

'Cottonbalers' Give 'Charlie' More Trouble in March

By SP4 Dave Schaffer

FSB MACE - "Cottonbalers" of the 3rd Bn, 7th Inf continued to hit "Charlie" where it hurts last month, eliminating 13 men from the ranks of the NVA and destroying an enemy hospital complex in a single day's action March 15.

The excitement began late in the afternoon, when members of Charlie Co were sent into an area 40 miles east of Xuan Loc to investigate a suspected bunker complex there.

Hospital in Camp

A "Charliehorse" gunship had spotted what was possibly an enemy camp in the area several days previous, and air and artillery strikes had "softened" the position prior to the sweeping "Cottonbalers" arrival.

"First, we discovered three 10 by 20 foot hootches, two 8 by 8 bunkers, and a 40 by 40 tin hootch," explained company commander Captain Curtis Graham of Salisbury, N.C. in an interview after the action. "Then we came upon the hospital bunker.

"It was 20 feet by 40 feet," he went on, "with a hootch on top and overhead cover. A total of 19 bamboo beds were in the hootch area. Eight of them were in the bunker and eight more were outside under a tin cover."

"The camp hadn't been built more than two weeks," said CPT Graham, "and the enemy probably only left the area two days before we arrived, when the air strikes came in."

Before leaving the area, the "Cottonbalers" destroyed the entire camp.

That night, members of Charlie Co's 3rd platoon saw more action when an estimated 13 enemy soldiers walked in to their ambush position shortly before nightfall.

Machine Gunner Spies Enemy
The "Cottonbalers" were set up along a dry stream bed in the same general area as the hospital complex.

"We had just finished setting up, and we were about to break for chow when our machine gunner heard someone walking," explained First Lieutenant John N. Chryst, a platoon leader from San Bruno, Calif.

"When I looked back at the stream bed," explained the machine gunner, Private First Class Dennis Boryla of Elburn, Ill., "I saw three enemy walking into our ambush. I hooked up the claymores and waited for them to come into our kill zone."

After preparing the claymores, Boryla took the safety off his M-60 so that it too was ready.

"I waited for them to get further along so that we would be able to get them in a cross fire," Boryla said, "and finally I thought the time was right, so I blew the claymores."

Ambush Opens Up

Immediately after detonating the mines, Boryla jumped back to his waiting machine gun and filled the stream bed with 400 rounds of fire.

The rest of the element also opened up with M-16 rifles and M-79 grenade launchers. The surprised enemy didn't have a chance to return fire.

As the small arm barrage

ended, the "Cottonbalers" heard someone yelling "Cneu Hoi, Chieu Hoi."

"Then, we saw two arms raised above the stream bed wall," said Chryst.

An enemy soldier came walking up out of the bed still yelling "Chieu Hoi." Apparently he was the only one to survive the rain of small arms fire.

Three Officers Killed
The enemy informed the "Cottonbalers" that his group had been part of an NVA regiment resupply element. Three of the dead in the stream bed, he said, were officers.

In and around the area of the contact, the "Cottonbalers" located 12 dead enemy, seven AK-47 rifles, and three pistols.

The "Cottonbalers" hadn't taken a single casualty.



A blindfolded detainee is taken off a helicopter at Brigade forward headquarters March 16. The previous evening he was captured and 12 members of his unit were killed when they walked into Charlie Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf's ambush position 40 miles east of fire support base "Mace."



REDCATCHER!

199th Light Infantry Brigade

April 8, 1970

3/7 Scout—One for the Good Guys

FSB MACE - Nguyen Van Deo is one former VC who GIs can be thankful has turned in his AK-47 for an M-16.

Currently the head "Kit Carson" Scout with 3rd Bn, 7th

Inf, Nguyen is probably one of the most highly decorated former enemy to serve with the Brigade.

Received Victory Decoration

Prior to rallying, Nguyen received 27 decorations from his unit, the 9th VC Division. Included in these was the Victory Decoration (1st Rank), one of the highest awards the Viet Cong give their soldiers.

One need only observe the scout handle a rifle to understand why he was so highly decorated.

28 Out of 28

"He welds an AK like it was an extension of his arm," commented Specialist Four Larry Bartlett, an interrogator for the IPW team working with the 3rd Bn, 7th Inf. "I've seen him take an AK with full

magazine and hit a number 10 can 28 out of 28 times at 75 meters."

Nguyen originally joined the Viet Cong in 1962 after becoming dissatisfied with the policies of former South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem. He was assigned to the 9th VC Division in Tay Ninh Province where he served as an NCO for the next five years.

Became Officer

In 1967 he was sent to the communists' officers training school at a military base in Laos. There he underwent six months of intensive training in mountain warfare in addition to preparation for his future role as an officer.

Following this training, Nguyen returned to his unit to

(Cont'd on Page 8)

18th ARVN's Kill 28

By CPT Michael Segraves

XUAN LOC - An element of the 18th ARVN Div, the 199th's companion unit in Long Khanh Province, thwarted an NVA ambush on March 20, killing 28 enemy soldiers and destroying a 40 bunker base camp.

For a week prior to the contact, the Division's 3rd Trp, 5th Cav had been providing security for US engineers who were clearing land on a Rome plow operation 23 miles northeast of here.

NVA Attempt Ambush

The armored cavalry unit surrounded the dozers during daylight as they cleared away the jungles, and at night its tracks formed a tight perimeter around the US soldiers.

Then, on March 20, elements of an NVA battalion attempted to ambush the engineers when the Rome plows pushed too close to their base camp.

The Cav reacted quickly, opening up with small arms and .50 caliber machine guns. In addition, air strikes, artillery, and a light fire team were called in against the enemy ambush site.

Find Dead and Camp

The battle raged for half an hour until the NVA soldiers began to flee south. The ARVN pursued, finding 28 dead enemy and a 40 bunker base camp which they subsequently destroyed.

