

Col Collins Now Commands 199

By SP4 R.N. Halliday

CAMP FRENZELL - JONES - Colonel Joseph E. Collins, former personnel staff officer, G-1 from II Field Force, received the colors from outgoing Brigade Commander Robert W. Selton in ceremonies here July 18.

Colonel Selton, former deputy commander, became the Brigade's commander April 1 upon the death of Brigadier General William R. Bond. He will be going to the JFK Training Center for special forces at Fort Bragg, N.C.

Colonel James B. Hendry, Brigade deputy commander, was to have taken charge of the Brigade but was hospitalized with serious injuries following a recent helicopter crash in which he and Lieutenant Colonel Bibb A. Underwood, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf commander, were passengers.

A graduate of the United States Military Academy, West Point, 1946, Colonel Collins has attended the British Staff College, National War College, Command General Staff College and received his MA in International Affairs from George Washington University in 1969.

Foreign service duties have brought Colonel Collins to Korea for two tours, spending a brief period in Japan and from December, 1959 to June, 1963 he served in England. His first tour of duty in Vietnam was in 1966.

Among the awards held by Colonel Collins are: Silver Star with first Oak Leaf Cluster, Bronze Star (Valor), Air Medal with 2nd to 18th Award, Army Commendation Medal, Combat

Infantry Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Glider Badge, Vietnamese Gallantry Cross with Gold Star, Vietnamese Gallantry Cross with Palm and Vietnamese Jump Wings (Honorary).

Colonel Selton graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1944 and holds a MA in International Relations from American University.

His awards include: Legion of Merit, Bronze Star (Valor), Army Commendation Medal, Air Medal 3rd to 13th Award, Purple Heart, Combat Infantry Badge (2nd Award), Parachutist Badge, Glider Badge, Greece's Gold Cross of the Order of George and the Vietnamese Armed Forces Honor Medal (1st Class).

During World War II Colonel Selton served with the 253rd Infantry Regiment, 63rd Infantry Div in Europe as a platoon leader and company commander. In 1953 he was assigned as assistant Army attaché to the American Embassy, Athens, Greece, where he remained until 1956. He went overseas again in 1957 as S-3 of the Army Task Group at the Eniwetok Proving Ground.

He commanded the 3rd Bn, 36th Inf, 3rd Armored Div in Europe following his graduation from the Army War College in 1966, and served in headquarters, USAREUR as chief, plans division, ODCSLOG and later executive officer.

Colonel Selton came to Vietnam in July, 1969 as assistant chief of staff, G-4, II Field Force before coming to the 199th Light Infantry Brigade.

After Being Held by VC

68 Villagers Rally

By SP4 R. N. Halliday

FSB GUIN - Some 61 Montagnard villagers turned themselves over to elements of Echo Recon, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf 23 miles northeast of Ham Tan and seven more walked into the firebase here the next day.

Apparently the villagers had fallen under Viet Cong terrorist's control in 1965 and have remained under their control until now. The villagers were forced to grow rice and provide other items for the VC.

One VC was left in the village to watch over the people and insure that the needs of the Viet Cong were fulfilled. The main body would come into the village from time to time as more rice and food was needed.

The villagers were left with barely enough to live on and were suffering from severe malnutrition, disease, cuts and sores. An attempt was made to rally by one of the villagers last year, but the VC were quick to find out and killed the individual. This vicious act was unable to quell the villagers' desire and when they heard US artillery in the area, they decided to follow the sound to the source and rally.

Four members of the village walked into fire support base Guin and turned themselves in, explaining to the Cottonbalers there were more people in their village wishing to do the same.

"We were filling sandbags when I looked up and saw these four Montagnards walking in

toward the berm with their hands in the air," said Private First Class Herbert E. Bell from Chicago.

Two of the Montagnards were (Cont'd on Page 8)



Under enemy fire a member of Delta 2/3 takes cover. Ensuing contacts in the days following netted a total of 9 enemy killed.

Photo by Todd Weber

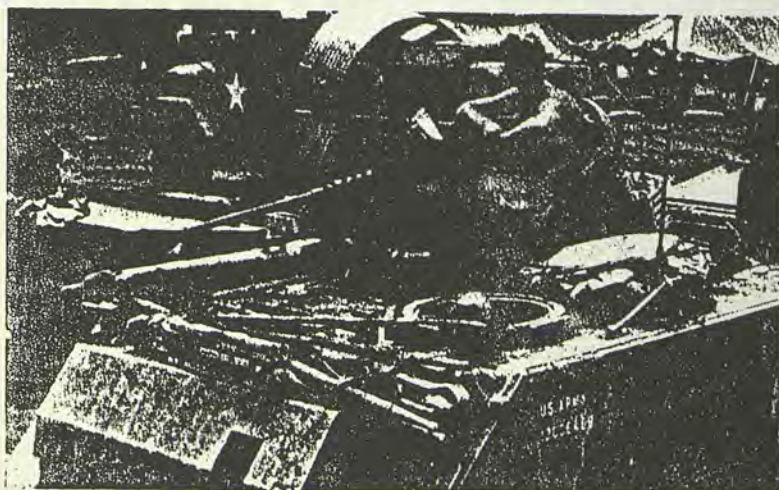


Vol. 2, No 15

REDCATCHER!

199th Light Infantry Brigade

July 29, 1970



Acav at FSB Rita shortly before being hit by VC fire. The Cav under heavy enemy fire killed six enemy. Photo by Robert Latall

Cav Strikes Back; Kill Six

By PFC Robert Latall

FSB RITA-The Fourth of July started off with a real bang for elements of Delta Trp, 17th Cav when their track column was hit with RPGs, small arms and automatic weapons fire as it was leaving here, some four miles south-southeast of Vo Dat.

