MG Gettys Takes Division Helm

SOUTHERN CROSS
AMERICAL DIVISION

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Arrives Here From Pentagon

CHU LAI—MG Charles M. Gettys assumed command of the Americal Div. in June 23 ceremonies at division headquarters here.

VIEW CEREMONY—MG Richard G. Stillwell (left), deputy III MAF commander, MG Charles M. Gettys, new Americal commander, and BG George H. Young, Jr. (right), outgoing division commander, watch the activities during the change of command held June 23. (Photo by PFC Michael P. Balwin, 523rd Sig. Bn.)

The division's fourth commander since it arrived in scuthern I Corps on April 20, 1967, as Task Force Oregon, MG Gettys formerly held the position of deputy special assistant for strategic mobility in the office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Washington.

He replaced BG George H. Ycung, Jr., who has been named commander of the Da Nang Support Command.

With 82nd Abn.

A holder of the Master Parachutist Badge, MG Gettys has served as a battalion commander, regimental executvie officer, regimental commander and battle group commander within the 82nd Abn. Div. during various stages of his 32-year Army career.

From 1959-1963, he served successively as assistant chief of the Special Warfare Division and assistant chief and chief of the War Plans Division, in the office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Military Operations in Washington. During this time he was the Army Planner and was active on matters for the Joint Chiefs in conjunction with other service planners.

Other Jobs

The general's previous foreign assignments include leadership positions with the 5th Inf. Rgt. in Panama and Europe during World War II, as an infantry adviser in Equador during 1946-48, as a staff officer in the Operations section of the Allied Forces Southern Europe in Naples, Italy, from 1952-54; as chief of plans for the UN Command in Korea from 1958-59, and from 1963-66 as chief of staff and later assistant division commander for maneuver of the 8th Inf. Div.

MG Gettys is a 1936 graduate of Clemson College, Clemson, S.C., and a 1956 graduate of the Army War College. He also has attended the Command and General Staff College, at Ft. Leavenworth, Kan., and has studied at the University of Michigan.

Silver Star

The 53-year-old general has earned the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal with V Device, the French Croix de Guerre and the Ecuaderian Abdon Calderon (Primera Clase).

Born in Charlotte, N.C., MG Gettys and his wife Blossom make their home in Washington, D.C. They have one son, Mark.

BG Cooksey Becomes New ADC

CHU LAI—BG Howard H. Cooksey arrived here in mid-June to assume the dutles of assistant division commander for maneuver.

He was formerly stationed at United States Strike Command Headquarters at MacDill AFB, Fla., where he was director of personnel.

A veteran of two wars, the new ADC saw combat in the Philippines and Luzon campaigns during World War II and with the 7th Inf. Div. during the Korean War.

He also spent three years in the Pentagon, where he served as deputy chief and chief of the Combat Material Division of the Research and Development Department, chief of the Combat Arms Branch of the same department, and executive officer of the Research and Development Department.

Much of his 25-year Army career has been spent in assignments in the Pacific area. In addition to the combat assignments, he has had peacetime assignments in Korea (most recently as commander of the 1st Bde. of the 2nd Inf. Div.) and several assignments in Tokyo, Japan.

BG Cooksey received his bachelor's degree from VPI, in Blacksburg, Va., in 1943, and earned a master's degree from George Washington University in 1964.

He also sucessfully completed studies at the Command and General Staff College, in 1954, the Armed Forces Staff College, in 1959, and the National War College, in 1963.

He has been awarded the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Purple Heart and the Army Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters, as well as a Combat Infantryman's Badge with Star and various service medals.

He was born and educated in Virginia. His wife and two children now reside at MacDill AFB in Florida.

MG Charles M. Gettys

CG Addresses Troops

It is with great pride that I accept the command of the Americal Division. This division has long enjoyed a superb reputation among fighting men throughout the world.

The officers and men of the division have every reason to take pride in the record they have compiled since the division arrived in the I Corps Tactical Zone as Task Force Oregon last April.

This does not mean, however, that we can rest on our laurels, as I am sure you are all aware. As long as there is a communist threat in Vietnam there will be a job for the United States Army, and as long as there is a task, the Americal will be in there fighting.

I am looking forward to my service with such a magnificient group of fighting men. Working closely with our Vietnamese allies, we shall meet and defeat the enemy on the battlefields and in the villages, and make South Vietnam a better place in which to live.

I promise my most concentrated efforts towards this goal, and ask the same of you.

Lawyer's Corner

GI Bill 'Don'ts'

By CPT SALIM J. BALADY, JAGC
Legal Assistance Officer

"THE FOLLOWING IS SURE, as day follows night, there comes a restriction with every right."

