

Fighters Strike At Enemy Attackers

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Attack Repulsed; 20 Enemy Killed

LZ DOTTIE (USA) — "We threw everything we had at them and they sure took a beating," said First Sergeant Homer A. Roberts, from Manitou Springs, Colo., as he sipped a cup of coffee, recalling the battle the night before at the Americal Division firebase 12 miles south of Chu Lai.

The U.S. Army artillerymen and engineers who man the firebase, along with a platoon of ARVN infantrymen, repulsed a middle-of-the-night combined mortar and ground attack killing 20 Viet Cong and detaining two.

When the first motars landed in the area of Battery D, 1st Battalion, 82nd Artillery, the Americans reacted quickly, manning bunkers and firing at enemy infiltrators coming toward the wire.

"We fired on flat trajectories with all our tubes and used the Quad .50 (a four-barreled heavy caliber machinegun) to our best advantage," Roberts said. He was referring to the camps tube artillery and howitzers belonging to both the U.S. 1st Battalion, 14th Artillery and ARVN artillery.

The heaviest concentra-

tion of mortar rounds rained on Company B of the 39th Engineer Battalion, which manned a large portion of the base perimeter.

As the mortars flew in, an estimated 40 to 50 enemy began to approach the encampment from three directions. None penetrated.

The Americans had high praise for a platoon of the 6th ARVN Regiment which manned the perimeter near the camp's main gate, where eight VC were killed.

The heat of combat lasted about 30 minutes, although the engineers reported receiving sporadic mortar fire on their perimeter for about two hours.

Quick reaction by the artillerymen together with the firepower of their big guns accounted for 20 enemy dead, none of which penetrated inside the camp's wire.



Look of Determination

Despite the heavy load of ammunition and supplies he carries on his back, along with an M-60 gun, Private First Class Richard Wilhelm of Rochester, N.Y., keeps his look of determination during operations in the Central Highlands.

(USA PHOTO By: SP4 Chuck Colgan)

Sappers Stopped

QUAN LOI (USA) — The enemy sappers who broke through the greenline at Quan Loi could well have been the vanguard for a massive ground attack that never came off.

The bare-footed sappers elad only in shorts, cut through the wire at LZ Andy during a mortar and rocket barrage shortly after midnight. The team of sappers cut a six-foot wide path through the three rows of concertina wire, each row six feet wide and six feet high.

Wrapping rubber bands around the trip flairs so they wouldn't go off, the sappers were not discovered until they reached the third wire.

Four of the sappers were cut down at the wire by M-60 fire, but the rest followed a drainage ditch into a grassy field behind the greenline bunkers. The lead element crossed a dirt road 100

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'Old Reliables' Say Goodby

ARVN Takes Over Dong Tam

DONG TAM (USA) — The American Flag was majestically lowered for the last time from above this base camp 45 miles southwest of Saigon. Soldiers snapped to attention. Bugles sounded. The Dong Tam base camp no longer officially belonged to the 9th Infantry Division. The base camp and its facilities were turned over to the Army of the Republic of Vietnam's 7th Infantry Division, commanded by General Nguyen Thanh Hoang.

In a brief ceremony signifying the end of three years of proud service for the 9th Infantry Division in the Dong Tam area, whose men have been redeployed to Hawaii and other Stateside locations and the remaining units attached to other divisions, the "Old Reliables" said good-bye.

Presiding over the ceremony

was Major General Roderick Wetherill, commanding general, Delta Military Assistance Command (DMAC), and Major General Ngyen Viet Thanh, commanding general, IV Corps.

Only the 93rd Engineer Battalion remains at the Dong Tam complex. Their purpose will remain as before — to help in building up the area for the people living around the base camp.

Some expressed sadness after the brief ceremony in front of the old Division Headquarters, but others, such as Specialist 4 Douglas Joslyn, of Spring Lake, Mich., saw the bright side.

"I'm glad we're doing it," he said. "It's giving more responsibility to the ARVNs."

The U.S. flag, the last to fly over the Division Headquarters, was given to Sergeant Major A.B. Chesla, command sergeant

major, who will carry it back to the United States.

The ceremony was also a quiet, unmentioned memorial to those of the 9th who gave their lives in battles in the Delta for the independence of the Republic of Vietnam.

The morning's events ended with an exchange of salutes and hand shake between Lieutenant Colonel Gerald Carlson, commanding officer of the 6th Battalion, 31st Infantry, and Major Ngyeyn Huu Cau, commanding officer of the 1st Battalion, 11th ARVN Regiment, who is slated to take command of the base camp.

Shortly after the ceremony, when all had left, a quiet calm settled over the area. To a place accustomed to constant activity and occasionally the sound of gunfire in the distance, the quiet must have been deafening.

BIEN HOA (USA) — Scrambling from the alert pad, two U.S. Air Force F-100 Supersabre pilots from the 3rd Tactical Fighter Wing came to the rescue of a friendly stronghold defended by the Royal Thai Army Volunteer Forces, 20 miles east of Saigon.

Joined by two F-4 Phantom crews of the 12th Tactical Fighter Wing from Cam Ranh Bay, the combined strike force killed 90 enemy soldiers during the course of action.

Recalling the strike, Captain Leonard R. Moon, from Farmington, Utah, said "at the target area enemy soldiers had been mortaring a friendly position most of the day. We rendezvoused with the forward air controller (FAC), who had marked the target area with smoke rockets."

"This was a general target area," explained the Captain. "The FAC wanted the bombs anywhere around the smoke because of the large suspected enemy encampment."

"After three passes my wingman was out of ordnance, but I still had one bomb left and told the FAC we would hold it in case we started getting enemy ground fire. The FAC agreed and asked us to strafe the area with our cannons."

"We made three passes each and then I rolled in with my last bomb. The area was pretty well torn up, and the FAC said the Thai ground commander radioed that the bombs had knocked out the enemy mortar positions."

FAC Foils NVA Trap

HIGHLAND HEIGHTS (USA) — A team from the Fourth Infantry Division's Second Brigade Rangers, inserted on the seemingly deserted crest of a knoll 14 miles southwest of Highland Heights had just moved out when a member suddenly heard movement behind him.

Led by pointman Private First Class Anthony Dennis of Cleveland, Ohio, the team started walking down the slope when Sergeant Lyle Daniels, of American Falls, Iowa, noticed movement to his rear. The team quickly prepared to meet the approaching enemy.

"When I first heard them," said Daniels, "it was hard to figure how many were there, but as we advanced we saw only two or three NVA soldiers."

As the Rangers deployed for better cover, Specialist Smock of Bradville, Ill., began tossing grenades in an attempt to delay the enemy. As the NVA force took cover behind a thick patch of trees, Smock suddenly slipped and the enemy, trying to take advantage of the American's dilemma, left their cover to fire on him, but as Smock fell, he twisted and fired, killing the

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'Smokeys' Lay Screen For Combat Assaults

CHU LAI (USA) — Gunships and troop helicopters of the 14th Combat Aviation Battalion approached the landing zone (LZ) for another combat assault. But before they set down, one chopper better known as "Smokey" drops to tree top level. It draws heavy enemy fire but continues to put down a protective smoke screen in front of the treeline surrounding the LZ.

Smokey is a regular UH-1H "Huey" helicopter, with two M-60 machine guns mounted in the doors, but his job is probably the most exacting and dangerous one performed during a combat assault operation.