The enemy unit of an undetermined size was dug-in along positions in the woodline when they opened up on the tracks which were only some 500 meters outside of FSB Rita.

"We were in the forward element of the track column and they started shooting at me first," exclaimed Lieutenant Sidney T. Billingsley from Lawton, Okla., "the last two tracks weren't even out of the fire base, when we were hit."

"We returned the compliment with machine gun fire and blasts from our Big Boy (Shendan)

tanks."

The Cav fought for more than an hour with more Acavs coming in to support them along with helicopter gunships and pin point artillery fire from 2nd Bn, 40th Arty.

"The artillery was right on the spot, putting their rounds right up the woodline where 'Charlie' was in position," said Private First Class Dale Howard from Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Eagle Warriors of Dakota force 4th Bn, 12th Inf joined the Cav and made a sweep of the area as the enemy withdrew leaving six of their dead behind with a number of heavy blood trails leading away from the contact area.

US casualties were three wounded and two crewmen killed aboard an AH-1 Cobra gunship which was downed by enemy ground fire.

Old Guardsmen Battle VC in Contacts

By SP4 Jerome Wadian

FSB VERNIA Engaging a VC unit from their night ambush position recently, elements of Delta Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf followed the retreating enemy's bloody trail to a major base camp suspected to be in the area.

The contact occurred some 12 miles northwest of Xuan Loc shortly after the Delta Co platoon element settled down in their night ambush position. Minutes later, Old Guardsmen heard a party of VC chopping their way toward their position, and waited until the enemy were in range.

For the ensuing three days after a string of contacts, the platoon found and destroyed a vital enemy complex, captured a number of enemy weapons, supplies and left nine known enemy dead.

Shortly after the ambush was "blown," Major Richard D. Meriaux, battalion S-3, was over the contact area in a helicopter and saw a hooch near the Delta ambush site. Despite the oncoming darkness, the men moved forward to check the hooch out.

While on their way to the hooch, the platoon element came upon an enemy trail, described by one member of the

platoon as a "highway." The platoon again settled into ambush position.

Again, shortly after setting up, the Guardsmen heard movement coming down the "highway." The platoon opened up with claymores, small arms and automatic weapons fire. Although stunned, the enemy element managed to lay down a base of fire. Artillery was called in and the enemy withdrew.

One squad was sent out to recon the area. "We had just found two enemy bodies when our Kit Carson scout, Huynh van Hai, alerted us and stepped to the left of the trail," said Sergeant Thomas Hason from Alboas Island, Calif. Hai's action flushed two wounded VC who tried to flee their position.

Hai opened up first followed by the rest of the surprised squad. This brought the evening's total to four kills and two AK-47s and two B-40 rocket launchers with rockets captured.

Again the platoon moved to a new ambush site. "We were certain from the lack of packs and their general preparedness, that the enemy had been trying to attack our first ambush site, unaware of the fact that we had moved," explained Staff Sergeant Daryl Radcliffe from (Cont'd on Page 8)

Before it's too late...

Stop Now

Regardless of whether the evidence is in its conclusive stage, the facts speak for themselves—annual lung cancer death rates are 10 times as high among regular smokers as among those who never smoked.

There were nearly 65,000 new lung cancer patients in 1969, while almost 59,000 Americans died of lung cancer during the same period. Men aged 25 who have never smoked regularly can expect six and a half more years of life than men who smoke one pack or more a day. Cigarette smoking can contribute to the development of cardiovascular disease and particularly to death from coronary heart diseases.

There are more facts to consider before you light up next time. Over 100,000 doctors have quit smoking. There are 280,000 more persons who report having a heart condition in the US than would be if all people had the same rate as non-smokers.

As research continues, the facts add up. Is smoking worth it? There is encouraging news. For instance if smoking is given up in time, much of the damage is reversible. The prospects of living longer increase when you quit smoking. With each succeeding cigarette-less year, death rates from all causes are lower than for men who continue to smoke. After 10 years the death rate approaches that of men who never smoked.

How does it feel to quit? Well, smoker's cough disappears and the taste of food and the sense of smell improves. Not to mention the \$100 plus saving each year.

There are as many cures as there are brands of cigarettes. Most major cities, often under the direction of the local health department, offer clinics to help smokers quit. National health organizations publish several pamphlets with suggestions to shake the habit. And the Army Surgeon General is conducting a continuing program to enlighten soldiers about the dangers of smoking.

Probably a good place to start if you sincerely want to stop smoking is to visit your Army doctor. He can explain the risks you're taking by continuing the nicotine habit and will suggest ways to overcome it.

There are several books available on newsstands which offer suggestions on how to stop, and many health agencies offer free booklets to help you.

MP Platoons Merge

CAMP FRENZELL - JONES
Recently the HHC Military Police platoon and the 152 Military Police platoon (separate) were combined to form a single MP company to allow better utilization of existing resources.

The Light Swift Accurate Military Police Co (Provisional) came into being because the Brigade's area of operation was of such size as to place unusually heavy demands on the provost marshal's function. By forming a company, command and control was greatly facilitated. The duties performed by the Brigade MPs are similar in number and

nature as those performed by division MP units.

This formation of a provisional MP company "has had a tremendous effect on the morale and the effectiveness of the operation has been impressive," said Major George L. Nipper, Brigade provost marshal.

Nipper stressed the numerous duties the MPs perform and expressed enthusiasm for the provisional MP company with personnel resources and equipment were being better utilized as each mission demanded.

The Chaplain Speaks



Does God Answer Prayers?

