

Brigade Completes Malheur II

(Editor's Note: The Screaming Eagles initiated Operation Hood River in Viet Cong strongholds near Chu Lai Aug. 2. The paratroopers joined other Free World Military Forces in the offensive after a stand down following Malheur II.)

DUC PHO—Operation Malheur II, the second largest offensive conducted by the 1st Brigade,

101st Airborne Div., terminated Aug. 1 with the Screaming Eagles accounting for 463 enemy kills.

The total for Malheur II was the highest since Operation Hawthorne, conducted near Dak To in June, 1966. There 521 enemy were killed and 22 captured.

Malheur II also included 137

weapons captured and 154 tons of rice and 101 tons of salt denied to the enemy. Officials also interrogated 614 detainees.

The drive in Quang Nghia province was marked by the largest civil affairs project in the area's history. In less than a week, paratroopers evacuated more than 5,000 civilians from the VC-influenced Song Ve Val-

ley. Nearly 1,200 head of livestock also were herded up the valley to the government refugee center at Nghia Hanh.

The brigade's second anniversary in Vietnam also was celebrated during Malheur II. During its second year of combat, the body count jumped from 1,814 to 4,117, an increase of 56 per cent.

Weapons captured rose 61 per cent, from 605 to 1,537 while the number of detainees increased from 429 in the first year to 4,624 in the second.

The Screaming Eagles now have accounted for 868 enemy kills since joining Task Force Oregon in I Corps three months ago. Malheur I accounted for 398 enemy killed by body count.

The Screaming Eagle



Vol. 1, No. 1

1st Bde, 101st Abn Div

August 16, 1967

Red Legs Celebrate On Enemy

DUC PHO. (2/320-10) — What began as a ceremony to fire its 250,000th round turned out to be a fire mission for the 2nd Bn., 320th Arty. recently.

On a mountain top overlooking the Song Ve river valley, B Btry. was poised for the ceremony. Lt. Col. Andrew Bolcar, Knoxville, Tenn., stood near the 105 howitzer, lanyard in hand. Nearby the color guard stood at attention, flags blowing in the breeze. The ceremony was about to begin.

Then a message came up from the fire direction center. B Co. of the 2nd Bn., 327th Inf. had made contact with the enemy and needed artillery support. Commands were given and adjustments made on the gun sightings. Colonel Bolcar pulled the lanyard and the 250,000th round was on its way to enemy positions.

"There couldn't have been a better way to fire a milestone round than at the enemy," said Bolcar.

Viet Police Bolster MP's

DUC PHO—A platoon of Vietnamese National Police was attached to the 101st Airborne's Military Police Platoon here recently to assist in operations concerning civilians.

The Vietnamese, under the command of Lt. Le Duc Doais, Quang Nghia, are trained combat policemen. The 40-man platoon is divided into six teams and a headquarters section to be deployed with the brigade's fighting units. They will assist with actions involving civilian law violators and identification of Vietnamese within the area of operations.

"We're looking forward to working with the 101st Airborne," said Lt. Doais, pointing to the Screaming Eagle patch on his left shoulder.



Paratroopers Alternate Fire

A squad of paratroopers lays down a base of fire from a trench line during Operation Malheur II. The Screaming Eagles alternate firing and loading as other elements of the 1st Bn (Abn), 327th Inf. maneuver on a Viet Cong village. (Photo by SP4 Dennis Stout)

Matheson Receives 2 Medals

DUC PHO—Brig. Gen. S. H. Matheson, brigade commander, was decorated with the Silver Star and Distinguished Flying Cross for gallantry and exceptionally valorous actions during Operations Malheur I and II in recent ceremonies here.

Maj. Gen. Richard T. Knowles, Task Force Oregon commander, made the presentation.

The Silver Star cited Gen. Matheson for his response and assistance to a LRRP team which was attacked by an estimated Viet Cong platoon May 15.

Hearing the team radio gunships for assistance, the brigade commander ordered his helicopter to the site. He then directed suppressive fire on the enemy locations. Realizing medivac helicopters would be delayed, Gen. Matheson directed his helicopter to land next to the LRRP team, where, under enemy fire, he placed the most seriously wounded man into the helicopter. He insured the safety of other team members, directed the insertion of the brigade reaction force and then escorted the wounded man to the aid station for surgery.