He provides valuable cover for the rest of the choppers and helps locate the enemy positions by drawing their first fire at a relatively low speed. The pilot's skill and ability to perform and complete his mission can mean the difference between the success and failure of an entire operation.

Approaching the area at tree top level, "Smokey" begins to lay his smoke screen. His air speed, around 60 knots, along

with the winds, are vitally important. If his speed is too fast the smoke will not be thick enough and it will disperse too rapidly. But going too slow can also prove to be disastrous. Each smoke ship has enough smoke for two to three minutes, and if his approach is too slow, he won't be able to cover the entire area, leaving the approaching aircraft exposed to enemy ground fire from the uncovered area.

Considered by most pilots to be the most hazardous job in an aviation company, the smoke ship pilot's duty doesn't end after making the first pass. After laying his initial screen the aircraft gains altitude and remains there until the other ships in the operation are ready to land.

At this time he will descend again and put out another screen to cover the next incoming flight of "slicks" (troop helicopters). Again at low altitude and speed he leaves himself completely vulnerable to enemy fire. His only protection is supplied by his crew chief and door gunner who pour out a steady stream of suppressive fire into the treelines.



"Smokey" completes a screening run around the landing zone (LZ) as the first wave of "slicks" begin another combat assault. (USA PHOTO)

Rangers Take Over For Infantry

LAI KHE (USA) — The responsibility for protecting more than 60 square miles of vital area north of Saigon has been shifted successfully from American to Vietnamese hands.

This move is considered significant because the area contains many of the industries and utilities that keep the city and war machinery surrounding it going.

The transfer of responsibility in the Thu Duc Special Zone from a U.S. 1st Infantry Division unit to the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) Rangers began in May, when Company B, 2nd Battalion, 18th Infantry turned over its small walled for-

ress (Fort Apache) to the 5th ARVN Ranger Battalion, formerly located in Saigon.

The final move came last month as the remaining fire support bases in the area were turned over to the 34th ARVN Ranger Battalion, from Nha Be.

The region often has been referred to as the backbone of Saigon because of the water, electrical power and several American firms — a cement processing plant, a dairy plant, and other construction firms — that are vital to the armed forces.

The crucial transportation routes — roads and bridges linking Saigon with these industrial facilities as well as the Long Binh Army complex just to the

north — will also be secured by the ARVN Rangers.

The Big Red One first moved into the area of operation in March 1968 and during the May offensive that year 91 Viet Cong were killed. In the months that followed, the 2nd Battalion quelled and then completely smothered virtually all VC activity in the area.

Sapper Booby-Traps 'Corpse'; Signs His Own Death Warrant

CAMP EVANS (USA) — An infantryman of the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) recently discovered that being in a fighting position with some unwanted company could be hazardous to his health.

Company A, 1st Battalion, 506th Airborne Infantry had set up its defensive perimeter in preparation for action from enemy forces during the coming night.

The men had been set up a short time when the perimeter began receiving a heavy volume of satchel charges and rocket propelled grenades.

Private First Class Gerald Hill of Berwick, Pa., found himself in a very critical situation when the blast from an enemy grenade left his buddy unconscious and him with a wounded shoulder.

Hill heard an NVA sapper coming close to his position, and decided the best thing to do was play dead.

"My shoulder was bleeding

EOD: A Careful Effort To Disarm The Risks

NHA TRANG (USAF) — Explosives, rocket and mortar rounds, satchel charges and bombs are items handled daily by the Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team at Nha Trang Air Base. Teamwork, dedication and safety are their bywords.

As the only EOD team in the area, the men have a varied and important mission. They are on the scene for all aircraft emergencies involving ordnance, and are called to investigate any sabotage or booby trap incidents. Following an attack, they move into the target area to disarm any dud mortar or rocket rounds, and examine impact points to determine what type of ordnance was used.

Four members of the team are Republic of Vietnam Air Force (VNAF) sergeants. The only team of its kind between Cam Ranh Bay and Ninh Hoa, the 14th Special Operations Wing EOD unit is training VNAF personnel through actual participation in the recovery and disposal of explosives.

Being on call 24 hours-a-day has involved the EOD men in a number of varied situations. "We have quite a collection of old munitions," commented Captain Karl R. Bossi of Canoga Park, Calif. "Most of them have been found in the local area."

"Our policy and advice to anyone who does find a weapon or suspected explosive device is to contact us," he continued. "Years of experience have taught us that no souvenir is worth someone's life."

Although almost daily contact with explosives keeps the EOD men on their toes, they are constantly reviewing detailed information on explosives and handling procedures.

'Duster' Provides Intensive Fire Power

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS (USA) — The tank-mounted 40mm "Duster" has proven itself in the eyes of men of the 4th Infantry Division's 6th Battalion, 14th Artillery.

"The Duster is set up on the body of an M-42 tank," explained Private First Class Dennis Richardson of Milwaukee, one of the gunners of a six-man Duster team. "It's armed with two 40mm cannons, which can fire 240 rounds of ammunition per minute."

The intense firepower of the Duster was turned toward the enemy in May and June in action between Ben Het and Dak To when the enemy had the convoy road between the two bases blocked.

Sergeant First Class Earl Anderson of Jackson, Miss., another Duster team member, recalled, "We were set up about four miles northwest of Ben Het. We had three Dusters with two of them operational. Heavy enemy fire was starting to pour in but we were able to tally substantial enemy casualties, prov-

ing to be a great asset in assuming control of the convoy road and getting supply lines through."

Now part of the 4th Division's 2nd Brigade at Highlander Heights, the 2nd Platoon Duster team is supporting convoys and defending the Brigade base camp's perimeter where its cannons guard against suspected enemy infiltration or movement. How effective is the Duster? Specialist 4 Marvin Rich of Tacoma, Wash., a cannoneer, declared, "Just its presence gives a big lift to the men."



DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

Phillips, Donald V. 1LT USA
Moss, Robert E. MAJ USA

SILVER STAR

Self, John J. MSG USA
Wheeler, Leigh F. CPT USA
Fanning, John V. SSG USA
Smith, Larry J. CPT USA
Duncan, Billy R. SSG USA
Attaya, Paul V. SFC USA
Horan, Earl C. Jr. MAJ USA
Walker, Terry K. SSG USA
Brubaker, John A. SFC USA

BRONZE STAR MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE

Gall, John S. MAJ USA 1st & 2nd OLC
Cooper, Luther R. SFC USA 1st OLC
Hillyard, Frederick J. MAJ USA
Randolph, Berry Q. Jr. SFC USA
Russell, Petro SSG USA
Goo, Milton S. MAJ USA 3rd OLC
Cox, William D. Jr. CPT USA
Hamilton, Roy E. SFC USA 2nd OLC
Torres-Nieves, Juan E. SSG USA

Green, Richard S. SPT USA
Burton Ray E. MSG USA
Patterson, Gary W. SFC USA 1st OLC

Haithcote, James R. 1LT USA
Marino, John E. CPT USA
Hirschler, William L. CPT USA 1st OLC

Blair, John M. SFC USA 1st OLC

Butcher, Homer E. SP4 USA

ARMY COMMENDATION

MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE

Hjorth, Larry L. CPT USA
Preus, Richard I. 1LT USA
Boswell, Richard V. 2LT USA
Randall, Lewis C. 2LT USA
Quesenberry, Billy R. SP5 USA
Higdon, Clarence F. SGT USA
Fraleigh, Walter L. Jr. SSG USA
Hewitt, Roger L. 1LT USA
Elms, Randle D. Jr. CPT USA
Nagato, Ichio SSG USA
Sherman, Roger G. CPT USA
Walker, Jackie C. 1LT USA
Weidner, Leroy G. Jr. SP4 USA
Ray, Thomas L. MAJ USA
Hagan, Kim H. 1LT USA
Ross, Edgar J. MSGT USA

Rallier Relates Hardship

TAY NINH (USA) — Nguyen Tran Duy, a rice and ammunition carrier with the North Vietnamese Army's 50th Rear Service Group, rallied to a 1st Cavalry Division helicopter crew near here recently.