In the meantime, other ARVN elements were armored into a landing zone 2 miles south of the battle area.

Sporadic contact continued that day as the enemy spread out in all directions trying to avoid the ARVN soldiers. Regional and Popular Force ambushes engaged the NVA three separate times in the area that night.



Four members of Co M, 75th Inf Rangers stand beside the elephant skull they escorted some 50 miles from a jungle mission with Delta Trp, 17th Cav to a final resting place in the Brigade's

museum at Camp Frenzell-Jones. From left to right are: SSG Joe Acosta, SSG Russell G. Wiggins, SGT Hunter L. Beall, and SP4 Roy McCormack. (Photo by SP4 Jon Sweet)

Rangers Retrieve Unusual Souvenir

By SP4 Jon Sweet

CAMP FRENZELL-JONES - It's rare for Airborne Rangers to become "attached" to anything in Vietnam that doesn't have a nice shape and a miniskirt on it; and in view of this, an elephant skull found recently by members of the Brigade's Ranger unit couldn't have received better treatment.

The members of Echo Team, Co M, 75th Inf Rangers escorted their prize some 50 miles to a

final resting place in the Brigade's museum here.

The men were providing ground support for the 199th's Delta Trp, 17th Cav 30 miles northeast of Xuan Loc when they discovered the skull.

"Three of us were reconning a trail," explained Staff Sergeant Russell G. Wiggins of Tyler, Tex. in a later interview, "when we came upon a complete elephant skeleton about 10 to 12 feet shoulder high."

(Cont'd on Page 8)

AER Aids Army Families

Army Emergency Relief (AER) serves the Army family at times of financial emergency.

All members of the Army, both active and retired and members of their families, are eligible for AER assistance. Aid may be rendered under varying types of emergency conditions or situations, many of which are a result of the exigencies of military service which cause hardship or distress that is beyond the ability of the soldier or his family to meet.

Financial assistance is extended either as a non-interest-bearing loan, or as an outright grant, or a combination loan and grant, whichever is considered the most appropriate.

Army Emergency Relief came into being in 1942 when Secretary of War Stimson and Chief of Staff General Marshall realized some provision must be made to provide assistance for members of the rapidly expanding Army and their dependents who were faced with financial situations with which they were unable to cope and for which no appropriated funds were available.

Army Emergency Relief, through the great resources and organization of the American National Red Cross, also renders many varied services to members of the Army and their families through the numerous ARC chapters located throughout the United States and in overseas areas wherever troops are located.

Don't Jeopardize Your R&R

Are you looking forward to R&R; five days of fun in the sun, rest, and beautiful companionship in exotic surroundings? Don't be one of the foolish few that jeopardize this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity by attempting to take narcotics out of Vietnam.

Not only is this activity a felony, but such action by a relative handful of individuals could jeopardize our relations with the citizens of Hong Kong, Bangkok, Manila, Sydney, and Tokyo—you recognize them, surely, because they represent R&R locations.

Sure, the smuggler will be the one to suffer—the laws of these cities provide that anyone introducing, using, possessing, or selling narcotics is subject to trial and imprisonment if found guilty—but more than that—every American serviceman will be a potential suspect and risk possible search. Violations could lead to the curtailment of one of the pleasure spots as an R&R site.

Think about it. Is the "trip" worth it?

Nipper New Brigade PM

By PFC Roland N. Halliday

CAMP FRENZELL-JONES — Major George L. Nipper, a veteran of two years in the Army and 12 years in the Air Force, became the new Brigade Provost Marshal here March 21.

Nipper replaced Major Daniel H. Lucy who was scheduled to return to the States April 4.

The new Provost Marshal was commissioned into the Air Force in 1956, after receiving a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Washington.

After 12 years with the Air Force security police, Nipper transferred into the Army in 1968.

Prior to coming to the 199th, Nipper served as Division Chief, S-3 of the 18th MP Brigade in Vietnam.

Awards he has received during his active duty time include the Air Force Commendation Medal (First Oak Leaf Cluster), the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, and the Army Commendation Medal.

LTC Clark Receives D F Cross

XUAN LOC — The Distinguished Flying Cross was presented to Lieutenant Colonel Robert H. Clark, 199th executive officer, in a recent ceremony here at the Brigade's forward headquarters.

The Distinguished Flying Cross is the Army's highest award given specifically for heroism in aerial flight. Clark received the medal in recognition of his valorous actions last Dec 21, while he was serving as the commander of the 4th Bn, 12th Inf.

On that date Clark was informed that an ambush patrol from his unit was in desperate need of ammunition due to heavy contact with the enemy.

He immediately directed his pilot to fly the resupply mission. Upon reaching the area of contact, Clark landed his helicopter within the ambush perimeter due to darkness and the proximity of the enemy.

Once on the ground, LTC Clark unloaded the ammunition and encouraged his men despite heavy enemy fire. As a result of his mission, ten enemy soldiers were killed, one suspect was detained and six enemy weapons captured.

4/12 Influences Footware Style

By SP4 Dave Hauser

FSB NANCY — It can now be reliably reported that enemy soldiers operating in the jungles near here—with inspiration and guidance from the 4th Bn, 12th Inf—are developing a new look in combat footware this season.

Indications are that the traditional "Sandales Plastique," a favorite with enemy style-setters for many seasons because of their brown color, flat heels, light weight usefulness in tropical climates, and circular

Your Legal Officer



Reports of Survey

By CPT John A. Fox (Assist SJA)

Each day military personnel use all types of government property such as jeeps, trucks, tool kits, weapons, cameras, radios, binoculars, and typewriters. At times such property is lost or damaged. As a user of government property, you should be aware of your liability to pay for government property which you may lose or damage.

AR 735-10 sets up a procedure whereby military personnel who lose or damage military property can be made to pay for such loss or damage. This procedure is called a report of survey. A report of survey is basically an investigation by an appointed officer to determine the causes of a loss or damage to military property. The surveying officer interviews and takes written statements from witnesses who have knowledge of the damage or loss. Based on these statements he makes findings and recommendations of whether anyone should be made to pay for the loss.

