



REDCATCHER!

199th Light Infantry Brigade

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Navy Seabees unload an Air Force C-130 transport plane at the 7th Spt Bn's Ham Tan supply point on the South China Sea. The 199th's support battalion operated the supply base at Ham Tan, 56

miles southeast of Camp Frenzell-Jones, from April 15 to mid-May.

(Photo by SP4 Carl Winstead)

7th Spt Operates New Supply Point

CAMP FRENZELL JONES -- In the first such operation in its history, a contingent of the 7th Spt Bn moved from BMB recently to build and operate a forward supply point beyond the maneuver elements of the 199th.

The supply point, which provided close-up logistical support to "Redcatchers" in eastern Binh Tuy Province, was constructed near Ham Tan on the South China Sea--56 miles southeast of here.

The operation began April 15 and ended with the return of the support element in mid-May.

The supply point served elements of the 3rd Bn, 7th Inf; 2nd Bn, 40th Arty; Delta Trp, 17th Cav; and the 25th Inf Div's 2nd Bn, 34th Armor. These units were operating in the vicinity of the 199th's fire support base "Mat," 10 miles north of Ham Tan.

"A land line of communication to this area was out of the question because of distance and security," explained 7th Spt Bn Operations Officer Major Robert Jones when asked the reason for the unusual move. "Consequently, it was necessary to combine with the Air Force and Navy Seabees

to accomplish this joint operation."

The supply point was constructed adjacent to an air strip northwest of Ham Tan to facilitate this.

It was the job of the support troops at the supply point to receive, store, and distribute food, petroleum, and ammunition supplies to the units operating out of "Mat."

"In order to do this, we had to develop the supply point just as if we were building a fire support base," explained First Lieutenant Peter Ghiorse, who was in charge of the contingent at Ham Tan. "We built berms, dug bunkers, and got plenty of overhead cover—it was definitely a first for the men of our battalion."

The 87th Eng Co and the 3rd Bn, 7th Inf provided additional security for the supply point.

As the officer in charge, Ghiorse was the primary coordinator of the operation at Ham Tan.

"The supported units would tell me exactly what they needed," he explained, "and I, in turn, would relay this information back to the rear. It was their job to get supplies out to us by plane."

Mme Tho Turns Flour to Bread

By SP4 Jon Sweet

XUAN LOC -- A five-ton flour cache captured by Bravo Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf last March was put to good use recently by the wife of Brigadier General Lam Quang Tho, commander of the 18th ARVN Div.

Madame Tho had the enemy flour supply baked into 3,000 loaves of bread which she then distributed to 18th ARVN Div families located throughout Long Khanh and Binh Tuy Provinces.

"We gave the flour to a baker in Xuan Loc," Mme Tho explained recently, "and he volunteered his time to bake the bread for us."

The perky wife of the division

commander personally traveled more than 200 miles to distribute the bread to families of soldiers in her husband's command. She traveled by both car and helicopter, and she dressed in camouflaged fatigues during the trips.

"My husband is very involved in the combat war," she has said, "and I'm very happy to visit our soldiers and their families."

Colonel John Tyler, 18th Div senior advisor, explained that such activities are unique for a Vietnamese wife.

"Customs usually keep Vietnamese wives in the background and out of public view," he said.



A Vietnamese interpreter attached to Alpha Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf runs for cover during a recent contact 35 miles east of Xuan Loc.

(Photo by SP4 Todd Weber)

'Old Guard' Kills 20 With Air Support

By SP4 Jerome Wadian

FSB BLACKHORSE -- A total of 20 enemy were killed recently as members of Charlie Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf combined with artillery and helicopter gunships in two days of fighting 13 miles southeast of Xuan Loc.

The action began early on the morning of April 30. "Old Guardsmen" of Charlie Co's first platoon had moved 200 meters from their nighttime position when they began receiving heavy automatic weapons and small arms fire from an estimated enemy platoon entrenched in bunkers.

The infantrymen quickly hit the ground and began to return fire. Within minutes they had moved up and were pouring small arms, automatic weapons, and M-79 fire into the bunkers.

Kill Nine VC

While the men continued to pin the enemy down in the complex, a light fire team was called in support, and later, after the "Old Guardsmen" pulled back, airstrikes pounded the area.

The results were nine Viet Cong killed—six credited to the gunships and three to airstrikes.

Early that afternoon, Charlie Co's second platoon was also called into the area.

"We wanted them to sweep into the complex from a different direction," explained Captain John Delano, the Charlie Co commander from St. Petersburg, Fla.

Once again, however, the enemy responded with a heavy volume of machine gun and small arms fire.

"They were trying to make us keep our heads down and withdraw from the area," said Delano.

Discover Trail

But instead of pulling back, the "Old Guardsmen" remained

in position, keeping the enemy pinned down while artillery and gunships blasted the area.