The 19-year-old NVA soldier hailed a Company B, 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion command and control helicopter five miles east of Landing Zone Jamie in War Zone C.

Lieutenant Colonel Steven R. Woods, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry was in the ship when Nguyen was spotted in an open area waving a white cloth.

"He wasn't carrying a weapon," Woods said. "We picked him up and flew him immediately to 1st Brigade headquarters at Tay Ninh."

The rallier, a draftee from Thanh Hoa Province, was wearing blue trousers with a grey top garment and Ho Chi Minh sandals.

"I infiltrated through Laos and Cambodia in early January with 900 men," Nguyen said. "I was told that things would be happy and victorious in the south, but it was not so."

Nguyen told an interpreter that he could not accept the suffering and fear of Allied artillery and air power any longer. He was suspicious of his cadre and political officer and felt he would soon contract malaria. He said that most of the men in his unit eventually caught malaria.

"Chieu Hoi leaflets and broadcasts promised good treatment, food and medical care," he continued. "I believed them and decided to rally the first chance I had."

His unit was never paid and did not receive mail.

An American artillery barrage gave him an opportunity to separate from his unit. He stayed in the area for two days until he spotted the 1st Cavalry Division helicopter.

Nguyen's cadre never mentioned the Paris peace talks. His mission was food and ammunition supply of the 1st, 7th, and 9th NVA Divisions. Transportation was primarily by bicycle.

Intelligent, literate and cooperative, Nguyen agreed to assist the 1st Brigade's Psychological Operations officer, First Lieutenant Douglass C. Melius of Fond Du Lac, Wisc., in promoting the Chieu Hoi program in War Zone C.

"We prepared a leaflet in which Nguyen identified himself and his unit, told where he had rallied and stated that he was being treated well," Melius explained. "Nguyen urged his comrades to do the same."

This quick reaction leaflet, dated and signed, and with a picture of the Hoi Chanh was hand-carried to the 6th Psychological Operations Battalion at Bien Hoa for immediate printing. The leaflets were dropped into the area where Nguyen was picked up.

Nguyen also prepared a tape for aerial broadcast.

"I want to make a personal appeal to my comrades in the jungle," he said. "Take advantage of the Chieu Hoi program and become a Hoi Chanh. You will be welcomed as warmly as I was."



Cookie Caper

A little boy in village of Binh Tan, near Nha Trang AB, contentedly munches a cookie while his mother receives flour and cooking oil during a MEDCAP at the Republic of Vietnam's Air Training Center. (USAF PHOTO By: Sgt. Harry P. Mall)

Hooks Job As Mascot

Fish Goes Walking

PHU CAT (USAF) — "The funniest thing happened to me one night after work last week," remarked Staff Sergeant Walter L. Tucker of Baltimore, Md., a base shuttle bus operator with the 37th Transportation Squadron here.

Tucker, after completing a late shift on the shuttle run, had returned to his barracks and entered the shower, when he noticed what he thought was a frog moving around in the shower. On closer examination, it turned out to be a fish, one that moved about with amazing alacrity on the concrete floor of the shower.

Overcoming his amazement, Tucker recalled, "I knew it was a fish, and thought that fish needed water to live. So I scooped it up and placed it, along with some water, in a barrel outside the barracks."

The next day at work, while talking about his experience with his squadron buddies, comments ran from sheer disbelief to "since it rained heavily last night, it must have rained it."

However, the mystery was soon cleared up by some Vietnamese who work in the squadron. They identified the fish as a "ca ro" which translates as climbing perch or walking fish.

Further research by Captain Joseph N. Cupurdija, of Farrell, Pa., commander of the 37th Squadron, determined that the fish is common to all Southeast Asia and is a staple food of the area. It can stand long periods out of the water and local fishermen take them to market in wicker baskets, keeping them alive throughout the day by occasionally sprinkling them with water.

Cupurdija surmises that this particular fish "walked" to the squadron area from one of the streams or rice paddies on or around the base. Since the fish have been observed to cover 300

yards in half an hour, this would have been quite easy for this one to do, as there had been a heavy thunderstorm that night.

The captain continued, "It was undoubtedly attracted by the dampness of the shower room." When asked about plans for the fish, Cupurdija said, "With the permission of Sergeant Tucker, I'd like to keep it in a small covered aquarium in the squadron area as a unit mascot."

As for a name for it? "Wheels," what else?

Bunker Becomes R&R Spot

FIRE BASE AIRBORNE (USA) — A reinforced bunker being used as a mess hall on Fire Base Airborne in the A Shau Valley has become a "hot spot" for troopers of the 101st Airborne Division manning this jungle outpost.

Tucked neatly away in the center of the fire base, the mess hall is open 24 hours a day offering hot coffee and hot soup to the busy 3rd Brigade soldiers.

The mess hall was recently named Bert's Hot Spot after the cook, Specialist 4 Albert (Bert) Hampler of Milwaukee. The coffee spot even comes complete with a sign over the door.

Bert's Hot Spot has become one of the more popular meeting points for troopers of the 2nd Battalion, 506th Airborne Infantry when time permits.

"It's a popular spot to discuss old times and home," commented Specialist 4 Donald Sides of Memphis, Tenn., "but the best thing about Bert's is his good hot coffee and soup available whenever you want it."

Although lacking soft music, air conditioning and padded seats, Bert's has become what one trooper described as a "30-minute fire base R&R."

Replacing H.F. System

Satellite Role Grows

DONG BA THIN (USA) — The recent closing of the 1st Signal Brigade's high frequency radio site here symbolizes the coming of the space age to Vietnam.

The deactivation of the site reflects the ever-increasing role that satellite communications are playing in transoceanic traffic into and out of Southeast Asia.

While satellite communications have been employed in the area for several years, the increasing importance of this method of communications is

easing high frequency out of the signal establishment in Vietnam.

The original impetus for establishing satellite communications in Vietnam was the failure of high frequency systems during the Gulf of Tonkin incident in August 1964.

At the time of the attack by North Vietnamese torpedo boats on American destroyers, heavy sunspot activity made the existing systems sporadically ineffective.

To prevent further communications lapses of the same nature, the Department of Defense rushed a small first-generation satellite terminal to Tan Son Nhut Air Base. By September 1964, the forerunner of today's sophisticated satellite terminals was providing reliable communications between Vietnam and the United States.

Since the installation of the first terminal, satellite communications have assumed much of the burden of long-haul traffic in the area. At present, the brigade operates three satellite ground terminals.

The three Southeast Asian mainland terminals are part of the worldwide Defense Satellite Communications System. This system provides almost instantaneous communications with a network of 24 satellites in random orbit 18,200 nautical miles above the earth.

Because satellite communication is a line-of-sight link between two ground stations via the satellite, the system can use signals in the super high frequency range and avoid virtually all atmospheric interference.

