

The

Screaming



Eagle

Vol. 11, No. 6

1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division

February 7, 1968

Ambush Garners 4 VC

PHAN RANG — A night ambush of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division accounted for four enemy killed and three weapons captured during a recent operation southwest of here.

Paratroopers of the Weapons Plat., C Co., 3rd Bn. (Abn), 506th Inf. had finished a day of search and destroy. One squad was to set up a night ambush along a nearby trail.

Sgt. Dean F. Smith, Indianapolis, led his men through the jungle to the edges of a clearing along the trail. Quickly the Screaming Eagles were in position.

"Visibility was bad," said Spec. 4 Douglas S. Gandle, Minneapolis-St. Paul. "We had to do something to give us plenty of early warning."

Forty-five minutes later, snapping twigs could be heard down the trail.

"We waited until we could see them," said Smith. "There were four VC with weapons and rucksacks."

The paratroopers set off their claymore mines and raked the "kill zone" of the ambush with automatic weapons fire. The cease fire was given.

Mobile PX Moves Up

PHAN RANG—The casual observer might have thought the two and a half-ton truck in the forward base camp of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division was just another truck—until he looked inside and found a post exchange (PX).

The mobile unit, loaded with such items as watches, cameras, film and food, comes forward when a unit requests it. Lt. Michael J. Maunsel, Waterbury, Conn., assistant brigade S-1, arranges for the PX unit.

Spec. 5 Ronald A. Woods, Detroit, manages the mobile store. "We go to great lengths to provide the troops with what they want," said Woods. "Small cameras, watches and canned food items are the most popular."

The Screaming Eagle mobile PX is a stark contrast to the glass counters and spacious aisles of main stores in Saigon, Cam Ranh Bay and Da Nang, but the philosophy of service is the same—serving the troops.

Recently while the brigade was conducting search and destroy operations near Bao Loc, the post exchange truck came forward with a convoy from the base camp here. The mobile shopping center sold out at each of the three battalions it visited.



Intellectual Break

Spec. 5 Vartor S. Tavitian, Boston, takes advantage of lull in fighting to catch up on his reading. Tavitian is a medic with the 1st Plat. of A Co., 1st Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf.

(Photo by Spec. 4 Ben Croxton)

Seabee's Visit Turns 'Warm'

PHAN RANG—A Navy seabee learned what a mortar attack is like when he visited his brother, a paratrooper with the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division over Christmas.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Almon Anderson of Paramount, Calif., was granted a pass by the Naval Support Detachment at Phu Bai to spend Christmas in the field with his brother southwest of here.

Spec. 4 Michael Anderson, a forward observer with Company

A of the 1st Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf. was surprised when he received a radio message: "Return to the company perimeter to see a visitor."

"A visitor?" he asked. "Who gets visitors out in the boonies?"

The two brothers enjoyed the holiday. When the paratroopers prepared to resume their search and destroy operations after the Christmas truce, the seabee asked if he could go along for a day.

"No deal," said the paratrooper. "This is no place for a guy to take a stroll."

So the seabee awaited extrac-

tion from the field and subsequent transportation back to his unit. While he was waiting for a helicopter, the battalion command post was hit by enemy mortar fire.

Later Plat. Sgt. Paul Baltos, Eudaly, Wis., asked the seabee for his service number as he boarded a helicopter.

"CN6935353," he answered. "It can't be," said Baltos. "It starts with RA in this outfit."

"No sir," replied Anderson. "I'm a seabee."

"A seabee!" exclaimed Baltos. "Well, welcome to the 101st."

Brigade Initiates Sweep

SONG BE — The 1st Brigade recently initiated its 25th search and destroy sweep — Operation San Angelo—since arriving in Vietnam when paratroopers air-assaulted into jungles near here.

In the first four days of fighting, nine enemy were killed by Screaming Eagle elements.

The Hawk reconnaissance platoon of the 2nd Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf., accounted for the first enemy kill while the Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP) of Headquarters Co. added two more.