The infantrymen killed three enemy before they pulled back once again to allow Air Force jets to come in.

During the withdrawal Charlie Co discovered an enemy trail leading to the base camp, and late that afternoon the first platoon set up an ambush position there while members of the second platoon approached the bunkers from still another direction.

Try To Cut Trip Wires

The dazed enemy managed to lay down a base of machine gun fire as the second platoon element moved up, but by this time the VC seemed to be in trouble.

The enemy unit sent at least six men out to try to outflank the attacking "Old Guardsmen," but the group ran into the first platoon's ambush instead.

"I was on guard next to a berm when I saw a VC trying to cut one of trip flare wires," recalled Specialist Four Ellis Hale of Wayne, W. Va.

Hale sounded the alarm and opened up with his machine gun. By the time the contact ended and the enemy withdrew, Charlie Co had four more dead VC to its credit along with a captured AK-47 rifle.

'Thought We'd Be Lax'

On the following day, May 1, the second platoon again moved towards the base camp, this time entering the outer edge of the complex before receiving enemy fire.

"We had reconnoitered by fire with no results and had already examined the first set of bunkers when they hit us," explained Private First Class Joseph Dobrezewski of Detroit. "Maybe they thought we'd be

(Cont'd on Page 8)

3/7 'Soul Tape' Fray's Enemy Nerves

By SP4 William Ludescher

FSB MAT -- Accompanied by some spine tingling sound effects and agonizing wailing, the soul of a Viet Cong soldier killed in

battle laments his fate.

"I am dead and I don't know why," he mourns. "I don't know anything anymore. Go home, my friends or the same thing will happen to you... Didi... Didi..."

If you think it's the sound track from a new Vietnamese horror movie, you're really not too far off.

Actually, it is a totally new kind of "weapon" that the psychological operations section of the 3rd Bn, 7th Inf has come up with to use against the enemy near here.

Specialists Four Jeff Farkas and Jim Larouche, who operate the new weapon, call it their "wandering soul tape." Essentially, it is a recording of the imaginary crys of a dead Viet Cong—or, more correctly, his soul. Farkas and Larouche broadcast the tape nightly from the fire base perimeter here to any enemy soldiers who might be nearby.

The recording plays on the traditional religious superstitions of the Vietnamese rural population. According to these beliefs, if a man dies in battle and his eldest son isn't there to bury his body, then his soul is condemned to wander to eternity, never knowing peace.

Inspite of this, however, the tape has yet to produce a line of trembling VC at the gate on the morning following a broadcast, and Larouche explained that it is not really meant to be an inducement to rally.

"If nothing else, we are just trying to fray the enemy's nerve endings a little bit," he said.

The effectiveness of the tape can perhaps be best measured by the fact that it has, on occasion, drawn enemy fire.

New GI Bill Benefits

Educational assistance for Vietnam-era veterans has been raised by 34.6 percent under the provisions of a law signed recently by President Richard M. Nixon. The increase in GI Bill educational benefits is retroactive to Feb 1, however, Veterans Administration officials expect it will be several months before the additional money will be reflected in allowance checks.

The rates for single veterans or servicemen still on active duty have been hiked to \$175 per month. The rate for a veteran with one dependent is \$205, and the veteran with two dependents may receive \$230 per month. Each dependent beyond two means an additional \$13 per month.

Another provision of the law permits a pre-separation plan for servicemen enrolled in Project Transition.

The Transition plan authorizes servicemen within 180-days of separation to attend secondary and preparatory schools during duty hours. The law authorizes the Veterans Administration to pay Transition students up to \$175 per month for tuition, fees, and book expenses.

Men on active duty who attend other approved schools also will be paid at the tuition-cost rate, with a \$175 maximum allowance for full-time attendance.

Other expanded benefits in the law:

1. Liberalize the yardstick for measuring "full-time" study. The old GI Bill describes full-time institutional training as at least 14 semester hours, while under the new law the requirement is reduced to 12 hours. This means a veteran or serviceman carrying four courses in any semester is generally considered to be attending full-time.

2. Increase allowances for vocational rehabilitation training to \$135 for single men, \$181 for those with one dependent and \$201 for men with two dependents. The rate for each additional dependent is \$6.

3. Raise full-time allowances for orphans, widows, and wives from \$130 to \$175 per month.

4. Permit payment of \$50 per month for tutor service for up to nine months for men failing college courses.

The law also allows veterans to draw educational help from more than one government agency at a time, and authorizes the VA to expand services to inform veterans of the benefits available.

Eligibility requirements for educational assistance remain unchanged: veterans must have served for more than 180 days; servicemen except for those in Project Transition, must have served for two years, 181 days of which were continuous; and Transition students must have served on active duty continuously for more than 180 days.