Taken as a whole, the satellite communications manned by the 1st Signal Brigade offer the field commander a long distance voice, data and facsimile communications system unmatched in any previous combat situation for reliability, quality and versatility.



Friendly Persuasion

Specialist 4 David Smith, Phoenix, Ariz., helps gather animals in a village near Camp Enari, base camp of the 4th Infantry Division, for inoculation following an outbreak of cattle plague. The 41st Civil Affairs Company and the Vietnamese Government joined forces to stamp out the disease. (USA PHOTO By: PFC Mike Nicastro)

FIRST IN VIETNAM

The OBSERVER

COMUSMACV GEN C.W. Abrams, USA
 Information Officer COL L.G. Hill, Jr., USA
 Chief, Command Information LTC M.L. Shiro, USA

* * *

Officer-In-Charge LT G.L. Daugherty, USA
 NCOIC/Editor SFC M.T. Badger, USA
 Staff Writer TSgt G. K. Fears, USAF
 Staff Writer SSG R. W. Swift, USA
 Staff Writer TSgt A.C. Stromwall, USAF
 Staff Writer SP4 F.J. Robinson, USA
 Photographer SP5 T.L. Tynes, USA
 Production Manager SP4 C. B. Feldpausch, USA
 Illustrator MSgt B.N. Chadbourne, USAF

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Marines Not Black Or White; Only Color In Corps Is Green

By Chaplain
 R.A. McGonigal
 QUANTICO, VA. (USMC) — One of the Corps' most distinguished generals was inspecting a battalion. He stopped in front of a young lieutenant. "How many Negroes do you have in your platoon, son?" he asked.

"Sir, I have thirty-nine Marines in my platoon," was the answer.

The lieutenant did not realize at the time how ap-

propriate his answer was. The general would have "had him for breakfast" if the answer had been anything else. He would have "flipped" if the lieutenant had said, "I have five Negro Marines." There are no white or black Marines. Color us green, if you must color us at all.

Racism has no place here. Racism is like an unwelcome weed. It keeps creeping back when we are not looking. We catch the undertones of racism on both sides in slips of the tongue. A child on the playground will give you a hint of what his parents let slip. A word at the EM Club will drop, echoing the poison of ancient bias. Years of progress can vanish in one rumble.

Be it the duty roster, the arrangement of work details, selection for schools, disciplining, organizing a liberty trip, or assigning bunks in the barracks, we have to be on guard that old prejudices don't creep back into our decisions. We can never sleep on this problem.

Most of us have very recent memories of combat

actions in which there were neither black nor white Marines — only the very welcome sight of another green uniform to the right or left. We drank from each other's canteen, donated blood, received blood, without a thought of skin pigmentation.

Indeed, the military has been the vanguard in race relations. Far ahead of the church or other agencies for a better community, the military has practiced open housing, equal opportunity employment, desegregated chapels and schools for years.

The best way to insure a peaceful liberty run is the old-fashioned "buddy system" where our buddies intercede if we get off track a bit. There's a lot to be said for using the same system on base. The instant an old wound is opened is precisely the time for a buddy to step in and say, "Like man, cool it."

To do anything less is to forget all those whites and blacks who died around us and sometimes for us. Henceforth, and always, let's color each other green.

Without A Current Shot Record You Can't Fly The Freedom Bird

LONG BINH (USA) — There are many arguments that could be advanced about why you should keep up on your immunizations. The most important one to most guys is that you can't get on a Freedom Bird to go any place without having all your shots up to date.

But there are other equally good reasons why the smart GI keeps up with his shots, according to 44th Medical Brigade physicians. The first is that the chief means of staying healthy in Vietnam is by practicing personal preventive medicine. Sure, shots won't make you bulletproof, but remember that diseases account for more than half of all hospital admissions in Vietnam. So it's only logical that if you avoid getting sick during your tour here, you stand your best chance to staying out of the hospital.

What are the requirements for immunizations? To begin with, all U.S. military personnel must receive the following immunizations at the indicated intervals.

Plague and cholera must be taken every six months; smallpox annually; typhoid and typhus every three years and yellow fever every ten years. Gamma Globulin is not a requirement, but may be given as a preventive measure against hepatitis in accordance with local regulations.

So when going to R and R, TDY, or making that long-awaited return to the world, all service members should check through their local dispensaries at least a week prior to departure to make certain their shot records are up to date. And the really smart troop stays on top of the situation all the time.

Secretary Of Defense Visits Returned POWs

WASHINGTON (AFPS) — Two of the U.S. servicemen recently released by North Vietnam received a surprise visit and a hearty welcome home from Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird, at Bethesda Naval Hospital, Bethesda, Md., shortly after their return to the United States.

Lieutenant Robert F. Frishman, USN, and Seaman Douglas Hegdahl, USN, were greeted by Secretary Laird, who wanted to

meet the men personally and welcome them home. The two men are receiving thorough medical checkups at the hospital.

The third U.S. serviceman released, Captain Wesley L. Rumble, USAF, is undergoing medical checkup at Travis AFB hospital in California.

Initial medical reports indicate the men are in reasonably good condition, considering the circumstances under which they had lived. The three men lost from 20 to 60 pounds during their captivity.

Captain Rumble has an injured back and Lieutenant Frishman has a seriously injured right arm, DOD said.

Secretary Laird expressed concern for the physical condition of the men and for the ordeal they endured.

He assured them that he will pursue efforts to obtain the early release of the other hundreds of U.S. prisoners held by Communist forces in Southeast Asia.

The POW situation has been of continuing concern to Secretary Laird. In a memorandum issued in March he noted that the enemy in Southeast Asia continued to disregard the humanitarian protections guaranteed by the Geneva Convention, relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War.

He said "Our men are being denied basic rights, including the right of their families to know that they are captured, the right to correspond freely with their families and the right of impartial inspection of prisoner of war compounds."

Secretary Laird also had concern for the families of the captured men. "I want to be assured," he said, "that the Military Services and the Office of the Secretary of Defense are doing all that we possibly can for the next of kin. If our present legal authority to assist these families is inadequate, please advise me immediately."



Need Assistance?

This pretty Miss wants to remind you that application forms for all GI Bill benefits are available at VA offices in Vietnam as well as in the United States. A personal interview with a VA representative is part of ETS processing for all soldiers, but if you need assistance or application forms while you are in Vietnam, write to: VA Representative, 90th Replacement Battalion, APO in-country 96491; or phone Long Binh 2185.

For Your Anniversary

SAIGON (MACV) — If you're married, it is almost a certainty that you will miss at least one wedding anniversary during your tour in Vietnam.

Although the present you send by mail won't be able to convey your feelings as well as you could in person, the giving of the appropriate gift for the occasion will show your thoughtfulness and sincerity.

Here, then, is a list of both traditional and modern anniversary gifts for the discerning serviceman:

	Traditional	Modern
First	Paper	Clocks
Second	Cotton	China
Third	Leather	Crystal, Glass
Fourth	Fruit, Flowers	Appliances
Fifth	Wood	Silverware
Sixth	Candy, Iron	Wood
Seventh	Wool, Copper	Desk Sets
Eighth	Bronze, Pottery	Linens, Laces
Ninth	Pottery, Willow	Leather
Tenth	Tin, Aluminum	Diamond Jewelry
Eleventh	Steel	Fashion Jewelry
Twelfth	Silk, Linen	Pearls
Thirteenth	Lace	Textiles, Furs
Fourteenth	Ivory	Gold Jewelry
Fifteenth	Crystal	Watches
Twentieth	China	Platinum
Twenty-fifth	Silver	Silver



A Troop crewmen watch the arrival of the Hercules transport.