By Chaplain (CPT) Kendrick A. Gould

The title of this article seems, at first glance, to be a bit ridiculous doesn't it? Yet, how many of you have on occasion said, "I've prayed and prayed and nothing happened?" Do you ever get discouraged and wonder if it really does any good to pray? Have you prayed prayers that God has not seemed to answer?

One question we need to ask is, does God want us to pray? If he does then there must be some purpose in it.

Various passages in the Bible indicate that God does want us to pray. In the Old Testament Book of 1 Chronicles we read, "Seek the Lord and his strength, seek his face continually."

In the New Testament we are enjoined to "Pray without ceasing." Our Lord spoke a parable to his disciples with the lesson that men "ought always to pray and not to faint."

The Bible gives many illustrations of men who were heroes of prayer. In the Book of Acts we read of many instances of the early Church praying with wonderful results. Our Lord Himself, felt the need to take time for meditation and prayer.

God's promise to answer prayer is explicit. In the Gospel of Matthew we read, "Ask and it shall be given you; seek and ye shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you."

The Bible indicates that God wants us to pray and He has promised to answer our prayers. How then do we explain the seemingly unanswered prayers?

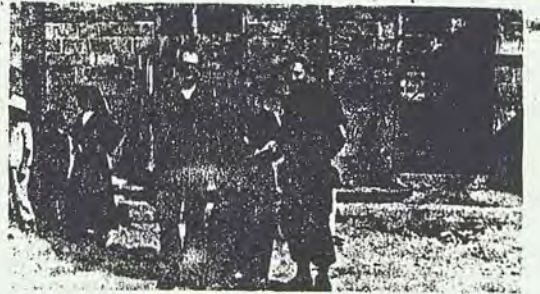
The Book of Romans makes mention of the fact that "we know not what we should pray for as we ought; but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered." Can we accept the fact that God has more wisdom than we do and answers our prayers according to his superior wisdom? We may think we know what is best for our lives but God knows what lies ahead

tomorrow. He acts as a human father would if something was not good for his child.

Since God is our loving Father, He is going to answer our prayers according to his love for us. He proved His love by letting His Son die for us on the cross. Because of His love for us, we need to trust Him to answer our prayers in the best possible

wisdom in budgeting what we have. Many of you will soon be returning to civilian life and will be looking for a job. It will not do you much good to pray for a job, then sit at home and do nothing. You will have to get out and put forth some effort. God will answer prayer when we put forth some effort to know Him we are sincere.

We may have to face the fact



The Sunday offering taken at the Brigade Chapels on the first Sunday of May is being presented by Chaplain Frank Hendrick, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf, to Father Hoang, director of the Trinh-Nu Orphanage in Binh Tuy Province. Brigade Chaplain David Engbreten witnesses the transfer of the 13,464 piasters which will aid in the construction of the building in the background.

way. God handles our prayers according to his good will. We may feel that we need something right now, but God has read the final chapter of our lives and knows what we need and when.

We may have to have a part in answering our prayers. God is not operating world's largest giveaway program. We may pray for more money when in reality we should pray for greater

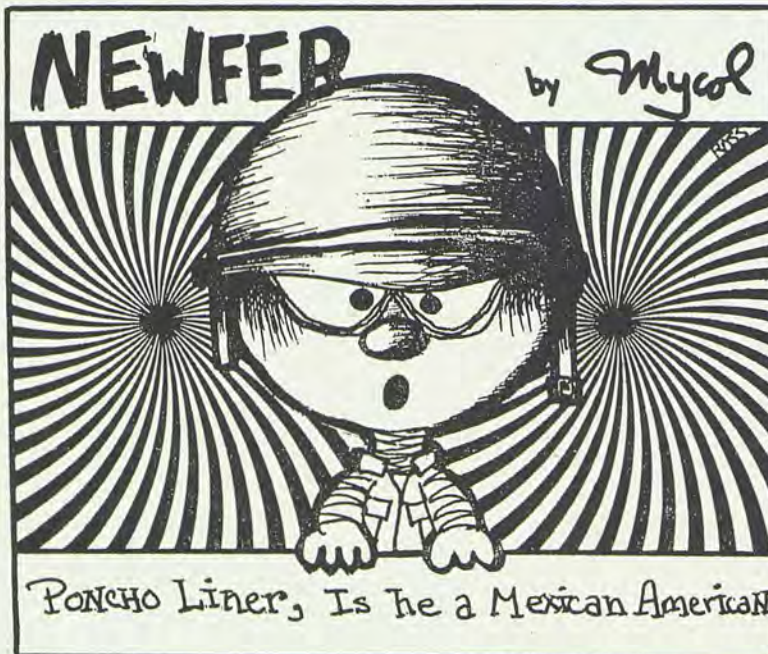
that there are some prayers God is going to answer with a "No." The Apostle Paul had a "Thorn in the flesh" that God never removed from him. God knew best and He said no, just as a human father has to say no to his children at times.

Does God really answer prayer, we ask? If we stop wondering and questioning God's ways and pray, we will find out.

Information Available

Information is available about the dangers of smoking and some helpful hints on controlling the habit. The information is available by writing to: National Clearing House for Smoking and Health, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville,

Md. 20852. Also, American Heart Association, 44 East 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10010 and to the American Cancer Society, 219 East 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10017



REDCATCHER!

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Awards and Decorations

The awards presented the men of the 199th Infantry Brigade are justly earned and are a small reward for the outstanding job done. The men have shown great devotion to the Brigade and to their comrades in their units. The men's actions reflect credit upon themselves, the 199th Infantry Brigade and the United States Army. Bronze Star Medal (Valorous)

5th Bn, 12th Inf: SP4 Michael S. Dudas; PFC Sarvodo Vargas; SP4 Henry D. Odum.