The recommendations of the surveying officer as to whether a person should be made to pay for lost or damaged property must be based upon the principles of liability outlined in AR 735-10. As a general rule a

person will only be made to pay for property which he lost or damaged through his gross negligence or willful misconduct. "Gross negligence" is defined as the extreme departure from the course of action to be expected of a reasonable man in similar circumstances. Gross negligence is more than just failing to do something a reasonable man would do under the circumstances. It is more than simply failing to follow an SOP or regulation. There must be an extreme departure from the action that a reasonable man would have used under the circumstances.

Military personnel are held to a higher standard of care for a certain type of property known as "individual arms and equipment." This property includes such things as an individual's rifle, a compass or binoculars. Such items are carried by an individual as personal equipment. Motor vehicles and typewriters are not included in this category. If an individual loses or damages such property through "simple negligence" he can be held to pay for the damage. "Simple negligence" is merely failing to do something to the property which a reasonable man would do or doing something to the property a reasonable man would not do.

If the surveying officer finds a person liable to pay for a loss or damage to government property, the individual still has several rights.

They are expected to be replaced among both highly style-conscious and not so highly style-conscious enemy soldiers by a new "natural look" in footware.

Evidence of this new trend surfaced early last month, shortly after "Warriors" of Bravo Co captured over 1,000 pairs of "Sandales" from a supplier 22 miles north of Xuan Loc (reported in March 25 Redcatcher!).

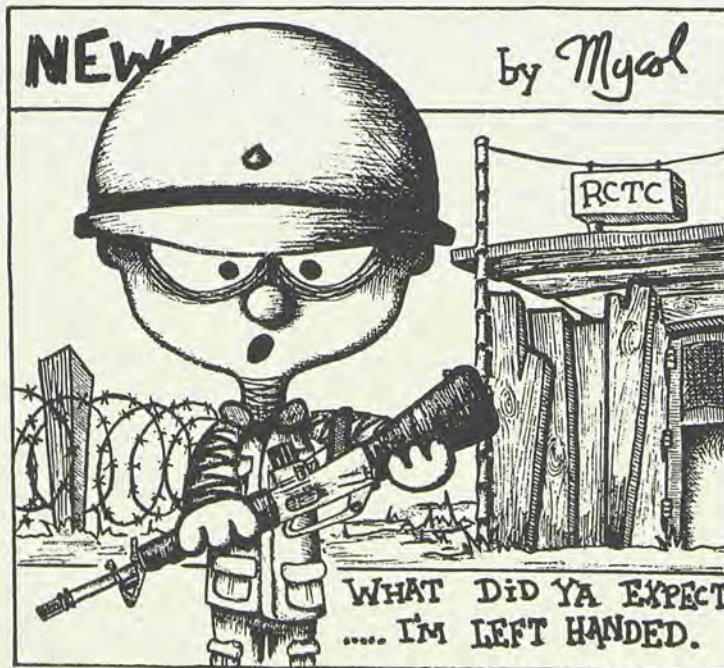
It is believed that, in addition to allowing the enemy to keep abreast of the latest styles in foot apparel, this new "barefoot look" (as some have already dubbed it) will be a favorite because it should eliminate a good deal of the pedal support required by "Charlie" in this area in recent years.

REDCATCHER!



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CPT Simon I. Markowsky	Information Officer
1LT Louis Day	Press Officer
1LT James Bowers	Assist Information Officer
SFC Fred O. Egeler	NCIOIC
SP4 Frank P. Segreto	Editor
SP5 Arthur S. Jaeger	Assist Editor
SP5 James R. Blair	Photo Editor



LTC Houy Now Heads 7th Spt Bn

By SP4 Jon Sweet

CAMP FRENZEL-JONES -- Lieutenant Colonel Edward W. Houy Jr. assumed command of the 7th Spt Bn in a ceremony here April 4.

Brigadier General William R. Bond passed the battalion colors during the ceremony which also marked the conclusion of the second Vietnam tour for outgoing 7th Spt commander Lieutenant Colonel Duane H. Stubbs.

Houy, who is also serving his second tour of duty in the Republic of Vietnam, is a 16 year Army veteran. He is a graduate of the Command and General Staff College, and, in addition, he has completed several resident programs at the Army's Quartermaster School.

Prior to joining the 199th, Houy served as the commanding officer of the 503rd Supply and Transportation Bn of the 3rd Armored Div in Germany.

During his previous Vietnam tour in 1963-4, LTC Houy served as a programming and budgeting advisor and maintenance officer with the Military Assistance Advisory Group.

In addition to commanding the 199th's support battalion, Houy will also serve as acting post commander of Camp Frenzel-Jones, a position held for the past eight months by Lieutenant Colonel John E. Hazelwood.

Hazelwood left the 199th on March 21 to assume command of a battalion of the 25th Inf Div.

Outgoing 7th Spt commander, LTC Stubbs, has been reassigned to the Industrial College of the Armed Forces in Washington, D.C.

SFC Spots 'Charlie' for 199th

By SP5 Stephen Glickman

XUAN LOC -- "Redcatchers" of the 199th currently have their own "eye-in-the-sky" over Long Khanh Province in the person of Sergeant First Class Charlie E. Anderson of Memphis, Tenn.

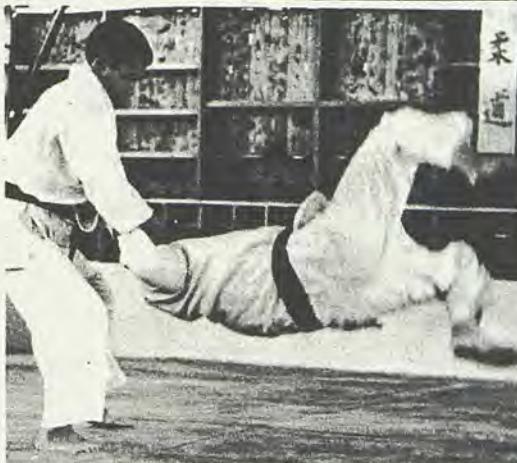
Anderson, who is assigned as the chief computer with the 2nd Bn, 40th Arty Forward Operations Center here, takes to the skies daily in a single engine O1 "Bird Dog" to spot "Charlie" from the air and bring artillery fire on him and his positions.