With their ACAVs all packed, the men of A Troop await their turn to board the huge C-130.

'Surprisingly Simple'

Track Troop Is Airlifted

BO DOP (USA) — A most unusual move occurred recently when Air Force C-130s moved an entire troop of Armored Cavalry Assault Vehicles (ACAV) 36 miles from Loc Ninh to Bo Dop, a camp only four miles from the Cambodian border.

The airlift of 24 ACAVs was the first tactical airlift of track troops ever accomplished by the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment.

Colonel James H. Leach of Hampton, S.C., regimental commander, decided that by the time bridges had been built and roads had been opened the tactical situation would have made the move useless because the enemy would have had enough warning to make an escape.

The Air Force ran a total of 45 sorties to complete the mission: one flight for each of the 24 ACAVs and 21 flights for supplies. Each ACAV meant a payload of 25,000 pounds and pilots of the lumbering planes felt the 12½-ton load each time they touched down.

The Bo Dop airstrip had to be lengthened to meet the Air Force's minimum safety standards. "The runways are short but reasonably level," said Major Eugene Askenasy of Peoria, Ill., the Air Force mission commander. He added, "My biggest problem was keeping the civilians and their motorbikes off the runways."

Air Force Technical Sergeant Thomas Mills from Kerrville, Tex., worked on the six-man mobility teams responsible for loading and unloading the cargo planes. He felt the mission went smoothly with one minor exception: "It's kind of distracting when you're off-loading a pallet of 'Cs' or lining up an ACAV to have mortars being dropped on the runway. All you can do is have the pilot move the bird out fast, while you duck down very, very low."

First Lieutenant William Nash of New Orleans, La., leader of the first platoon, said the operation was 'surprisingly simple.' "The biggest thing about it is that we were in contact last night, we airlifted today, and tonight we'll be ready to fight again."



Men battle the super-heated prop wash as they head into the C-130 cargo hold.

Story & Photos
By USA



The belly of this plane is huge, but it's a tight squeeze.



With its 12-ton load the C-130 skims the tree tops as it approaches its destination.

City Of The Lions: An Exotic World In



The City of the Lions presents an exciting and exotic contrast of the old and the new, side by side.



Snake charmers, and their snakes, are everywhere.



The House of Jade exhibits an ancient, priceless and beautiful collection of jade carvings.



The swimming pool at the Newton Towers R&R Hotel is a relaxing place for the GI on R&R.



Nicoll Highway, running into downtown Singapore, affords a view

ARE YOU HAVING TROUBLE deciding where to take that much-needed, long-awaited and well-deserved R&R? You have many scenic and fascinating sites to pick from, but there's one spot that's deserving of special consideration—Singapore, the "City of the Lions."

Just off the southern tip of the Malay Peninsula, Singapore is only 1½ hours flying time from Saigon aboard a 707 "Freedom Bird." From the time you arrive at the Singapore Airport, until long after you depart, you'll feel the excitement and splendor of the island. It's one of the few spots in the world where you can witness a multi-racial, multi-lingual and multi-religious society living in an almost unbelievable harmony.

A PLACE TO STAY is no problem. You have a choice of four beautiful and well-serviced R&R hotels, or you may prefer one of the many tourist hotels in the town area. For the best convenience and most reasonable rates, choose one of the R&R hotels. Each is equipped with a swimming pool, air-conditioned

Story and Photos
By SSgt. R. F. Mescal

restaurant, night club and more. You can enjoy the warm hospitality and excellent service at any of the hotels.

TRANSPORTATION in Singapore is readily available. There are more than 4,000 registered taxis, and metered taxis are topped metered taxis, at a rate of .40S cents per mile for the first 100 yards. (\$3S equals \$1U.S.). Singapore has several convenient bus companies, the standard rate being about .15S cents.

A typically oriental mode of transportation is the Trishaw, a bicycle with sidecar attached. Rates are about the same as for taxis.

INTERNATIONAL goods are available. Singapore is known as a duty-free zone, a tax-paradise, Singapore offers a wide variety of locally produced goods and goods imported from other countries.



One of Tiger Balm Gardens

In Miniature

TO STAY in Singapore You have your choice of comfortable and well-equipped hotels. You may prefer one of the best hotels in the downtown area for the best facilities, comfortable rooms, reasonable prices, and excellent service. A hotel with a swimming pool and a restaurant is preferable.

and Photos
Mescall Jr., USMC

and t. You'll enjoy the hospitality and excellent service of the hotels.

TRANSPORTATION around Singapore is readily available. There are 10,000 registered, yellow taxis, with rates of \$1.00 for one or two persons (\$1.50 for three or more persons). The city also has a convenient and efficient bus system at the standard fare of 10 cents.

ORIENTAL MODE of transportation is the Trishaw, a pedal car with a seat attached. Fares are the same as for taxis.

TIOLLY RE- a duty-free shopper's paradise offers high quality goods as well as a wide variety of goods from every corner of

the world at prices lower than in the country of origin. Keep in mind that bargaining is a way of life in Singapore.

DINING OUT can be an exciting experience for either the gourmet, gourmand or glutton. You can take your pick of Chinese, Indian, Japanese, Indonesian, Russian, French, Italian or Western food, in the hundreds of restaurants and food stalls that dot the island. Since Singapore has the reputation of being one of the cleanest cities in Asia, it's safe to eat in any of the restaurants.

NIGHT LIFE in Singapore is limited only by the expense of your wallet. There are many dance halls and night clubs where you can drink or dance with the hostesses.

THE CLIMATE in Singapore is warm throughout the year, with temperatures ranging between 75 and 87 degrees. So it's best to dress for comfort, although some clubs require a tie in the evening.

FOR THE SIGHTSEER two major tours and several minor tours are offered and are reasonably priced. The "City Tour" gives you an opportunity to see all the sights of Singapore, including the world-famous Tiger Balm Gardens, The House of Jade, and the Singapore Harbour (fourth largest port in the world).

Above all, enjoy your stay in Singapore—it won't be hard to do. The memories of the "City of the Lions," an exotic world in miniature, will linger on.



The bustling activity of Chinatown, located in the heart of Singapore, is a tourist's must.



Tiger Balm Gardens' international "corners" portrays sights of the U.S.



Spread over a hillside, the world-famous Tiger Balm Gardens depicts legends of Chinese mythology.



A view of the ultra-modern housing now under construction.



A colorful and almost unbelievable sight is the "flower clock"—and it really works.

'Dong Tien'—A Joint Pacification Program

SAIGON (MACV) — U.S. 1st Infantry Division soldiers and Vietnamese 5th Infantry Division troops have joined together in a program named Dong Tien to fight the enemy through combat operations and pacification programs.

Dong Tien means "forward together" and the operation is being undertaken by elements of the 1st Division's 3rd Brigade and their Vietnamese counterparts of the 8th Regiment, 5th ARVN Division.

"We are learning together," said Lieutenant Colonel William Parks, commanding officer of the 2nd Battalion, 28th Infantry. "We can introduce the ARVN to our methods of operation, while they in turn can show us effective tactics in terrain with which they are intimately familiar."