The DFC was awarded for his personal direction of the extraction of another LRRP team under enemy fire on June 11. Once the team was extracted, the commander directed his helicopter to circle the enemy position, maintaining contact, and permitting him to call in armed helicopters and air strikes on the enemy position.

The citation read "... his absolute fearlessness and complete disregard for his personal safety insured that available fire was accurately delivered, causing the enemy heavy casualties."



Father Comforts Son

Nguyen Vien Tinh comforts his emaciated 17-year-old son Nguyen Nhi, a Popular Forces trooper who was captured by the Viet Cong last March. Paratroopers liberated the youth during Malheur II.

2/327 Liberates 2 Prisoners

By Lt. Barry Hana

DUC PHO—"God, they were a mess," said one paratrooper. "They looked like something out of those World War II prison camps."

The 101st Airborne trooper was shocked at the physical condition of two South Vietnamese soldiers liberated from a Viet Cong prison camp near here during Operation Malheur II.

The prisoners were emaciated, haggard and beaten. Eyes and cheeks were sunk into their gaunt faces and their voices weak and inaudible due to lack of strength. Both suffered from malnutrition and exhaustion.

"They were in pretty bad shape," said Lt. Corky Boswell, Chico, Calif. "The VC had beaten them, used them for laborers and fed them just enough to keep them alive. And that wasn't very much as you can see."

The two soldiers, Private Quang Nguyen Xuan, 22, from Binh Thuan province, and Popular Forces Trooper Nguyen Nhi, 17, from Xuan Binh Hamlet in Quang Nghia province, were found during a sweep by the 1st Platoon, B Co. of the 2nd Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf.

The paratroopers destroyed the prison-bunker complex, killing three Viet Cong and two NVA. They also captured four NVA and freed the two friendly Vietnamese.

Xuan was captured in September, 1966 when his outpost with the 2nd ARVN Div. was overrun. The 22-year-old soldier tried to hide when he saw the large VC force overpowering his position, but the concussion from a grenade blast knocked him unconscious and he was captured.

The VC beat him severely dur-

ing his imprisonment and forced him to dig many of the intensive tunnel systems the Screaming Eagles encountered throughout the area. He was a captive 10 months.

Nhi was a member of his hamlet Popular Forces platoon. Captured by the Viet Cong four months ago, he too, was beaten and subjected to propaganda classes during his imprisonment.

Capt. John Lawton, Bezebeth, Md., intelligence officer for the battalion, interrogated the friendly Vietnamese soldiers for information applicable to immediate actions against the VC in the area. The two former prisoners, exhausted and limited in their knowledge of enemy movements, were little help.

"We can't help you," said Xuan. "We just dug tunnels. They watched us carefully all the time and never talked in front of us."

The prison camp was run by the Viet Cong, but five days prior to the paratrooper attack six NVA came into the camp.

The NVA had been part of a 40-man food-gathering detail sent to bring rice from nearby valleys back to their unit's base camp, the four NVA prisoners told 101st interrogators. When the food-gatherers encountered a paratrooper company, they broke into small groups and fled.

The six NVA decided to stop at the nearby VC prison camp. A day later the paratroopers attacked.

Three Viet Cong were killed in the initial contact. Then paratroopers heard noises in a tunnel. A smoke grenade produced only coughing sounds so three grenades were dropped into the air openings. One NVA was killed and five others wounded.

The paratroopers had to dig the enemy soldiers out of the tunnel. One of the wounded died. The other four were interrogated and evacuated for medical treatment.

The two South Vietnamese soldiers were discovered huddled in another tunnel, weak and frightened. They were evacuated to the professional care of the 563rd Medical Company and Capt. Don W. Meinders, Pauls Valley, Okla., at the Screaming Eagle base camp.

Roaming Costs Poor Dufeless

DUC PHO — The engineers busted Dufe the other day. Dufe took it in stride. After all, he didn't see much difference between being a corporal or private first class anyway.

Dufeless—that's his real name—joined the 323rd Engineers of the 101st Airborne on a road near Tuy Hoa back in '66. He was young, reckless, and rolicking.

