



SP4 Oscar Rovira, a medic with "Comanche" Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf, administers first aid to SP4 Richard Koblit during a recent operation northeast of Xuan Loc. (Photo by SP4 Robert Seitz)

2/3 Elements Kill 16

By SP4 Jerome Wadian

FSB BLACKHORSE -- Members of Delta Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf were moving to a resupply zone April 6 when their point man spotted three enemy soldiers preparing a hasty ambush.

The ensuing blast of M-16 and M-60 fire opened a week of frequent contact that for "Old Guard" elements resulted in 16 enemy deaths and over 60 bunkers destroyed. US casualties through the period were light.

The action took place in an area 16 miles southwest of Xuan Loc and before it was over it also involved Bravo Co of the "Old Guard" battalion with Charlie Co in close support.

"We had been looking for signs of enemy activity for several days with no results," recalled Staff Sergeant Dan Rhodes of Goldsboro, N.C., "when we came upon a trail and indications of a bunker complex."

"All of a sudden we saw three NVA moving off to our flank and we opened fire."

Simultaneously the "Old Guardsmen" began receiving sniper fire from the trees surrounding their position.

"The enemy was trying to ambush us," explained Sergeant Dennis Stewart of Spokane, Wash. "But we saw them before they had their chance."

"We couldn't see any bunkers," added company commander Captain Richard Kiper of Monroe, Va., "but we could see enemy soldiers behind some nearby berm."

The fighting raged for the next two hours, with gunships helping out.

Private First Class Steve Snyder of Newport, Ky. was just one of the busy infantrymen during the fire fight.

"I burned up over 30 M-16 magazines and all the M-79 ammo I could get my hands on," he explained in an interview after the action.

"Steve was using my M-79 because he was at a clear spot for firing and I wasn't," added Private First Class James Harris of Fayetteville, N.C. who was near Snyder during the battle.

"He was shooting high explosive as fast as I could throw him the shells."

Eventually the Delta Troopers pulled back to set up a nighttime position. With the help of the gunships, they had littered the battlefield with eight enemy bodies without taking a single casualty themselves.

Just before dark, one more enemy soldier was killed when he triggered a trip flare.

"When the flare went off, I saw a man carrying sandbags," explained Sergeant Mark Whitbeck of San Diego, Calif., "so we blew our claymores and opened up with small arms."

The next morning Delta Co moved out to sweep the contact area from a different direction and hit an entirely new set of enemy bunkers.

"We had no idea the bunkers were there," said Kiper, "but after we saw them, we got a squad to lay down a base of fire while the rest of us maneuvered into position to assault."

Once again Delta Co faced heavy sniper fire, but the enemy was unable to stop the

(Cont'd on Page 8)



An RTO with Alpha Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf stays low while he keeps in touch with other "Old Guard" elements during a recent enemy contact in a thick jungle area 35 miles east of Xuan Loc.

(Photo by SP4 Todd Weber)



REDCATCHER!

199th Light Infantry Brigade

Vol. 2, No. 9

May 6, 1970

'Redcatchers' Repel Attack; Kill 23 with Air and ARTY

FSB DEN -- Elements of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade quelled a well coordinated enemy mortar, rocket, and ground attack on their position here just before day break April 18. Artillery, duster, and air elements supported the "Redcatchers" during the 90 minute assault by an undetermined size enemy force.

Following the attack, sweeps of the area surrounding the base camp by "Warriors" of the 4th Bn, 12th Inf located the bodies of 23 dead enemy soldiers. In addition, two wounded suspects were detained and a large quantity of enemy munitions was located by the infantrymen.

US losses in the contact were one artilleryman killed and 35 wounded. Damage to material was characterized as "light to moderate" by military authorities.

A GI's barking dog sensed the enemy's presence shortly before

the early morning attack began, triggering the action.

"Shark" had been barking and growling for about 10 minutes," recalled Sergeant Edward Villegas of South Gate, Calif., a gunner on one of the II Field Force dusters assigned here.

"I knew she sensed something, and I kept hearing noises myself," he said. "Then I heard branches cracking, so I fired a burst from my '60' and popped a couple of flares."

Within a few seconds, the other crew members on Villegas's duster were awake and up on the gun.

Top Award to 'Warrior'

By SP4 Pete Nagurny

CAMP FRENZELL-JONES -- A member of Alpha Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf was one of 21 soldiers posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor by President Richard M. Nixon at a White House ceremony April 7.

The Medal of Honor is the highest military award for bravery presented by the United States government.

Specialist Four Kenneth L. Olson of Paynesville, Minn. is the first member of the 5th Bn, 12th Inf to have been awarded the medal and only the second member of the 199th to be so honored.

President Nixon presented the high award to members of Olson's family at the private Washington ceremony honoring the 21 US Army soldiers, all of whom gave their lives heroically in the Republic of Vietnam.

Olson was killed in action May 13, 1968 while serving as a team leader with the 5th Bn, 12th Inf "Warriors."

On that date, Alpha Co was sent into an area southwest of Saigon to extract a besieged platoon of the 199th's 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf. Following the extraction, the "Warriors" were to move forward and engage the enemy themselves.