Operating from Fire Support Base Mahone west of Lai Khe, Dong Tien recently sealed the village of Ben Chua on the Saigon River to seek out Viet Cong suspected of living in and operating from the hamlets which comprise the village.

The village was sealed in four hours on the first day of the week-long operation by Companies B and D, 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry, Companies B and C, 2nd Battalion, 28th Infantry and by the ARVN 5th Division elements. At least two significant arms caches were discovered and a few Viet Cong rallied to the side of the Government of Vietnam under the Chieu Hoi (Open Arms) Program.

While the systematic search by the ARVN was taking place, American and Vietnamese civic action teams moved into the village to conduct an ICAP, an Integrated Civic Action Program. The ICAP was run by the ARVN and assisted by the Americans. A three-part MEDCAP was conducted by an ARVN battalion surgeon, Second Lieutenant



Lt. Minh of the 5th ARVN Division examines a young girl from Ben Chua village during an Integrated Civic Action Program.

Minh, who was assisted by ARVN and U.S. Army medics.

While Lieutenant Minh and his assistants treated some Ben Chua villagers, an ARVN medic conducted a class for others on diseases and how to recognize them. According to Captain Lawrence Farrell, 3rd Brigade civil affairs officer, "It was the first such class for the villagers in more than a year. The aim of this medical program is not only to treat, but to educate the people so they know what ailments they might have."

After the villagers had been treated and the classes had ended, "health kits," containing necessities for personal hygiene, were distributed among the villagers.



Story & Photos By
SP5 David M. Gerrol, USA



Contents of a health kit are explained by a Vietnamese medic prior to their distribution.



ARVN medics conduct an outdoor health class with children.



Ben Chua villagers are directed to line for health kits.



Thach Ri with SP5 Armstrong.
(USA PHOTO By: SGT Jan Anderson)

Medic's Kindness Mends Orphan's Shattered Spirit

CU CHI (USA) — In all wars moments of compassion appear which are in sharp contrast to the brutal realities of the battlefield. The story of 10-year-old Thach Ri is an example of one of those moments when an act of human charity suddenly stands out against the stark background of war.

Thach Ri and his family belonged to a tribal community which is an offshoot of the Montagnard tribe. His family had spent their lives as nomads wandering throughout the Republic of Vietnam, until a day in April 1969, when they were caught in a Viet Cong rocket attack.

Thach's mother, brother and two sisters were killed and Thach was taken to the 12th Evacuation Hospital in the 25th Infantry Division's base camp at Cu Chi. The boy's left leg was nearly severed beneath the knee. After surgical amputation, the staff at the hospital learned that some time before Thach's father had been killed as a result of the war.

Orphaned and crippled, Thach lay quietly in his bed, staring at the ceiling. Specialist 5 Kenneth Armstrong of Denver, a medic in the Vietnamese ward, cared for Thach during those long, sad days. Armstrong knew that what was troubling Thach must lie deeper than his injury.

With patience and tireless effort Armstrong set out to break down the walls of silence between the boy and himself. The language barrier was overcome in a few weeks. As Thach's proficiency in English grew, he began to talk with Armstrong and anyone else who spoke his new language that was part of his new life.

In the next two months Thach improved remarkably. Vacant stares were replaced by lively, sparkling eyes. The helpless, bedfast days gave way to playfulness and a boy's natural curiosity. Armstrong was deeply

moved by Thach's courageous spirit. Over the weeks the two spent together, Armstrong's fondness and admiration grew, and he decided to adopt Thach.

Armstrong brought his problems to the attention of Tropic Lightning's 2nd Brigade civic action section.

Within a week Armstrong and Thach were on their way to the National Rehabilitation Center in Saigon, where Thach was fit-

ted with an artificial leg. The men of the 2nd Brigade paid all expenses.

Adoption problems remain, but they are being worked out.

Thach is still at the 12th Evacuation Hospital. He is not the same boy who came there injured, frightened and alone. In the shelter of a small hospital ward, hope and laughter have again become part of Thach's life.

Medic Follows Tradition Of Old Country Doctor

OASIS (USA) — Specialist 4 Jack Litzmann of Pomona, Calif., a medic with the Civil Affairs team of the 4th Infantry Division's 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry, brings considerable experience with primitive peoples to his work with the Montagnards.

Today, following the tradition of the country doctor, he draws on his experience by making a specialty of house calls in the five Montagnard villages under his care.

Before entering the Army, Litzmann served with a missionary team which brought medical aid to the "forgotten tribes" of Brazil.

Most of his work was with the Bakak tribes living near the mouth of the Amazon River. It was while working with the Bakaks that he developed the bedside manner that he finds useful in dealing with the Montagnards.

Litzmann notes a similarity between the Bakaks and the Montagnards. "Although the Montagnards are not as primitive as the Bakaks, both people have a superstition that makes the practice of medicine difficult.

"Montagnards believe that a seriously ill person should not be

moved," he explained, "because the spirits demand that if a person dies, he must die in his own house."

During their daily visits to the village, the Civil Affairs team encourages all sick people to come to the MEDCAP for treatment. "But many of the most dangerously ill are not reached because their relatives are afraid to remove them from their homes," said Litzmann. "So I try to visit each house every day in order to find serious cases."

According to the Civil Affairs team leader, Sergeant Orlan Hall of Upham, N.D., Litzmann's efforts have been "tremendously successful. In two months he has treated approximately 50 cases that might have been fatal had he not discovered them through house calls." Hall said. "In one day recently he found three people suffering from advanced malaria. All had temperatures in excess of 105 degrees and might have died had he not treated them."

"We encourage the people to come to us with their illnesses," added Litzmann. "But, because it is often literally a matter of life and death, when they don't come to us, we must go to them."

Big Red One Bandsmen Entertain Montagnards

LAI KHE (USA) — Traveling with the Big Red One Band on a Civic Action program makes one appreciate just how much a band can do in the civic action field. Instead of M-16s and Claymore mines, the "weapons" they use are horns and drums, and the success of their efforts is reflected in the eyes of the Vietnamese children.

On a recent trip to Binh My, about seven miles outside of Phu Loi, the 1st Infantry Division Band entertained the villagers with a two-hour show. Upon arrival, the village was quiet, but once the music began hundreds of people flocked around to get a better look at the music makers. Consisting mostly of the very young, the audience at times appeared almost paralyzed by the music.

The show started out with rather slow, serious music and ended on a light, relaxed note with the band playing such tunes as "Music to Watch Girls By." The villagers were obviously pleased with the show. The atmosphere at the concert was gay and carefree.

Besides providing music, band members let the children try their hand at playing the drums and cymbals. This was one of the high-lights of the morning's activities, as it put the youngsters completely at ease with the strangers in green, and let them do something they had never done before.

The children enjoyed themselves tremendously and the visit was deemed highly successful in strengthening rapport between the villagers and the soldiers.

PSYOPS Teams Popular With Villagers

PLANTATION (USA) — "Don't throw that piece of paper away," says the man in the barber chair.

"Why not," asks the floor sweeper.

"Because it is a government safe conduct pass. Here, let me explain it to you."

So begins one of the many Psychological Operations (PSYOPS) movies shown throughout Vietnam by both the Vietnamese Information Service and American PSYOPS teams.

Sergeant Jacob Garrett of Raleigh, N.C., leads one of these teams and works mainly in Darlac Province. He and his team show films and accompany Medical Civic Action (MEDCAP) teams to various Rhade Montagnard and Vietnamese villages in the II Corps province.