During his six months on the job for the 199th, Anderson has logged over 600 hours in the air on 250 missions. He has spotted caches, bunker complexes, and the enemy himself all the way from Phuoc Vinh in Binh Duong Province on the western edge of the Brigade's area of operations to Tan Linh in Binh Tuy Province on the eastern edge.

Over 30 enemy deaths resulting from artillery fire have been credited to his spotting.

Anderson's flights originate from the Xuan Loc Airfield with the assistance of a pilot and plane from the 74th Aviation Co based at the Husky compound. He flies regularly scheduled aerial reconnaissance missions as well as support missions for "Redcatcher" infantry units in contact with the enemy.

In either case he accurately and effectively calls in artillery fire on his targets. He spots for the 2nd Bn, 40th Arty as well as



Two members of the 18th ARVN Div demonstrate the Vietnamese art of "Vovinam" to a class of NCOs and officers at Division headquarters in Xuan Loc.

(Photo courtesy of CPT Mike Segraves, 18th ARVN Div)

Self-Defense Training Builds Better ARVNs

By 1LT Louis Day

XUAN LOC -- The art of self-defense is a familiar part of Oriental culture, and not unlike many of their Asian neighbors, the Vietnamese have developed their own unique approach to self-defense. They call it "Vovinam."

Indulged in as a sport by more than one million youths in Vietnam, "Vovinam" is also widely practiced by the country's military forces.

For example, the 18th ARVN Div, which operates in coordination with the 199th in Long Khanh and Binh Tuy Provinces, conducts a full-time training program in "Vovinam" for its officers and senior NCOs.

Although the value of "Vovinam" as a self-defense weapon in the field may be limited, its primary purpose within the military is to instill a

sense of awareness and alertness in men.

"It makes them better soldiers," explained Sergeant Jung Kwun Soo, a Korean instructor who has held a black belt in the art for seven years.

Officers and NCOs spend six months in training at the 18th ARVN Div headquarters here, 50 miles northeast of Saigon, learning the fundamentals of "Vovinam."

During this period they learn how to fall on hard surfaces without being hurt, how to disarm an opponent, and finally, how to successfully defend oneself against several opponents at one time.

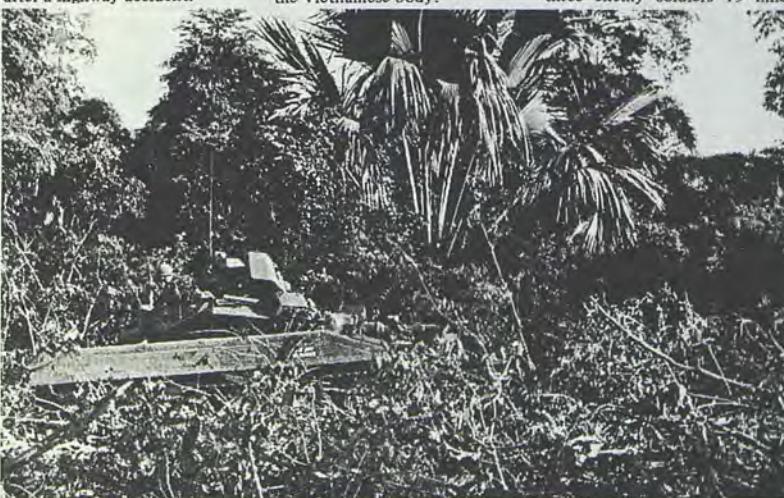
At the end of the six months, the graduates are presented a red belt. They are then sent to Bien Hoa for six additional months of advanced training in "Vovinam." The successful completion of the advanced phase will earn them the black belt, the most prized rating in the art of self-defense.

"They return to their units after graduation as more confident and effective leaders," said SGT Soo.

"Vovinam" was created in 1938 by Professor Nguyen Loc in what is now part of North Vietnam. He refined the sport so that its movements would be compatible with the stature of the Vietnamese body.

the other artillery units that support the 199th in Long Khanh Province.

Anderson also aids in the periodic registration of the guns of these units, and at times his duties even include watching over a truck convoy in the province or calling for assistance after a highway accident.



Several members of the Brigade's Delta Trp, 17th Cav are perched atop a Sherman tank as it moves cautiously through jungle area southwest of Xuan Loc recently. The "Redcatchers" were on a search and clear operation that also involved the 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf.

In the Field



Brigade Summary

March 9:

Co D, 75th Inf Rangers engaged three enemy soldiers 30 miles north of Xuan Loc, killing all three and capturing three packs, and an AK-47 rifle.

"Old Guard" of Delta Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf engaged two enemy, killing one in an action that took place 10 miles southeast of Xuan Loc.

Members of Alpha Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf were engaged by three enemy with small arms. The "Warriors" returned fire, killing one.

"Cottonbalers" of Delta Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf engaged four to five enemy soldiers with small arms and automatic weapons fire with a resulting three enemy killed, two AK-47s and a K-54 pistol captured. The action took place 18 miles northeast of Xuan Loc.

March 10:

In continued operations 30 miles north of Xuan Loc, Co D, 75th Inf Rangers engaged six enemy soldiers, killing five and detaining a suspect. Three AK-47s were recovered in the action.

"Warriors" of Charlie Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf discovered and destroyed a 22 bunker base camp 18 miles north of Xuan Loc.