On the second day of the operation, B Co. of the 2nd Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf., encountered two Viet Cong on a jungle trail, resulting in two VC killed.

The third day, the Tiger reconnaissance platoon and B Co. of the 1st Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf., accounted for four enemy killed and discovered a battalion-sized base camp—with bunkers, food supplies, chickens and pigs. The Tigers also found eight tons of unpolished rice while A Co. of the "Above the Rest" battalion found 900 additional pounds of rice during their sweep nearby.

Important findings during this period by B Co. of the 1/327 were high-speed supply trails and dirt roads wide enough to accommodate trucks and pack animals. The "No Slack" paratroopers also found 100 pounds of rice in a bunker complex.

'Enemy' Escapes By Tree

PHAN RANG—The 2nd Plat. C Co., 1st Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf. engaged what they thought was an enemy during a recent operation. But the "enemy" turned out to be a King Kong rather than a Viet Cong.

"Movement had been spotted in trees ahead of us," said Lt. Benny P. Priddy, Clarksville, Tenn. "I scanned the tree line and saw a human-like figure in what appeared to be a dull red uniform."

Pfc. John H. Robbins, Sylvan-ia, Ga., first noticed the figure and had reported it to Priddy, who called in artillery.

"The first round landed about 50 meters from the 'enemy' added Priddy. "That's when we found out what he was."

The figure, frightened by the explosion, dropped from the tree, climbed another one and retreated by swinging from tree to tree.

"It was the biggest orangutan I've ever seen," said Robbins.

Trooper 'Killed' 3 Times

PHAN RANG—A paratrooper was "killed" three times in one day here recently.

The trooper of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division was undergoing replacement training at the Screaming Eagles' famed "Proficiency School".

"A man is 'killed,'" explained Sgt. Darrell Futrell, Evansville, Ind., "when he triggers a mine or booby trap while walking through the confidence course."

Each time a paratrooper trips a hidden explosive, a buzzer is sounded.

"When that buzzer goes off," Futrell added, "you're dead."

Before moving through the course, the new troopers receive two hours of instruction on mines and booby-traps used throughout Vietnam by Viet Cong and North Vietnamese forces.

Captured enemy mines, booby-traps and explosives are on display for the paratroopers to study.

"Behind me is a Viet Cong sign depicting American brutality," growls Spec. 4 David E. Fossert, Norfolk, Va., a veteran of many months of jungle fighting with the brigade.

"The normal soldier gets angry and tears it down—like this."

As Fossert rips loose the sign, a pound block of explosive detonates sixty yards to the rear of the classroom.

Attention to the instruction increases as the paratroopers realize they are seeing something new.

"We're here to give our replacements a thorough knowledge of the enemy and his tricks," said Futrell. "If he stays alert—he'll stay alive."

Weapons Taboo On Your R&R

SAIGON—A warning regarding the penalties for transporting weapons while on R&R was given U.S. servicemen today by military officials here.

Current directives prohibit carrying or transporting weapons of any type aboard R&R aircraft.

Customs officials at the R&R sites, particularly Hong Kong, Singapore and Sydney, are thorough in their inspections.

Those who attempt to enter these countries with weapons and are apprehended face severe penalties under the laws of the host nations and U.S. military directives.



Tippy-Toe

Spec. 4 Joseph L. William, Chocowinity, N.C., a paratrooper with the 1st Plat. of B Co., 3rd Bn. (Abn), 506th Inf., uses stones to cross a stream during Operation Klamath Falls.

(Photo by Pfc. Jerry Berry)

87,534 VC Killed By Allies in 1967

SAIGON — Viet Cong forces fighting in the Republic of Vietnam paid heavily in both men and material during the year 1967, according to figures recently released by a military spokesman here.

Quoting statistics covering the period January 1 to December 30, 1967 the spokesman said 87,534 of the enemy were killed and 28,614 individual and 2,933 crew served weapons were captured. The total of enemy dead is the equivalent of more than 144 North Vietnamese Army battalions.

In addition, the foe lost 2,327, 241 rounds of small arms ammunition, same period, 13,779 tons of rice and 162 tons of salt were taken from the enemy.