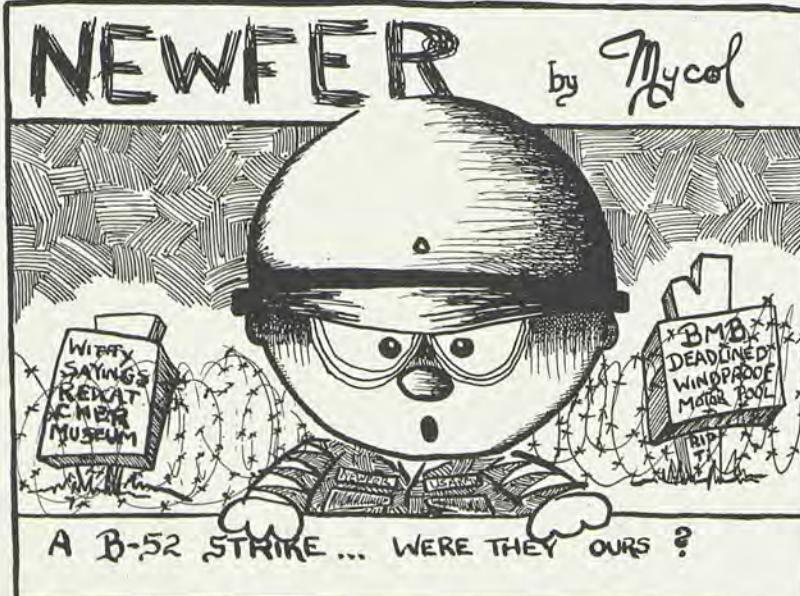
Don't Jeopardize Your R&R

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?



Community Council Established

By 1LT James R. Bowers

XUAN LOC — A Community Relations Council composed of representatives of US Army units and advisory teams operating in the Xuan Loc area was established recently at the Brigade's forward command post here.

The council's goal is improved relations between local Vietnamese civilians and the US military.

Major Eugene Wiles of Somerset, Ky., the 199th's civil affairs officer, is chairman of the group, which also includes representatives of MACV Advisory Teams 49 and 87, the 720th Military Police Battalion, the 46th Engineer Battalion, and the MACV Xuan Loc Surgeon's Office.

Also representing the 199th on the council are the Brigade provost marshall, the Brigade surgeon, the Brigade's Xuan Loc installation coordinator, and the Brigade information officer.

The council provides sound and timely advice to commanders, senior advisors, and installation coordinators in the Xuan Loc area so that they may identify and eliminate potential community relations problems.

In addition, the council seeks to maximize opportunities for demonstrating US interest in self-government and independence for the Vietnamese people. The council thus provides for continuous study and consideration of ways means to minimize the effect of large numbers of US and third country personnel upon the Republic of Vietnam.

'Warriors' Open

FSB LIBBY — One of the newest mess halls in Vietnam was opened for business by Lieutenant Colonel David A. Beckner, commander of the 5th Bn, 12th Inf, in a recent ceremony here.

The mess hall, which took three months to construct, is a modern building which rivals many of the restaurants in the United States.

During the ceremony, Beckner cut the brightly colored ribbon to officially open the facility.

"I feel that this new mess hall, made by the men of the battalion, is representative of the pride the men of this unit have in their home here," he said, "I am proud to be a part of such enthusiasm."

The Chaplain Speaks



Total Commitment of Self

By Chaplain (MAJ) David A. Williams

There was a time when the Christian faith was a "thou shalt not do this or that" philosophy. Self-denial and negation of self were highly regarded. As a result, individuals whose energies achieved financial and/or vocational success harbored guilt feelings as the rewards of their success eased their living conditions.

The mainstream of Christian life was thus caught in a dilemma as the industrial and scientific revolution of the 20th century seemed to contradict Christian teaching. What to do? Skip over the "hard" teachings of the New Testament, or ignore Christian life all together? Set up a double standard by which to enjoy the fruits of successful labor six days a week and deny thyself on the seventh day?

Another look at the core of the Christian teaching sheds new light on the dilemma. When questioned as to what was the greatest commandment in the law, Jesus replied, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and most important commandment."

In other words, care about this with your whole self: heart, mind, soul, and strength. Use all your God-given abilities to glorify God. I think the Summary of the Law offers each of us what Scott Carpenter says men search their entire lives for, "Something to care so much about that everything gets organized around it." As one of the seven original astronauts, Scott Carpenter said nine years ago that the space program,

New Mess Hall

"This is just like home" and "It's one of the best mess halls I've seen in Vietnam" are but two of the many statements made by men of the "Warrior" battalion as they first entered their new "cafeteria."

During the ceremony, Beckner cut the brightly colored ribbon to officially open the facility.