The poetry is definitely of Robert Burns caliber, but the moral is fact. Every right we have does have some sort of restriction on its exercise. The rule applies to rights under the new G.I. Bill, too.

The restrictions placed on the exercise of rights under the new G.I. Bill are not really restrictive, they've just administrative rules based on good common sense. One thing certain, they will never interfere with the progress of the serious-minded student.

THE MOST GENERALLY applicable restriction is the rule that an educational assistance allowance is not payable if the veteran is enrolled in a course paid for by the United States government under a law other than the G.I. Bill if the allowance would constitute a duplication of benefits from the Federal Treasury.

If the identity of the federal funds paid under other law is "lost" by being combined with funds from other sources, however, the educational assistance allowance is not considered a "duplication of benefits."

A determination by the VA as to whether a "duplication of benefits" will result must be made in every case where a veteran-student receives educational assistance from a source outside the G.I. Bill.

THE SECOND KEY restriction is the rule that a change of program may not be approved for a veteran when his program has been interrupted or discontinued due to his own misconduct neglect or lack of application.

The third principal is aimed at hobbyists and sportsmen.

The VA may not grant an educational assistance allowance to any veteran taking part in a course which is avocational or recreational in character unless the veteran submits justification showing that the course will be of bona fide use in his present or contemplated business or occupation.

THE FINAL EDUCATIONAL assistance restriction holds the line against fast-burgeoning "announcing schools" whose advertisements for enrollments are crowding radio, magazine and newspaper space these days.

The VA may not approve open circuit television or radio courses unless the veteran is enrolled in a program, pursued in residence (formal schooling), leading to a standard college degree, which includes open circuit television and the major portion of the course requires conventional classroom attendance.

Religion And You

Letter From Home

By CHAPLAIN (MAJ) W.M. MCMILLAN
198th Inf. Bde.

IN THE COURSE of my work I cannot help but read some of the letters soldiers receive from home, and I must tell you that some of these letters are shocking and awful enough to make angels cry, if angels ever cry.

Many of them are filled with four-letter words that unglue the soldier and make him ineffective. Some of these letters are filled with the worst advice that could be given. Mothers, wives and others perhaps do not want their letters to have this effect upon their special soldier, but the effect of their thoughtlessness is still there.

IN SPITE OF the bad letters that come from home, most of us get some very encouraging ones, and they give us a big boost in our morale when we read and re-read them.

I had a chance to read a letter like this some time ago. The letter, I felt, was a classic in encouraging the soldier without coddling him. With that soldier's permission, I share with you some of his mother's thoughts.

"Dear Son, sorry you are lonesome and unhappy, but it will wear off. You have only been there a few weeks. I know how you feel bad, but it will soon pass off and the year will soon pass.

"IT MUST HAVE been God's plan for you to go where you are. So just trust in Him. Keep yourself very busy so you won't think of home too much and soon you will find yourself happy.

"Be sure to attend church and take an active part. Do try and keep out of bad company. If you just trust in the Lord, He will make every thing better for you.

"Try not to worry. Make yourself active in something so you won't see home all the time. Remember I'm praying for you, so you pray too. And God will make things all right."

I hope what this mother has written may find its way into your thinking, and also find its way into your home back in the States. For it teaches poignantly some of the most important points that should be in **A LETTER FROM HOME.**

"Hey, Shorttimer, you're safer over here!"

The Roving Reporter

Dentist 'Drilled' On Trade

By PFC ROBERT BUZOGANY
Staff Writer

HOW MANY TIMES have you heard the advertising claims "more dentists recommend" a particular dentifrice or "more dentists use" a certain dental prdouct? What do they **REALLY** recommend?

CPT Robert H. Adler, former 198th Inf. Bde. dental surgeon, gave his professional opinions on a number of products associated with dentistry.

S.C.: What kind of toothpaste do you recommend?

Adler: The ideal toothpaste is the least expensive, best tasting fluoridated national brand, such as those distributed through national supermarkets or drugstores. There is no reason to pay for the enormous advertising expenses of better-known brands.

S.C.: Is it really necessary to brush after every meal?

Adler: No. It is unnecessary and impractical. Brushing thoroughly and correctly—and I emphasize "correctly"—once a day is sufficient. It is a personal choice whether a person wants to brush his teeth once, three times, or 10 times a day.

S.C.: What about the additives that each brand claims makes its toothpaste better than competitors?

Adler: Any additives other than fluoride—which has been proven beneficial to teeth—have not been clinically proven consequential in fighting tooth decay. This includes chlorophyll, ammoniated dentifrices, or anti-enzyme toothpastes.

Toothpastes which solely claim they will brighten teeth or remove stains contain a stronger abrasive element than other brands to do the job. These brands can be used intermittenly with milder brands, but should not be used constantly over a long period because they will wear down the tooth enamel.