For the entire year, 27,178 persons defected from the enemy ranks to join the Government of Vietnam under the Chieu Hoi (Open Arms) program. Of these, 17,671 returnees (more than 29 NYA battalions) were fighting men, members of the military units opposing the Free World

Forces. Figures released for Free World Forces showed that the total U.S. Armed Forces strength increased from 389,000 on Dec. 31, 1966, to 436,000 on Dec. 30, 1967. Other Free World military strength rose from 53,000 to 60,000 fighting men.

During the year, the U.S. lost 9,353 men killed in action while other Free World casualties (excluding the Republic of Vietnam) totaled 1,102 dead. In all, 15,997 Americans have died in Vietnam between Jan. 1, 1961, and Dec. 30, 1967. The Vietnamese Armed Forces reported approximately 10,750 of their men were killed in action during the year.

Enemy terrorists and acts of terrorism claimed the lives of 4,080 Vietnamese civilians during 1967. An additional 8,072 civilians were wounded and 5,454 civilians abducted in these incidents during the year.

The year-end figures showed that U.S. military forces included 320,000 Army, 78,000 Marines, 60,000 Air Force, 31,000 Navy and 1,200 Coast Guard.

Kupau Leads Support Unit

PHAN RANG—Lt. Col. Richard Kupau, Honolulu, is the new commander of the Support Battalion, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division.

Kupau formerly served as brigade personnel officer for the Screaming Eagles.

The new commander replaces Lt. Col. Quinton P. Sunday, Eufala, Okla., who completed his tour in the Republic of Vietnam in January.

Need a Base Camp? Call Our Engineers

PHAN RANG—For paratroopers of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, a forward base camp is born overnight. Directing this unique event is brigade engineer, Maj. Benjamin R. Schlapak, Baldwinville, Mass., and the combat engineers of A Co., 326th Engineer Bn. Abn.

The Screaming Eagle engineers have built 33 base camps since the brigade arrived in Vietnam two and a half years ago.

Selecting a suitable home begins with a reconnaissance of the new area by the headquarters commandant, brigade engineer and representatives of subordinate units.

"We consider many factors in selecting a site," said Schlapak. "Water, terrain and tactical considerations all are important."

The brigade consumes nearly 13,000 gallons of water each day and a sizeable source must be available. Mobile purification units set up and maintained by the combat engineers insure safe drinking water.

"The desirability of an airstrip is another consideration," Schlapak continued. "Personnel, supplies, equipment and mail often are dependent upon air transportation."

Availability of standing timber for building protective bunkers is another consideration.

Once the base camp site has been selected, Capt. Michael Ward, Arlington, Va., and his combat engineer company take over.

After the area has been secured by the engineers, the myriad tasks of base development begin. The engineers begin clearing the area.

"At Bao Loc, the combat engineers cleared nearly a square

kilometer of brush and trees," said Schlapak. "Powerful bulldozers equipped with special cutting blades leveled the area."

Once the base area is ready for construction of tents, roads are cut. Graders cut through tree stumps, brush and jungle vines.

"Dust also is a problem when we move into an area," said Schlapak. "We try to keep the dust down with a special hardening oil. The engineers often use 200 barrels of oil a day to give the roads a degree of permanence. Helipads also are treated."

The paratrooper engineer has many faces. When he is not involved in building and developing a base camp or accompanying infantry units in combat, he can be found pursuing pacification goals. Working hand-in-hand with the Vietnamese people, the engineers have cleared and leveled outmoded roads and clogged drainage systems. In Ly Tra near Tam Ky, they built a school which subsequently was dedicated to the brigade.

Prokup Assigned As XO of 2/327

PHAN RANG—Maj. Wayne J. Prokup, Mineral, Ill., has been assigned as executive officer of the 2nd Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf., filling a slot left vacant when Maj. James J. Waldeck, Leavenworth, Kan., assumed the post of operations officer of the "No Slack" battalion.