Shortly after Alpha Co arrived in the contact area, a Viet Cong base camp was encountered and contact was established with a well armed enemy force.

The Communists were entrenched in a camouflaged bunker complex located in a nipa palm grove. Heavy machine gun emplacements were concealed throughout the camp.

"After the company moved into the area of contact and overran the first line of enemy bunkers," a report of the contact reads, "Specialist Olson and a fellow soldier moved forward of the their platoon to investigate another suspected line of enemy bunkers."

As the two men advanced, they came under intense automatic weapons fire from an enemy position ten meters to their front. The "Warriors" were immediately pinned down.

"With complete disregard for his own safety, Specialist Olson raised up, exposing himself to the heavy machine gun fire, and hurled a hand grenade into the Viet Cong position," the report states.

(Cont'd on Page 8)

First Round an RPG

"We could see silhouettes out there," explained Villegas, "so we got on the guns and opened up with the 'twin 40s'. The next thing we knew, an RPG hit a tree in the center of the perimeter."

199th units defending the camp during the subsequent attack were elements of "Comanche" and Bravo Cos, 4th Bn, 12th Inf, and three gun sections of Charlie Btry, 2nd Bn, 40th Arty.

In addition, six 155mm self-propelled Howitzers from Alpha Btry, 2nd Bn, 35th Arty Group were present.

It wasn't long after the first RPG round came in before everyone in the camp knew what was going on.

"All of a sudden it was raining mortars," recalled Staff Sergeant David Quezada of Fullerton, Calif., "Comanche" Co mortar platoon leader. "I was on guard when the duster sounded off. I popped flares and immediately spotted two enemy moving toward my position. I opened up with my M-60 and then started putting out some M-79 rounds."

'Enemy Around Wire'

GIs started coming up to the berm, and then the whole perimeter seemed to open up as more rockets and mortars came in.

"We opened up big," Quezada said.

"When the flares went off, we could see the enemy loading mortars and running around the wire," said Sergeant William Masters, an artilleryman with Charlie Btry.

With "Comanche" Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf manning a majority of the camp's perimeter, the "Warrior's" Bravo Co mortars and the artillery elements began counter the enemy's fire with an attack of their own.

The mortar unit was about to begin firing its perimeter defense targets when the assault began, and when the rounds started coming in, the mortarmen

(Cont'd on Page 8)

MACV Curbs Black Market

Because economic competition from servicemen of Free World Forces has induced inflation and encouraged illegal currency transactions in the Republic of Vietnam, the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, in cooperation with the Government of Vietnam, has issued strict regulations on the handling and circulation of money in the command.

The US dollar is one of several international currencies that will buy goods in any market in the world. Therefore, many nations attempt to get US money in order to buy on the world market. This is particularly true of Communist nations which do not have normal trade relations with the free world. Free circulation of dollars would harm the US or the host country. Consequently, in some overseas areas, MPC (Military Payment Certificates), or "scrip," are issued.

MPC is for use only in US facilities and only authorized patrons of those facilities may possess MPC. However, many people in Vietnam want to gain illegal possession of the goods and services which can be purchased with MPC. They may try to bribe or "con" military personnel into buying items for them at the PX or they may want to convert the scrip into green dollars which they can take out of Vietnam.

These black market dollars can end up as payments for Communist weapons and supplies. US dollars are gathered here and elsewhere, smuggled to places like Hong Kong and funneled into Red China or other Communist countries. In effect, the dollars you place into the black market in Vietnam could pay for the weapon the enemy uses to kill you or your buddies. It makes no difference whether you put green dollars of MPC in illegal hands; the effect is the same.

There is a \$200 per month limit per person on the amount of MPC that can be converted to US dollar instruments (postal money orders, treasury checks, etc.). This limit also applies to MPC deposited to bank accounts or the Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program (USSDP). Deposits made to the USSDP simultaneously with receipt of Pay, allowances and bonuses will not be subject to the \$200 per month limitation. Only the case deposits come under the \$200 limit.

Exception to this limit will be authorized when an individual is departing RVN (R&R, leave, PCS, etc.), or a bona fide personal emergency requires purchase of dollar instruments in excess of \$200. Any time an exception to the \$200 limit is authorized, an individual must obtain a certificate from his commander/supervisor that the MPC in excess of \$200 were legally acquired.

If a Vietnamese or other non-American asks you to change his MPC into piasters don't do it. You'd be dealing in the black market. Local Vietnamese Nationals or other residents of the Republic of Vietnam are strictly forbidden by Vietnamese law to possess any foreign currency, including US currency, MPC, dollar instruments or personal checks drawn in US dollars.

Income Tax Delay for RVN Vets

Servicemen and women, federal civilian employees, and Red Cross workers in the Republic of Vietnam do not have to file federal income tax returns for 1969 until 180 days after they leave the war zone.

The extension also applies to servicemen hospitalized outside the United States as a result of duty in Vietnam, accredited correspondents, and others in Vietnam supporting the US Armed Forces.