3rd Bn, 7th Inf: 1LT Walter R. Cooper; SGT Terry B. Walker; PFC Michael Siemek; SGT Lester B. Smith; SGT John H. Hart; SSG Frank J. Mungia; SP5 Michael Gutkecht.

2nd Bn, 3rd Inf: 1LT Dennis S. Blades; 1LT Kark E. Kidman; SP4 Carroll H. Meade; SP4 Glenn W. Rich; SP4 Steven C. Snyder; SGT C. Winston Taylor; SP4 Ronald J. Schaller; SP4 Wayne M. Bradley; SGT Bienvenido Encarnacion.

HHC, 199th Bde: SP4 Floyd W. Arvin; SP4 David R. Murray, PFC Gerald D. Vickers; PFC Ralph Grey.

Bronze Star Medal (Posthumous)
5th Bn, 12th Inf: SGT Warran L. Scanlan; SP4 Donald G. Busse; PFC Johnny M. Watson; PFC Ronald R. Stewart; SGT Michael W. Notermann; PFC Allen E. Oatney; PFC Charles C. Cisneros; PFC Raul DeJesus-Rosa.

4th Bn, 12th Inf: 1LT William A. Jurich; SGT Gary L. Franklin; SP4 Osborne Mattingly Jr.

2nd Bn, 3rd Inf: SGT Dennis C. Miller; SP4 Bernard G. Brantmeier. Air Medal (Valorous)

HHC, 199th Bde: CPT Ronald Aloy; WO1 Ronald Accola; WO1 Craig G. Wollman; WO1 Edward W. Wolfe Jr.; 1LT John C. Moore; SP5 David L. Stults; SP5 Thomas L. Lapke; SP5 Paul Bridges; SP5 Larry A. Grainger; SP4 William Hennessy; SP4 Wayne Ochadles; SP4 William V. Watson.

2nd Bn, 40th Arty: CPT Howard E. Pumpelly; 2LT Richard C. Caldwell.

Army Commendation Medal (Valorous)

2nd Bn, 3rd Inf: SP4 Jack DeChambeau.

2nd Bn, 40th Arty: PFC James Hernandez.

5th Bn, 12th Inf: SP4 Ronald Callahan; SGT Alvin A. Meier; SP4 Salvatore Bucculo.

4th Bn, 12th Inf: SP4 Charles McDaniel; SP4 Raymond Bryant III.

3rd Bn, 7th Inf: MAJ Robert E. Mooney Jr.; PFC Clarence Davis; PFC Jesus D. Armenta.

For wounds received in connection with ground operations against an armed hostile enemy force the following men have received the Purple Heart Medal:

3rd Bn, 7th Inf: PFC Karl R. Cros; SGT Thomas D. Martin Jr.; SP4 Charles B. Weaver; SGT James L. Suddeth; PFC Wesley R. Basmussen; SGT John E. Garvin; SGT Thomas E. Kroeger; SGT James P. Elliot; PFC Gregory R. Hanson; SP4 Werner G. Sulpin.

2nd Bn, 3rd Inf: SSG Daryl E. Radcliffe; SP4 Harvey Clark Jr.; SP4 Raymond S. Reid; SP4 Duane Hubenschmidt; SP4 Larry D. Day; PFC Wayne R. Linden; PFC Michael W. Gravens; SP4 Raymond G. Vander Molen; 1LT Gary L. Zarazinski.

5th Bn, 12th Inf: PFC Willie J. Ray.

4th Bn, 12th Inf: 2LT Evan P. Scott; PFC Randall B. Rud; PFC Julian Rayonez; PFC Gary D. Hopkins; SP4 Gregory M. Wilkins; SP4 Thomas F. Boyle; SP4 David J. Germain; SP4 Larry M. Bucman; SP4 David G. Laepple; SP4 Michael R. Womack; SP4 Maurice Brady III; SGT Dale R. Atkins.

1st Oak Leaf Cluster

5th Bn, 12th Inf: PFC Paul F. Konno.

3rd Oak Leaf Cluster

4th Bn, 12th Inf: CPT William H. Roberts.

Gentlemen... the Brigade Summary



June 30

Elements of Echo Recon, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf engaged three enemy 18 miles northeast of Xuan Loc. The enemy were engaged with small arms, automatic weapons fire and withdrew.

July 1

Delta Trp, 17th Cav elements were engaged by an estimated two VC companies with eight to nine RPG rounds, automatic weapons and small arms fire 21 miles east of Xuan Loc. Organic weapons returned fire with unknown enemy casualties.

July 4

Delta Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf elements located at fire support base Ray received two mortar rounds impacting 250 meters from the berm. Artillery and 81mm mortar returned fire.

A track column of Delta Trp, 17th Cav repulsed enemy fire from their element as it was leaving fire support base Rita killing six enemy soldiers. One AH-1 Cobra gunship was downed by enemy ground fire killing two crew members.

July 7

Bravo Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf elements operating 29 miles west of Xuan Loc discovered and destroyed a bunker base camp.

Continuing on operations the Cottonbales discovered a small cache of 56 pounds of salt and small amounts of flour and rice.

Elements of Charlie Co 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf discovered and destroyed a base camp containing ten bunkers and two hootches.

Bravo Co, 5th Bn, 12th Inf engaged and killed one enemy soldier.

Charlie Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf on operations 20 miles northwest of Xuan Loc discovered and destroyed a hootch with one ton of rice.