Capt. Phillip W. Correll, Benton, Ark., is serving as brigade civil affairs officer.

Correll is a graduate of Trinity College in Hartford, Conn., and former operations officer (air) for the 2nd Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf.



Kool-Aid

Spec. 4 Homers-Gomez, a paratrooper with the 3rd Plat. of C Co., 2nd Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf., tastes his fruit-flavored stream water during Operation Klamath Falls. Troopers often use the soft-drink concentrate to improve the taste of stream water treated with purification tablets. (Photo by SSG & Edward McLaughlin)



The Screaming Eagle is an authorized Army newspaper published weekly by the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, RVN, for military personnel. Views and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. Reproduction of all material other than copyrighted items is authorized. Address all communications to: Editor, Screaming Eagle, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, APO San Francisco 96347. Printed in Tokyo, Japan, by Pacific Stars and Stripes.

Circulation 4,000

Commanding General
Information Officer
Officer-in-Charge
Editor
Photo Chief

SG S. H. Matheson
MAJ Billy E. Spangler
1LT Barry C. Hana
SSG Robert P. Hughes
SGT Arthur W. Cushman

Animals Encircle Troops

PHAN RANG—A company of 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne paratroopers thought they were in the midst of a zoo southwest of here recently.

The first night C Co. of the 2nd Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf. killed a tiger prowling around the perimeter.

"We didn't think much about it," said Capt. Jesse Myers Jr., Greensboro, N.C., company commander. "But the next few days we saw nothing but animals."

SFC David J. Harper, Columbus, Ga., had his platoon set up for the night when he heard noises.

"We heard the brush being broken and then this elephant crashed through our perimeter," he said. "I passed the word to leave him alone and he looked around, turned and went back the way he came."

The company's next encounter with animals was a stinging experience while clearing a landing zone for a resupply chopper.

"I chopped the wrong tree," said Pfc. Jeff S. Arbacauskas, Sunnyvale, Calif. "Those bees were all over me in a second."

Spec. 5 Salvador Melendez Jr., Chicago, stood nearby laughing. But soon he was under attack by the bees.

The last experience came when Pfc. Perry F. Ambrose, Nevada, Iowa, was listening to the troopers speak of their experiences.

"What are you squirming for," asked Arbacauskas.

A snake had crawled across Ambrose and beat a hasty retreat into the nearby brush.

Jungle Cat Driven Off

PHAN RANG—If a tiger stalks you in your outpost, maybe the recent experience of two 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne paratroopers will be worth remembering.

During a recent operation southwest of here, Pfc. Thomas Parenteau, Los Angeles, was pulling radio watch in Headquarters Company, 2nd Bn. (Abn.), 327th Inf.

"I was startled when I heard a growling noise in front of our position. I didn't know where he was, but judging from the sound, I knew he was close."

Moments later the tiger came into view, head lowered and teeth bared.

Realizing small arms fire would reveal his position to any enemy in the area, Parenteau and Pfc. Robert L. Martin, Evansville, Ind., tried to drive the jungle feline away by hurling cans of C-rations. "We managed to bounce a few cans off him but he just backed off and approached from another direction," said Parenteau.

Martin then decided to try a more drastic measure. "I got on the radio and called for mortar fire," he said. "There was some questioning about the target, but they finally complied and dropped in some rounds far enough away from us to avoid danger, but close enough to scare the cat away."

Parenteau added: "Radio watch has never been lonely since. A guy never knows what might pop-up over here."



Twin Descent

Three paratroopers of the 2nd Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf., move down a rocky slope in the hilly jungle southwest of here during Operation Klamath Falls. Two of the Screaming Eagles slide down the rocky hill in tandem as a third keeps a sharp lookout to the rear. (Photo by Spec. 5 Richard McLaughlin)

Persian Gulf, Korea

2 Distant Stations Heard On Paratrooper Frequency

PHAN RANG—When the tactical command post of a 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division opened at a new location during a recent operation the command element found out right away they had good communications. During routine calls, they heard conversations in the Persian Gulf and Korea.