The wife of a serviceman in Vietnam has several choices regarding their tax return. She may file a joint return now, file a separate return now if she had any income and amend it to a joint return when her husband returns, or postpone the filing of a return until her husband leaves Vietnam and meets filing requirements.

2/40 ARTY Fires Millionth Round

By SP4 Andy McCullough

FSB DEN II -- The 2nd Bn, 40th Artillery fired its 1,000,000th combat round in support of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade at a commemorative ceremony here April 17.

Colonel Robert W. Selton, commanding officer of the 199th, fired the silver-cannistered 105mm round during the ceremony which highlighted over three years of Vietnam service for the artillery battalion.

Next, 2nd Bn, 40th Artillery Commander Lieutenant Colonel Richard H. Bass fired a "projo" to mark the beginning of the unit's second million rounds.

Lieutenant Colonel John R. Black, commander of the 3rd Bn, 7th Inf, fired the 1,000,002nd round. The 3rd Bn, 7th Inf is collocated here with the 2nd Bn, 40th Artillery's Charlie Btry.

Each of the three commanders was presented with the cannister from the projectile that he fired.

After the firing, COL Selton congratulated the officers and men of the Charlie Btry along with those of the entire unit for their exceptional work in support of the 199th.

"This round is more than a number," he said, "It is symbolic of the excellent work done by all the men in this battalion. There's not an infantryman in this entire Brigade who does not appreciate your support when he goes out into the jungles. They appreciate you. We all do."

The Brigade commander also extended his personal congratulations to the men of the fifth gun section for being chosen to represent their unit on the day of the firing of the 1,000,000th round.

Present for the ceremony in addition to the two battalion commanders and the acting Brigade commander were Major Nelson T. Nance, 2nd Bn, 40th Artillery executive officer, and Battalion Command Sergeant Major Bobby R. Justus.

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 of or damage to military property. The surveying officer interviews and takes written statements from witnesses who have knowledge of the damage or 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

Dental Kits Help Brush Out Flaws

By SP5 James Sheehy

XUAN LOC -- A recent Medcap here conducted by the 199th has begun to attack dental problems among Xuan Loc school children.

During the Medcap, 150 dental kits containing tooth brushes, tooth paste, and cloth hand towels were handed out to several classes of the Xuan Loc Cathedral School.

"We've found in past trips to this school that these children are in far greater need of dental care than even children in outlying areas," explained Sergeant First Class William Brookshire of Spring Lake, N.C., senior aid man for the 199th's forward command post and sponsor of the project. "So we decided to do something about it."

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" 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. First, he can request that the surveying officer reconsider his findings of liability. In this connection, the individual can appeal a recommendation of liability through channels all the way to the Secretary of the Army. Third, if the individual is an enlisted man, he can ask, even if he is held liable, that the debt be remitted by the government.

In exercising any of these rights, an individual is entitled to military counsel to advice and assist him.

If you are involved in the loss or damage of government property for which a report of survey is being conducted, it would be wise to consult with an attorney from the Staff Judge Advocate's office concerning your possible liability for such loss or damage. It is important to remember that even if you were negligent in handling government property, that does not automatically mean that under Army regulations you must pay for the loss or damage. Let an attorney look at the exact facts of your case.

NEWFER

by Myal



I THOUGHT SWAN LOCK WAS A CHASITY BELT FOR A GOOSE.



REDCATCHER!

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'Blackfoot' Awarded Silver Star

By SP4 Peter Nagurny

CAMP FRENZELL-JONES - The Silver Star Medal, the third highest award for valor in the US military, was presented to Specialist Four Charles E. Hatch, Jr. of Franklin, Va. at a ceremony here April 1.

Hatch, a member of "Blackfoot" Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf, received the award for heroism last Dec 22.

"Specialist Hatch ran through (an) enemy fusillade to the side of the soldier, who was in a state of shock and not breathing," his award citation states.

The "Warrior" revived the wounded soldier by mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and, realizing that the man could not be moved, he fought the enemy from his exposed position to protect his comrade from hostile fire.

"When the medical evacuation helicopter arrived and lowered a jungle penetrator for the wounded man, Specialist Hatch again exposed himself to enemy fire to move his comrade into the basket, covering the departure of the aircraft with accurate suppressive fire," the citation reads.

Lieutenant Colonel David A. Beckner, commander of the 5th Bn, 12th Inf, presented the Silver Star at the ceremony here.

"The decision to disregard his own safety to save the life of a fallen comrade," Beckner said, "took only seconds for Specialist Hatch to make, but because of his decision and his actions, a fellow soldier is alive today."

Hatch has been in the Army since November, 1968. He completed basic training at Fort Benning, Ga. and advanced infantry training at Fort Polk, La. before arriving in Vietnam in May, 1969.

Make Mine Pizza, Please

FSB MACE - As part of their continuing fire base improvement program, "Cottonbalers" of the 3rd Bn, 7th Inf recently brought one more "Stateside" convenience to their battalion forward command post here—a pizza stand.

The man responsible for bringing pizza to fire base "Mace" is Command Sergeant Major Robert Diesher of Alton, Ill., the "Cottonbalers" top NCO. Diesher contracted a Korean concessionaire to provide the service.