"I feel that this new mess hall, made by the men of the battalion, is representative of the pride the men of this unit have in their home here," he said, "I am proud to be a part of such enthusiasm."

Miller SOM

XUAN LOC — Specialist Four Richard L. Miller of Monroe, Wis., is currently serving here as Colonel Robert W. Seltzer's enlisted aide after recently being chosen the Brigade Soldier of the Month for May.

Miller, an infantryman with Alpha Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf, was selected Soldier of the Month among seven candidates interviewed by a board of the Brigade's senior NCOs late in April.

REDCATCHER!

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1LT James Bowers	Assist Information Officer
PFC Roland N. Halliday	Editor
SP5 Arthur S. Jaeger	Assist Editor
SP5 James R. Blair	Photo Editor



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 outstanding and to their comrades in their units. The men's actions reflect credit upon themselves, the 199th Infantry Brigade and the United States Army. **Bronze Star Medal (Valorous)**

2nd Bn, 3rd Inf: PFC Peter White Jr.

3rd Bn, 7th Inf: SP4 Kenneth L. Swanson; SP4 Thomas J. Williams; SP4 Willie M. Thames.

4th Bn, 12th Inf: SGT John R. Hatch; SP4 Robert L. Owen; PFC Mc Arthur Fields.

5th Bn, 12th Inf: PFC Samuel P. Eichert; SGT Harlow Nicoll; SP4 Jerome Anthony; SP4 John P. Schindler.

Bronze Star Medal with "V" (Posthumous)

3rd Bn, 7th Inf: SP4 Thomas J. Williams

5th Bn, 12th Inf: SGT Joseph L. Nunn.

D Trp, 17th Cav: SGT Jay W. King (10LC); PFC Eldon W. Moore (10LC); SGT Billy J. Schaffer (10LC); PFC Daniel L. Flynn (10LC); SP4 Everett L. Ankrom; SP4 Edward E. Howard.

Army Commendation Medal (Valorous)

4th Bn, 12th Inf: SP4 Fred D. Larson; 1LT Lamont E. Meaux; PFC Steve Westerfield.

5th Bn, 12th Inf: PFC Warren E. Smith; PFC Richard N. Haughton; PFC David F. Clem.

Co M, 75th Inf: SP4 Roy C. McCormack; SP4 Carl O'Neal; SP4 Dan D. Durr; SGT William M. Stilwell; SGT Daniel E. Berry; SGT Robert L. Zeumer; 1LT Deems Atkins.

More Training for ARVN

By SP4 Ronald Shaw

NUI THI -- Members of the 18th ARVN Div are learning to operate in platoon and squad size units under an expanded training program organized here by the Brigade's Mobile Training Team.

The new course of instruction emphasizes small unit live fire and movement techniques and includes a simulated patrol in a nearby rubber forest.

The 199th's nine-man Mobile Training Team has been conducting review training for units of the 18th ARVN Div here since the team was organization last January.

Working in Smaller Units

"In the past, ARVN units have operated in nothing smaller than battalion size operations," explained Captain James Cox of Jacksonville, Fla., who is in charge of the team. "Now we're trying to get them accustomed to working in smaller units."

A typical training day begins on the live fire range with Sergeant First Class Bernard Corpus of Honolulu, Ha., NCOIC of the training team, reviewing fire and movement and fire and maneuver tactics.

At times during the class, Corpus steps out in front of the ARVN's on-line assault.

"I get out there to give the men some extra incentive," he said in a recent interview. "If I'm out there now, maybe it will help them later when they go on actual operations."

During the afternoon training session Corpus sets up the simulated patrol in a rubber forest at the base of Nui Thi Hill.

"I give them the situation, and they must decide what they want their platoons to do," Corpus explained.

Working through an interpreter, Corpus injects hypothetical situations into the patrol in order to test the platoon leaders' judgement.

At one point, he instructs his interpreter, "Tell the lead men to drop to the ground and act as if they are wounded."

Then he asks his platoon leaders what they would do in that situation.

Later in the patrol, a simulated mine field tests the reactions of all the platoon members, and then the unit moves into an open area.

"Stay low," instructs Corpus. "You will be less of a target for the enemy that way."

Summing up the program following a recent day of training, Corpus said, "We are here to help these people."

'Cottonbaler' Commo Cobra Killer

By SP4 David Schaffer

FSB MACE -- A nervous call came into Specialist Four John Montgomery's switch-board at 10 p.m.

This is bunker 14," and anxious voice said, "we have a little problem--there's a snake in here...."

Quickly Montgomery transferred the call to the night duty officer.

"Sir, can we kill it?" the voice said.

"Yes, but you can't shoot it."

Just then Montgomery, a native of Marked Tree, Ark., cut in.

"Sir, I'll go down and see what I can do."