"We all marveled at the clarity of our reception and transmission," recalled operations officer Maj. Mal K. Wallace, Gallopolis, Ohio. "We could hear all kinds of stations — Marines on the DMZ and Army units throughout Vietnam. The reception was outstanding."

"Things quieted down after a while," Wallace continued. "We were sitting in the command post and one of those periods of silence fell over the group. After a minute or two, our radio crackled with a voice pleading: 'Hold her steady there, Captain . . . Hold her steady.'"

Laughter punctuated the command center as the paratroopers of 1st Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf.

wondered about the strange transmission.

A deep German voice said in English: "Bring the barge up closer." Moments later the same voice asked "How much more pipe?" Another voice in a British accent began to talk about the chow and hoped the next meal would be an improvement.

"We thought the transmission was from a ship in the South China Sea," said Wallace. "We listened to them night after night and finally decided this station had to be further away."

Early one morning during a routine communications check with subordinate units of the battalion, the far away voice commented: "Hey . . . did you hear them guys on the radio talking about tigers and a bear? Must be some outfit with a bunch of animals."

"Yes . . . I heard it," said the deep German voice.

Wallace and the other paratroopers in the command post realized they were being heard

by the unknown station. Wallace picked up the microphone and said: "Say, Captain, this is the station you're talking about. Where are you located?"

The captain answered: "We're in the Persian Gulf."

The paratroopers looked at one another in amazement.

Just before the signal faded again, the oft-repeated phrase came over the radio "Hold her steady there, Captain."

The paratroopers laughed.

A few nights later, an American voice broke the radio silence with a communication check. Remembering their experience with the Persian Gulf pipe-laying vessel, the paratrooper radio operator answered.

A surprised, distant station responded and asked about the weather. The Screaming Eagle replied it was 85 degrees. The voice answered it was 20 above zero and getting colder.

"By gosh," said the distant voice, "I'm in Korea and you guys must be in Vietnam."

CA Team Helping Villagers

NHA TRANG — A six-man team of the 41st Civil Affairs Company working with the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne southwest of here is dedicated to helping the Vietnamese people help themselves.

Each member of the team is trained in a special field—engineering, language, preventative medicine.

"Our mission is help the people help themselves," said Lt. Larry L. Case, Seattle, team leader.

Engineering aspects of the team's efforts are directed by Lts. Dale Johnson, Sacramento, and Aubrey Williams, Los Angeles.

"When we are requested to help in the relocation of a village, the first thing we do is search for a safe source of water," said Johnson. "Many of the ills we encounter are traced to infected water."

"To reduce the chances of terrorist attacks, we teach them how to improve and develop protective barriers around the village. We also teach them to make cement blocks for housing and schools. We furnish the materials and technical advice—they build their new community by themselves."

Spec. 4 Thomas Feigate, Kansas City, Mo., is the medical specialist with the team.

"Most of the skin infections we see are the result of poor hygiene," he said. "When we encounter an illness or condition requiring specialists, we aid them in receiving treatment from local doctors in the area. Critical patients are evacuated to hospitals."

Perhaps the most valuable member of the team is its interpreter, Spec. 5 Thomas Hunt, Kokomo, Ind. Hunt was specially trained in the language.

VC Finds Lost Item

PHAN RANG—A 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division paratrooper, Pfc. Joe C. Batts, Houston, may have a hard time convincing the folks in Texas that it really happened—but it did.

Batts, a member of the reconnaissance platoon, 1st Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf., was organizing his gear during a resupply action southwest of here. As the young trooper hefted his rucksack and moved out, he was unaware he had misplaced his billfold during the rest and resupply break. When he discovered his billfold and color pictures of his family missing, he was too far away from the original position to go back and look for it.

Three weeks later and twenty miles farther south, Sgt. Donnie G. Prime, Newport, Ark., was leading a reconnaissance team when the paratroopers spotted two Viet Cong trail watchers.

Prime opened fire, killing one of the insurgents.

When the body and rucksack were searched Batts' billfold was found.