July 8

Echo Recon, 4th Bn, 12th Inf engaged two enemy 18 miles north of Xuan Loc capturing one AK-47.

Elements of Delta Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf discovered a large base camp divided into three areas.

The first contained five hootches, one 82mm mortar destroyed by recent air strike, three mess halls and a trench line.

The second area contained ten hootches, an aid station, sleeping positions and a tunnel. The third area had a large mess hall and a trench line.

July 9

Old Guard elements from Charlie Co engaged two enemy soldiers, killing one and capturing one M-1 carbine, 75 pounds of rice and 60 pounds of corn in action 14 miles northeast of Xuan Loc.

Three enemy were engaged and killed by Bravo Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf and one AK-47, one rucksack and two ponchos were captured.

July 11

Charlie Co, 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf found a small cache consisting of two SKS rifles, one US claymore, three M-16 magazines, one carton of blasting caps and four RPG rounds. The cache was hidden in a clump of bushes.



Members of Warriors 5th Bn, 12th Inf haul PSP sheets to awaiting Chinook while dismantling FSB Myron in Cambodia.
US Army Photo by SP5 Evan Mower

Eight Silver Stars Awarded to Heroic Redcatchers

CAMP FRENZELL-JONES — In ceremonies held recently eight Redcatchers received the Silver Star, the Nation's third highest award for valor in the military.

In an award ceremony held June 28 at Brigade Main Base by the Warriors of the 5th Bn, 12th Inf, Colonel James B. Hendry, deputy commanding officer, presented the Silver Star to three members of the battalion.

Captain Gordon R. Lee was presented the Silver Star for his heroic action, while serving as Blackfoot Co. commander. He maneuvered over 50 meters to within 5 meters of the enemy position while under intense fire and placed effective fire into the enemy bunker, mortally wounding the enemy soldiers.

Lee then received fire from another position and again maneuvered within three meters of the second bunker and destroyed it with small arms fire and hand grenades.

Specialist Four Thomas A. Allison, a medic for Echo Recon

distinguished himself by crawling sixty meters to aid the wounded while being wounded himself and refusing evacuation continued to aid his wounded comrades, before being evacuated.

Captain Michael E. Hess received the Silver Star for his action of situating his troops, directing the fire maneuver, repositioning of his forces tending the wounded, encouraging his men and directing artillery and gunships while exposing himself to enemy fire. Hess with his machine gun and his ammo bearer was the last one to withdraw to help evacuate his wounded.

Colonel Robert W. Selton, Brigade commander, presented four Silver Stars to Eagle Warriors, 4th Bn, 12th Inf at fire support base Nancy July 1.

Captain Don R. Gentry, Barracuda Co commander, was awarded the Silver Star for his gallantry of May 9 when his platoon came under a barrage of enemy fire.

Gentry led his platoon on an assault of an enemy position spotting movement in the area when his element received a heavy mortar attack. Remaining in the impact area, exposing himself to enemy fire, he directed his platoon's fire and assisted in evacuating the wounded. Later he led his element in another assault on the enemy position, personally destroying an enemy machine gun position to route out the enemy.

First Lieutenant Michael Way, a platoon leader with Comanche Co was distinguished by his action on April 18 when a heavily armed enemy force attacked firebase Den.

Way maneuvered to all positions on the perimeter at the artillery sector which was about to be overrun to drive back the enemy force. In order to rescue a soldier trapped between friendly and enemy fire, Way made a personal assault against the enemy significantly contributing to the defense of

the firebase.

Sergeant William J. DeVoe, a squad leader with Comanche Co, was decorated for his action of March 22 when his unit was inserted into a hostile LZ when their helicopter was destroyed by an enemy RPG. DeVoe maneuvered his squad under intense enemy fire and returned, to the burning helicopter to retrieve a radio in order to make contact with his other elements.

When his machine gunner became wounded DeVoe took the weapon, gathering fragmentation grenades from the other members of his squad and climbed to a strategic position to suppress the enemy's fire to enable his men to seek cover.

Specialist Five Mark Wills, a medical aidman with Apache Co, received the Silver Star for his action of January 31, when an element of Comanche Co suffered severe casualties from enemy fire. Wills volunteered to fly in the contact area during the hours of darkness, being lowered on a jungle penetrator to assist

Comanche Co.

Wills, the only aidman present, dressed wounds, reassured the fighting men and upon finding one man about to succumb to his wounds, he administered a heart massage for 45 minutes until the man died. Wills tended the wounded in face of tragedy until the last man was evacuated.

In another ceremony held July 7 at Camp Frenzell-Jones, Major Roy D. Hunnicutt, battalion operations officer, was presented the Silver Star by Lieutenant Colonel Robert H. Clark.

On January 31 Comanche Co sustained heavy casualties and lost communication temporarily when Hunnicutt requested dustoff helicopters which he accompanied under the cover of darkness into the area.

Upon his request he was lowered on a jungle penetrator to the company and administered first aid, organized the defensive perimeter and began to evacuate the wounded.