Elements of Bravo Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf engaged three enemy on a trail 26 miles northeast of Xuan Loc, killing one and capturing 2 Chicom fragmentation grenades, 50 AK-47 rounds, 5 pounds of foodstuffs and a variety of personal items.

March 11:

An unusual cache find by Charlie Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf 35 miles north of Xuan Loc began this day's action. The unit uncovered one ton of peanuts of which 400 pounds were bagged. Elephant trails led into the area of the finds.

Elements of Bravo Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf, while sweeping an area 20 miles north of Xuan Loc engaged four enemy soldiers, killing all four and capturing a B-40 rocket round, a bag of claymore mines, and one fragmentation grenade.

Bravo Co "Cottonbalers" of the 3rd Bn, 7th Inf engaged three enemy soldiers 19 miles

west of Xuan Loc, killing one and capturing an AK-47, an enemy pack, 200 AK-47 rounds, and 3 AK-47 magazines.

March 12:

Charlie Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf, on continued operations 35 miles north of Xuan Loc, found a second one ton peanut cache only 100 meters north of the previous day's find.

Elements of Bravo Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf, while engaged in a sweep 18 miles southeast of Xuan Loc, found an RPG round, two automatic rifle magazines with ammunition, assorted small arms rounds, and one set of barber clippers.

"Cottonbalers" of Delta Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf discovered a cache including three to four pounds of dough, several sets of blue NVA fatigues, a Chicom grenade, an enemy canteen, two ponchos, and two cooking bowls. The cache was found 18 miles northeast of Xuan Loc, and the bodies of two dead enemy were discovered nearby.

March 13:

Elements of the "Warrior" Patrol of the 5th Bn, 12th Inf killed one enemy soldier 18 miles north of Xuan Loc.

"Charliehorse," 3rd Sqdn, 17th Air Cav choppers located and destroyed one enemy sampan, six bunkers, six huts, and a 155-gallon oil drum 18 miles northwest of Xuan Loc.

"Warriors" of Bravo Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf, while sweeping an area 10 miles northeast of Xuan Loc, discovered and destroyed an enemy base camp consisting of 17 sleeping positions and 4 fighting positions. Found in the camp were 100 AK-47 rounds, a Chicom grenade, and one dead enemy soldier.

March 14:

"Cottonbalers" of Charlie Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf engaged 13 enemy soldiers 40 miles east of Xuan Loc with small arms, and automatic weapons fire, killing 12 and detaining one suspect. The unit also captured 7 AK-47s, 3 pistols, and 500 pounds of flour.

Earlier in the day, the unit had found a large hospital complex consisting of several large bunkers with an overhead hootch, 19 beds and a variety of medical supplies.

March 15:

"Charliehorse," 3rd Sqdn, 17th Air Cav helicopters sighted and destroyed four bunkers and fighting positions 35 miles northeast of Xuan Loc.

Later in the day, the unit uncovered a cache consisting of cooking pots, clothing, medical supplies, rucksacks, and one liter. Also found in the area were a US carbine, 200 rounds of 7.62mm ammunition, two AK-47 rounds, and one hootch.

Elements of Alpha Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf, during a sweep of an area 28 miles northeast of Xuan Loc discovered six 55 gallon drums of rice, two 55 gallon drums of potatoes, and one garden plot.

In the same area, the unit also discovered one enemy killed in action as a result of contact on March 15.

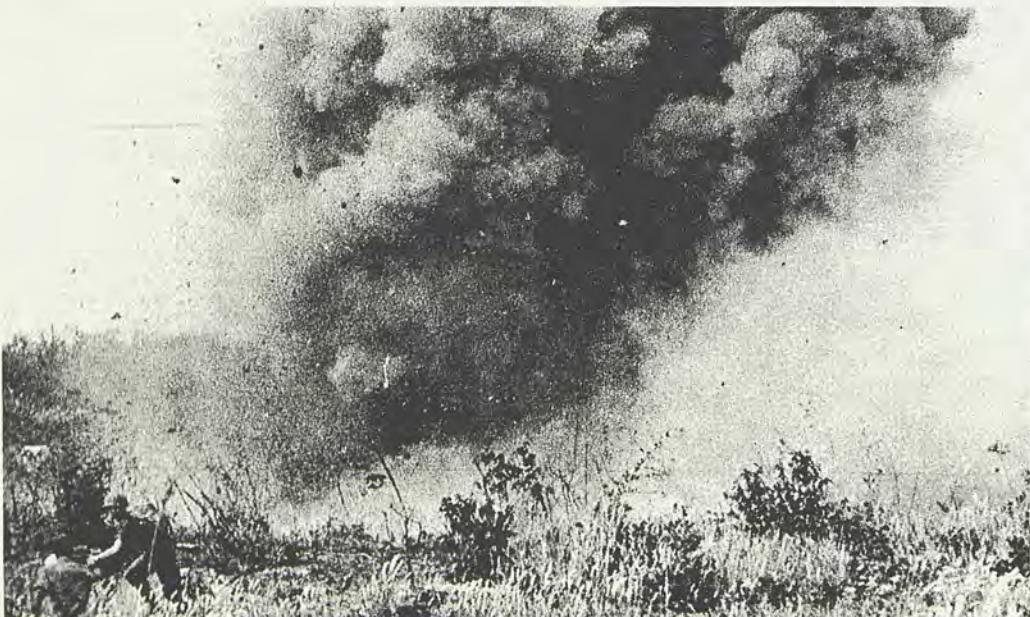
March 16:

Members of "Apache" Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf, while sweeping an area 18 miles north of Xuan Loc, uncovered 250 pounds of potatoes and 50 pounds of corn in a plastic bag placed in a tree.

(Cont'd on Page 8)



RCTC cadre and a chopper crew from the 45th Dustoff Co perform a simulated dust off for the trainees.



The final test comes on the 2,500 meter reaction course.



Story and Photos

by

SP4 Jon Sweet

RCTC Bl

CAMP FRENZELL-JONES - The Redcatcher

Combat Training Center believes in bleaching the

newer green with simulated combat exercises.