S.C.: Is there any particular kind of toothbrush which is better than others?

Adler: A toothbrush with a flat brush head and nylon bristles is the best. Toothbrushes featuring curves or hooks in the brush head prevent an even brushing surface. At best, a toothbrush should not be used for more than three to four months.

S.C.: Do you endorse electric tooth brushes?

Adler: The electric toothbrush is perfect for a person with arthritis. A person who brushes his teeth correctly with a manual toothbrush does just as good a job.

S.C.: What is your opinion of mouthwash?

Adler: I am violently opposed to mouthwash. It is my obligation as a dentist to inform the public that mouthwash is bad for you and not necessary.

The greatest seductive statement to come out of Madison Avenue in a long time is "Even your best friend won't tell you." Advertising has made people think they have bad breath, when actually they don't. First the ads create an anxiety, then they proclaim to cure it through mouthwash.

S.C.: Is mouthwash a serious problem then?

Adler: There are some definite medical and dental indications for the use of mouthwash; however, its use should be limited to the specific treatments prescribed by a doctor.

Adler is a 1962 graduate of the University of Vermont and a 1966 graduate of the Temple Dental School. The candid dentist from Brooklyn, N.Y., ended his tour here early this month.

PATCH EXPLAINED

CHU LAI—The 198th Inf. Bde. insignia consists of a dark blue shield arched at the top and bottom, bordered in white. Within the shield is a tongue of flame in yellow and scarlet shaped like a reversed "S." Across the flame is a portion of a rifle barrle with fixed bayonet crossing from lower right to upper left.

The blue and white represent the infantry. The flames symbolize firepower and the bayonet is symbolic of carrying the fight to the enemy.

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AMERICAL DIVISION

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'Jungle Warriors' Training Youthful Defenders

DUC PHO—Soldiers of the 11th Inf. Bde. have launched a program to train Duc Pho area villagers in military tactics so they can better protect their homes from night attacks by the Viet Cong.

The first cycle of "Combat Youths" was recently graduated from a week-long course given by the "Jungle Warriors."

The program was initiated through the combined efforts of MAJ Carl Smith, of Wilton, Me., with the MACV headquarters here; CPT Ho Van Luyan, the district chief; and COL Oran K. Henderson, of Indianapolis, Ind., 11th Brigade commander.

Most of the instruction was given to the youthful volunteers in the field, where they observed and participated in all facets of combat operations.

The South Vietnamese government provided weapons and ammunition for the selected village defenders and the brigade's 4th Bn., 21st Inf. "Gimlets" further equipped them and took them under their wing in field operations.

A total of 29 Combat Youths were divided among the companies of the battalion, where they were accepted as fighting men and immediately taught to set up defensive perimeters and night ambushes.

"They were as scared as anyone would be in his first combat situation, but they soon became enthusiastic and wanted to participate as much as possible," said CPT David O. Treadwell, of Macon, Ga., commander of the battalion's Co. B.

"Soon they were searching tunnels that were too small for the American soldiers."

"They were here to learn from us, but it worked both ways. We have trouble reading documents and ID cards since we have no interpreter and the Combat Youths were a great help," said 1LT Joseph E. Krohn, of Biloxi, Miss., a platoon leader with the Gimlets.

"Now that they know what we're doing they're showing quite a bit of incentive," said SGT Glen Mitchell, of Waterloo, Iowa, near the end of the training session.

"The other day a couple of them took off on their own and rounded up five suspects."

Many of the Americans who had worked closely with the youthful combatants said they would like the Vietnamese to stay with them in the field.

At the graduation ceremony at the Duc Pho helipad, Henderson said the program showed the "determination on the part of all citizens of the Duc Pho area to stand up and be counted in the common struggle against the Viet Cong."

YOUTHS IN ACTION—A "Combat Youth" training with members of the 11th Inf. Bde. piles out of a helicopter for a combat assault. (Photo by PFC Robert Short, 11th Inf. Bde.)

GIVES ADVICE—An 11th Inf. Bde. soldier gives friendly advice to a "Combta Youth" during a field operation. (Photo by Sp5 Al Holloway, 11th Inf. Bde.)

Carson Scouts Convince 140

LZ BAYONET—Two former Viet Cong, working with the 198th Inf. Bde. as Kit Carson scouts, have convinced 140 residents of Dragon Valley to seek the safety of a Tam Ky refugee camp.

It was the first mission for the two scouts, one a former Viet Cong psychological operations soldier and the other a schoolteacher.

Both had been retrained through the "Chieu Hoi" program.