Some of the films are in the Rhade dialect, some in Vietnamese, but all deal with such topics as sanitation, physical exercise, crop rotation, family raising and the Government of Vietnam (GVN).

Most of the films are produced by Walt Disney, Inc., but some are made by Vietnamese and

some by United States agencies. According to Garrett, "The Montagnards in Darlac Province really like these movies. And they learn a lot from them. Then too, they get the benefit of the MEDCAPS."

Garrett recalled an incident when, after the movies, an elderly Montagnard had a tooth pulled to the amazement of about 50 on-lookers.

He went around the hamlet showing the pulled tooth and saying "hurt." Then he'd point to his mouth and say "no hurt." In a few moments six others were waiting for the dentist.

Now on his second tour in Vietnam, Garrett says, "This tour I feel I'm accomplishing more. The Montagnards turn out for these PSYOPS trips and they learn."

The young sergeant considers the ultimate compliment to his team to be the many invitations it gets from people to eat in their home.

"They've even performed sacrifices of chickens and ducks for us, and set up special security for their hamlets to make sure we would come and show the movies without danger."



PSYOPS Cultural Drama team entertains villagers.

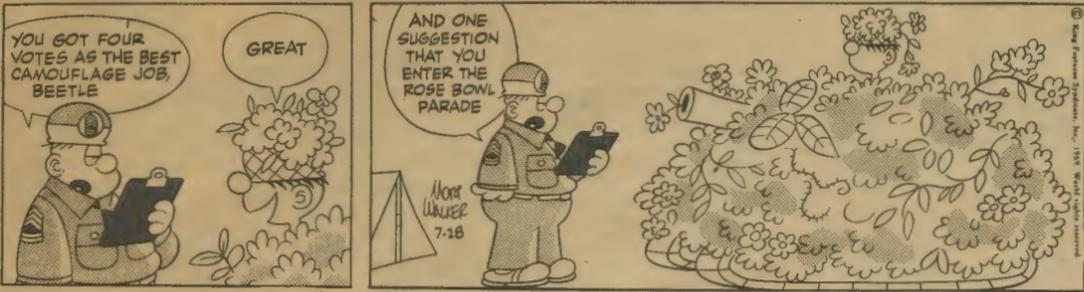
(USA PHOTO By: SFC W. Scherp)



BUNKER BUNNY OF THE WEEK—Sez, "A nice way to s-t-r-e-t-c-h your money is to take advantage of the Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program. That's right, your deposits earn 10 per cent interest, compounded quarterly, and you can keep your account open up to 90 days after you return Stateside in order to take advantage of an extra dividend period." "So why not sock that loot away until you get home, and then you can buy me all those little goodies."
(PHOTO COURTESY OF 20TH CENTURY FOX)

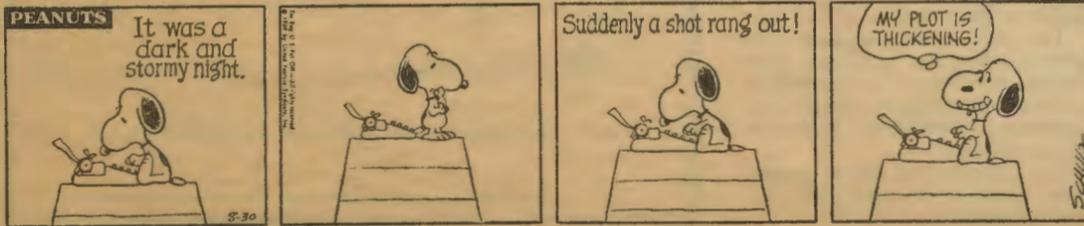
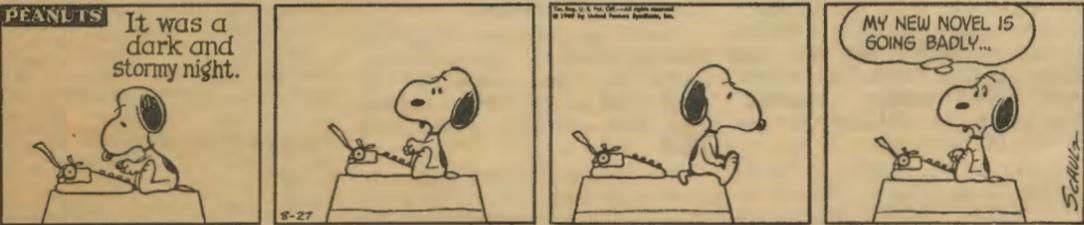
Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker

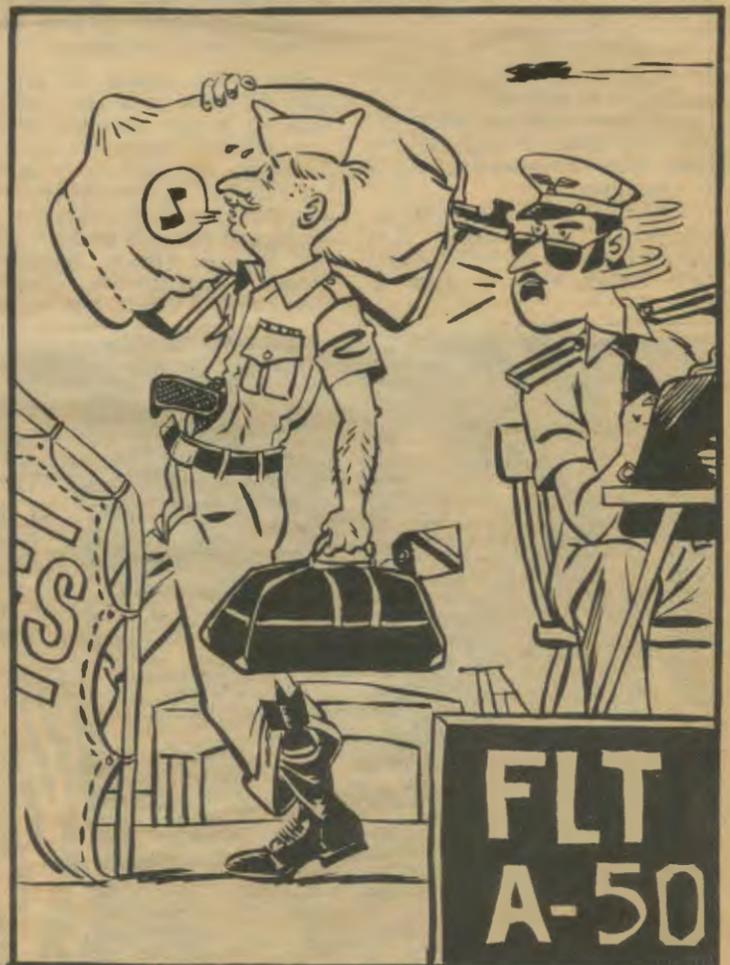


Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz



Trying to take unlicensed weapons home can cause you needless trouble. Remember, no fully automatic or crew-served weapon can be taken home, but bolt action and semiautomatic rifles and foreign-made pistols can be if they are properly processed and licensed. A little extra effort will insure you keeping your trophy. Now check the 10 differences in these two pictures.



Solution: 1) Finger missing on hand holding duffle bag. 2) Musical note shorthened. 3) Collar Brass missing. 4) Angle of belt tip changed. 5) Stripe on baggage tag runs in opposite direction. 6) Shoulder board shorthened. 7) Pencil missing from shirtfront. 8) Watchband missing. 9) Antenna missing from aircraft tail. 10) Period after FLT removed.

