions and orders.

Among the other subjects taught in the training program are platoon tactical training, ambush training, day weapons firing, night firing and specialized individual training.

"Ambush training will emphasize silent preparation of squad and platoon ambushed, security while establishing ambushes, and hasty ambushes," reported Lieutenant Colonel David A. Beckner, "Warrior" commanding officer.

The company commander is authorized to make adjustments in timing and emphasis in the program of instruction in order to meet the particular training needs of his company, as determined from field performance. No general subject area may be completely omitted

without the specific authority of the battalion commander. The conduct of the training is monitored by the company commander.

Programs such as this refresher training have been suggested for every battalion as well as the Redcatcher Combat Training Center.

Colonel Robert Selton, deputy commanding officer of the 199th, recently headed a delegation of officers from the "Redcatcher" Brigade to inspect the training program as a possible model for the rest of the unit to follow.

"Our units tactical situations change every month; they need to go through this type of training to maintain their combat proficiency," said Selton.

"Effective training will aid in finding and destroying the enemy with minimum casualties. Training sweat saves battle blood," concluded the "Warrior" deputy commander.

Buddies

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"I like to extend over here to finish our Army time, but that's only if we get out of the field first," Martin reported.

After Vietnam the men agreed that they would like to go back to school and do some traveling around the country. "We would like to go back to school, but that seems so far off right now, it's hard to say what we'll be doing. One thing for sure, we will travel, not by foot, and in our own country," said Beylund.

It's made our tour go a little faster knowing each other, after being together for 15 years we've kind of grown on each other," quipped Martin.

"Your Ideas are Worth Cash," is the slogan of the Army Suggestion Program.

Adopted suggestions mean cash in the pockets of soldiers who have ideas for accomplishing their missions faster, easier and more economically. They also constitute millions of dollars in savings to the US Government.

Cash awards ranging from \$25 to \$25,000 are given for adopted suggestions. (ANF)

Brigade Summary

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Feb 13

"Charlie Horse," 3rd Sqd, 17th Air Cav sighted and engaged four enemy soldiers with grenades and automatic weapons fire killing three. The action took place 24 miles northeast of Xuan Loc.

"Old Guardsmen" of Delta Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf engaged and killed an enemy soldier 8 miles southeast of Xuan Loc. One AK-47 was captured along with one rucksack containing 15 pounds of rice.

Working in the same area, a reconnaissance element of Echo Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf engaged and killed another lone enemy soldier.

Delta Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf, while sweeping an area 18 miles northwest of Xuan Loc, came into contact with an unknown size enemy force. In the ensuing battle four enemy were killed, two AK-47's, a pistol and a rucksack with a small amount of rice were captured.

"Cottonbalers" from 3rd Bn, 7th Inf, on continued operations 18 miles northwest of Xuan Loc exchanged small arms and automatic weapons fire with seven enemy soldiers. Two of the enemy were killed, two AK-47's and five Chicom grenades were captured.

Feb 14

A reconnaissance element of Echo Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf engaged ten enemy with small arms and automatic weapons fire. A resulting two enemy were killed in this action which occurred 8 miles southeast of Xuan Loc.

A "Fireball" aircraft on a visual recon mission engaged and killed one enemy soldier with automatic weapons fire.

Feb 15

While on a sweep of an area 10 miles east of Xuan Loc, elements of Bravo Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf engaged two enemy soldiers with claymores, small arms, and automatic weapons fire. One enemy was killed and one AK-47 captured.

In the same general area Alpha Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf engaged three enemy soldiers with assorted small arms. All three were killed and two AK-47's, one SKS, and two rucksacks containing 39 pounds of rice and five pounds of salt were captured.

Thirteen miles northeast of Xuan Loc "Cottonbalers" of Charlie Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf, found ten bunkers containing the following cache: assorted medical equipment including penicillin and streptomycin, 4 bolt action rifles, a 45 caliber sub-machine gun, an AK-47, an SKS, a 30 caliber French pistol, a B-40 launcher, 5 B-40 rockets, 50 M-60 rounds, 2 machetes, 6 picks and miscellaneous tools and webb gear.

"Apache" Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf, during a sweep of an area 10 miles north of Xuan Loc engaged three enemy soldiers with small arms fire killing one and capturing one AK-47 and two rucksacks. A resulting sweep also located two bunkers which were destroyed.

Continuing to sweep, the unit located and destroyed 58 bunkers with overhead cover, 75 AK rounds, one 82mm mortar rounds and a small amount of documents.

Feb 16

In continued operations 13 miles east of Xuan Loc, "Charlie Co," 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf, found an

additional 16 French made bolt action rifles.

Delta Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf located an old base camp 8 miles east of Xuan Loc. The "Old Guardsmen" discovered eight bunkers with overhead cover, six old graves, and a blacksmith shop for tools and weapons repair.

"Apache" Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf, in continued operations approximately 10 miles north of Xuan Loc engaged five enemy soldiers, killing two and capturing one AK-47 and one Chicom pistol. The unit also located and destroyed four 60mm mortar rounds.

Elements of the 4th Bn, 12th Inf, while conducting operations north of Xuan Loc killed two enemy soldiers, captured one SKS and one rucksack. They also located and destroyed 12 bunkers, four trenches and five large tables.

Feb 17

Bravo Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf discovered an enemy motor pool cache consisting of one jeep radiator, two bolt-extractors, one tire and wheel, one jeep shed, five one gallon gas cans, six spack plugs, three drill bits and other miscellaneous equipment. This unusual cache was found 11 miles northeast of Xuan Loc.

"Warriors" from Bravo Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf, located a bunker complex 15 miles northwest of Xuan Loc containing 15 SKS rifles, a carbine, an AK-47, 40 rounds of 30 caliber ammo, 25 pounds of potatoes, and 5 pounds of tobacco.

Delta Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf, located and destroyed eight bunkers 9 miles north of Xuan Loc. Later in the day, the unit engaged three enemy soldiers. Small arms and automatic weapons fire was exchanged and the three enemy soldiers were killed. Two AK-47's, 44 60mm mortar rounds and a box of 30 caliber ammunition was captured.

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Newspaper
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Fold in third horizontally, then double and redouble until this label fills almost the rectangle.
Single edges. Sorry, does not qualify as free mail.

POSTAGE

Dear John

(Cont'd from Front Page)

The health status of my men is critical. The number of sick personnel continues to increase. Some suffer from general weakness, some are unfit for duty. The problem of the shortage of medicines is unsolvable.

An element of my unit fell into an enemy ambush while on a rice procurement mission. Five men were killed and four AK's and one K-50 were lost. Concurrently, another group was attacked by the enemy and 11 men were killed.

Please let me know where we are to move if attacked because we will be unable to remain here. I would like to inform you that we will be confronted with many difficulties in troop encampment if the enemy continues to destroy the wooded area in our area of concentration.

To date, more than 5,000 aliens serving with the US military forces in Vietnam have taken advantage of a law that waives citizenship requirements on them as long as they served during the Vietnam conflict.

Doc Learns

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country through "Doc's eyes," I'd like to see this country settle, no more war-I'd especially like to see hospitals here in the countryside where everyone could have a chance to obtain proper medical treatment.

For the moment I'm happy to be a part of their treatment and that we can provide this type of help, although I'd like to see it on a much greater scale, but then this is a start and you have to start somewhere.

So it goes, one dedicated man in a small Vietnamese village, helping to provide a start for their tomorrow.