Broadcast Appeals

Each night when Co. D of the 1st Bn., 46th Inf. set up its defensive position in the Americal Div. area, the two broadcast "Chieu Hoi" messages, appeals for weapons turn-ins and messages stressing the necessity of evacuation to safety from the enemy.

The initial breakthrough came when the scouts talked with individuals during a 1/46th Inf. operation. One man admitted he was a Viet Cong squad leader and requested evacuation to Tam Ky as a "Hoi Chanh."

More Messages

At this point, the team set up loudspeakers and broadcast more messages.

Nearly 60 persons assembled in the area and were evacuated. More were taken out at their own request during the following days.

"It was really a shock when we saw so many people beginning to gather. We had been in this same area last December and had seen almost no one," said company commander CPT Monte L. Wolff.

'Inroads'

"We have made outstanding inroads into our dealings with Vietnamese in certain areas since the arrival of the Kit Carson team," said MAJ Edwrad J. White, brigade psychological operations officer.

"The Kit Carsons can deal with the people on a more personal basis and they don't just give the same broadcast over and over again. They adjust to each situation.

"They've done an amazing job thus far," he said.

198th Helping Girl's Dreams To Come True

By SP4 ROBERT HARRIS
198th Inf. Bde.

LZ BAYONET—Soldiers of the 198th Inf. Bde. are helping a Vietnamese girl raelize her dreams, and she in turn will make real a dream of good health for the hamlet Phuoc An.

The girl is Ho Thi Lan. The dream is to become a nurse and the "dream makers" are the medics of the brigade's Headquarters Company.

"All the aid station medics are teaching her basic first aid and nursing skills," said SP4 Michael J. Michel, a brigade medic.

Ho Thi Lan has learned how to make and apply bandages; to take temperatures, respiration and blood pressures; and to assist in giving innoculations. She has assisted brigade medics on numerous medical civic action visits in the Americal Div. area.

Soon, she will be able to handle almost all minor emergencies, diagnose ailments, and administer the correct treatment for many of them.

"She is a quick learner and interested. I'm sure she is going to make a fine nurse," Michel said.

When her 10 weeks of training are completed, Ho Thi Lan will apply for an accredited nurse's certificate. After that, she plans to set up an aid station in Phuoc An, her home.

"I've always wanted to be a nurse, help my people and have my own small hospital," she said.

"My dreams may come true."

196th Starts Jobs, Returns For Finish

LZ BALDY—The policy of providing supplies and supervision, and letting Vietnamese workmen perform the actual labor is the secret of the successful civil affairs building program conducted here by the 196th Inf. Bde.

"We have found that the Vietnamese would rather be on their own once a project is begun," said MAJ Robert Pugmire, of Pocatfillo, Idaho, brigade civil affairs officer.

He spoke after returning to the LZ Baldy area just in time to see two widely-separated projects completed.

On Their Own

A dispensary was completed in Binh An, just south of Hoi An, and a market place was finished north of Tam Ky, in Xuan Lu.

"Three brigade moves ago we began the dispensary. We had planned to provide material and building supervision, but the Vietnamese were soon on their own.

"At our next stop we began a major effort to provide Xuan Lu with a market place, but soon we were packing again," he said.

Chargers Return

Nearly a month later, the Chargers returned to their former basecamp near Xuan Lu.

The market place was growing from the available material. A growing refugee center provided the hands and soon the district chief joined Pugmire in celebrating its opening.

A few days later, the dispensary at Binh An was completed.

"We see the beginning and end of our projects, and the villagers perform the actual construction," concluded the major.

Band Provides Music For All Events

23rd S&T Bn. Handles Supplies

23rd S&T Bn. Convoy R

Support C Units 'On

LRP's On Patrol

CHU LAI—From a long range patrol team deep in the jungles around Chu Lai to a marching band playing at a change of command ceremony, the Americal Spt. Cmd. backs up the combat activities of the Army's only named division.

The multi-battalion element commanded by COL Robert M. Rose is composed of the 23rd Med. Bn., the 23rd S&T Bn., the 723rd Maint. Bn., the Americal Combat Center, the Long Range Patrol company, the Americal Band, the Americal Div.'s 63rd Infantry Platoon Combat Trackers and the 23rd Admin. Co.

It was activated in Chu Lai last Dec. 8 from support units already in the area. Steadily growing, its 1,700 members provide more and more services for the combat soldiers of the division.

The 23rd Med. Bn., commanded by LTC William S. Augerson, operates a 60-bed hospital which treats about 300 patients—80 of them battle casualties—each month in addition to performing some 200 laboratory procedures.

Another 250 outpatients are treated monthly by the battalion's medics.

The battalion has the capacity to expand its facilities to 80 beds in case of an emergency, and often handles overflow patients from other hospitals in the Chu Lai area.