"We knew Batts had lost it," said Prime. "When we opened it up the pictures were still there along with a picture of the dead VC taken in his dress uniform."

Everyone remarked about the strange coincidence, but no one was more surprised, or pleased, than Batts.

LRRP Outpost Kills Two VC in Ambush

PHAN RANG — The clouds floated thick and unbroken over the outpost of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. Members of the Long Range Reconnaissance Platoon (LRRP) were awake, sipping a last cup of coffee. Spec. 4 Gene L. Ackerson, Detroit, was preparing for the first watch.

The paratrooper was fascinated by the eerie light. The heavy clouds glowed from the bright moon's direct light. Settling himself and forgetting the clouds, Ackerson stared into the jungle.

The Viet Cong were there, their black pajama uniforms blending with the night. Two were to become statistics for the Screaming Eagles.

Ackerson noticed movement as the enemy approached the

position. He alerted the other men in the outpost.

"I counted five and I figured they hadn't seen us yet," said Ackerson.

The paratroopers waited. As the enemy advanced, their Russian designed, Chinese Communist-manufactured AK-47 automatic rifles could be seen.

As the VC came within 35 meters, the Screaming Eagles opened fire. Taken by surprise, the enemy dived into the underbrush and began returning the fire.

Foliage was torn by the crisscrossing of red and green tracer rounds.

The enemy fire became sporadic, then stopped. Silence returned to the jungle.

The paratroopers waited. They listened. Only their own deep breathing was audible.

Ackerson and Spec. 4 Ralph E. Duckett, Ellijay, Ga., moved to check the enemy positions.

Ahead they could see two bodies.

"We stopped for a few minutes, waiting for one to move," said Duckett.

The bodies were still.

With M-16's at the ready, the LRRP's moved forward again. About 10 feet away, one VC suddenly rolled to his side and fired a wild burst from his rifle. Duckett and Ackerson dived for the ground in the face of the flashing muzzle. Duckett, firing as he dropped, stopped all further efforts of the enemy soldier.

Sergeants React Well

PHAN RANG — Two paratroopers of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division reacted heroically under fire during a recent operation southwest of here.

Plat. Sgt. Sinclair Grear, Memphis, Tenn., kept the communications system intact so help could be summoned and Plat. Sgt. Paul Baltos, Cudahy, Wis., treated the wounded during an enemy mortar attack on the tactical command post of the 1st Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf.

The attack came at 7:20 a.m. Mortars zeroed in on the communication bunkers. Grear, weaving through the enemy fire, righted an artillery communications antenna which fell under the initial barrage. Quickly he sent a message to nearby artillery and gunships to silence the enemy fire.

Baltos, meanwhile, was moving among the nine wounded paratroopers.

"We had Medevac helicopters circling above our position until the enemy fire was quieted," he said. "Then they swooped in and the wounded were at a hospital within minutes."

Battalion commander, Lt. Col. Gerald Morse, Bangor, Maine, cited the two Screaming Eagles for their action.

"Response under fire reveals the man," he said.

Top Bonus Paid

The largest paid re-enlistment bonus for the month of November, 1967 was paid to Sgt. Walter R. Holt, a member of A Troop, 17th Cavalry. The Screaming Eagle received \$4,884.



Mail Delivery

Sgt. William R. Ryan, Streator, Ill., carries mail for his platoon across a stream during a recent operation. Ryan is a member of A Co., 1st Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf. (Photo by Spec. 4 Ben Croxton)

Messes Flourish Under Kay, Buck

PHAN RANG—A daily menu was something SFC George O. Kay, Hartwell, Ga., had not worked with for 10 years. But he was introduced to the routine again recently when he was assigned as mess sergeant in Headquarters, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division.

Kay is a 26-year Army veteran who knows how important food can be for troops who work 18 hours a day. Under his supervision, the mess became one of the finest in the brigade.

His chief assistant, Staff Sgt. William E. Buck, Chocowinity, N.C. now supervises the headquarters mess while Kay recently has added the brigade commander's mess to his duties. Both messes have flourished under Kay and Buck.