"Our courses are designed to make the new arrivals in Vietnam something more than just a warm body when they get to the field," said Captain Wayne Kirkpatrick, the training center commander from West Farmington, Ohio. "Sixty per cent of the courses we offer give the new soldier experience in dealing with simulated combat situations."

Besides training all new "Redcatchers," the training center-operating under the 7th Sp Bn-instructs members of 12 other units in the Long Binh area, ranging from the 1st Aviation Bde to the Long Binh Post Security Det. The center also offers refresher courses to both 199th non-combat and combat units upon request.

"Altogether we offer 50 1/2 hours of instruction during the 6 1/2 day training period," Kirkpatrick said. "We place strong emphasis on current combat tactics used in our area of operation and weapons proficiency."

During the week, the trainee concentrates on firing and familiarizing himself with the same M-16 rifle he will be using in the field.

He listens to dustoff pilots from the 5th Dustoff Co in Long Binh explain medical techniques, and then he watches simulated dustoff. He tosses live grenades, detonates claymore mines, and maneuvers in small patrol-type units.

"The final test comes on our 2,500 meter-long reaction course where the student encounters everything from simulated sniper fire to mortar attacks," Kirkpatrick said. "We have a bunker and hospital complex complete with a 44-weapon cache, web gear, ammo, medical supplies, and documents confiscated from enemy troops."

Initially the soldiers are broken down into small patrols, and a patrol leader is chosen and briefed by a supervising instructor who will accompany the men on the course and grade them on performance.

"We usually choose sergeants who have graduated from the Army's Non-Commissioned Officers School as patrol leaders," Kirkpatrick



The new "Redcatchers" spend a good part of their time in simulated combat situations.

ches Out 'Newfer Green'

It is their responsibility to thoroughly brief atrol.

one of our instructors acting as an enemy happens to "zap" the patrol leader, it is up to the patrol to decide who will provide idership," he continued. "And they don't much time to make the decision either."

he patrols usually are on the course at one each having a radio tuned to the one on trick's jeep.

patrick coordinates all patrol missions and fully acts out the roles of a Cobra gunship a dustoff pilot, and a forward air control pilot directing simulated air strikes over the

the patrol leader wants an air strike, I wait until there's a jet flying overhead so n add more realism into the situation," trick said. "Several veteran helicopter pilots ng around our area know what we're up to. they see the men securing the bunker ex, for example, they'll hover their choppers ad or do a couple of sweeps across the

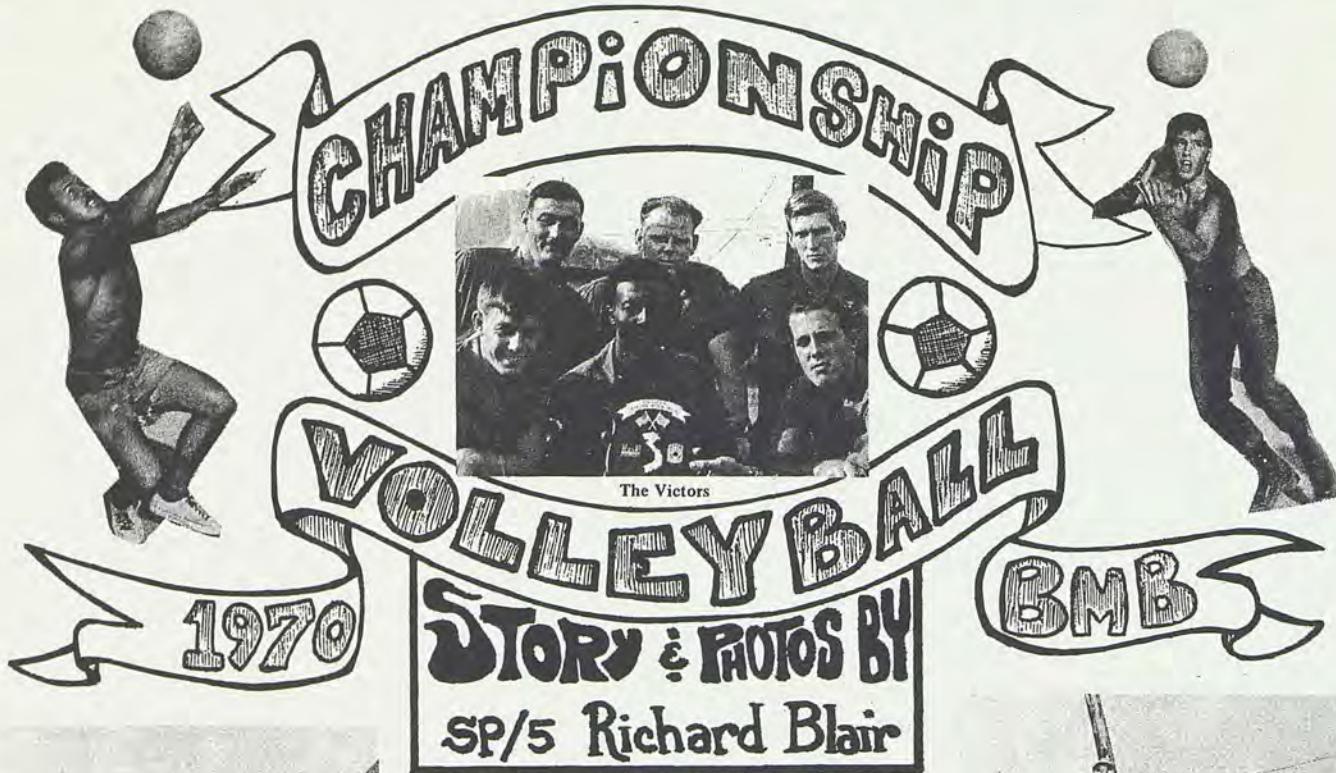
training center instructors are combat s. Before an individual can become an tor, he is grilled on his combat knowledge nducts a simulated class on a given subject in f the current training staff.

call ourselves the Murder Board," said it R.C. Miller of Mt. Pleasant, Mich., a n veteran of nearly 24 months. "If a tasks an instructor a question, we want that to come from experience, not out of a ok.

the end of each week, the students rate the tors and courses through critique sheets," continued. "If an instructor continually s a low rating, we don't want him around. If s students don't like a course or think it be improved, we look hard at it. en an instructor shows a lack of enthusiasm s to emphasize a point, it could produce a e attitude among the students," Miller ded, "and if the student carries this attitude field, then it could cost him his life."