The Americal Div.'s medical supply program is also handled by the men of the battalion, who are responsible for nearly a ton of vital medical supplies each day.

The men of the 23rd S&T Bn. handle an average of 2,700 tons of supplies and equipment each month to fill the 5,000 requests for resupply from division units.

The battalion's truck drivers have logged a total of over 528,000 miles hauling more than 57,550 tons of supplies since last December, in their never-ending task of resupplying the Americal fighting men.

The battalion is commanded by LTC Harry Larson.

The 723rd Maints. Bn., commanded by LTC William Alfonte, has the mission of providing direct support for the units of the division base and repair parts and back-up mainland support for the support battalion of the three

olls Off An Tan Bridge

23rd Med. Bn. Treats Vietnamese as well as Soldiers

Combat Center Trains New Troops

Command– The Go'

infantry brigades assigned to the division.

The mechanics in the unit labor many hours a day and night to keep the fighting force "on its feet" and movnig forward.

The Americal Combat Center handles from 500 to 1,400 new arrivals to the division daily, in addition to coordinating arrangements for division soldiers going on R&R.

The Combat Center is the first and last contact that soldiers have with the Americal Div. It places emphasis on training new arrivals in the complexities of the Vietnam war, and recently acquired its own rifle range, where all soldiers of the division receive weapons familiarization.

The camouflaged fatigue-clad members of the LRP company move silently and swiftly on four-to five-day reconnaissance patrols to gather valuable intelligence data for the combat brigades.

Many of the members of the all-volunteer company are airborne and range qualified, and all have had commando training, either from the MACV Recondo School in Nha Trang or the recondo course run by the LRP detachment itself.

The Americal Band is one of the newest units in the Spt. Cmd. Organized in April, it consists of a marching band, a stage band, two small combos and a single accordian act.

The bandsmen, under the direction of WO Conrad S. Taylor, might play at a change of command ceremony one day then travel to a forward base area the next to entertain battle-weary troops.

The 63rd IPCT, the division's combat tracker platoon, is made up of two five-man and one-dog tracking teams. Its mission is to seek out the enemy by following his trail.

The teams support each brigade in the division and train other soldiers in the art jungle tracking.

Photos By

523rd Sig. Bn.

73rd Maints. Bn.'s Work Non-Ending

3-Day Battle

196th Takes 3 Hills

FSB CENTER — Pinpoint artillery, accurate air strikes and fierce ground fighting were the ingredients used by the 196th Inf. Bde. to whip a determined force of North Vietnamese regulars in a recent three-day battle for three hills west of Tam Ky.

The men of companies B and D of the brigade's 3rd Bn., 21st Inf. were conducting search and clear operations eight miles west of Tam Ky when enemy soldiers attacked from the neighboring hills.

"We were fighting a very determined enemy who knew what he was doing," recalled CPT Robert Corrigan, of Arlington, Va., Co. B commander.

"The NVA were well-positioned and were keeping us low with their machinegun and automatic weapons until the artillery and jets began pounding those hills," he added.

"The enemy on the first two hills were mainly snipers, but a well-positioned and carefully-camouflaged force was firing at us from that third hill."

Taking a hill each day, the American forces relied heavily on the air support to pave the way for their assault. On the final day, after the hill had been pounded continually by jets and artillery, the infantrymen made their final assault, dodging scattered sniper rounds along the way.

"I guess there were a few diehards left after all that pounding, but they didn't last long," said CPT James H. Humphries, of Pacific Grove, Calif., Co. D commander.

The soldiers used one of the captured weapons—a 12.7 mm heavy machinegun—to pave the way for a final assault.

'Follow Noses' To Salt Caches

By SP4 KEVIN HOWE
11th Inf. Bde.

LZ BRONCO—How do you find a Viet Cong salt cache hidden in the jungle?

"Just follow your nose," says 1LT Frank Czap, a platoon leader with the 11th Inf. Bde.'s 4th Bn., 21st Inf.

The men of CPT Fred Mowrey's Co. C had spent a week in the jungle-cloaked mountains southwest of here as a part of a battalion-sized reconnaissance in force mission.

Reports had indicated that the Viet Cong were concentrating large stores of rice, salt and other supplies in large caches, and three companies of "Gimlets" went out to find them.

All The Luck

Mowrey's company seemed to have all the luck.

"We found the rice stored in a bin about 15 feet long, 4 feet wide and 2 feet high concealed by some seemingly abandoned hootches. We spent about two days searching the area and moving the rice down to LZ's where it could be evacuated," said the San Gabriel, Calif., native.

The rice cache also concealed a French-made 7.5 mm automatic rifle and more than 2,500 rounds of ammunition.

"Some of the other companies had been through the area and didn't find a thing," said Czap, of Essexville, Mich.