Artist's Versatility

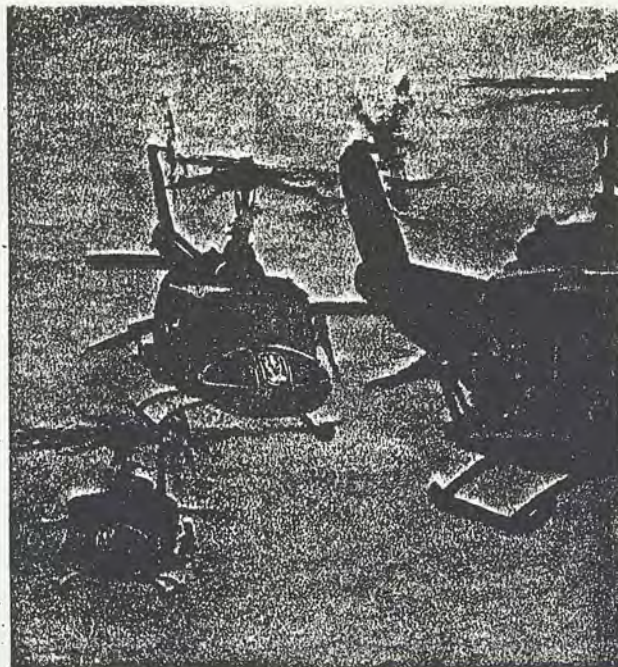
Known to most members of the Brigade as "Mycol," Specialist Four Michael J. Winston from Seattle, Wash. is the creator of the Newfer cartoon series.

Along with the steady flow of Newfer's antics, Mycol produces a more serious strain of art. Several paintings and combat art sketches have been displayed in the Redcatcher Museum.

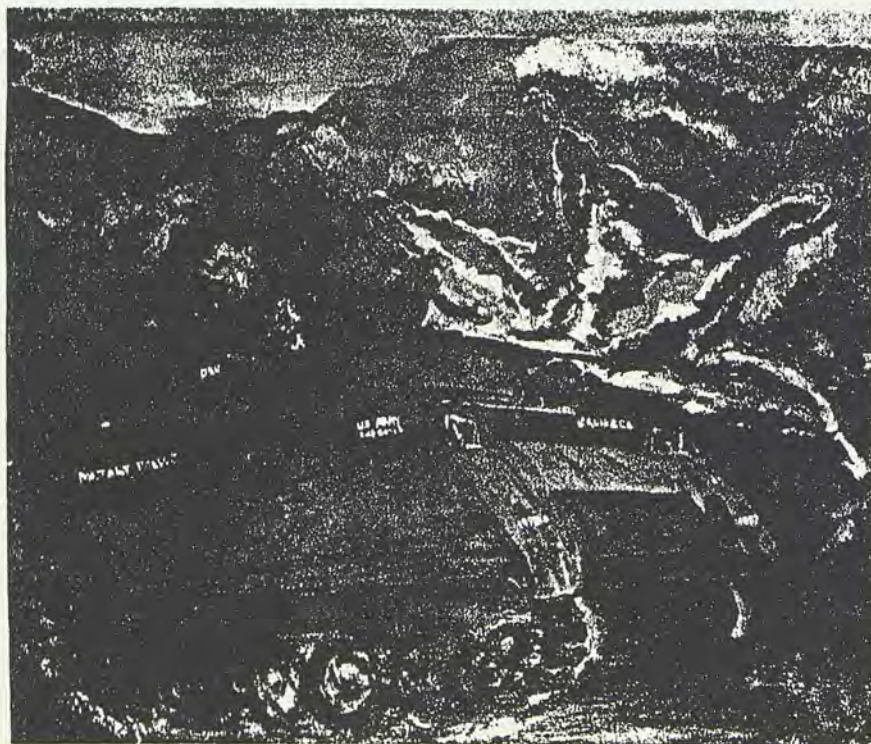
Currently Mycol and three Brigade combat artists have been keeping busy preparing paintings and sketches for layout of the forthcoming Redcatcher combat art book, *Colors of Valor*.

Winston explained, "I enjoy my work because it allows me to express the war as I see it; in a more personal manner than any photograph could."

Asked about his future plans Mycol said, "I want to return to school and pursue a professional art career."



Fireball



MP's To Vo Dat

Oils



Ever Amity

ty



Acrylics



Acrylics



Return Fire

India Ink



Silent Century

Oils



RVN 70

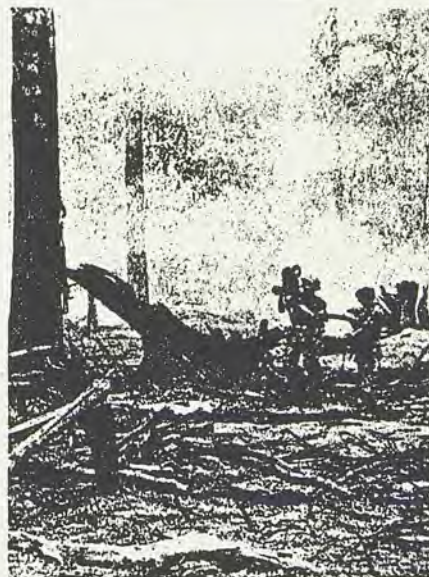
Graphite and Pencil



Clearing away debris from explosion point, an engineer of the 87th Engineers puts his back into it.



Elements of the 3rd Bn, 7th Inf security force guard perimeter of newly made LZ to insure safety for engineers to work.



Making sure to get in on the action, NBC cameraman captures project on film for Huntley Brinkley newscast.

Story and Photos by CPT Sy Markowsky

XUAN LOC — According to the Air Force: if the weather condition normal; if the speed of the aircraft is as prescribed; if the rate of descent of the bomb doesn't alter; if ground features meet their standards and if it's the second Thursday following a Wednesday night during which there was a quarter moon, then a "Commando Vault" will blow a perfect LZ—a two shipper!

Working in some of the virgin areas where Redcatchers are presently located, the jungle is so thick the Brigade has found it necessary to establish additional LZs. Not only for insertions and extractions, but to be used for vital resupply.

