

Wedding Bells and Chopper Pads For Couple

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 Wash-

ington, 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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NEWLYWEDS EMBARK—CW2 Don Sewell reads his wife Patricia for a boost into their "honeymoon helicopter," as rice falls on their heads. Assisting is the chopper crew, dressed in ties instead of armored vests. (Photo by Sp4 Bill Guerrant, Photo Editor)

SOUTHERN CROSS

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CHU LAI, VIETNAM

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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) cadre men 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 81—MacNaughton's vehicle.

He answered, expecting maneuver 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 altar. (Photo by SP4 Paul Forman, 196th Inf. Bde.)

RF-PF Soldiers Important, But Often Not Recognized

By SP4 JOHN NICHOLSON
Staff Writer

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 develop-

ment 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 Reconno 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.



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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 "Combat 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.

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 realize 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 inoculations. 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"

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 Edward 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.

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 Pugnaire, of Pocatello, 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 ma-

terial 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 Pugnaire 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.

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 sub-machineguns, 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 Operation Chhattahoochee 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 operating 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 cannoners 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.

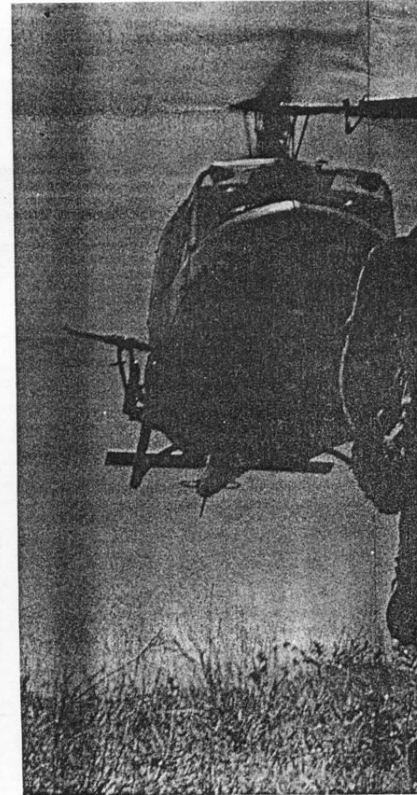
On July 1, the "Jungle Warriors" second anniversary, COL Oran K. Henderson, brigade commander, asked the men of his command to "meet the challenges of the future with the brigade's traditional gallantry, devotion and unselfishness."



Soldier Searches For Enemy Weapons



Task Force Barker Medic Treats Wounded As Chopper Is Called

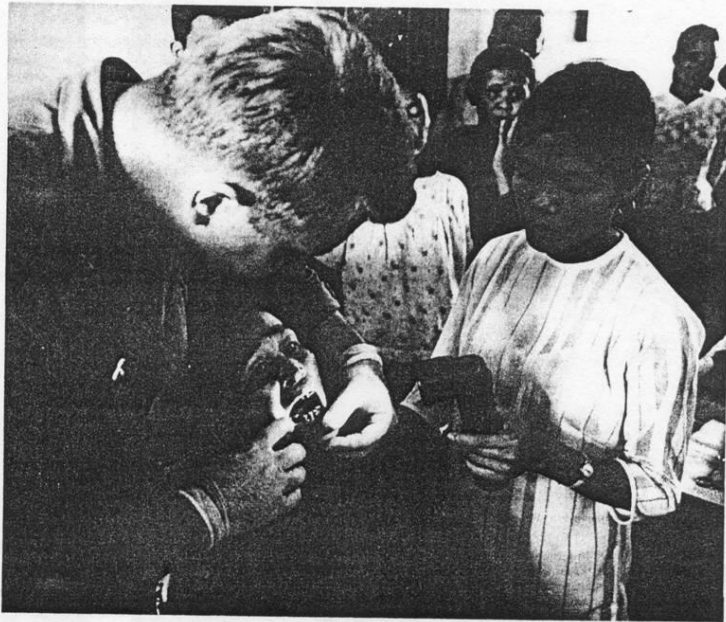


3rd Bn., 1st Inf. Soldi



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

Story And Photos
by
11th Inf. Bde.



Brigade Dentist Dentist Holds Dentcap



Inf. Soldier Guides In Chopper



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

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 rounded 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 convinced. 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 mouth 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 wanted 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 Ameri-

cal 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.

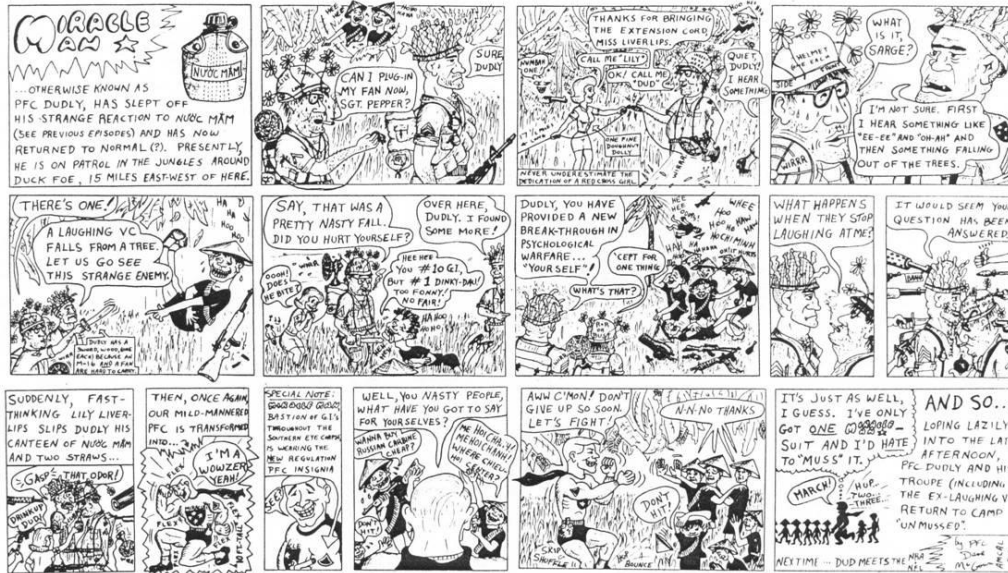
HONOR FIRST

"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 Amphitheatre 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)



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, Wis., 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. Garipey, 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 Garipey 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 Garipey 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 air-mobile 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 efforts 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.