Smelled Salt

"When we came through, one of the men claimed he could smell salt. Then some of the other men agreed, and we started looking."

Elements of the company located two caches, again hidden in huts.

Boondock Shower

A stream, a steel helmet and a friend are all the ingredients this 196th Inf. Bde. soldier needs for an "instant shower." (Photo by Sp4 George Hawkins, 196th Inf. Bde.)

Combat In Review

198th Soldiers

Turn Gun On Owners

LZ BOWMAN—Four 198th Inf. Bde. soldiers turned an enemy machinegun against its former owners to drive them from atop a hill during recent heavy fighting in Operation Burlington Trail west of Tam Ky.

The four Co. B., 1st Bn., 46th Inf. soldiers were cut off from their unit by heavy fire from the hill. The only way to go was up.

"We spotted the machinegun position and started lobbing grenades and M-79 rounds. The gun stopped firing so we went in close to investigate," said SGT Richard J. Drapczuk.

Three enemy were dead inside the hole.

"We could see they had a circular perimeter by the way the fire was going out. It just seemed natural to turn the gun on them," Drapczuk said.

"I guess it came as a surprise." Their firing slowed down to a trickle and they started crawling along the trenches to escape."

But PFC Dempsey Waters had a different idea and he charged into the trenches firing M-79 rounds.

1LT Larry L. Gragg and PFC Evan Gollan made up the rest of the small force.

"It was all teamwork. With so few men it wouldn't have worked any other way," Gragg said.

Churns Dust

A 174th Avn. Co. helicopter churns up dust while on a resupply mission for the 11th Inf. Bde. (Photo by PFC Robert Short, 11th Inf. Bde.)

She's A Fighter, Not A Lover

LZ BOWMAN — There's a right time and place to meet women. A 198th Inf. Bde. soldier recently picked the wrong time and place, but he had no choice in the matter.

SSG Jerry E. Carter was searching a tunnel in Thanh Phuoc (4) with his fellow members of the 1st Bn., 46th Inf.

Turning a corner, he found himself staring into the muzzle of a rifle held by a woman.

"All I had was a flashlight. She must have been as scared as I was. Instead of shooting, she tried to hide the weapon under some boards," he said.

His troubles with the opposite sex weren't over yet.

In another hut, he found an old woman, "she must have been 80 years old," sitting on a cooking pot.

"It looked kind of strange, so I pulled her off—and would you believe it, that little old lady was sitting on a whole bunch of Chinese grenades."

Bell Tolls For Whom?

LZ BALDY—For whom does the bell toll?

It was supposed to toll for an element of the 196th Inf. Bde., according to a sign placed by the Viet Cong northwest of Tam Ky recently.

The men of Trp. F of the 17th Armd. Cav. were on a search and clear operation when they discovered a bell with a sign reading:

"Americans! Ring this bell and the VC will come and slit your throats."

After checking the bell thoroughly for booby traps, the cavalrymen accepted the challenge and rang it several times.

No Viet Cong show

Dentist Treats And Teaches Local Vietnamese Orphans

By CPT DENNIS M. EILERS

198th Inf. Bde.

IZ BAYONE — A soft, gentle breeze filters through the thatched hut.

Inside, a dark-haired man in jungle fatigues props open a patient's mouth and professionally pokes along the row of stained brown teeth.

He attempts to relax the Vietnamese child in the makeshift iron dental chair while outside a summer sun dances rainbows of blue and silver above the slow-moving river at the bottom of the hill.

CPT Bob Adler glances out at the river, then turns and talks to his young patient in Vietnamese, telling him "No pain, no pain."

The child is not convnced. His brown eyes roll up toward the dentist like huge polished marbles. He winces. His eyes get glassy, but he bravely keeps his mouth open.

Across the small hut, four other Vietnamese orphans sit and watch anxiously, their hands cupped over their mouths in fear, anticipation and apprehension.

The dentist is from Brooklyn, N.Y. The children are from the An Tan Protestant Orphanage. Every Tuesday and Friday they meet for a dental checkup in the 198th Inf. Bde.'s 9th Spt. Bn. hospital area.

"We clean their teeth and keep dental cards on each child in the orphanage," Adler said.

"The records are maintained by the orphanage. We bring in four or five kids at a time for a checkup.

"Look at this," he continued as he propped open the month of the young orphan.

"This is a common problem —stained teeth, food particles between the teeth and scaling."

Adler went to work. His assistant, SP4 Earl Francis, of Bass Lake, Calif., lined up the instruments in the cool, clean hut, and with professional skill Adler began cleaning the teeth of the young orphan.

Soon, he was done, and the 10-year-old waited to leap from the chair. Francis brought him a pack of Kool Aid. The boy clutched it and hesitantly moved away from the chair.