Training Center instructors are all combat veterans.



PFC Robert McKinnon of the 3rd Bn, 7th Inf taps the ball over the heads of SP4 Hazel Caskey and SP4 Allen Barrett.



The 87th Eng Co's team captain, SP4 Dave Phillips isn't quite successful enough in his attempt to "spike" the ball during the final minutes of the championship game.



Body English always helps. SP5 Claudius Glover demonstrates the proper technique as team member SP5 David Luhman watches. Both men are members of the 3rd Bn, 7th Inf.



SGT John Cox of the 87th Eng Co seems to be on top of things during last month's championship volleyball game.



PFC Robert McKinnon of the 3rd Bn, 7th Inf fails to block SP4 Hazel Caskey's "spike" in the last of the three playoff games in the BMB volleyball championship last month.



Is this big enough to put on your bunker wall, guys? You might think we made this pin-up this large just because we didn't have enough story material to fill up our paper, but actually we had

to leave out several great stories to bring you this "giant size" version of Miss Lorna Hopper. If you don't believe us, just ask our writers.

(Photo courtesy of Playboy)

Mobile Training Sergeant Will Remain in Vietnam

By SPS James Sheehy

NUI THI HILL — "There's a great future in this country, and I just might stay over here and see it come about."

That's the way Sergeant First Class Bernard Corpus of Honolulu, Ha., sees Vietnam. For the past 45 months, Corpus has lived and worked with the people of the country, and he says, he has become part of them.

Corpus is currently working here as the NCOIC of the 199th's Mobile Training Team.

Impressed by RVN

"I've been in the Army for 21 years, and I've been all over the world," Corpus said in an interview recently. "In all that time, Vietnam is the first place that has really impressed me. I just want to be swallowed up by it all and lose myself in it—it's a beautiful country if you look at the good side."

For SFC Corpus, "looking at the good side" is not as hard as it might seem, for he speaks the Vietnamese language fluently,

Craig Chosen April SOM

CAMP FRENZELL-JONES — The Brigade Soldier of the Month for April is Specialist Four Louis R. Craig of Silver Springs, Md., a clerk attached to the 2nd Bn, 40th Arty.

Craig was selected Soldier of the Month among six candidates interviewed by a panel of first sergeants and sergeants major late in March. Each candidate represented one of the Brigade's six battalions.

As Soldier of the Month, Craig will serve as the commanding general's enlisted aide during April.

In addition to this, he will receive a Brigade Certificate of Achievement, a \$25 savings bond, a tailor-made suit, and a three day R&R to Vung Tau. Craig will also be promoted to the rank of Specialist Five.

Prior to entering the Army, this month's SOM was a student at the University of Maryland where he majored in psychology and sociology with a minor in criminology.

After his ETS, coming up soon, he says, in December 1970 (?), Craig plans to return to school and finish his education.

He has been the 2nd Bn, 40th Arty maintenance clerk since shortly after being assigned to the 199th five months ago.

MARS Calling At Xuan Loc

XUAN LOC — The 313th Signal Co announced recently that 199th personnel can now make MARS calls from Brigade forward headquarters here.

"Redcatchers" no longer need to go to BMB to put a call through to their family and friends in the States.

All that is necessary is to call Redcatcher Forward and ask for the Xuan Loc MARS station. The MARS station may also be visited in person at its location in the Xuan Loc MACV compound.

Specialist Four Hazen is the 199th representative at the MARS station and he can handle all personnel wishing to make calls to the States.

and he knows the people here well. "I married a Vietnamese woman, and I have one child. They both live in Saigon, and that's where I plan to live when I retire in seven months."

Worked with ARVN

During his stay in Vietnam, Corpus has served in a wide variety of positions—usually as an advisor.

He has worked with the Vietnamese Rangers, the 9th ARVN Division, the 14th ARVN Regiment, and a variety of sub-sector commands where he was involved in the training of regional and popular forces.

With the Mobile Training Team he has been giving refresher courses in infantry operations and tactics to line companies of the 18th ARVN Div.

ARVN Getting Better

"There's been a definite improvement in the South Vietnamese soldier since my arrival here," Corpus said. "You can see it and feel it—they know they're getting better and that's a big factor. Of course, they still need to build more confidence in order to earn the respect of their American counterparts, but that's coming fast."

"It won't be too much longer before they can take on the entire North Vietnamese Army—it's just a matter of confidence."

Enemy Cause Lost

He also has a good deal of respect for the enemy in Vietnam. "They're good soldiers," he said. "When they fight they let you know they're there. I don't see how they can win, though, especially now that the ARVN are improving. I think the enemy knows now that the cause is lost."

Concluding, Corpus said, "You've got to look for the good side of things here. A lot of people think of Vietnam today as a business—I don't! I look upon it more as a challenge. Good things are going to happen here someday. I'm looking forward to it, and when they happen, I want to be a part of them."

4/12, Viets Fight Disease

DINH QUAN — Over 1,500 children in Dinh Quan District are being immunized against polio and cholera through the joint efforts of the 4th Bn, 12th Inf and representatives of the Long Khanh Hospital here.

"Warrior" battalion surgeon, Captain (Dr) Franklin Bunker, has been teaming up with Mr. Duong Thanh, Long Khanh Hospital health chief, for the project.

"Mr. Thanh takes complete charge of the immunization," explained CPT Bunker recently. "Our job in the program is mainly to secure the vaccine."

For the first series of inoculations last month, Thanh contacted schools in villages throughout the district and set up the immunization schedule. He also gave all the cholera shots himself.

A male nurse from the hospital accompanied Thanh on the visits to assist in administering the oral polio vaccine.

"Warrior" medics accompanied the immunization team to the schools to help wherever they were needed.



SSG George A. Barker and SP4 Roger Raymond put some finishing touches on a pop-up target recently installed on the 4th Bn, 12th Inf "quick kill" rifle range at fire support base "Nancy."

Barker is the designer of the "Warriors" new "field expedient" version of the familiar States-side target.

(Photo by SP4 Dave Hauser)

Pop Up Targets Aid 3/4 Aim

FSB NANCY -- GI ingenuity here has provided "Warriors" of the 4th Bn, 12th Inf with a device that enables them to sharpen their sights on "Charlie."

Using boards from 4.2 mortar round boxes cut and nailed in the correct manner together with the flattened lids from metal ammunition cans, the "Warriors" have come up with a field expedient version of the pop-up target. In operation, it is roughly equivalent to the quick-kill pop-up targets used to train soldiers in the States.

Target to Create Interest

The new target is the most recent addition to the "Warrior" training program, which provides practice in weaponry, and mechanical ambush techniques as well as in squad and platoon fire and movement techniques.

"We decided we wanted a target that would create more interest in marksmanship," explained Captain Michael Purdy of El Centro, Calif., 4th Bn,

12th Inf training officer, "so we put our heads together and came up with one."

Built By Barker

"The pop-up target is especially good for training pointmen," said Staff Sergeant George A. Barker of Rinerelle, Ky., the battalion training NCO responsible for constructing and setting up the targets on the firing range.

Barker, who spent six years as a member of the 4th Army rifle team and 12 more years as the team's coach, is well qualified to teach marksmanship techniques.

On his previous tour in Vietnam, as a MACV advisor, Barker assisted with training of Regional and Popular Force units, relaying his knowledge and techniques to Vietnamese soldiers.

Now he is involved in training the "Warriors."

Designed for Realism

"The purpose of the pop-up

target is to give practice in first round hit accuracy," said CPT Purdy. "The targets are designed to be engaged at twenty meters or less to make the firing as realistic as possible. But just because you shoot at the target and hit it does not mean it will go down."

"You've got to hit the target in the right place or the round will go right through and leave the target standing."

"The fact that it is hard to hit and well camouflaged makes it pretty realistic," explained Purdy, "in addition to the fact that each time it is hit in the right place and goes down, it comes right back up for more."

Rangers Retrieve Souvenir

(Cont'd from Front Page)

Team leader Wiggins and his senior scout, Sergeant Hunter Beall of Vienna, W. Va., immediately grabbed the elephant's skull and dashed up the trail behind their pointman, Specialist Four Roy Mc Cormack, Jr. of Leighton, Ala.

The Rangers managed to return to the Cav element with their skull, and the head remained closely guarded on the back of an ACAV for the next two days.

But in the meantime, only three hours after the head was secured, Staff Sergeant Joe Acosta, assistant team leader from Bakersfield, Calif., together with Wiggins and Beall went on another recon mission.

"Lucky" Peach Cans

"About 200 meters out, we sighted three enemy," Acosta said. "Wiggins killed one, but another sprayed my back with automatic weapons fire. I was lucky I had some peach cans in my rucksack and a radio on my back because that stopped the shrapnel."

With Acosta momentarily stunned, the Rangers made it back to the tracks, which were returning the enemy sniper fire. They found that their elephant's head, still packed on the back of

an ACAV, had come through the action without a scratch.

Discover Camp Fires

"Later we went back to the contact site and found bloody cloth bandages and blood soaked trails," Acosta said. "All indications were that three enemy were going to ambush the track element and run."

Before being extracted by Chinook a day later, the Rangers discovered 30 used enemy camp fires in a single location and estimated at least two enemy companies were in the area.

Became Attached to Skull

"After we were off the Chinook and awaiting a truck to bring us back here, two guys just picked up the head and started to walk off with it," Beall added, "but they didn't get far."

As Wiggins explained it, his team had "gotten sort of attached to the skull after we had carried it that far."

Now on Display

"We've probably got the only elephant's head that's been through a fire fight and earned a CIB," Acosta concluded.

Since its arrival at the Brigade's museum here, the head has been put on display with credit given to the Rangers for its capture.



It sometimes gets a little windy underneath a Chinook, as this "Warrior" of the 4th Bn, 12th Inf found out the hard way recently at fire support base "Nancy."

(Photo by SP4 Dave Hauser)

Brigade Summary

(Cont'd from Page 3)

Later in the day, the "Apaches" engaged and killed one enemy soldier and captured two rifle fragmentation grenades.

March 19:

Members of "Apache" Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf engaged and killed an enemy soldier approximately 18 miles north of Xuan Loc. They also captured a DH-10 claymore mine, an 82mm mortar round, and a 60mm mortar round.

An element of "Blackfoot" Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf was engaged by three to five enemy soldiers approximately 21 miles northeast of Xuan Loc. Small arms and automatic weapons fire was exchanged with a resulting two enemy killed.

"Cottonbaler" elements from Bravo Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf, in an operation 18 miles northeast of Xuan Loc, engaged nine enemy soldiers killing three.

Elements of "Blackfoot" Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf received sniper fire from three positions during operations today. "Fireball" air craft 333, flying in support of the company, subsequently sighted one VC in a hole. The door gunner dropped a hand grenade in the hole with a resulting one enemy killed in action.

March 20:

Members of Charlie Co, 3rd

Association Reminder

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.

APO San Francisco 96279

Mail Your
Newspaper
Home Now

Fold in thirds horizontally, then double and reducible until this label fills almost the rectangle.
Staple edges. Sorry, does not qualify on free mail.

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