A few moments later Montgomery, armed with machete and flashlight, entered Bunker 14.

"Where is he?"

"Under the floor."

He poked between the boards, and they heard something moving.

"There he is!" one man shouted as he pointed to an opening in the floor to the front of the bunker.

A spoon-like head rose above the floor. The 3rd Bn, 7th Inf switchboard operator wielded his machete and struck at the swaying head.

A glancing blow and the snake disappeared again.

"Behind You!"

The snake reappeared from a hole in the back of the bunker, and once again Montgomery struck.

Another glancing blow, but this time the snake reared back and struck at his adversary. He hit the machete which quickly

COL Robert W. Selton fires the 2nd Bn, 40th Arty's 1,000,000th combat round in support of the 199th Brigade during a commemorative ceremony April 17 at fire support base "Den II." The ceremony highlighted over three years of Vietnam service for the Artillery battalion. (Photo by SP4 Andy McCullough)

Redcatcher!

LTC Williams Commands 'Old Guard'

FSB BLACKHORSE -- Lieutenant Colonel George E. Williams assumed command of the 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf, in a ceremony here May 3.

Colonel Robert W. Selton, commander of the 199th, passed the "Old Guard" battalion colors from the outgoing commander Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin F. Ivey, Jr. to Williams during the ceremony.

Present for the change of command in addition to COL Selton were representatives of each of the companies in the battalion and guests from the surrounding US and ARVN units.

Williams comes to the 199th from the 1st Infantry Division where he served first as the executive officer of the 1st Brigade and later as commander of the 2nd Bn, 18th Inf.

The 38-year-old lieutenant colonel calls Pilot Hill, Calif. his home. He is a graduate of the University of Omaha.

Williams began his career as an officer with the 508th Airborne Regiment Combat Team as a platoon leader. He later served as a company commander with the 101st Airborne Division.

COL Selton presented the outgoing commander, LTC Ivey, with five awards during the ceremony. They were: the Third Oak Leaf Cluster to the Legion of Merit; the Bronze Star for meritorious achievement; the Air Medal with "V" device; and the Third and Fourth Oak Leaf Clusters to the Air Medal.

In the Field

Brigade Summary

April 21:

Elements of Delta Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf, while operating 21 miles north east of Xuan Loc, engaged an unknown number of enemy with small arms fire. The enemy withdrew with unknown casualties.

Bravo Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf "Cottonbalers," working 3 miles north of the Delta Co contact, engaged two enemy soldiers with small arms and automatic weapons fire, killing one.

Later in the day, the element engaged an unknown sized enemy force with claymore mines and automatic weapons, killing two.

During a sweep of an area 24 miles north of Xuan Loc, "Warriors" of Delta Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf discovered and destroyed eight bunkers. Seven L and U shaped trenches approximately four feet deep were also located.

April 22:

"Cottonbalers" of Delta Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf, on continued operations 21 miles northeast of Xuan Loc, located the bodies of three enemy soldiers killed in yesterday's contact.

April 24:

"Cottonbalers" of Charlie Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf found 20 to 25 hootches partially destroyed in an area 18 miles northeast of Xuan Loc. The unit also found material in the area of the hootches for their repair.

April 25:

While working in an area 25 miles northeast of Xuan Loc, elements of the reconnaissance unit of the 3rd Bn, 7th Inf engaged five enemy soldiers with small arms and automatic weapons fire. Three enemy soldiers were killed and an SKS rifle, an RPG launcher with one round, an M-1 carbine, and 300 pounds of flour were captured.

"Cottonbalers" of Charlie Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf found a well used trail leading to a bunker complex consisting of six bunkers and four hootches. The camp was destroyed.

April 26:

Members of Charlie Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf exchanged small arms fire with an unknown sized enemy force 14 miles north of Xuan Loc, killing one enemy.

"Cottonbalers" of Delta Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf located a cache

of 250 kilos of flour and 19 rolls of electrical wire 25 miles north of Xuan Loc.

April 27:

Members of the Charlie Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf engaged ten enemy soldiers with small arms and automatic weapons, killing three.

April 29:

An element of Delta Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf, in a position 9 miles southwest of Xuan Loc sighted 18 enemy soldiers low crawling across a road wearing black clothing. A 199th "Fireball" helicopter engaged the enemy along with a light fire team. One enemy was killed.

Members of Charlie Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf, on an operation 4 miles north of Xuan Loc, located a triangular enemy base



camp consisting of three mud and log bunkers. The camp, which was destroyed by the "Warriors," was estimated to have been approximately four months old.

An element of Co M, 75th Rangers engaged three enemy soldiers at a distance of 40 meters, killing one and capturing an AK-47 rifle. The action took place 27 miles east of Xuan Loc.