So far, business has been pretty good. On their first day here, the Korean pizza men sold their entire stock of over 100 pizzas to anxious GIs willing to try anything once that might possibly be a welcome reminder of home.

"They're not like the pizzas back home," commented Private First Class Tom Weis of Cleveland, a medic with Charlie Co, after tasting one of the pies, "but for a war zone, they are all right."

"Cottonbaler" food connoisseur, Specialist Four Clyde Moon of Wisconsin Dells, Wis. was undecided after eating his first two pizzas.

"I wasn't sure what I thought of them," explained Moon, who is known as "Fat Doc" among the men in his company, "so I



SP4 Malcolm Delmonte, an infantryman with Alpha Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf, talks with "Donut Dolly" Trish Peyton recently at fire support base "Nancy." (Photo by SP4 David Hauser)

'Donut Dolly' Brings Smiles

By SP4 David Hauser

FSB NANCY - Patricia Peyton of Denver, is one 1st Inf Div "leftover" who stands out in a crowd.

A Red Cross "Donut Dolly" reassigned as a result of the redeployment of the "Big Red One," Patricia has been visiting "Redcatchers" here and at other 199th installations for over two months now.

"Trish," as most "Redcatchers" know her, is a cute girl of 24 with a definite knack for working with people.

Trish was considering going to work for the USO when she heard about the "Donut Dolly" program.

Trish is one of nine "Donut Dollies" assigned to II Field Force headquarters who make periodic visits to the Brigade.

"Two girls come to the 199th every day," she explained, "with different girls coming each week."

The other seven on any given day travel to other units under the control of II Field Force.

decided to have a couple more. "Not bad," he said later, "I didn't know Rome was the capital of Korea."

Current rumors are that if the pizza stand continues to be a success, the McDonald's hamburger chain may open one of its famous stands at "Mace."

Yes, only in Vietnam....



Out of the field at last and only a little worse for wear is a toy mouse that walked along point with SGT Peter Danchise for close to 12 months. Danchise, an infantryman with the 4th Bn, 12th

Inf, put both his steel pot and his pet mouse in semi-retirement recently when he landed a "job in the rear" shortly before rotating back to the States. (Photo by SP4 David Hauser)

In the Field Brigade Summary

April 6:

Elements of Alpha Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf, while sweeping 16 miles southeast of Xuan Loc, engaged an unknown size enemy force in a bunker complex, killing nine.

April 7:

Members of Alpha Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf, on continued operations southeast of Xuan Loc, swept through an enemy base camp, locating three enemy dead. A careful search of the area revealed over 750 pounds of rice and 75 pounds of salt along with assorted military equipment.

April 10:

Members of Bravo Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf, operating in the same general area as the "Old Guard" battalion's Alpha Co, found three dead enemy soldiers after driving an enemy force from a base camp.

April 12:

Members of Bravo Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf, working in the same general area as Alpha Co, engaged five enemy with small arms fire, capturing one enemy soldier and a 9mm pistol.



April 13:

"Warriors" of Charlie Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf discovered six bunkers containing two 82mm mortar rounds, one Chicom grenade, an enemy gas mask, an NVA canteen, an 82mm mortar fuse, and two enemy packs. The cache was found 15 miles northeast of Xuan Loc.

April 14:

"Old Guardsmen" of Alpha Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf, on continued operations 14 miles southeast of Xuan Loc, engaged an enemy soldier.

Elements of Alpha Co, 4th

Bn, 12th Inf detained three enemy suspects, three AK-47 rifles, and three rucksacks in an action 22 miles northeast of Xuan Loc.

"Warriors" of Bravo Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf engaged and killed a lone enemy soldier 26 miles north of Xuan Loc.

April 15:

In a continued sweep 22 miles north of Xuan Loc, Alpha Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf uncovered a hootch containing 1,300 pounds of rice.

April 16:

Members of Alpha Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf located their second rice cache in two days. This one contained 15,000 pounds of unhusked rice and was found in a thatched hootch near the site of the first cache, 22 miles north of Xuan Loc.

April 17:

Co M, 75th Rangers engaged and killed two enemy soldiers 28 miles northwest of Xuan Loc.

One additional body believed to be the result of an April 10 contact involving Bravo Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf, was found by that unit 17 miles southeast of Xuan

Loc.

April 18:

"Warriors" of Charlie Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf and artillerymen of Charlie Btry, 2nd Bn, 40th Arty repulsed a well coordinated enemy attack on fire support base "Den," 22 miles northeast of Xuan Loc. Sweeps over the next three days uncovered 23 enemy soldiers killed in the early morning contact. Two suspects were detained and a quantity of enemy munitions was also recovered following the attack.

April 21:

"Cottonbalers" of Bravo Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf, operating 13 miles northeast of Xuan Loc captured a small cache of munitions and personal items after a brief clash with three enemy soldiers.

4/12 Aid Viots

FSB NANCY - "Warriors" of the 4th Bn, 12th Inf played an important part in the distribution of 1,000 pounds of clothing to needy families in nearby Tho Lam hamlet March 20. The clothes were supplied to the hamlet by the Saigon Catholic Relief Society.