Marine's Valor KO's NVA Plan

DA NANG (USMC) — A 18-year-old Marine grenadier attached to F Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, put an abrupt halt to the plans of six North Vietnamese Army (NVA) soldiers who attempted to impede a company size sweep of the area, 10 miles south of here.

Lance Corporal Edward J. Weeks of Norwalk, Calif. was manning his position in the company's formation as they began their sweep. Suddenly the early morning silence gave way to the sound of enemy automatic weapons fire and the cry of a fallen Marine.

Immediately hitting the dirt, the Marines began to maneuver in a manner that would force the well hidden NVA to disclose their positions. Suddenly two

Marines sprang to their feet and darted towards their wounded comrade, only to share his fate.

"When I saw the two riflemen get up and run, I spotted the flash from the NVA machinegun," said Weeks, and I realized what had to be done."

Springing to his feet, Weeks fired his M-79 grenade launcher as he assaulted the enemy bunker. After getting off four rounds, he spotted a lone NVA in another bunker preparing to fire a rocket-propelled grenade (RPG). Weeks fired his M-79, killing the opposing grenadier before he could fire the weapon.

Having gained fire superiority over the NVA, the Marines assaulted the remaining enemy positions, killing two more NVA.

Following the action, eight enemy dead were found, each armed with an AK-47. Also found was one machinegun and a RPG launcher with grenades.



Anybody Home

Specialist 4 Gordon Maga of Dowington, Pa., a Bravo Company Wolfhound from the 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division cautiously checks a bunker. The company was in pursuit of the scattered NVA left after a 13 hour battle the day before near Cu Chi.

FAC...

(Continued From Page 1)

NVA soldier.

The Rangers set up again as the enemy's fire became more intense. Above the heavy canopy of jungle, Captain Roy Engleke of Bacaville, Calif., a pilot for the Air Force's forward air controllers, (FAC), radioed down to the Rangers, "You have at least a small regiment of NVA behind you."

"When the FAC told us that, Dennis called for an air strike and gunships," said Private First Class Herman Gains of Miami.

The air strike came; Gunships quickly followed and expended their firepower on the enemy troops.

An extraction ship, covered by machine gun fire from the gunships, flew near the team's position as the enemy set off smoke hoping to lure the ship to their position. The trap was ignored by the rescue crew.

Faced with heavy small arms fire and the air strike, the enemy began to pull back from the contact area and the extraction ship was able to pick up the team after maneuvering into a new position.

"We can't praise the FAC pilot enough," said Smock. "If it wasn't for him, we never would have known what we were up against."

LOH Saves Downed Flyers

PHU LOI (USA) — The dedication of Army aviators was dramatically illustrated recently when the crew of a downed 1st Infantry Division observation helicopter was rescued from an enemy-infested area 20 miles north of Saigon.

A hunter-killer team of Troop D, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry was conducting a visual reconnaissance flight along the western edge of the infamous "Iron Triangle" when the light observation helicopter (LOH) took a number of hits from intense ground fire. The pilot of the LOH, First Lieutenant Louis Gibson, although wounded in the leg attempted to fly the disabled aircraft away from the area, but the LOH burst into flames.

Gibson was forced to crash land the craft in a rice paddy near an enemy position. Warrant Officer Phillip Cariss of Kirkwood, Mo., piloting a Cobra gunship, made suppressive mini-gun runs on the enemy positions and returned to the crash site. Warrant Officer Johathan Gregory of Baltimore, co-pilot gunner of the Cobra, lept out of

the hovering Cobra and struggled through the waist-deep mud to the crew of the downed LOH.

As Cariss took off to continue his suppressive gun-run on the enemy positions, another LOH piloted by Warrant Officer H.J. Vad arrived on the scene and expanded his mini-guns into the treeline to keep the enemy down and to lighten his aircraft.

Landing near his three downed comrades, Vad threw away his personal body armor to further lighten the ship, crammed the three into his tiny craft and successfully flew the grossly overladen LOH to the nearest aid station.

Cariss continued firing on the enemy positions, killing four more enemy to cover the LOH's escape.

NVA Jumps From Fire To Waiting Frying Pan

AN KHE (USA) — If Charlie had followed the warnings of Smokey the Bear and doused his camp fire, he might have lived another day.

But as it turned out, Troop A, 7th Battalion, 17th Air Cavalry Squadron of the 17th Aviation Group turned the day into disaster for five North Vietnamese Army (NVA) soldiers while supporting the 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division.

Early in the morning, Troop A, led by Captain H. Botner of Fox Island, Wash., discovered

several freshly cut trails, indicating someone had been in the area not long before.

The light observation helicopters (LOH) kept looking for more signs, until they spotted a camp fire still burning.

A few minutes later, Warrant Officer James R. Muso of Mariotta, Ga., who was flying the lead LOH at the time, spotted five NVA regulars, toting field packs and AK-47s.

His observer, Sergeant Molvin J. Jock of Forrestville, N.Y., immediately opened fire with his automatic weapon, as they sought cover under heavy foliage, killing all five.

Aero-riflemen, led by Sergeant First Class Lowell E. Bowman of Crestline, Ohio, retrieved the field packs and enemy weapons.

VC Camp Blasted

FSB MADELEINE (USA) — Members of the 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry, 199th Light Infantry Brigade discovered a large Viet Cong complex 17 miles south of Saigon during a routine airmobile operation with elements of the 9th Infantry Division.

Initial strikes called in by Company C the first day, accounted for five enemy killed, but the vast size of the base camp was not realized until after massive air and artillery strikes literally leveled the area the following day.

Members of Companies C and B were later airlifted back into the area, effectively surrounding the enemy stronghold.

Original plans called for Company B to serve as a blocking force while Company C swept through the camp, but after the units were inserted, air strikes were again judged necessary.

During the strikes, both companies received heavy small arms fire, and additional troops of the 5th Battalion, 60th Infantry, were inserted to help tighten the perimeter around the base camp.

When the strikes ended, Company C moved in to survey the damage. As they moved through the area, they realized that they had struck on the remains of a battalion sized base camp.

All totaled, the operation accounted for 34 enemy killed and 73 bunkers destroyed.



Awkward Angle

Army Specialist 5 John Shaw, of Mexico, Maine, a 5th Special Forces Group rigger and "kicker" on a C-7 air drop mission, yells "Lets get outa here," as the aircraft takes ground fire near a CIDG Camp. (USAF PHOTO By: MSgt. R.G. Fisher)

Sappers...

(Continued From Page 1)

meters from the 3rd Brigade Tactical Operations Center and were hit by M-16 fire from troops manning the perimeter.

Meanwhile a battle erupted just south of Quan Loi where tanks and APC's of Troop A, 1st Battalion, 4th Cavalry, 1st Infantry Division encountered an estimated 100 NVA soldiers — part of a unit advancing toward LZ Andy. The fierce conflict lasted throughout the night with 23 of the enemy killed.

The attacks continued through the night when sappers again attempted to penetrate the wire. Ten of the sappers were cut down in the wire.

The tide of battle was soon shifted when the attackers were caught in a heavy crossfire from troops defending the main compound and machinegun fire from the greenline.

By morning, 50 enemy bodies were found in the wire and along the perimeter.

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★ (Does not meet requirements for "free" mail.)

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	(20 cents Airmail)

TO:
