Aug 1 1968

Wedding Bells and Chopper Pads For Couple

NEWLYWEDS EMBARK—CW2 Don Sewell readies his ...or a boost into their "honeymoon helicopter," ... their heads. Assisting is the chopper crew, ...es instead of armored vests. (Photo by Sp4 Bill Guerrant, Photo Editor)

By SP4 MIKE KELSEY
Staff Writer

CHU LAI—A whirlwind three-month courtship was brought to a dramatic close here July 13 as the happy bride and groom flew off into the sunset in a helicopter with a crew that wore ties instead of armored vests.

CPT Patricia H. Mann, 24, of Washington, D.C., a nurse at the 2nd Surgical Hospital here, became the bride of CW2 Don Sewell, 22, of San Antonio, Tex., a pilot who brings wounded soldiers to her hospital, in the first military wedding to be conducted at Chu Lai.

Sewell, a helicopter pilot with the 54th Med. Co. (Air Amb.), met his bride at a party given by his unit last April.

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SOUTHERN CROSS
AMERICAL DIVISION
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New Enemy Threats

Homeless In Son Tra Start Reconstruction

SON TRA—Some 2,000 victims of a Viet Cong terror attack on this fishing hamlet have started the agonizing rebuilding process under the shadow of renewed enemy threats.

They are being assisted in their efforts to restore what had once been their homes by members of the U.S. Army and a score of Vietnamese and American organizations.

The work is being coordinated by the 5th VA Platoon of the 29th Civil Affairs Co. and is being heavily supported by Americal Div. civic action soldiers.

Renewed Threat

The villagers are doing the actual work—but not without the threat of renewed enemy violence against them and their homes.

"The VC have told them they will burn the village again if the people try and rebuild it, but the people want to go ahead with the work anyway," said 1LT Kenneth W. Anderson, a member of the 5th VA Plt., an organization which works with refugees in Quang Ngai Province.

"Our job is to advise and coordinate. They make the decisions and do all the work.

"We've greatly increased the security and we will keep the people safe," he said.

A platoon of infantrymen from Co. B of the 198th Bde.'s 1st Bn., 52nd Inf., is now assigned to the village, in addition to two platoons of Popular Forces (PF) soldiers from Quang Ngai, about 30 armed Revolutionary Development (RD) cadremen and a number of "combat youths."

Perimeter Strengthened

The physical perimeter has also been strengthened, with the addition of five new bunkers, barbed wire and trip flares.

Actual rebuilding of the 454 destroyed homes began July 16, but preliminary work got underway immediately after the June 29 attack.

"The villagers have been working hard and have shown good spirit. Not one of them I know of has left the village. They're right behind the government on this, and have been giving us excellent cooperation all the way," said 1LT F.A. Martineau, of Biddleford, Me., another platoon member.

First priority on the reconstruction list is homes. A total of 42 10-family housing units will be built, then more will go up as needed.

Live In Tents

The homeless have been living in tents provided by the 198th Inf. Bde.

(Continued on Page 8)

'Warriors' Rob Night From VC

LZ BRONCO—The 11th Inf. Bde. "Jungle Warriors" are not satisfied with leaving the night to the Viet Cong.

The men of the 3rd Bn., 1st Inf., decided the best time to catch the enemy is at night, when his guard is down.

Intelligence sources had indicated that the village of Van Truong, four miles north of Duc Pho, was being used as a "safe haven" for enemy snipers and demolitions men working along Highway 1.

Just Before Sunset

Following the principle that had proven itself in their fast, hard-hitting daytime assaults, 2LT Henry Hill, of Anoka, Minn., loaded his Co. B platoon aboard the choppers for the combat assault just before sunset.

The men formed a cordon east of the village as "Shark" gunships from the 174th Avn. Co. and the battalion's command and control helicopter cut off escape routes on the remaining three sides.

Hunt For Enemy

"As we set up our positions we were joined by the Vietnamese who had served as intelligence sources for the operation, and by two teams from the 59th Scout Dog Plat.," said Hill.

"Together we moved towards the village, hunting for camouflaged spider holes and tunnels."

As the platoon moved into the village from the east, the Viet Cong hiding there fled toward the west. Nine enemy were killed by the waiting gunships and nine suspects were detained.

REBUILDING BEGINS—An American machinegun provides additional protection for the hamlet of Son Tra. To the right is the area burned down by the Viet Cong in their recent attack on the village, where rebuilding efforts will be concentrated. The refugees have been living in tents scattered throughout the village. (Photo by Sp4 Bill Guerrant, Photo Editor)

It's A Girl, Over

By SP4 E. DAUGHERTY
198th Inf. Bde.

LZ BAYONET—Waiting for one's wife to have her first baby is generally a nerve-wracking experience, but it's even worse when the waiting room is an armored personnel carrier on a combat operation in Vietnam.

It all started when SGT Paul MacNaughton was riding around in the rice paddies near Chu Lai, doing the things track commanders do. Suddenly, the radio squawked for Track 31—MacNaughton's vehicle.

He answered, expecting manuever instructions.

"Congratulations, Mac," the voice said.

"Huh?"

"It's a girl, nine-and-a-half pounds of it."

"You mean...Diana had ....I'm a father?"

"Well, you ain't a mother."

For the next half-hour, congratulations came pouring over the radio from other 198th Inf. Bde. Trp. H, 17th Cav. track commanders.

Religion And You

The Important One

By CHAPLAIN (MAJ) ANTHONY P. WILWERDING
Deputy Div. Chaplain

ONE SUN LIGHTS the whole earth. In the darkness of night, one small flame can be seen by thousands of people. You are only one person, but you are very important. You are helping to influence the world. You are making the world either a better or worse place in which to live. Truly, you are very important.

You not only influence those with whom you associate, but you now have, or soon will have, children. If you have faith in God and your fellow man, you will instill that in your children. You will then make the world a good place in which to live. Through your children, you will influence not only this generation but many coming generations. You are a very important person.

Combat Capsules

School Out For VC

FSB WEST—School was out for three Viet Cong who were conducting a booby trap-making class recently when soldiers of the 196th Inf. Bde. rang the bell on their activities.

"We moved up to check out a hut and caught three enemy soldiers inside making booby traps," recalled SGT Larry Manton, of Seattle, Wash., with the 3rd Bn., 21st Inf.

At the sight of the "Gimlets," the soldiers fled.

"We boxed in one of them, but when he saw he was about to be captured he pulled out a grenade and took his own life," Manton said.

The soldiers found seven mortar rounds and several grenades, plus various detonating devices in the area around the hut.

Turn Tables

CHU LAI—Two Viet Cong snipers had the tables turned on them recently by sharpshooting 198th Inf. Bde. soldiers.

"We were moving out to set up a blocking force for the 'Cav' when we took some sniper rounds," recounted LT Ed J. Mullen, a platoon leader in Co. C of the brigade's 1st Bn., 52nd Inf.

"Our platoon is sniped at almost every day, but we usually don't spot the VC doing the shooting.

"This time, however, we saw them. They were way out there—more than 300 yards away," he said.

Mullen reacted quickly and called for two of his platoon sharpshooters to return fire.

"My men just sat there and picked 'em off with their M-16's," he said.

The two Viet Cong snipers were killed instantly, and no platoon members were injured.

The action, which took place about 12 miles northwest of Tam Ky, was a part of Operation Wheeler/Wallowa.

Last Stroll

LZ BALDY—A Viet Cong who was caught up in a stroll on a beautiful spring day wandered to his death recently at the hands of soldiers of the 196th Inf. Bde.

"We had only gone about 400 meters down the road from the fire base when we saw him. When he got a little closer I saw he was carrying an AK-47 rifle, so I yelled for him to stop," recalled PFC Donald L. Johnson, of Danville, Ky.

At the same time, men in the lead platoon of Co. B of the brigade's 2nd Bn., 1st Inf. noticed four other enemy soldiers evading them.

"Our machinegunner wounded one with his first burst of fire. We tried to get him to throw out his weapon, but instead he and his buddies began tossing out grenades from where they had taken cover," said company commander CPT John Connolly.

One platoon assaulted the enemy position and killed the rifle-carrying enemy. A helicopter gunship moved in and killed another fleeing enemy.

"I guess that one guy was just caught up in a beautiful spring day and went to take a little stroll down the road. He just forgot to look where he was going," Connolly said.

Hold Services

"Chargers" of the 2nd Bn., 1st Inf. participate in a field mass with ammo boxes doubling as an alter. (Photo by Sp4 Paul Forman, 196th Inf. Bde.)

RF-PF Soldiers Important, But Often Not Recognized

By SP4 JOHN NICHOLSON
Staff Wrtier

Important, but little recognized, organizations in Vietnam are the Regional Forces and Popular Forces.

The RF-PF soldiers have the responsibility of providing security to both hamlets and critical military installations such as headquarters, communication centers, lines of communication, power plants and hospitals. They also support the revolutionary development program which is designed to upgrade the standard of living and the military defenses of the people.

Basically, they are very lightly equipped infantry units which are designed for limited operation in a limited area.

Work With US

The RF-PF work with both the ARVN and US forces in the areas from which they are recruited.

The RF are company-sized units recruited from a provincial area, and are used only within that province.

The PF are platoon-sized units which recruit men from the district in which they will operate—and preferably within their own village.

Trained In Da Nang

Both the RF and the PF are trained at the National Training Center at Da Nang. However, both groups do not receive the same training.

US military advisers have previously assisted the RF-PF only at the training center and province level. Now, US advisers such as the Mobile Advisory Teams will work at the company and platoon level.

RF companies are now being reorganized into RF groups (similar to battalions), which will tactically control from three to five companies.

Under Chief

The PF, however, are under the direct operational control of the district chief.

Regarding their performance, MAJ David Hacking, of Ft. Benning, Ga., the RF-PF adviser in Quang Ngai Province, said:

"It's true they are not highly trained or disciplined or even well-equipped, but they have made a tremendous improvement since 1964. They fight best when they have a recognizable objective. When that happens, they move as well as any unit I have ever worked with."

Three From 196th Finish At Class Top

LZ BALDY—Three members of the 196th Inf. Bde. lived up to their unit's motto "Ahead of the Rest" and finished in the top three spots at the Americal Div.'s newly-formed Experimental Recondo School.

SP4 Jose Nunez, of Kenedy, Tex., finished first, followed by SP4 Loren Sloan, of Pleasant Hill, Mo., and SP4 Dan Liford, of Indianapolis, Ind. All are members of Co. E of the 3rd Bn., 21st Inf.

The Charger infantrymen volunteered for the school taught by officers and NCO's of the Americal Division's Long Range Patrol company.

Detailed instruction in map reading, tracking and patrolling was given to the 26 students during the 12-day course.

"The school was a great benefit since we had training in the actual surroundings with no simulation as is needed with training in the U.S.," Nunez commented.

SOUTHERN CROSS
AMERICAL DIVISION

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5 Mortarmen Train ARVN's

By SP4 JOHN NICHOLSON
Staff Writer

QUANG NGAI—Five men from the 11th Inf. Bde.'s "Old Guard" recently completed training a class of ARVN NCO's in the use of the 81 mm mortar.

The 24 members of the 2nd ARVN Div., headquartered here, will now take what they have learned back to their field units for practical application in the war against communism.

The 17-day course was conducted by PSG Cleophas Atwater, of Atlanta, Ga.; SSG Eddie Deyompert, of Muskegon Heights, Mich.; SSG James H. Stafford, of Oakland, Calif.; SGT M. Paul Vandre, of Ft. Atkinson, Wisc., and CPL Jimmy L. Bird, of Jacksonville, N.C., all mortarmen with the 4th Bn., 3rd Inf.

Demonstration

Although the team was assisted by two interpreters, Atwater said most of the instruction was "done by demonstration."

One team member would give the actual instruction and the others would assist and demonstrate for the ARVN students.

"Until now, the ARVN's had been using older, less accurate firing methods. We taught them to control the round and put it on target the first try," Deyompert said.

Slow At First

Because the ARVN's had no prior familiarization with the 81 mm mortar "they learned slowly at first but then picked it up rapidly," Vandre said.

"Some of them caught on faster than men in an American unit," Deyompert commented.

After the initial instruction, the class was taken to a remote area for a live firing exercise. Before the firing began, the team was notified of suspected enemy activity in the impact area.

30 Rounds

With this added incentive, the ARVN's pumped 30 rounds into the area. A check of it later revealed concealed foxholes the Viet Cong had dug to ambush a Popular Forces unit due to travel on the road later in the day.

Marine 1LT Burl M. Wright, of San Antonio, Tex., the training adviser for the 2nd ARVN Div., said the team did "an outstanding job...they couldn't have picked five better men. I want to get them back for the next class."

Watchful Ladies

These four young Vietnamese misses are watching a Medcap being held by the 198th Inf. Bde.'s 1st Bn., 46th Inf. in Ly Tra. (Photo by Sp5 Jack Lutes, 198th Inf. Bde.)

Chargers Help Build Church

By SGT FRANK ELSTON
196th Inf. Bde.

LZ BALDY—A Vietnamese community's prayers were answered recently with the dedication of the new Phu Hiep Catholic Church near here.

Chap. (MAJ) William H. Graham, of Alexandria, La., brigade chaplain, and Chap. (CPT) Robert E. Gariepy, of Leominster, Mass., assistant chaplain of the 196th Inf. Bde., were guests at the two-day dedication ceremony.

The festivities marked the completion of the church which was begun in early March by members of the 51st CA Plat., who later received help from the civil affairs section of the 196th Inf. Bde.

"We and the 51st CA Plat. supplied most of the materials and the Vietnamese did the work on the project," said 1LT Michael E. Holter, of Baltimore, Md., acting brigade civil affairs officer.

The guest of honor at the ceremony was Father Nguyen Huu Thien, a retired Catholic priest who spent 15 years in a communist prison camp.

Father Gariepy will conduct weekly mass for the villagers.

"We always enjoy holding services for the local people. The regular priest has such a large area that it is a long time between services here," he commented.

VIEW CEREMONY—Chaplain (CPT) Robert Gariepy of the 196th Inf. Bde. and Father Nguyen Huu Thien view the opening of a Catholic church in Phu Hiep. (Photo by Sgt. Frank Elston, 196th Inf. Bde.)

MP Saves Woman By Thinking Fast

DUC PHO—Quick thinking and good judgment by an 11th Inf. Bde. military policeman may have saved the life of a Vietnamese woman who was seriously injured recently by a falling brick.

SGT James J. Ellis was on a mission near Sa Huynh when he was stopped by a frantic woman.

"By the way she acted, I understood that someone in the village had been injured, so I followed her," he said.

The woman directed Ellis to a hut where about 50 people had gathered.

As Ellis pushed open the shutters for light, he saw that the woman was covered with blood.

"She had a sandbag tied around her head and a blood-soaked rag was under it. When I removed the dressing, I saw there was a deep gash in her head and a vein was broken.

"All I could do was apply direct pressure and rush her to a medical point. I had some men help carry her to a jeep," he said.

The injured woman was rushed to the 264th Trans. Det. aid station at Sa Huynh where SSG Jerry W. Hoggs, a medic, administered further emergency treatment. In a few minutes she was on the way to the 9th Spt. Bn. clearing station at LZ Bronco.

Hoggs, praising Ellis' actions, said: "Had it not been for the quick judgment of SGT Ellis, the woman could have bled to death."

ARVN's Coached On Equipment

CHU LAI—Thanks to the efforts of two men from the 26th Engr. Bn. (Cbt), ARVN engineers are now able to operate and maintain water purification equipment given to them by the Army.

The engineers—SGT John V. Krezinski, Jr., of Racine, Wisc., and PFC Kent H. Beman, of Manitowoc, Wisc.—gave seven ARVN water purification specialists a week's instruction on the 600-gallon-an-hour airmobile water purification unit.

"The ARVN engineers will operate these units at the 2nd ARVN Div. Headquarters in Quang Ngai, and instruct others in water purification," Krezinski said.

Maternity Ward Built

LZ BAYONET—Babies in two Vietnamese villages are now being introduced to the world in more sanitary surroundings, thanks to the effrots of a 198th Inf. Bde. civil affairs team.

The team, headed by CPT Robert S. Hardy, a civil affairs officer with the 1st Bn., 46th Inf., is building a maternity ward for the villagers of An Tan and Ky Chanh, near Chu Lai.

It has provided sinks, sanitation facilities and equipment for the ward run by a Vietnamese nurse.

The ward has a capacity for six patients housed in three rooms. A separate room holds the operating table and medical equipment.

In addition, the battalion provides the majority of the basic medical supplies needed for deliveries.

11th 'Jungle Warriors' Battle Enemy In Southern Quang Ngai

LZ BRONCO—June marked the halfway point of the 11th Inf. Bde.'s first year in Vietnam.

The past seven months have seen the "Jungle Warriors" hit the enemy hard and often, both in major battalion-sized operations and in the slow but steady attrition of daily sweeps through his area.

The soldiers of the brigade have killed more than 1,500 of the enemy, including 15 North Vietnamese regulars, and have captured more than 1,450 individual rifles, pistols, carbines and submachineguns, and 39 crew-served mortars and machineguns.

Viet Cong supply lines have also been hurt. Combat sweeps through the brigade's area of operations, from Binh Son in the north to Sa Huynh in the south, east from the South China Sea to the western mountains, have yielded 82 tons of captured Communist rice and 178.5 tons of salt, hidden in secret supply caches.

The first major operation undertaken in this area was Operation Muscatine by the men of the 4th Bn., 3rd Inf., when the "Old Guard" occupied LZ Sue near Quang Ngai last Jan. 10, taking over from the 198th Inf. Bde. and the 3rd Bde., 4th Inf. Div.

They were soon reinforced by Task Force Barker, a unit composed of three rifle companies, one from each battalion in the brigade.

Operation Muscatine involved some of the largest encounters with the Viet Cong in the "Warriors" fledgling history. In March, Task Force Barker troops twice engaged a Viet Cong battalion near the village My Lai on the coast east of Quang Ngai, and killed a total of 196 enemy soldiers.

When Task Force Barker was disbanded after 78 days, it had accounted for 401 of the 1,000-plus enemy killed in the six months of fighting in the Muscatine area.

In early April, the "Old Guard" starred again during Operation Norfolk Victory, uncovering a cache of more than 130 weapons and 1,000 pounds of explosives—the largest single cache yet captured by brigade forces.

This same operation saw the soldiers of the 1st Bn., 20th Inf. "Sykes' Regulars" kill 27 Viet Cong and capture more than 125 crew-served and individual weapons, as well as 3,000 pounds of explosives.

The battalion later distinguished itself in the battle for Nui Hoac ridge, when two of its companies were assigned to the 196th Inf. Bde. in Operation Wheeler/Wallowa action near Tam Ky.

The "Regulars" were also instrumental in the sinking of an enemy trawler off the coast near Duc Pho last March, when they made a forced night march to the beach to trap the ship as it was chased ashore by Navy swiftboats and gunship helicopters of the 174th Avn. Co.

The crew of the trawler was forced to scuttle its ship, destroying an estimated 3,000 individual weapons.

The 3rd Bn., 1st Inf. has seen some of the hardest day-to-day fighting of any brigade unit, locating and killing enemy groups attempting to infiltrate the Mo Duc-Duc Pho area. The "Always First" played a major part in Operaiton Chattahoochee Swamp, when 25 enemy were killed and 17 weapons captured in the dense jungles southwest of Quant Ngai.

In April, the 4th Bn., 21st Inf. "Gimlets" arrived in Vietnam and have since been operaing in the southern sector of the brigade's area of operations. To date, they have captured more than 100 tons of enemy salt and rice.

In all operations, the brigade's infantrymen have been able to rely on quick, accurate and devastating fire by the "On Time" 6th Bn., 11th Arty., with its 105 mm howitzer batteries spread throughout the brigade area. The unit was especially effective during the two battles of My Lai, when its fast-firing cannoneers blasted nearly 100 of the total kills.

"Sharks" and "Dolphins" of the 174th Avn. Co. at LZ Bronco, and the brigade's own Primo Aviation Ltd. have done yeomen's work throughout the campaigns, flying troops to combat, flying cover with their gunships, finding the enemy through day and night reconnaissance missions and picking up the wounded from the battlefield.

On July 1, the "Jungle Warriors" second anniversary, COL Oran K. Henderson, brigade commander, asked the men of his command to "meet the challenges of the future with the brigade's traditional gallantry, devotion and unselfishness."

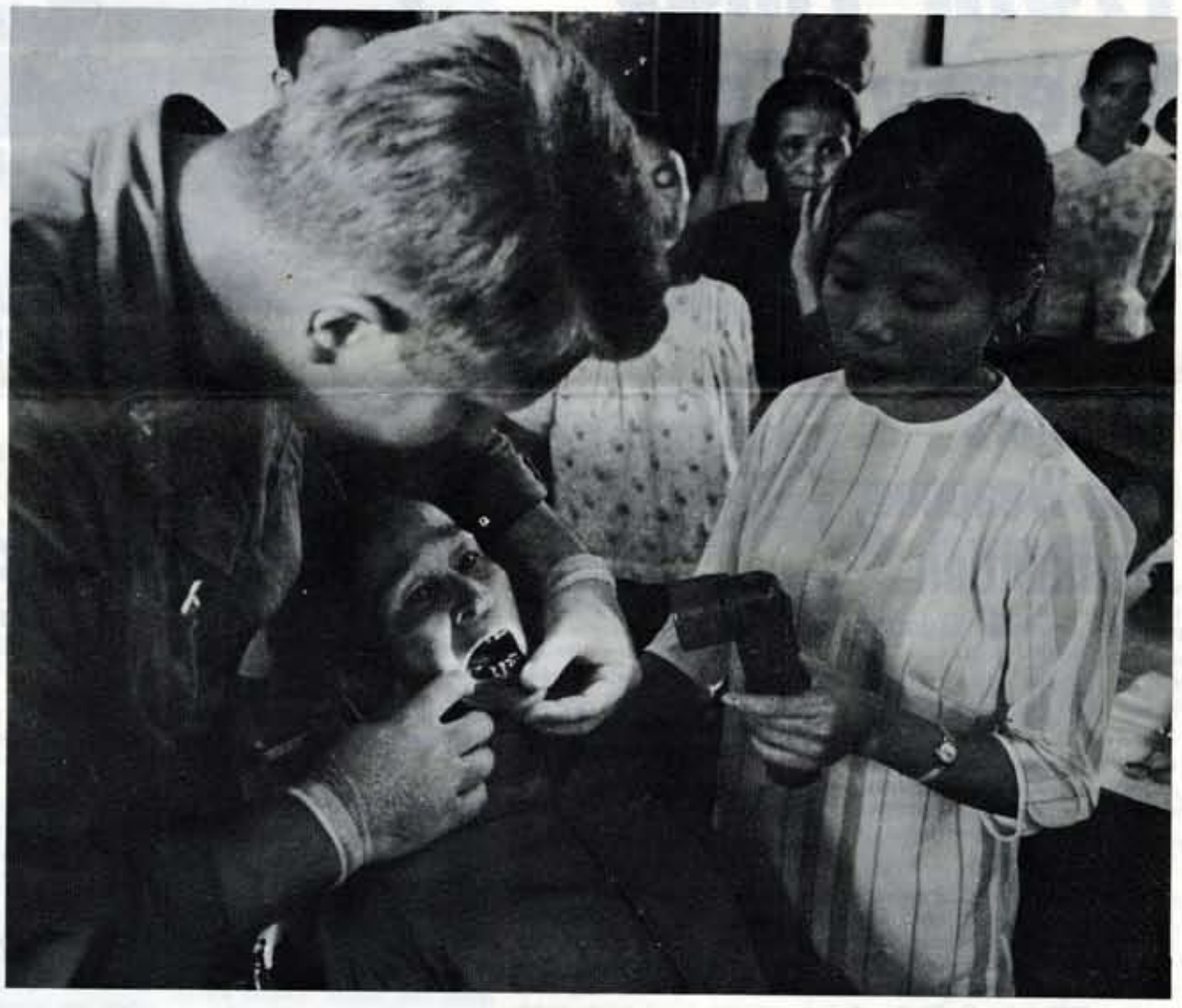
Soldier Searches For Enemy Weapons

Task Force Barker Medic Treats Wounded As Chopper Is Called

3rd Bn., 1st Inf.

APC's Form Up On Access Road Leading Out Of LZ Liz

Story And Photos
by
11th Inf. Bde.



Brigade Dentist Dentist Holds Dentcap

oldier Guides In Chopper

4th Bn., 21st Inf. Soldiers Wind Through Hills

198th Soldier Captures Gun With Mad Dash

LZ BAYONET—To the men of the 198th Inf. Bde. stationed here, it's simply "Gallion's Gun."

To SGT Richard L. Gallion, however, it was an obstacle that had to be removed, a mad dash forward, a hand grenade thrown on the run.

The huge Chinese-made 12.7 mm antiaircraft machinegun now stands silently in front of the brigade headquarters here.

When Gallion, with Co. B of the brigades 1st Bn., 6th Inf., first encountered it, however, it was not very quiet.

The men of the Anaheim, Calif., sergeant's company were making their way up the side of a hill some 15 miles west of Tam Ky when enemy fire suddenly cracked around them. They returned the fire and crawled slowly forward.

"The first things we ran into were enemy spider holes and bunkers," recalled 1LT Melvin D. Carney, a "Regulars" platoon leader.

Then the North Vietnamese gun crew opened up on the soldiers.

It pinned them down. They could hear the gun, but could not see it.

To move meant almost certain death.

Gallion moved.

Spotting the heavy machinegun hidden in the elephant grass, the sergeant stormed forward, armed with only an M-16 rifle and four hand grenades.

Throwing his grenades on the run, Gallion charged straight into the fire. One of the gun's huge bullets tore the helmet from his head and creased his scalp. Another ripped through his arm.

Nothing could stop his determination to destroy the menace.

Bursting into the position, he finished off the gun crew before it could escape.

With the heavy weapon silenced, the rest of the company rushed up the slope to mop up the remaining enemy and to take the hill.

Combat In Review

Cross Stream

Infantrymen from the 196th Bde. cross a stream during Operation Wheeler/Wallowa. (US Army Photo)

198th Finds Enemy Camp

LZ GATOR—A 198th Inf. Bde. Unit, working in some of Vietnam's roughest terrain, recently discovered a former North Vietnamese regimental headquarters in the bowels of a huge honeycomb cave complex.

The men of Co. C of the brigade's 1st Bn., 52nd Inf. found the five caves hidden beneath heavy jungle canopy in the highlands west of Chu Lai.

"They had a good view of everything in the valley and lots of protection. The jungle was really thick and we were going nearly straight up when we discovered the caves," remarked CPT Charles D. Ebert, the company commander.

Part Of Mine

The caves were linked together as part of an old French mining operation.

"You could still see the imprints of the mine's railroad," Ebert said.

The complex had been abandoned shortly before the "Ready Rifles" company arrived on a sweep of the area which had been bombarded by B-52's two days earlier.

"We found 40 bamboo beds inside and commo wire all over the place. It's not too often you find commo wire in the middle of the jungle. They were in this mine a long time before we came — probably since the French left," Ebert said.

'Chargers' Find Weapons, Ammunition

By SP4 GEORGE HAWKINS
196th Inf. Bde.

LZ BALDY—Soldiers of a 196th Inf. Bde. company uncovered 15 weapons, a large supply of ammunition and explosives and a complex of fortified huts during a recent search and clear operation in the Que Son Valley.

"The NVA soldiers apparently heard us in the area and left in a hurry, because they had thrown a lot of equipment into high grass near the huts," related CPT John R. Wolfe, of Marcellus, Mich., commander of Co. B of the brigade's 4th Bn., 31st Inf.

"Many of the rounds and a few weapons had been hastily tossed in the grass.

"We started probing and found rockets, mortar rounds and numerous hand grenades," he added.

The complex consisted of 25 well-camouflaged huts hidden in a ravine, and most of the enemy weapons were hidden under false floors in the huts.

The weapons included four light Chinese communist machineguns.

"Many of them were still wrapped in cosmoline," Wolfe said.

Tug Too Much

NVA Drop Bait, Run

LZ BALDY—A North Vietnamese unit which was using a reconnaissance team for "bait" dropped the pole and ran recently when the tug at the line proved more than it could handle.

A 196th Inf. Bde. platoon commanded by 2LT Francis Brown, of Braintree, Mass., was moving to secure a pickup zone for a division long range patrol (LRP) team when the enemy force that had pinned down the patrol opened up on it.

"I believe the NVA were using the LRP team as bait, but we put out such a heavy volume of fire they broke contact and ran," Brown said.

A search of the area after the 15-minute firefight turned up 15 enemy bodies and 30 shallow foxholes in which the force had been hiding.

"They had recoilless rifles and automatic weapons, and they must have been waiting for us to come help the LRP team for quite a while, but when we opened up on them, they must have decided we were a full company and pulled out," Brown remarked.

After the brief skirmish, a Charger unit joined with the patrol and the LRP's were safely evacuated.

Enemy Soldiers Pick Wrong Spot For Conversation

LZ COLT—Picking a rendezvous spot in the jungle must be done carefully, as two North Vietnamese soldiers recently learned the hard way.

"My squad was checking our night location for possible snipers and booby traps when we saw two NVA soldiers talking," said SGT Roderick Wetmore, of Spokane, Wash., a squad leader with Co. D of the 196th Inf. Bde.'s 3rd Bn., 21st Inf.

"I guess we caught them by surprise, because one of them was too scared to react and the other opened up with his AK-47 rifle then ran and disappeared into thick brush," Wetmore added.

The squad members killed one soldier and the other escaped into the brush.

'Pop Up' VC Killed

LZ BRONCO—SGT Haorld R. Neeley doesn't have to look for Viet Cong—they just seem to pop up in front of him.

A squad leader with the 11th Inf. Bde.'s 3rd Bn., 1st Inf., Neeley, of Pensacola, Fla., was participating in a combat assault along a river 10 miles south of Quang Ngai.

As he led his squad of infantrymen along a ridge trail on the riverbank, looking for a place to cross, a Viet Cong pulled himself up over the cliff and onto the trail in front of him.

Before the enemy soldier had a chance to realize his situation, Neeley shot him. A second soldier further down the hill fared better and managed to escape.

But Neeley decided that where there are two Viet Cong, there is probably a spider hole, so he and his men began searching.

Within a few moments they discovered a well-camouflaged hole dug into the side of the hill. In it was another enemy.

The squad leader tossed in a grenade, killing the soldier.

The hole contained two pistol belts with canteens and some ammunition. A pile of documents, including several books full of names, topped off the haul.

Despite his good luck, Neeley said "I'd just as soon Charlie didn't pop up so close to me again."

'Singing Judge' Does Not Conform To Usual Image

By PFC ROBERT BUZOGANY
Staff Writer

CHU LAI—The stereotyped image of a judge is usually a conservative gentleman whose proper and staid life would be more apt to include Bach than Bluegrass, but like most generalities, this one falls short of individual personalities.

LTC Melville C. Wilson Jr., staff judge advocate for the Americal Div., is a good case in point.

A 22-year veteran of military service, the Army officer has an even longer history as a country-western music fan and sometime performer.

During the day, Wilson performs his military law duties, but on most evenings it is common for him to perform with one of his guitars, singing country-western favorites for his friends.

He also enjoys writing his own lyrics to well-known country-western tunes, and has written songs for GEN William C. Westmoreland and two former Americal commanders, MG S.W. Koster and BG George H. Young, Jr.

One of his most-requested songs is sung to the tune of "Detour." He calls it "Vietnam," and one of the varied choruses goes:

"Vietnam, land of rice and combat pay, Vietnam, straw hats and green beret—Vietnam, say the word, I'd leave today."

Two Brothers

"My two brothers and I used to play in many amateur contests," the baritone-voiced judge explained.

In 1939, the Wilson Brothers won first prize in an amateur contest and were invited to join the cast of a local country-western radio show.

After a year on the radio and a five-year stint in the Navy, Wilson played with a country-western band for a while, then decided to attend The Citadel in his hometown of Charleston, S.C.

After two years of majoring in chemistry there, the course of Wilson's life was changed when someone blew up the chemistry lab.

After that, he decided it was time to change majors.

Along with two friends, Wilson let the flip of a coin chose either law or medicine as his future profession.

Law won out, and he attended the law school at the University of South Carolina, receiving his degree in 1950. A year later he received a direct commission in the Army.

Next February the 44-year-old officer plans to retire from service, and he hopes to take up where he left off in country-western music.

Own Band

"I'd like to organize my own string band again," he says with a smile, "and help take the world back to good country-western music."

Together with his wife Evelyn, whom he calls "my Gestapo in bloomers," Wilson wants to enjoy his retirement and leave the pressures of law behind.

If he can't make a living as a country-western performer, the retiring lawyer wants to own a boat dock and rent boats or drive a taxi.

"So many people spend all their lives earning money," he drawled with a twinkle in his green eyes, "then they aren't healthy enough to enjoy it. My philosophy is different. I want to enjoy life."

ARVN General Honors Americal Staff Officers

CHU LAI—BG Nguyen Van Toan, commander of the 2nd ARVN Div., honored seven Americal Div. officers in a recent awards ceremony here.

LTC Charles Anistranski, former division civil affairs officer, received the Vietnamese Honor Medal, First Class, for his cooperation with the Vietnamese and for his assistance in raising the morale of refugees.

Awarded the Vietnamese Staff Medal, First Class, were: COL Robert M. Rose, commander of Spt. Cmd.; LTC Donald Y. B. Chung, Adjutant General; LTC Orbun F. Qualls, Jr., personnel officer; Anistranski; LTC William S. Augerson, former commander of the 23rd Med. Bn.; LTC Jack W. Newman, senior Marine Liaison Officer for personnel, and CPT James W. Woodard, assistant personnel officer.

LTC Lawrence Heads Dragoons

HAWK HILL—LTC Richard D. Lawrence, of Houston, Tex., assumed command of the 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav., in early July ceremonies here. He replaced LTC Walter C. Cousland, who has been reassigned to the Pentagon.

Lawrence, who was graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1953, recently earned a doctoral degree in operations research from Ohio State University.

Miss Long Beach

Miss Karen MacQuarrie, a college student from L.A., recently visited Chu Lai with the Johnny Grant Show. She has been selected Miss Long Beach, and we can guess why. (Photo by Sp4 Bill Guerrant, Photo Editor)

WORK REPLACES MOURNING—A Vietnamese resident (left) of the hamlet Son Tra works to sharpen bamboo for his new home on the same site where just days before (right) a funeral procession wound through the rubble caused by a Viet Cong terror attack on the hamlet. (Photos by Sp4 Bill Guerrant (left) and Capt. Dennis M. Eilers)

Son Tra

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After homes, the villagers plan to construct a three-room school, a market place, more wells, a small aid station, a hamlet hall and a small brick factory, in addition to doing repair work on the section of the hamlet which was not destroyed in the fire.

Completion time for the overall project is estimated at about three months.

Anderson said contributions from the Americal Div. "have really been outstanding."

Donations

The division has donated, among other things, 500 blankets, six boxes of clothes, 1.5 tons of rice and 118 sheets of plywood. The 26th Engr. Bn. donated a bulldozer and scraper to assist in preparing the area for construction work.

Members of the 198th Inf. Bde., the first American unit on the scene after the attack which claimed 112 lives, have added 50 tents, 200 boxes of tea, 60 pounds of clothes, a half barrel of soap and several other items to the list.

Other donors are the Refugee Service in Quang Ngai, Air America, which has donated aircraft for transportation, the 6th C.A. Plt. in Chu Lai, the CORDS group in Quang Ngai and the Americal Div.'s 23rd Med. Bn.

Infantrymen Kill 19 In Short Engagement

CHU LAI—Elements and supporting units of the 198th Inf. Bde. killed 19 enemy soldiers during a short engagement northwest of Tam Ky recently.

Co. D of the 1st Bn., 52nd Inf. was landing on an island when Lt. Col. Elert Fuller spotted enemy soldiers trying to escape across the river. He contacted Firebird gunships flying in support of the combat assault and they engaged the enemy.

The enemy soldiers who reached land were engaged by the infantrymen and soldiers from the 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav., who were acting as a blocking force.

Twice 'Dead' Medic Shocks His Friends

OP DRAGON—An 11th Inf. Bde. medic who was twice reported killed by lighting shocked a few people on his own when he walked back into his unit's command post the day after he had been evacuated as a "casualty."

SP5 John W. Bennet had been one of eight men occupying this small hill. "The others were members of the recon platoon of the 1st Bn., 20th Inf.; I was their medic," he said.

The small force had just finished defending their hill, located 20 miles northwest of Tam Ky, from a strong enemy attack, and were feeling pretty good about it.

Then a big thunderstorm blew in, and lighting began striking all around.

"I was in the command bunker, standing near the door, when lightning struck it. That's the last thing I remember," Bennet said.

Since Bennet had stopped breathing, his friends reported him killed by lightning when they called for a medical evacuation helicopter.

PFC Richard A. Rodriquiz, of Tucson, Ariz., however, was not entirely satisfied with the diagnosis.

He immediately started artificial respiration, and when that didn't work, he applied mouth-to-mouth resusitation.

Bennet finally started breathing.

Just before the helicopter arrived, the medic regained consciousness and immediately went into shock. Rodriquez tore the top off a canteen and put it in Bennet's mouth to keep him from swallowing his tongue.

As he was being evacuated, the Spencerville, Md., native once again lapsed into unconsciousness and was again reported dead—this time by the crew of the chopper.

The next thing he knew, he was in the aid station at LZ Baldy.

"I really wasn't aware of what had happened. The doctor came around and asked me what was wrong and I told him if he could tell me we would both know.

"I didn't feel bad and knew there were seven guys on a hill without a medic, so the next day I asked if I could leave. I told them there was nothing wrong with me and they let me go," Bennet said.

Many a mouth dropped open when Bennet got back to the command post. The battalion had received two reports that he had been killed, and, as far as his friends knew, he wasn't planning to come back.

"They had all my gear packed," recalled Bennet.

"I guess they thought I'd returned from the dead."

Computers To Handle Americal Div. Records

CHU LAI—A data processing center has been established here to facilitate the handling of the records of Americal Div. soldiers.

The computerized section is expected to "drastically cut down" the manhours involved in keeping records for the men of the Army's largest division.

The new computers will at first provide assistance to the Adjutant General's office by performing such chores as printing lists of individuals eligible for promotion, ready to DEROS or ETS, or due for immunizations.

It will also provide alphabetic rosters for the Personnel Services section.

Under the current system, to be run by the Administrative Machine Branch (AMB), three different cards will be punched for each man in the division—a personnel status card, a personnel qualification card and a personnel suspence card. All information will initially come from the individual's personnel file, and changes in this information will be continually posted by AMB.

After all the information is recorded on the cards and verified, AMB will begin printing the monthly rosters and other special listings, as required.

CO Dismantles Mine

LZ BALDY—A company commander with the 196th Inf. Bde. recently spent 25 of the most tedious minutes of his life disarming a booby trap that one of his men had stepped on.

"We were moving through rough ground when I felt my boot give. I knew I had to freeze in place and pray for help," said SP4 Raymond E. Anton, of Minneapolis, Minn., a squad leader with Co. A of the brigade's 2nd Bn., 1st Inf.

Anton remained calm and directed his men to safety. His commander, CPT George Hamm, of Daniels, W. Va., moved to the head of the column and began work to dismantle the pressure release mine.

Had Anton moved his foot during the delicate operation, both men would have been killed instantly.

The "Charger" company was on a search and clear mission about 500 meters northwest of the hamlet Lanh An when the incident occurred.

Hamm identified the mine as an anti-tank mine with a anti-personnel fuse.

LTC Robert Nelson, of Columbus, Ga., the battalion commander, said Hamm's prompt action "prevented the certain death of the point man and serious injury to several other members of his company."

Wedding Bells

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"I didn't get a chance to talk with her at the party, but I saw her again a couple of nights later at the Americal Div. Officers' Club and asked her out for the next night.

"Three days after I met her I knew we were going to be married," he said.

The warrant officer's company is a "Dustoff" unit which evacuates battlefield casualties. The bride is a nurse working in the emergency receiving section at the hospital, and is often on the landing pad when her new husband brings in the wounded.

"In fact, when I'm flying a lot, that's often the only time we get to see each other," he said.

CO Best Man

Sewell's company commander, MAJ Patrick Brady, of Seattle Wash., was the best man in the ceremonies, while the bride's commander, MAJ Kenneth Cass, gave her away.

The Rev. Donald Kimme, a major, presided at the Catholic ceremony.

Sewell said he had "seven weeks of problems" in arranging for the marriage.

"First we had to put in an official 'request for marriage' and everyone from the battalion to MACV had to approve it. Then we had to go to Saigon for a civil ceremony. It was quite an experience," he commented.

Trip To Hong Kong

The newlyweds left Vietnam July 16 for a short honeymoon in Hong Kong.

Sewell, now completing the 10th month of his Vietnam tour, has extended to remain with his wife who is in the fourth month of her second tour here.

Sewell was brought to the NSAD chapel for his wedding in a helicopter flown by his friends, and his bride arrived in a sedan. They left the chapel together in the chopper, trailing colored smoke, with a "just married" sign painted across its nose.

Although the warrant officer is outranked by his wife, she said he "will be the boss" of the family.

"I wear the bars, but he wears the pants," she said.