"I asked the hamlet chief to give me the names of his poorest families," explained Captain Jon Davis of Los Angeles, the battalion civil affairs officer, "and when I took the list to the Catholic Relief Society, they gave me the clothes."

Members of the "Warrior" civil action team then transported the several bundles of clothing to the hamlet for distribution by the hamlet chief.

Constant maintenance of equipment is a necessity to the mortarman. Here, SP4 Carl 'Abe' Adolpson and PFC Werner Sutphin clean and lubricate the rotator on a mortar baseplate while SP4 Tom Bogart and PFC Leonard Crawford inspect a barrel.



THE 42 MORTAR

ECHO
3/7 Inf.

Story by 1LT John Randt

Photos by SGT Lark Lambart

FSB MACE -- The mortar men of Echo Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf have built firing positions in everything from small Vietnamese camps to even smaller jungle clearings to provide indirect fire support for "Cottonbaler" operations in Long Khanh Province.

"A huge amount of effort is required to move the section," explained Sergeant Paul Hoess of Muskeson, Mich., "but in our case, experience speeds the procedure."

Several Means of Moving

The mortars weigh 650 pounds each, and a solitary shell weighs 35 pounds.

"We move equipment and men by truck, armored cavalry vehicle, or Chinook chopper," said Hoess.

At each new location the fire direction control (FDC) plots firing data on a 4.2 firing chart and then double checks their work with an M-16 mortar plotting board. This information is then placed on the mortar sight, and the barrel is adjusted to achieve a proper sight picture. Correct sight picture is basically the proper alignment of aiming stakes in relation to the mortar tube.

"Once properly obtained," explained Sergeant Jim Tenn, "the number of rounds fired is firmly in the number of rounds checked the equipment."

"Bore sight with the tube and an aiming stake in a par the same time an accurate direction."

From their ready to shoot. Often an "H&A" and interdiction through the "contact" mission "Cottonbaler" may come at a moment's notice.

Moves to come frequent.

"The process of unpacking," Specialist For medic from plenty of Vietnam real carnival."



Grabbing a few minutes of precious sleep between fire missions is not always easy. A case in point is PFC Richard Lee of Echo Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf shown here on an operation 30 miles northeast of Xuan Loc.



"Round Hanging!" Individual crew members of number two gun, Echo Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf are: PFC John Fosnaught, propellant charge cutter; PFC Richard Lee, assistant gunner; SP4 John Rihinehart, squad leader; and SP4 George Diaz, gunner.



Plugging their ears during a recent fire mission at

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Dazzling bursts of light spout from a 4.2 mortar tube during a recent night fire mission. Extra caution is a constant safety factor due to occasional sparks from the propellent charge.



ard Baker, PFC John Fosnaught, and SP4 George Diaz.



Waiting for the blast as a 107mm mortar shell descends down the tube are PFC Werner Sutphin, PFC Tim Stanley, and PS4 Richard McCurry.

ARVNs Assume Bigger Vietnamization Role

Story and Photos By 1LT Louis Day



18th ARVN Div instructors are senior NCOs or officers with extensive experience in jungle combat.

XUAN LOC -- This is perhaps what Vietnamization was meant to be--the training of Vietnamese by Vietnamese.

And no doubt the Vietnamization program in Long Khanh Province matured somewhat recently, when the 18th ARVN Division, companion unit of the 199th, initiated an ambitious training program for the Popular Forces within its area of operations.

The 199th has conducted on-the-job training for Regional and Popular Force elements for more than eight months, as well as upgrading the 18th Div through the use of Mobile Training Teams. However, in early April the 18th decided to supplement the efforts of its companion unit by setting up mobile training teams of its own.

"Our mission is to improve the tactics of the PF soldiers so that they can protect their hamlets and local areas," stated First Lieutenant Nguyen-Tuan-Kiet, team leader of the 48th ARVN Mobile Training Teams. "This means that the ARVN Infantry soldiers will then be able to move outward and clear the enemy away from the populated areas."

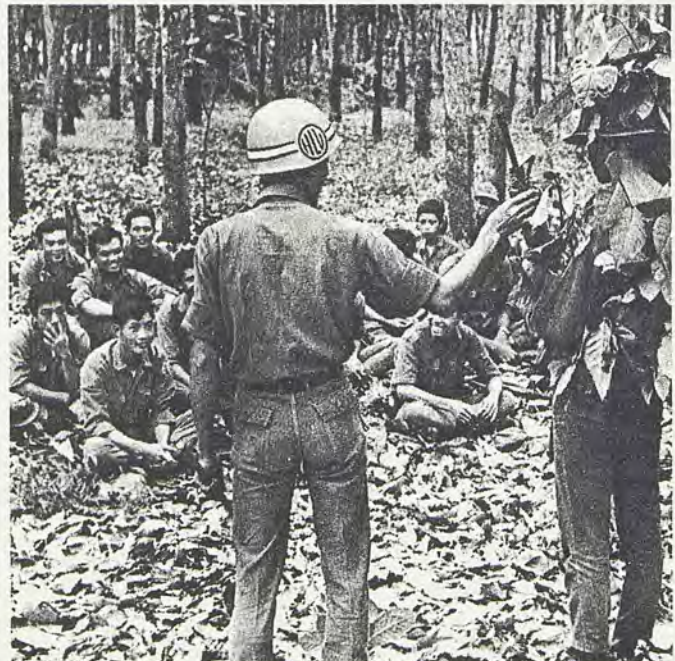
The ARVN teams themselves are the products of an intensive training program conducted by the 1st Australian Task Force at the 48th ARVN Reg headquarters at fire base "Blackhorse," 8 miles south of Xuan Loc. The five-week course was attended by three teams—one from each regiment of the 18th Div—of 17 men each, consisting of senior NCOs and officers who had had extensive experience in jungle combat. During the last week the teams actually trained a PF platoon while the Aussies critiqued.

The training teams spend one week with each PF unit. The classes, which for many serve as refresher training since most of the trainees have received previous instruction from American units, consist of weapons training, tactics, camouflage, map reading and compass, and ambushes.

"Our people learn faster from Vietnamese instruction than Americans," said Nguyen-Van-Chuoi, platoon leader of a PF platoon from Xuan Loc District. "There is no communication problem and it's easier for them to understand what is being said."



Ambush tactics are covered in detail with no worry of a "communications problem."



PFs learn techniques of camouflage from their ARVN instructor during a recent class.

The goal of the ARVN mobile training teams is an improvement in the ability of PF soldiers to protect their own hamlets and local areas.



Refresher Courses Provide Helpful Training for ARVNs

NUI THI HILL — The bleachers were filled with ARVN soldiers-members of a line company who had tasted combat frequently. They were being briefed on the proper use of an M-16 rifle by an ARVN interpreter backed up by a member of the 199th's Mobile Training Team.

"We're giving basically a refresher course here," explained Captain James L. Cox, of Jacksonville, Fla., commanding officer of the training team, in an interview after the class. "We take combat troops from the 18th ARVN Div and give them a chance to improve their knowledge of the field."

The course is broken down into a five day training program which includes coverage of small unit tactics, compass course, ambush and counter ambush, first aid, and rifle tactics including battlesight zero.

"While this is a refresher course, we have a second primary reason for being here," added Sergeant First Class Bernard Corpus of Honolulu, Ha., the team's NCOIC. "We're here to instill confidence in the ARVN soldiers—to show him we care and think that this is our most important function."

All of the members of the nine man training team were formerly with line units either in the 199th or the 1st Inf Div. They have all been in combat situations, and know what Vietnam is like from the combat soldier's point of view. In most cases they have worked with the Vietnamese before—primarily with Regional or Popular Forces—and know how to get their point across.

Soldier's Love Lives On

By SP4 Ronald Shaw

XUAN LOC — A young radio operator here whose mother died shortly after he entered the Army sent a Mother's Day message home this year even though "Mom" won't be there to receive it.

Specialist Four Bobby C. Busha of Toccoa, Ga., an RTO with the 2nd Bn, 40th Arty, recently sent a taped message in memory of his mother to his father, brothers, and sisters.

"This is Bobby C. Busha...sending home memories of mother on this special day," the GI said in his Mother's Day tape, which he addressed to the other members of his family.

"Though many days have passed since she has gone, memories of her and how much she cared still reminds her children that lovingly, we were her own," he said.

In his recording Busha told all those whose mothers are still living, "honor them and give them your love, for no one else could ever care so much for you as mother."

Tapes similar to Busha's, but usually addressed to a soldier's mother, have been recorded in recent weeks by the information office here. The tapes are forwarded to local radio stations and normally aired as personal holiday greetings to the mothers of servicemen in Vietnam.

This is the second Mobile Training Team that the Brigade has had; "The first team was phased out during TET of this year because operational necessities within the 18th ARVN Div required all manpower elsewhere," explained CPT Cox.

The program is rated highly by the ARVNs who participate in it. Sergeant Tram Tu, for example, a member of the 3rd Co, 4th Bn, 43rd Reg summed up the feelings of his group: "My comrades and I are happy to have taken this course. I think we learn a lot that we use when we go back to the field. It is important to know how Americans think in the same situations we come to find ourselves in. This course is very good and is good for morale also."

Comic Pair Are Morale Experts

By SP4 William Ludescher

FSB MACE — Specialist Four Linus D. Toland's chic's name is Tuna. He calls her that because she means more to him than tuna fish sandwiches, of which he's quite fond.

As you might expect, Toland, or as his buddies call him, Tuna, is a character. He walks rear security for the 2nd platoon of Bravo Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf with another character named Lolipop, whose real name is Specialist Four Lonnie Tabron.

That's right, Tabron's girl's name is Lolipop, which he claims she is sweeter than.

Now, you can imagine what the poor members of the 2nd platoon have to deal with.

"They're our comedians," chuckled platoon leader First Lieutenant Ronald A. Gordon. "There's an almost continuous stream of laughs coming up the file from those two characters, which, of course, is great for morale. Whenever anyone in the platoon feels down and out, all he has to do is stop by their position for a little comic refreshment."

Talking with Tuna and Lolipop is like taking a refresher course in your sense of the ridiculous. Chances are, you will be letting yourself in for some kind of nonsense conversation.

One of the duo's more recent preposterous inventions is double talk, which consists in making every statement twice.

"Have you ever noticed that everytime you say anything to a grunt, his first response is always 'huh,'" observed Tuna. "Whether he actually hears you or not, he always says 'huh' and then you have to repeat yourself. Here, let me demonstrate."

At this juncture, Specialist Four Robert Williams walked over from his position and Tuna asked him, "Isn't that right?" You guess his response.

"Well," continued Tuna, "You see what I mean. So Lolipop and I decided to make it easier for all of them by saying everything twice to begin with. It may take you a little longer to get your point across to someone, but in the long run it prevents all the interim confusion."

Now, how can anyone attack such logic? You just have to nod your head in agreement and say, "Yes, you're right, you're right."



When asked why we chose this girl for our pinup this week, our staff routinely replied that we couldn't resist her attractive smile. But when the

real facts of the matter are bared, we will have to admit, that actually her cute cheeks won us over.

Repel Attack-

(Cont'd from Front Page)

simply readjusted their fire on the enemy's positions.

The "105s" and "155s" leveled their tubes and fired directly at enemy muzzle flashes in the tree line just outside the fire base perimeter.

Artillerymen not assigned to a gun crew helped man the perimeter bunkers, firing machine guns and tossing hand frags to keep the enemy away from their positions.

"Everyone did what he could," explained Private First Class Joseph Simms of Souix Falls, S. D., another artillery crewman. "The cooks were hauling water to the wounded and providing cover fire when someone was pulled to safety."

As the "Redcatchers" counter-fire began to silence the enemy's rocket and mortar attack, Communist soldiers carrying fragmentation grenades, rocket grenades, and satchel charges approached the base camp wire with the intention of penetrating through the fire base's perimeter.

To a man, however, the enemy was stopped short of his goal.

"The next morning, we found two dead enemy just 25 meters in front of our track," explained Specialist Four Michael Kocian of Big Fort Minn., a duster section chief. "One was an ammo bearer, and the other had an RPG loaded in his launcher and ready to fire."

Helicopter gunships and a "Shadow" had been on hand strafing enemy positions since shortly after the contact began.

4/12 Bag Beau Coup Rice

FSB DEN - Two caches containing a total of eight tons of rice were uncovered recently by members of "Apache" Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf 21 miles northeast of Xuan Loc.

The first cache, located April 15, contained 1,300 pounds of milled rice in three 200 pound bags and seven 100 pound bags.

The second, located the following day a short distance from the position of the first, included an estimated 15,000 pounds of unhusked rice in a thatched hootch bin.

The ten by ten hootch, containing a sea of the unbagged rice three feet deep, was covered with ponchos and its walls were thatched to keep the rice intact.

"It looked like a giant basket," recalled Captain John Cummings, the "Apache" Co commander.

"The hootch itself was very well camouflaged," added Specialist Four Joseph Best, and RTO from Bishop, Calif., as he told of the difficulty a LOH pilot had in pinpointing the position of the cache from the air.

But as the "Apaches" approached from the ground, five such newly built hootches were clearly visible.

Members of "Commanche" Co later moved into secure the rice cache as the "Apaches" continued on their mission.

The grain was subsequently turned over to Regional Force troops for extraction from the area.

The Department of the Army has announced that all Regular Army Lieutenants commissioned in the combat arms and combat support arms after Jan 1, 1970 will be required to take Ranger training. (ANF)

"They concentrated fire close to the berm and raked through the woodland," said Captain Ralph Cless of Mill Valley, Calif. 4th Bn, 12th Inf air operations officer.

"Tracers were coming down right in front of me-right on the wire," reported artillery Sergeant William Masters.

The 199th night ship provided illumination off and on through the night with a mounted zeon light.

By 4:30 a.m. the battle was over. The "Redcatcher's" superior fire power had driven back the assaulting enemy force.

Artillery continued to recon the area until daylight while dustoffs arrived to take out the wounded.

Medics who had been at work throughout the early morning hours transported their patients to the dustoff choppers with others assisting them.

In addition to locating 23 enemy bodies, "Redcatchers" recovered a total of 37 mortar rounds placed in several mortar positions, 21 enemy grenades, 10 B-40 rocket rounds and, 7 AK-47 rifles.

On the second day following the attack, Colonel Robert W. Selton, commanding officer of the 199th, presented impact awards to 15 soldiers of the 4th Bn, 12th Inf and 21 artillerymen of the 2nd Bn, 40th Arty for their heroism in the action.

Medal of Honor to 'Warrior'—

Failing to silence the enemy's fire, he pulled the pin of another grenade and prepared to throw.

"As Specialist Olson again exposed himself to the insurgents, he was wounded by enemy fire causing him to drop the activated grenade. Realizing that the grenade would explode at any moment, Specialist Olson, with utter disregard for his own life, threw himself upon the hand grenade, taking the full

brunt of the explosion."

As a result of his actions, Olson was the only member of the unit to receive serious injury from the grenade, and the enemy position was subsequently neutralized by the remaining members of the element.

The only other member of the 199th to receive a Medal of Honor is Chaplain (CPT) Angelo

J. Liteky, who was presented the award late in 1968 by former President Lyndon B. Johnson. Liteky, the only chaplain to receive the Medal of honor during the Vietnam conflict and only the fifth chaplain in history to receive the bravery award, was credited with personally rescuing more than 20 wounded men pinned down by heavy fire Dec 6, 1967 near Thu Duc.

Jeeps Not Exactly Stockcar, but...

By SP4 Andrew McCullough

CAMP FRENZELL-JONES - Working for a battalion motor pool in Vietnam isn't quite the same thing as building stockcar engines for the NASCAR circuit back in the States, but Specialist Four Alex Gibson doesn't

mind—at least for the time being.

Gibson, currently the transportation inspector for the 2nd Bn, 40th Arty, built engines for some of NASCAR's top drivers before he entered the Army and he plans to do the same when he returns to civilian life.

Among the drivers he worked for are Buddy Baker and LeRoy Yarborough.

As TI specialist for the 2nd Bn, 40th Arty, the mechanic, a native of Charlotte, N.C., has the final work on the condition of all vehicles before they leave the unit's motor pool.

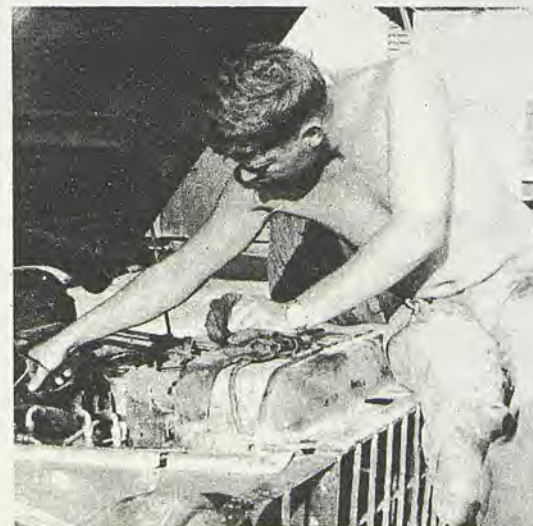
"As long as I have to put my name on that trip ticket okaying each vehicle for dispatch," he said recently, "nothing gets out of here until I'm satisfied it's in good shape."

Assuming the drivers keep up maintenance after they leave the motor pool, Gibson said, "I'll stand behind any vehicle to complete its mission once I've checked it over."

After working as a TI specialist for six months, Gibson has become a firm believer in the Army's system of preventative maintenance.

"Although most drivers are conscientious about their vehicle's condition," he said, "some don't seem to realize that even the smallest defect has the potential to deadline a jeep or track."

Although he enjoys his work with the 2nd Bn, 40th Arty, Gibson does plan to leave jeeps and Army trucks behind in favor of more refined machinery when he processes out of the service. "I'm still under a five-year contract to build stockcar engines," he pointed out with a grin.



Former NASCAR mechanic SP4 Alex Gibson checks out a vehicle in the 2nd Bn, 40th Arty motor pool recently before giving the driver a trip ticket. (Photo by SP4 Andy McCullough)

2/3 Kill-

(Cont'd from Front Page)

infantrymen as they swept into the base camp.

"The initiating platoon save us with their intense, accurate base of fire," the company commander explained.

That afternoon Bravo Co was airmobiled into the contact area and early on the morning of April 8, the "Old Guardsmen" encountered more enemy hastily erecting new bunkers.

The enemy fire was heavy and accurate, pinning the infantrymen down in an old bunker.

"Each time we looked up over the rim, machine gun fire was walking up to our position," said Specialist Four Timothy Roland of Bowie, Md.

Gunships were again called in, this time working within 20 meters of the friendly position so that the men of Bravo Co could pull everyone from the bullet swept area.

After subsequent air strikes, the "Old Guardsmen" moved in to find empty bunkers and a fresh enemy trail.

Bravo Co set off in pursuit, and two days later they found their quarry - once again building bunkers.

"Two of our recon elements made contact simultaneously," explained Dotson. "We called for more airstrikes, and they were right on target."

Three more enemy bodies were found in the camp, bringing the total for the operation to 15.

On April 12, another contact developed as an element of Bravo's second platoon was preparing to move out from an ambush position.

The "Old Guardsmen" noticed four or five enemy nearby and immediately opened up with small arms.

"When we swept the area we found a heavy blood trail and then a wounded NVA officer," explained Staff Sergeant Tommy Masters of Houston, Tex.

One more dead enemy was located the following day, as Delta Co was sweeping near the site of this Bravo Co contact.



The 199th's recently acquired OH58 "kiowa" helicopter, heads back to BMB after a long day of flying over the Brigade's area of operations in Long Khanh and Binh Tuy Provinces.

(Photo by SP4 David Hauser)

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