Another child came in and Adler went back to work.

"We're promoting oral health in the orphanage, and it's working," he said.

"The orphanage is a controlled group, and this gives us the chance to set up dental records for each child.

"After each treatment we give the patient a set of instructions in Vietnamese. When a patient goes back to the orphanage he tells the others about what happened, and the next time we go out all the kids line up and point to their mouths."

Adler also treats other Vietnamese, throughout the American Div. area. On medical assistance visits he passes out tooth brushes and holds a brushing demonstration.

"We often work our dental programs through the rural schoolteachers. This gives them status and improves the Vietnamese oral hygiene at the early ages," he said.

The cool breeze stirs again and Adler helps the last orphan from the dental chair. He talks to him in Vietnamese and then takes the five back to the orphanage.

As the ambulance jeep jogs along the dirt road the five are smiling and their white teeth set off their brown faces.

The dentist smiles,too, and begins discussing plans for training Vietnamese dental assistants with his driver.

HONOR FIRST

"In a free country like our own where everything depends upon the individual action to the citizen, every male brought into existence should be taught from infancy that the military service of the Republic carries with it honor and distinction and his very life should be permeated with the ideal that even death itself may become a boon when a man dies that a nation may live and fulfill its destiny."—Gen. Douglas MacArthur, 1927.

Loree's Here

Miss Loree Frazier, of Los Angeles, Calif., was in Chu Lai recently and took time to sign a few autographs for her fans. Miss Frazier appeared at the Chu Lai Ampitheatre with the "Jazz Dynamics" as part of a 30-day Asian tour. The four entertainers also toured hospitals in the Chu Lai area and put on a show at the Chu Lai USO. In addition to progressive jazz and soul music, the group featured a comedy act. (Photo by PFC Bill Guerrant, Photo Editor)

New General

MG Charles M. Gettys accepts congratula tions after assuming command of the Americal Div. (Photo by PFC Michael P. Balwin, 523rd Sig. Bn.)

Men Clean Up 'Old Home'

FSB WEST—Soldiers of the 196th Inf. Bde.'s 4th Bn., 31st Inf. recently returned to an old home here, only to discover that some unwelcome new neighbors had moved in too.

After some heavy fighting north of Hue, in Operation Deleware, the battalion moved back to this fire base, nestled deep in the Que Son Valley.

But things had changed in the old neighborhood, and it took an extensive "urban renewal" project to rid the area of enemy bunkers and trenches in the same area where the "Charger" battalion had accounted for 390 enemy kills last January.

55 Killed

The soldiers also killed 55 North Vietnamese regulars in their quest to regain control of the area.

The hill area was a maze of enemy trenches, bunkers and barbed wire, held by a force of 200 well-armed and equipped North Vietnamese.

Four thousand meters from the hill, the first contact was made by 4/31st Inf. companies making intense sweeps of the area.

Open Up

The enemy force opened up first with a mortar barrage, then with recoilless rifle fire and heavy caliber machinegun fire. CPT Aldon Holborn, of Los Angeles, Calif., called in artillery and gunship fire to supress the enemy fire as other battalion elements moved into the area.

Once the enemy position was established as a bell-shaped bunker complex on the hilltop, heavy air strikes were called to cover the Chargers as they began assaulting the position.

As the action continued, enemy mortars began harassing the American troops.

Stop Harassment

"Once we saw 12 NVA mortarmen moving about on the side of the hill. The jets were on them almost instantly and their harassment ended as quickly as it had started," recalled SP4 Don Pratti, of Los Angeles.

As a two-company Charger force neared the hilltop, air controllers spotted a force of 60 armed enemy soldiers retreating down the other side. Some were carrying dead and wounded.

In addition to the 55 kills, the infantrymen found 12 caved-in tunnels holding weapons, ammunition and supplies.

Pet 'Croaks' After Pills

FSB WEST—Unit mascots in Vietnam come in all sizes and shapes, but very few of them croak on rainy nights and like to munch on malaria pills.

Members of the 196th Inf. Bde.'s 4th Bn., 31st Inf., however, found one to fill the bill—a frog called "Count Dracula."

"We were playing cards in the tent one rainy night when we heard this eerie croaking nosie," related PFC Glen Harvey, of St. Louis Mo., a clerk.

As the soldiers scattered to find the source, a big frog bounded out from under the table. They decided to keep it for a pet and gave it malaria pills, which it seemed to like.

This strange taste was apparently the animal's undoing, however.

Harvey said the Count disappeared shortly after gobbling up seven of the little white pills.

Guard's 'Last Look Around' Foils VC Sappers' Efforts

By SP4 KEVIN HOWE
11th Inf. Bde.