The company-sized headquarters mess feeds 10 attached units at each meal—greatly enlarging the number of persons it supports. Some daily requirements include 75 gallons of coffee, 182 loaves of bread and 90 dozen eggs.

The meals are prepared by two shifts of five cooks each and a night baker. Each shift has a first cook who maintains supervision over other cooks.

Spec. 5 Willie E. Green, DeQuincy, La., and Spec. 5 Mack Horne, Washington, D.C., are the first cooks in the mess.

The cooks often work 12 to 15 hours on a shift. Both Green and Horne alternate their cooks so each can prepare more than one dish.

"Good supervision and good cooks get the job done well and on time," agree Green and Horne.

The outside man in the mess hall is Spec. 5 Lee M. McNair, Fayetteville, N.C. McNair is responsible for ration breakdown, storage, ice makers and refrigerated vans (reefers). He often handles 1,200 pounds of ice for the mess hall each day and he is responsible for all maintenance on his storage equipment.

A night baker labors far into the night to provide cake, rolls, doughnuts or other pastry.

Spec. 4 Jack P. Hendricks, Baird, Tex., is a top-notch baker, according to the troops.

"Good pastry can make a good meal," he says. "It adds the final pleasant touch."

Troops Thwart Enemy

PHAN RANG—Paratroopers of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division thwarted the attempt of four Viet Cong to infiltrate a group of Montagnards trying to flee insurgent forces southwest of here recently.

Members of C Co., 2nd Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf., were in the process of establishing their base camp when 78 Montagnards walked into the paratrooper perimeter.

Lt. Michael McDermott, Highmore, S.D., said they looked weak and tired.

"Most of them had heavy loads on their backs. Through an interpreter we learned they were trying to get away from VC operating in the area. The group leader said the VC had taken food and terrorized the Montagnard village often and his people could no longer endure the intimidation and strain."

McDermott's element established a ring of security around the area and called for CH-47 Chinook helicopters to evacuate the tribesmen.

Meanwhile an intelligence team headed by Capt. Clyde K. Gibson, Shreveport, La., was alerted to receive the evacuees.

"We found the group composed of 17 men, 39 women and 31 children," said Gibson. "We questioned the 10 men who were of military age."

Following the questioning by the special ARVN staff working with the brigade, four of the 10 were confirmed as Viet Cong by Vietnamese officials. Staff Sgt. William N. Washington, Baltimore, arranged housing and food for the Montagnard group. "We had a small problem with the language," said Washington. "We had to translate from English to Vietnamese and then to the Montagnard dialect."

Dog Wins Affection

PHAN RANG — The small puppy, barely five inches high, wobbled uncertainly on stubby, unsteady legs. His grey fur was covered with dust and oil from the road. The vicious roar of huge truck engines and whining jeep tires sent him surrying into the ditch. He barely was able to crawl out again.

Staff Sgt. Joss A. Melendez-Cox, Sanurco, Puerto Rico, a paratrooper with the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, saw the puppy's plight and



Jo-Jo

stopped.

"It looked like he was going to stumble into the road," said the sergeant who works in the brigade's Signal Co. (Provisional). "I picked him up and carried him with me."

The puppy was only a few weeks old. Melendez-Cox washed and fed the puppy, forming a bond between the man and dog that has grown by leaps and wags.

"My name is Jose and in Spanish that means Joe," said the wire chief. "So I call him Joe."

Other troops call him Jo-Jo. The dog quickly became the signal company's mascot. He now weighs 12 pounds and measures 12 inches high. He has been inoculated and Melendez-Cox hopes to take him home.

"He follows me everywhere," his master said with a grin. "He even sleeps at the foot of my cot."

Jo-Jo is airborne. He wears a collar with a Screaming Eagle charm dangling from it.



Cool Drink

SFC George O. Kay, Hartwell, Ga., pours an iced drink for a paratrooper of Headquarters and Headquarters Co. (HHC) during a meal at the mess hall. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Al Wilson)