"The 'tiny' 500 and 750-pound bomb airstrikes that are readily available just don't do the required job for blowing LZs," explained Specialist Four William Watson from Muscle Shoals, Alabama, S-3 air section. "These bombs leave craters, whereas the 15,000 pounders used for commando vaults clear away whatever is on the surface of the ground."

When the 199th desires clearing of an LZ by commando vault a request is sent through channels to MACV for approval. Upon validation and close coordination with the local province officials, MACV directs the Air Force to coordinate directly with the 199th.

After agreement on such basic planning factors as the exact target location and delivery time, the Air Force directs its tactical airlift agency to conduct the drop operation.

Prior to the drop, a forward air controller (FAC) operating in the target area exercises positive control over the aerial air support situation by maintaining contact with the drop aircraft, the direct air support center (DASC) and the "Combat Skyspot" precision radar controller.

After the drop and the area is clear, Redcatcher engineers from the 87th Engineer Co are deployed into the new LZ clearing the remaining debris of large stumps and scattered tree remains. Within an hour or so, the area is ready for more helicopters to land and thus the concept of an instant LZ is realized.

Instant

LZ



Mushroom of a 15,000 pound conglomerate of metal and explosives.



Newly made landing zone caused by devastating blast, is cleared for use by 87th Engineer crew.

87th Engineers Pitch In

By SP4 Jerome Wadian

FSB MACE - Even by Vietnamese standards, Sui Cat is a financially destitute hamlet. However the people, although poor, are proud hard working and independent. Thus when a new school was needed, the people of the hamlet decided to build it on their own.

Everyone, no matter how meager their earnings, contributed money to buy lumber and building materials. Then they donated valuable time to build their very own school.

And then hard luck struck. The schoolhouse was almost finished, but there was no money left to build desks for the children. The people just could not afford to give more.

At this point the Old Guard 2nd Bn, 3rd Inf entered the scene. During a medcap at Sui Cat, the hamlet chief approached Captain Thomas Atkins from Sioux Falls, S.D., S-5.

"All they wanted was enough lumber to build the desks," recalled Atkins. "They were willing to do all the building themselves." Atkins promised the chief that he would do what he could.

"The fact that the people could do so much on their own, despite the appalling poverty was truly amazing," explained Atkins. We were more than willing to help since they obviously wanted the school so very badly." The problem was not that easy however. For the battalion forward base was in the process of enlarging and renovation and lumber was a very hard commodity to come by, anywhere.

But Captain Atkins proved as determined as the people of Sui Cat. He returned to the Brigade Main Base and asked the 87th Engineering Company if they had any scrap lumber and explained why it was needed. Two days later he returned for an answer and found ten new desks waiting for shipment.

"When we heard what the lumber was for, the crew just felt like helping the kids out," said yard foreman, Sergeant Lawrence Calloway from Pulaski, Va. "Our regular crew was already overworked because of a shortage of manpower and the Brigade's recent shift in its area of operations which called for a lot of time and material in constructing new firebases," related Specialist Five Frenchy Weiner.

"But our Vietnamese carpenters were not as busy, so we shifted some priorities and had them start the work."

But the engineers working in the yard were really interested in the children they had never seen. "The men would come over during break time, off hours, or just shift priorities to help get the desks done; often they would add little touches to improve the comfort of the kids who would be using them," said Calloway.

Some of the "little touches" included counter sunk nails to avoid scratches and torn clothes, and hinges so the top of the desks could be raised, revealing a storage space for books and papers. In all each desk is six feet long, capable of seating four to six children, and over two and one half feet high.

And so the children of Sui Cat have a schoolhouse due to the sacrifice and hard work of their parents and there are enough desks for everyone thanks to the efforts of the Old Guard and the warm hearted 87th Engineers.

Brothers Together Again

CAMP FRENZELL - JONES - The Redcatchers have their own set of brothers that have traveled extensively around the world during their eight year Army career. They are identical twins, born fifteen minutes apart, Staff Sergeants Marvin and Melvin Mosley.

Marvin Mosley is a supply sergeant at Redcatcher Training Center and Melvin Mosley is a medical platoon sergeant with the 5th Bn, 12th Inf.

Since Marvin joined the Army in 1962 and Melvin in 1963 they have served in the US, two tours in Germany and a single tour in Vietnam together. Despite being separated many times the Mosley brothers never seem to be apart for any length of time.

Voluptuous!



We are sure that this beautiful girl would give any man a rise in temperature. But that's not all she might give you if you were to treat her nice. She might just give you another kind of Rise, Rise Shaving Cream in a can. Believe it or not this is the GENTLE RISE GIRL and we really couldn't add a word to such a well phrased title.

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put on a Huey while the other two remained behind for medical treatment of cuts and bruises. "After we met them at the LZ they recognized a trail and led us toward their village," said Specialist Larry T. Reynolds from Evansville, Ind.

As the unit approached the hamlet, security was set up and Lieutenant Ed Glidden from Sacramento, Calif., platoon leader, and Specialist Four John H. Cross from Bristol, Tenn., a medic, went into the village with the two Montagnards while the rest of the element provided cover.

"When we got into the village the Montagnards gave us two weapons, a German Mauser and a French MAS-36. The people upon first glance appeared in poor health, suffering from malnutrition with some children having enlarged stomachs, cuts and bruises. It was obvious these people needed medical attention," asserted Glidden.

Cross provided some of the Montagnards with immediate first aid, treating minor cuts and bruises.

The Cottonbals helped the people move all their personal items which were so few they carried everything with them. "We led them back to the LZ where a Chinook extracted them about 3:30 p.m.," said Sergeant First Class Raymond P. Krivacka from Brenham, Texas.

"The Montagnards left a note in one of the huts giving directions for others to follow. The next day when we returned the note was gone and we learned later that seven more had turned themselves in at fire support base Guin. We found one other weapon, a SKS and destroyed the village, leaving nothing for the enemy," Krivacka added.

The Montagnard villagers, over half of whom were women and children, were airlifted to Brigade Main Base for an initial medical check and questioning. They were later turned over to the ARVN Chieu Hoi center at Ham Tan where they received full medical treatment and will later be resettled.



That deep look of anxiety prevades this child's face as she awaits her turn for shots in recent 4th Bn, 12th Inf medcap at Dinh Quan School.
Photo by SP4 Dave Hauser



Warrior infantryman peers into one of the huge cache sights found by 5th Bn, 12th Inf while in Cambodia.
Photo by PFC Mark Robinson

Navy Guns Support 199th

By SP4 Andy McCullough

XUAN LOC - The destroyer USS Berkeley was called upon by the 2nd Bn, 40th Arty through the Army-Navy Gunfire Liaison Office (ANGLO) located at Nui Dat. The ship is operating in support of the 1st Australian Task Force which is lending its services to the Redcatcher's current operations in that area.

This marks the first time in the history of the Brigade that it has called upon the Navy for gunfire support.

The use of naval gun support adds more strength to the Brigade, bolstering the Redcatchers' fire superiority as they continue to eliminate the enemy from Long Khanh and Binh Tuy Provinces.

Marine Staff Sergeant Edgar Vinson, a representative from ANGLO, is located at Xuan Loc to coordinate between Captain Richard L. Bevington, Jr., the artillery Brigade liaison officer, and Marine Captain Kenneth Phipp, chief of ANGLO.

The naval gunfire was called for to support present coastal operations, supplementing the direct support artillery fire presently provided by Bravo

add more concentration artillery fire throughout portions of the Brigade Tactical Area of Operations, but also it greatly increases the fire power.

The rapid-fire capability resulting from the hydraulic loading mechanism of the Navy's guns can send out rounds as fast as they are chambered. The maximum effective range of the big naval guns exceed that of the eight inch Howitzer and is less than the range of the 175mm gun, making them comparable to that of the Brigade's heavy artillery.

Similarity of terminologies used by the Army and Navy artillerymen is such that there is no hindrance to the standard call-for-fire procedures employed by the 2nd Bn, 40th Arty forward observers (FOs).

This new combination of land and sea artillery exemplifies the coordination of US sea and land forces.



CPT Jon Davis, Civic Action team S-5 officer, washes foot of young child at Nam Sow hamlet in preparation to having the child's wound dressed.
Photo by SP4 Dave Hauser

Old Guardsman -

(Cont'd from Front Page)

Denver, Colo. "We just didn't want them to try it again, so we moved a little bit to another site even though it was dark by then."

The next day was spent in resupply and searching along the trail found the previous night. Late in the afternoon, the strategy paid off. "I had just finished writing a letter when I saw someone coming down the trail," said Specialist Four Raymond Ried from Birmingham, Ala., the platoon's radio-telephone operator.

For a minute Ried thought the figure was a GI because "he had on a GI type uniform and rucksack. Then I saw the AK-47 and opened up!" The rest of the platoon opened up about the same time.

The following two days was spent probing the area which showed increasingly fresh signs of enemy bunker activity and then moving out along a trail of freshly cut timbers. After traveling down the trail some 400 meters the pointman stopped, noticing a 105mm howitzer round tied to a tree. As the platoon attempted to turn around and pull back, the artillery shell was command detonated and a well entrenched enemy element cut loose from the sought after bunker complex.

"I was walking fourth and managed to go only a couple of steps when I was hurled twenty feet by the blast," said Specialist Reid. "Everyone around me was either hit or too stunned to move and Lieutenant (Raymond C.) Bourne, the platoon leader, was unconscious."

Despite his own dazed condition, Reid rallied the rest of the platoon. As he phoned in the situation to the company command post, Reid directed the men into a position to lay down covering fire to protect the wounded and keep the enemy from maneuvering.

In the meantime, Lieutenant Bourne, from Miami, Fla., recovered and despite a painful leg injury, refused to be dusted

off so he could lead his men out of the ambush.

"We all knew there was an enemy base camp in the area so we were well spread and completely alert," said Sergeant Radcliffe. "That is why we did not have heavier casualties in the initial blast."

"After we all got on line, our firepower pretty well held the enemy fire to a minimum," said SGT Hason. But then things looked bad for the Guardsmen as both machine guns broke down and ammunition began to run low.

At this time a Kiowa helicopter, piloted by Warrant Officer Ronald Accola with Captain Samuel Bergin, battalion S-2 head, came in with two new M-60s and a resupply of ammunition and smoke grenades. Despite the firefight going on beneath them and artillery rounds impacting a few hundred meters away, the chopper made three passes over the platoon dropping off vital supplies.

"They really did an outstanding job, all the supplies came down in our perimeter, and those machine guns were really appreciated," exclaimed Sergeant Frank Gahres.

The combined firepower of the infantry, artillery and air strikes finally caused the enemy to withdraw. One of the fleeing enemy was spotted from the air trying to cross a stream and artillery was called in to dispose of him.

Brigade Commander, Colonel Robert W. Selton presented eight impact awards. Three Air Medals with "A" device were awarded to the men in the resupply chopper. LT Bourne, SP4 Reid and the Kit Carson scout were presented with a Bronze Star.

Also the platoon's medic, Private First Class Jose Santos Rios was presented a Bronze Star for providing medical aid to the platoon's wounded, and his desperate attempt to give artificial respiration to the mortally wounded pointman.

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