LZ BRONCO—A last look around by a perimeter guard foiled a recent attempt of an enemy sapper (demolitions) squad to penetrate the defenses of the 11th Inf. Bde. base camp here.

SGT James Bond, of West Hartford, Conn., with the 4th Bn., 3rd Inf., was standing watch on the "Old Guard's" section of the base bunker line.

It was 3 a.m. and he was about to wake his relief when, he said, "I decided to take one more look around."

It was a good thing he did.

Wasn't Sure

"At first, I wasn't sure, then I saw them. There were three men trying to get through the wire. I dropped an M-79 round on them and it looked like I got 'em."

Other members of the enemy unit immediately responded with mortar rounds and the sappers started for the wire again.

"The other guys were awake by then, and we called the tactical operations center to get a red alert in the battalion area. I could see six to my front. Then we called the brigade TOC for instructions, and they told us to try and get them, or to keep them boxed in till daylight," Bond said.

Kept Firing

Bond and Sp4 James A. Anderson, of Colorado Springs, Colo., opened a steady stream of fire while Sp4 Robert Ayres, of Marion, N.C., a company clerk, called for illumination and several times left the bunker to fire hand flares.

"The wind was so strong the hand flares weren't doing us any good," Bond said.

"The men in the bunkers on either side of us kept up fire on both sides of the enemy, and I fired my M-79 rounds so they'd land behind them. We couldn't see, so we tried holding them down until daylight."

Tried Escaping

The Viet Cong and North Vietnamese regulars returned fire several times with their AK-47's, then abandoned the weapons and tried to get away.

"At about 6 a.m., one of them made a run for it and got away. Another one tried again at 6:30, but we got him," Bond said.

"We fired steadily from 3 a.m. till after 6. We had to be resupplied with ammo three times in those three hours."

The next morning, armored personnel carriers from Trp. E, of the brigade's 1st Cav., rolled out to pick up the remaining infiltrators. The cavalrymen found five bodies, detained one suspect and captured four AK-47's, satchel charges, grenades and bamboo ladders for crossing the wire.

Night Assault Takes Hill

LZ GATOR—A 198th Inf. Bde. unit used enemy tactics to creep through the night and overrun a dug-in position in a recent Operation Wheeler/Wallowa action.

The men of CPT John A. Bierdne's Co. A of the 1st Bn., 52nd Inf., killed 16 North Vietnamese soldiers and captured 10 weapons and nearly 2,000 rounds of ammunition in their daring attack on an enemy-held hill west of Tam Ky.

The order was simple—"Take that hill tonight."

The task of taking Hill 434 was more difficult. Despite numerous bombings and artillery poundings, companies. A and C had been driven back in a previous daytime assault.

Then it was decided to try at night. "The odds were against us. Visibility, of course, was bad, and control almost impossible," said SSG John P. Jones, of Sylvester, Ga.

But the value of surprise was on the side of the "Ready Rifles." Three enemy soldiers were killed when their point man ran right into a 1/52nd Inf. point man.

"Luckily, we reacted faster," said Bierden, of Minneapolis, Minn.

As the soldiers continued going up the hill, they were hit again—this time with blistering automatic weapons and small arms fire.

"This time we didn't stop. We just kept going," Jones said.

"The control and coordination were bad in the night, but we pushed and pulled people and moved them physically into the right positions."

Halfway up the hill, the benefit of nighttime paid off again, as the soldiers spotted an enemy making his way back to a 51 cal. machinegun position. Before he could fire, the Co. A soldiers opened up and killed him.

"After we knocked out the machinegun position, resistance was lighter. We just moved from spider hole to spider hole, looking for the enemy," recalled PSG Donald E. Tucker.

"It was so dark you had to be real careful not to step in those holes," ones said.

"We shot at anything that moved. We kept them down in their holes and from resupplying."

A little after midnight, the fortified hill was overrun. In addition to the weapons and ammunition, the soldiers found web gear left behind as the North Vietnamese soldiers fled the position.

Engineer Squad Completes Dorms In Quang Ngai

QUANG NGAI—A squad of men from the 26th Engr. Bn. (CBT) recently completed construction of a dormitory for some 100 Quang Ngai secondary school students.

"Most children in this area receive their elementary education (grades 1-5) in their own hamlet, but many then leave their homes and travel to Quang Ngai to attend one of the big secondary schools (grades 6-12)," explained Ho Can, the assistant education adviser for Quang Ngai Province.

"This dormitory will house some of those out-of-town students."

The Americal engineers also built bleachers for a soccer field in western Quang Ngai.

SSG Nathaniel McFadden, of Norwalk, Conn., the head of the squad, described the dormitory as a "two-story tropical building with a cement base, 100 feet long and 20 feet wide."