April 30:

"Old Guardsmen" of Charlie Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf were engaged by an estimated enemy platoon in bunkers in an early morning contact 13 miles southeast of Xuan Loc. The Charlie Co element returned fire with small arms, automatic weapons, and M-79s. A light fire team called in support was subsequently credited with six enemy killed and airstrikes were given credit for killing three more. One "Old Guardsman" was wounded in the action.

Later in the day, the same 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf element again made contact with the enemy. Following another exchange of small arms fire, more airstrikes, helicopter gunships, and artillery were called in the area. Members of Charlie Co were this time credited with seven enemy killed and an AK-47 rifle captured. There were no US casualties.

After engaging three enemy soldiers with small arms and automatic weapons 32 miles east of Xuan Loc, "Cottonbalers" of Charlie Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf recovered an enemy rucksack, 50 pounds of flour, two shirts, two ponchos, and three plastic water bags. A heavy blood trail was also seen by (Cont'd on Page 8)



COL Robert W. Selton fires the 2nd Bn, 40th Arty's 1,000,000th combat round in support of the 199th Brigade during a commemorative ceremony April 17 at fire support base "Den II." The ceremony highlighted over three years of Vietnam service for the Artillery battalion. (Photo by SP4 Andy McCullough)



"Warriors" of the 4th Bn, 12th Inf fly over Vo Dat during a recent combat assault operation.

Airmobi

XUAN LOC -- A basic warfare in the Republic of V of "air mobility" -- the capacity to insert and extract over difficult terrain imaginable.

To "combat assault" "Redcatcher" infantrymen almost from the first day the day they leave it. Upon assault missions an infantry much coveted Air Medal.

The combat assault is a "Redcatcher" ground troops area of suspected enemy at moments notice, and it is on the 199th has proved to be force against the enemy in it.

The 68th Assault Helicopter that provides the Brigade with



A "Pathfinder" attached to the 68th Assault Helicopter Co guides a chopper into an LZ in Binh Tuy Province.



A "Redcatcher" infantryman appears caught in an LZ on a combat assault mission.

Key to 'Redcatcher' Effectiveness

Photos by SP4 Todd Weber

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Flying in support of "Redcatchers" about five days out of every week for the past year, the "Flying Tigers" of the 68th have moved elements of each of the 199th's four battalions in swift and rapid maneuvers to engage and destroy the enemy.

The airmobile assault company provided to the Brigade by the 68th consists of several gunships, a command and control helicopter, and seven Huey "slicks." Each of the "slicks" has the ability to pick up and insert eight infantry soldiers.

The Brigade's S-3 Air coordinates the support of these assault helicopter companies with line units in the field. He works closely with plans and operations and intelligence officers both at Brigade and battalion level to locate and select useable landing zones for the insertion of troops.

The Brigade's airmobile assets, closely coordinated by operations and intelligence officers, provide "Redcatcher" infantrymen with speed and accuracy for nearly every type of operation.



Huey "slicks" of the 68th Assault Helicopter Co fly over a section of Binh Tuy Province north of fire base "Den."



Members of the 4th Bn, 12th Inf are inserted during a recent airmobile assault in the Brigade's area of operation.



ougt moments before "hitting"

'Redcatcher' Training Creates Combat Agility

Story and Photos by SP4 Jon Sweet



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



Training center instructors are all combat veterans.

CAMP FRENZELL JONES — The 199th Brigade's Redcatcher Combat Training Center believes in bleaching the "newfer green" with simulated combat exercises.

"Our courses are designed to make the new arrivals in Vietnam something more than just warm bodies when they get to the field," said Captain Wayne Kirkpatrick, the training center commander from West Farmington, Ohio. "Sixty percent 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 Brigade's 7th Spt Bn—instucts members of 12 other units in the Long Binh area, ranging from the 1st Aviation Brigade to the Long Binh Post Security Detachment. The center also offers refresher courses to both 199th non-combat and combat units upon request.

Current Combat Tactics

"Altogether we offer 50% 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 45th Dustoff Company in Long Binh explain MEDEVAC techniques, and then he watches a 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 said. "It is their responsibility to thoroughly brief their patrol."

A Time for Decision

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

Three patrols usually are on the course at one time, each having a radio tuned to the one on Kirkpatrick's jeep.

Kirkpatrick coordinates all patrol missions and successfully acts out the roles of a cobra gunship pilot, a dustoff pilot, and the forward air control (FAC) pilot directing simulated air strikes over the area.

Instructors Combat Veterans

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

All training center instructors are combat veterans. Before an individual can become an instructor, he is grilled on his combat knowledge and conducts a simulated class on a given subject in front of the current training staff.

"We call ourselves the Murder Board," said Sergeant R.C. Miller of Mt. Pleasant, Mich., a Vietnam veteran of nearly 24 months. "If a student asks an instructor a question, we want that answer to come from experience, not out of a textbook."