"I don't remember him growing up," said a paratrooper who has been with the engineers since they arrived in country. "One day I looked around and he was big."

Dufe made corporal in Phan Thiet by being the first one in the bunker when mortar fire fell near the engineer position. Everyone figured Dufe had real leadership potential. Besides, he was friendly.

"He knows everyone in the company," said Spec. 5 William F. Fitch, Chicago, a medic with the engineers. "The men like having him around."

Maybe you'd say Dufe was hard core. Never takes a bath, has no qualms about going AWOL for a day or two. After all, he knows he's coming back, and that's all that really matters.

"It was his roaming around that cost him his stripe," said Lt. William A. Wise, Fort Payne, Ala.

Dufe is trying to stay straight now. He's part of the roving security patrol for the engineer area. He knows who belongs and who doesn't and whenever he sees a stranger, the hair on his neck bristles.

He's trying to win his stripe back. After all—a dog has some pride.

Division Celebrates 25th Anniversary

By SSG Mike Mangiameli
DUC PHO—The 101st Airborne Division celebrated its 25th anniversary yesterday as paratroopers of the 1st Brigade conducted search and destroy operations near here.

Activated Aug. 15, 1942 at Camp Clairborne, La., the Screaming Eagles were one of the first airborne divisions. Fol-

lowing training, the division moved to England in 1944.

The paratroopers entered combat in World War II on June 5, 1944 as part of the Normandy Invasion. Dropped behind German lines, the airborne infantrymen and "glidermen" who were organic to the division fought in small groups, harassing enemy units.

After the Normandy Invasion, the troopers pulled back to England where they prepared for the largest airborne invasion of all time—Operation Market.

On Sept. 17, 101st paratroopers jumped into Holland. More than 5,000 casualties were taken by the Eagles, but they performed their mission—a vital linkup with the armor, driving the Nazis from Holland.

The most famous battle for the 101st was at Bastogne. The 92nd Airborne Division moved up through Werbomet to act as a blocking force while the 101st was to hold Bastogne, one of the key road junctions of Belgium.

The move by truck was completed on Dec. 18 and almost immediately two German Panzer Divisions surrounded Bastogne. Running low on ammunition and food because fog prevented resupply by air, the troopers held out, often repelling the Nazis with grenades and bayonets.

The German commander sent a representative into the division command post with an ultimatum—"Surrender or be destroyed."

"Nuts" was the reply of the acting division commander, Brigadier General Anthony C. MacAuliff.

The paratroopers held out. When a correspondent asked a private in the 101st what the situation was, the trooper reportedly answered: "They have us surrounded, the poor Bastards."

Bastogne was held. Within a few days the weather cleared and C-47 aircraft dropped tons of ammunition and supplies, enabling the paratroopers to break the German offensive.

Deactivated in Europe after the war, the paratroopers returned home. For its heroic fighting at Bastogne, the 101st became the first division-sized unit to receive the Distinguished Unit Citation.

In 1956 the 101st was reactivated. The division trained at Ft. Campbell, Ky. for various contingencies and earned a reputation in peacetime to match its combat record.

On July, 29, 1965 the 1st Brigade landed at Cam Ranh Bay, South Vietnam. In two years of fighting, the Screaming Eagles have accounted for more than 4,600 enemy killed.

Tunnel Rat Likes Job

By SP4 Matt Pesce

DUC PHO (1/327th-IO) — Pfc Marco Vega, Queens, N.Y., has an unusual job with the 101st Airborne. He's a tunnel rat.

His job qualifications are excellent. He's five-foot-two, weighs 130 pounds and carries the courage of any 10 troopers of B Co. of the 1st Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf.

Most tunnels are so small that even Vega has a hard time moving in them.

"An M-16 is too big to carry into these small tunnels," said Vega. "I think the ideal weapon is a .22 caliber pistol with a silencer, but mostly I just go in with a flashlight or matches."

If contact with the enemy is made, he hustles out and tosses in a grenade.

"Most tunnels take from 15 to 30 minutes to check properly," says Vega. "One day I was really busy. I had to check a complex of 50 before nightfall."