Students Critique

"At the end of the week, the students rate the instructors and courses through critique sheets," Miller continued. "If the instructors continually receives a low rating, we don't want him around. If enough students don't like a course or think it should be improved, we look hard at it."

"When an instructor shows lack of enthusiasm or fails to emphasize a point, it could produce a negative attitude among the students," Miller concluded, "and if the student carries this attitude to the field, then it could cost him his life."



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



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

'Cottonbaler' KC Scout--One for the Good Guys

By SP4 William Ludescher

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 the. Brigade.

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.

Handles Rifle Well

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

"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.

Communist OCS

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 serve for three years first as an executive officer and then as a commanding officer of several infantry companies.

It was during this period that the scout received the Victory Decoration, awarded for his heroism in the Battle of the Dong Xoai Border, a major operation in II Corps several years ago.

Rallied in Saigon

In January 1968, Nguyen was sent to Saigon to gather intelligence for the planned Tet holiday offensive. Once in the capital, however, he thought better of his future with the

Communists and decided to rally to the cause of the South Vietnamese.

Six months later, he joined the 199th as a "Kit Carson" Scout. After an initial assignment with Charlie Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf, he was promoted to the position of head scout for the "Cottonbaler" battalion.

2/40 GI Pefers Horse Cav

By SP4 Andy McCullough

FSB GLADYS -- It takes people from all walks of life to make up the world, as Private First Class Willie C. Brown of Canandaigua, N.Y. will readily testify.

Brown works here as a recorder for the second gun section of Delta Btry, 2nd Bn, 40th Arty not an uncommon profession for a GI stationed in Vietnam.

But back in the world before he entered the Army, Brown earned his living in a very different manner. He taught horses how to run.

Although at first glance it sounds about as hard as teaching a fish how to swim, Brown's job as an "exercise boy" for thoroughbred racehorses often proved to be quite the contrary.

In his four years as an exercise boy, Brown's most famous student was "Arts and Letters," the 1969 Horse of the Year. The GI was first to break in "Arts and Letters" as a two-year-old, teaching him how to gallop to win, how to make fast starts from the gate, and how to get used to the whip.

The results of Brown's labors are history now. In 1969, "Arts and Letters" placed second in the Kentucky Derby and the Preakness, and then went on to defeat Triple Crown holder "Majestic Prince" in the Belmont Stakes.

Although the horseowners and big name jockeys get all the credit for wins like this one, Brown pointed out that it's the exercise boy who teaches a thoroughbred the all-important fundamentals.

Following his tour of duty in Vietnam, the artilleryman will have time left to serve in the Army, and he hopes to be able to apply his talents to taking care of Uncle Sam's horses in Virginia during this time.

If not, after fulfilling his military obligation Brown plans to pick up where he left off in civilian life as a professional exercise boy.

"I'll probably go to work for Mr. H.D. Montgomery at his Rocklawn Farms, West Virginia estate," he explained. "I plan to show his horses how to win the big ones."

4/12 Haircuts Build School

By SP4 David Hauser

FSB NANCY -- "Warriors" of the 4th Bn, 12th Inf who give 25 cents each time they get a haircut to the "Warrior" Barbershop Fund, have recently contributed the proceeds from 400 haircuts to build an addition to the Buddhist school in nearby Dinh Quan village.

4th Bn, 12th Inf Civil Affairs Officer Captain Jon Davis of Los Angeles, who learned of the school's need for additional space, employed the "Warriors" money to buy the necessary supplies for the project. Members of the battalion civic action team transported the bricks, lumber, and cement to the school.

Upon receiving the last of the supplies for the project, the local priest, who will supervise the construction of the addition to the school, expressed his appreciation to the "Warriors" for their assistance on the project to begin soon.



Although at first glance this week's pin up might look like an advertisement for Downy Fabric Softener, that's really not the case.

But then again, after looking at this for awhile, how many of you really care?

Kill 20-

(Cont'd from Front Page)

lax or something."

"It looked like they wanted to ambush us when we moved into the second set of bunkers," added Sergeant James Collinsworth of Anaconda, Mont., "but they decided to open up early when they saw how cautiously we were exploring the area."

VC Pull Back

The embattled platoon once more called for artillery and gunships while they slugged it out with the enemy unit.

But the VC, apparently, had seen enough—they started to slip out of the area in small groups.

One of these groups, containing six enemy with full packs, tried to exit by the same path the previous day's flankers had used, and once again the first platoon was in their way.

Make Sweep of Base Camp

"I saw a couple of people coming down the trail and spread the word," said Specialist Four Jerry Nelson of Asheville, N.C. The infantryman then opened up with his M-60 machine gun.

Later in the day, Charlie Co was able to sweep through the deserted base camp.

"The gunships and artillery really did a job in tearing the place apart," said company commander Delano, "everything was just shot to pieces."

Four more dead enemy soldiers, another AK-47, and two enemy rucksacks were found as the men swept through the area. Following the sweep, the "Old Guardsmen" destroyed the camp.

The totals for the two days were nine killed by gunships and airstrikes, and 11 killed by the infantrymen.

4/12 Swarmed

With Infiltrators

Kill 10,000

By SP5 James Sheehy

TAN LINH — The 4th Bn, 12th jump TOC here was recently overrun by a literal jump of infiltrators.

"We fought them off as best we could, but we finally had to withdraw from the area—there were just too many of them," explained Major Roy D. Hunnicutt of Newport News, Va., the battalion plans and operations officer.

"They came in numbers all right," added Staff Sergeant Tom Morgan of New York. "We hit them with everything we had available, but they just kept on coming."

This enemy wasn't to be driven off without a fight, as the "Warriors" were quickly finding out.

"We all pulled out into the open air on top of the mountain and regrouped our forces for a massive assault," explained Morgan.

But still more was needed; heavier fire power was called in to combat the invaders—the "Warriors" sprayed the area with all they had, and gradually they managed to push their way back in. Finally, they had driven the attackers back.

A sweep of the TOC area uncovered "what must have been at least 10,000 enemy KIAs" according to MAJ Hunnicutt. The dead invaders were later identified as members of a flying termite colony that had infiltrated through the roof.



SP4 Tom Lapke, a machine gunner with the Brigade's "Fireball" aviation section, relaxes at the Brigade Main Base recently after a long day of flying over Long Khanh and Binh Tuy Provinces.

(Photo by SP4 William Ludescher)

2/40 Survey Team Teach ARVN

By SP4 Andy McCullough

BIEN HOA — The survey team of the 2nd Bn, 40th Arty recently spent a week here training Vietnamese artillerymen the basic techniques of fire base surveying.

At the outset, section chief, Staff Sergeant John R. White of Cleveland, N.C. and his survey crew were not overly optimistic about the success of the project. After all, they felt, it took them six weeks of training in the States to learn what they now were asked to teach in only one week.



CPT William Roberts, commander of Charlie Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf, calls in marking rounds in order to pinpoint his location during a recently operation in a dense jungle area northeast of Xuan

Loc. Assisting him is PFC Manuel G. Tomingo, the company command post RTO.

(Photo by SP4 Robert Seitz)

Brigade Summary

(Cont'd from Page 3)

infantrymen.

In four contacts during the day in an area 31 miles northeast of Xuan Loc, "Warriors" of Delta Co, 4th Bn, 12th Inf killed one enemy and Delta Co was later given credit for killing three more.

May 1:

An element of Charlie Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf was engaged by an estimated company size enemy force 13 miles southwest of Xuan Loc, and small and automatic weapons fire was exchanged. Following the contact the area was swept and four dead enemy were found. An AK-47 and two rucksacks were captured in the action. Also six enemy bunkers were found and subsequently destroyed.

May 2:

An element of Bravo Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf engaged two enemy with claymore mines, small arms, and automatic weapons fire 14 miles southwest of Xuan Loc. Following the action three enemy rucksacks were recovered.

May 3:

An element of Alpha Btry, 2nd Bn, 40th Arty received less than 25 rounds of 82mm mortar fire impacting outside their perimeter at Bau Ca. There were no US casualties and no damage to material in the action.

Two miles from this find, members of the 4th Bn, 12th Inf reconnaissance unit located 10 enemy bunkers under construction.

In the same general area, members of the "Warrior" battalion's Delta Co found two more bunker complexes, one containing eight bunkers, and the other containing six bunkers.

"Cottonbalers" of Delta Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf engaged three enemy soldiers 36 miles southeast of Xuan Loc, killing all three. An AK-47 rifle and a K-54 pistol were captured in the action.

The Brigade's main base received less than five rounds of 122mm rocket fire. No casualties or damages were reported.

Tried One, Extended for 28

By SP4 David Schaffer

FSB MACE — According to statistics, the average soldier in Vietnam is 20 years of age. Imagining then, if you will, a man who has spent 28 years of his life serving his country in the military; who before most of us

were even a twinkle in the old man's eye, six years prior to the average GI's birth, was landing on Utah Beach on D-Day.

That man is First Sergeant "Top" Roy Carter of Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry, 199th Light Infantry Brigade.

Top, as the men of Bravo Company call Carter, entered the Army in 1942.

In 1951 Top decided to make the Army a career.

"You might say I first enlisted for one year, and then decided to extend 28 years," Carter explained.

Asked what he plans to do when he retires soon, Carter said he will go home to his wife and children.

"And I'd like to be a sheriff in my home state of Kansas," he added.

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