"But I enjoy my work. It becomes a status symbol and also pays off in enemy souvenirs."

With three months of experience, Vega has learned a few lessons to pass on to others who might follow in his footsteps.

He's learned how to bypass and disarm booby traps inside tunnels and to choose which of the many passages are used often and which are booby trapped.

Some booby traps found in tunnels are landmines, trip grenades or "deadfalls," rocks falling from the roof when triggered by movement in the tunnel. Others include punji stick pits and booby-trapped objects such as weapons, rucksacks, clothing or equipment. Vega has learned to cope with them all.

"In one tunnel I removed 50 sachels of nitric starch, Charlie's favorite explosive. I also found more than 100 yards of black silk for uniforms, a box of camouflage hats and enough ponchos for 100 men."

"One day I hope to find a big weapons cache," he said. "I know there's one out there somewhere—and I want to find it."

Swimming Enemy Shelled By 502nd Mortar Platoon

DUC PHO — Sixteen unwary Viet Cong were caught with their pajamas down near here recently when an alert paratrooper spotted them swimming in a pond and called in mortar fire on their location.

Staff Sgt. Jeffe Yearata, Columbus, Ga., section chief of the 4.2-inch mortar platoon, 2nd Bn (Abn), 502nd Inf., was working with his forward observers when he sighted the VC.

"I was scanning the area with a 25-power scope," said Yearata. "Down the mountain about 600 yards 'Charlie' was swimming. The weapons and rucksacks on the shore confirmed they were

Viet Cong."

Yearata radioed his platoon and requested a fire mission.

"The initial barrage killed three of them, wounded several more," said Yearata. "The others left everything and fled."

Three hours later four VC slinked back to the pond in an attempt to recover the dead and their equipment. Yearata, still observing the area, once again put his platoon to work.

"When the mortar rounds started pounding the area, the VC were so surprised and flustered they were running every which way," said Yearata.

When the fire mission ended seven enemy lay dead.

The Screaming Eagle



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.

Commanding General
Information Officer
Officer-in-Charge
Editor

BG S. H. Matheson
MAJ Billy E. Spangler
1LT Barry C. Hana
SP5 William P. Singley

Brother Here Too

Sgt. Yost Awarded Direct Commission

PHAN RANG—"Lt. Burrwood Yost. It sounds rather strange," he smiled. "It will take some getting used to."

Sgt. Burrwood Yost, Cambridge, Md., a Ranger-qualified paratrooper and recent winner of the Distinguished Service Cross, recently received his direct commission as an Infantry officer in the U.S. Army.

Brig. Gen. S. H. Matheson, commander of the 1st Brigade, 101st Abn. Div., pinned on the new gold bars. Only two months before Gen. William C. Westmoreland had pinned the DSC on then-Sergeant Yost's uniform.

News of Baby Radioed to Pop

DUC PHO—Lt. Stephen L. Naughton, Pittsburgh, a platoon leader with A Co., 1st Bn (Abn), 327th Inf., brought his men into a secure area along the banks of the Song Ve river.

For the first time that day the men had a chance to relax. No sooner had Naughton also stretched out in the shade when he received an important message.

"Sir, it's a baby boy!" shouted radio operator Spec. 4 Robert E. Taylor, Monon, Ind.

The stunned and happy paratrooper leaped to his feet and ran to the radio as his men congratulated him. He had expected the news any day, but had not been thinking of it when the message arrived.

His wife, Dorothy Jeanne, gave birth to a baby boy in Richmond, Va.

"Man, did he have a smile on his face," said Taylor.

Naughton passed out the few cigars he happened to have. "When we get back everyone gets a cigar," said the excited father. "It's our first boy and I feel great."

His son's name? Stephen Lewis Naughton Jr.

The nation's second highest award for valor was presented to Yost for action in Geronimo I near Tuy Hoa. On September 8 his platoon received intense hostile fire as the last helicopter landed during an assault. The 22-year old squad leader called for suppressive fire as he carried ammunition across more than 500 yards of open terrain to a friendly machine gun and, while receiving hostile fire, organized a fire team separated from its leader.

During the action he picked up enemy grenades three times and hurled them into the open where they exploded harmlessly.

He also charged a machine gun position 50 yards away and killed the Viet Cong gun crew. The young squad leader repeatedly organized covering fire and destroyed enemy emplacements with grenades.

Later, while in pursuit of the VC, he led his squad to within close range of the enemy. He shouted to draw their fire and, under cover of friendly machine gun fire, threw grenades into the enemy positions, forcing them to withdraw.

Yost also holds the Bronze Star Medal with "V" device for heroism in action.

Attending the promotion ceremony was Pfc. Bryan Yost, the new lieutenant's younger brother. He recently arrived in Vietnam and was assigned to E Co., Spt. Bn. after completing Proficiency Training.

Both brothers had served at Ft. Bragg, Ft. Campbell and now with the 1st Brigade in Vietnam.

"I harassed him into going airborne," said Burrwood.

Bryan was eager to begin his new assignment. Burrwood, in a six-month extension after his initial year tour of duty here, was to leave for the Infantry Officer's Basic Course at Ft. Benning, Ga.

The brothers spoke briefly after the ceremony. Then they parted and the younger Yost saluted the older. "See you later, Sir," he said.



Sgt. Dannie Bailey, Hardy, Ky., cleans a Vietnamese child's head during a MEDCAP visit to a village during Operation Malheur II. (Photo by SP4 Alva Tate)

MEDCAP Team Thaws Icy Vietnamese Village

DUC PHO—A MEDCAP team of the 101st Airborne entered a small fishing village southwest of here recently, accepting the initial cool reception and leaving six hours later with the gratitude and friendship of the villagers.

"It usually works that way in areas where Americans haven't had contact with the people before," said Sgt. Dannie E. Bailey, Hardy, Ky. "At first the Vietnamese are wary of your presence, but when they see you're there to help they accept you."

The paratroopers of the 2nd Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf., were

the first Americans to offer assistance to the village. The civil affairs action is part of the overall mission of destroying enemy influence in I Corps as part of Task Force Oregon.

The 101st Military Police and the Vietnamese National Police escorting the MEDCAP team suspected enemy were in the area.

"The people didn't come out of their homes at first," said Sgt. William Page, San Antonio. "Sometimes that means Viet Cong might be hidden in nearby ambush positions."

This was not the case as interpreters with the American team soon had villagers seeking treatment. Mothers brought their babies and the elderly hobbled towards the doctor's jeep. Soon the line grew to more than 50 persons.

The majority of the people were treated for malaria and numerous skin infections. "Soap and water would eliminate most of these sores," said Capt. Richard Porter, a doctor from Yankton, S.D. "We have to teach the people the basics of personal hygiene before we can expect any permanent improvements."

Some of the people crowded around the MP's and National Police, displaying various afflictions as if anyone in uniform could give treatment.

"It sure made me feel useless not be able to help these people," said a paratrooper. "The doctors and medics handled the treatments, but I wish I had the training to help."

More than 170 patients were treated during the team's visit. Candy, cigarettes and soap also were distributed. The MEDCAP team left the village at twilight, replacing a cool reception with a warm glow of friendship.

Veterans 'Organic' To Saber

DUC PHO—Three paratroopers of the 101st Airborne have the unusual distinction of serving two continuous years in the same unit under seven different commanders. Each has extended his tour of duty in Vietnam a minimum of two times.

Staff Sgt. James Howard, Detroit, Staff Sgt. Pablo Gonzales, San Antonio, and Spec. 4 Roger W. Drought, Janesville, Wis., have been with Troop A of the 2nd Sqdn. (Abn), 17th Cav. since the 101st arrived in Vietnam in July, 1965.

"We sailed over on the USNS General Leroy Eltge," said Drought. "The trip took 22 days and, as I recall, we ran out of fresh water."

The three men have been everywhere in Vietnam the 101st has been sent. They agree the stay at Tuy Hoa, one of 25 locations occupied by the Screaming Eagles, was the best.

"Tuy Hoa was great," said Drought. "There was a nice beach, a nice town and plenty of action in the field."

The constant moving doesn't bother them.

"It's just another's day's work," said Gonzales. "I've been doing it now for 20 years."

"You get used to it," added Drought. "You even begin to look forward to the moves."

Each paratrooper has seen seven troop commanders come and go. "They've all been good commanders and we have a great unit," said Gonzales. "But then we're prejudiced, having been in it for two years."

Why do men extend tours in Vietnam? The three paratroopers each had their reasons.

"Work here is better than the spit and polish of stateside duty," said Drought. "Here you can see more results of your work."

Howard believes soldiering in Vietnam to be more realistic. "When you go on alert here," he says, "it's the real thing."

Gonzales, close to retirement, thinks Vietnam is the place for a career soldier to be. "I just felt I should finish my Army career here," he said.

The three paratroopers have seen friends leave and return.

"Right now there are guys back in the brigade who have come back," said Drought. He plans to extend again and, perhaps, again.

"I encourage a man to stay if it can benefit his career," said Howard, whose tour is up in August, but is considering staying. "But then no one has ever really tried to talk me into going home," he smiled.

Chaplain Connett Joins 1st Brigade

DUC PHO—The newest chaplain in the 1st Brigade, 101st Abn. Div. is a familiar face to many young paratroopers.

Chaplain (Capt.) Reynold B. Connett, Flora, Ill., was formerly the chaplain at Fort Benning's jump school.

The rugged Reverend Connett combines a career of serving God and serving his country. He has completed both Airborne and Ranger schools. "If you know what the men have gone through, it brings you closer to them."

The graduate of Wesley Theological Center in Washington, D.C. is following in his father's footsteps. Col. James A. Connett, his father, is the command chaplain of Alaska and is a former Army Chaplain of the Year.



A paratrooper of the 2nd Bn (Abn), 502nd Inf. drew fire from this hut, but the enemy fled when the position was assaulted. (Photo by Spec. 4 James Lohr)

VC Probe Expected When Night Comes

DUC PHO (1/327-IO) — Paratroopers of the 1st Bn (Abn), 327th Inf. settled down for the night. Two and three-man positions were prepared and the long wait for dawn began.

Spec. 4 Floyd J. Walksout, Rapid City, S.D., watched the jungle change with nightfall.

Awards

ARCOM-V

Pfc William K. Cadmus Jr., B Co., 1/327; Pfc Irvin L. Caldwell, B Co., 2/327; Sgt. David C. Holt, B Co., 2/327; Lt. Allen B. Hodgson, B Co., 2/327; Spec. 4 James C. Martin, Jr., A Co., 2/502; S. Sgt. Antonio Sablon, C Co., 2/327; Spec. 4 Bruce E. Skelly, B Co., 2/327.

1st Sgt. Rowan Smith, B Co., 2/327; Capt. William P. Rován, A Co., 2/327; Lt. Charles G. Vaughn, A Co., 2/502; Lt. Kendall A. Wilson, C Co., 2/327.

Bronze Star-V

Maj. Robert S. Booth, HHC, 2/327; Spec. 4 William A. Fitzpatrick, B Co., 2/327; Capt. James C. Joiner, HHC, 2/327; Lt. Wayne P. Kubasko, B Btry, 2/320; SFC James McGill, B Co., 2/327; Pfc Charles E. McIver, HHC, 2/327; Capt. Roman Rondiak, B Co., 2/327; Capt. William P. Rován, A Co., 2/327.

Bronze Star

M. Sgt. George T. Chaney, HHC, 2/327; SFC Marvin D. Comer, HHC, 2/327; Maj. Franklin C. Kaskins, HHC, Bde; Capt. Fred J. Hillyard, C Co., 2/327; Capt. William O. Horgen, A Co., Spt Bn; Maj. Joseph V. Rafferty, HHC, 2/327; Capt. Roman Rondiak, HHC, 2/327; Capt. William P. Rován, A Co., 2/327.

The lush green became terrifying black shadows. The steamy heat of day that made breathing difficult turned to a chilling dampness as the sun fled before the onslaught of a ravenous blanket of black.

Walksout, a Sioux Indian, sensed the perimeter would be probed. He and his M-60 machine gun were ready.

At 12:30 a.m. the probe came. A rifle grenade exploded 10 meters from Walksout's position. He opened up at movements with his M-60. Another rifle grenade hit, just as close.

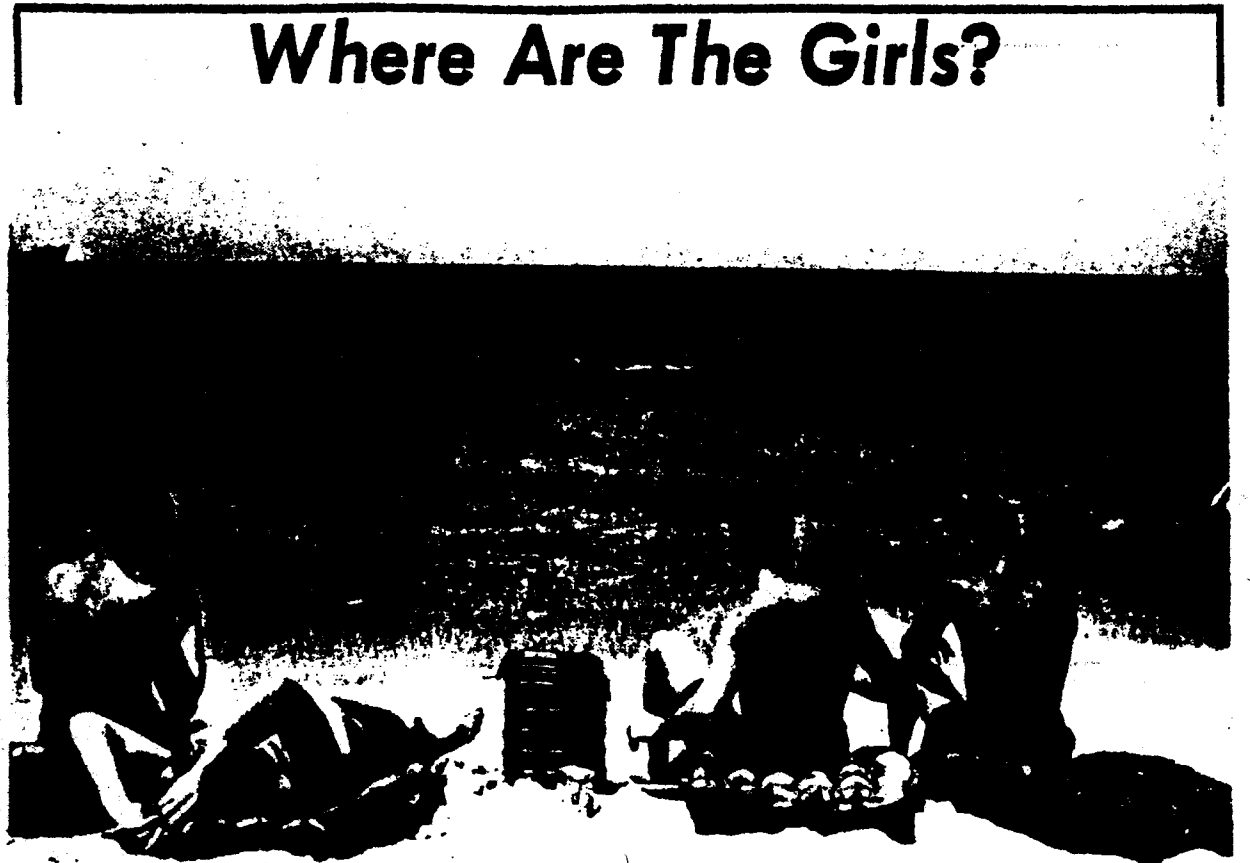
In another position only seconds before, Sgt. William Doctor, Brooklyn, N.Y., had spotted a Viet Cong 50 yards to the front of his position. Quickly the enemy vanished. Doctor attached an infra-red scope to his machine gun and seared the area with a stream of bullets.

Spec. 4 Stanley O. Webb, Gallinberg, Tenn., scattered four approaching Viet Cong in a rice paddy 200 meters away with M-79 grenade rounds. In another position, Pfc. Reno Johnson, Gloucester, Mass., reported incoming automatic weapons fire. He answered with bursts from his M-16 rifle. The enemy weapon went silent.

Artillery and aerial flares brought light into the darkness until 1:30 a.m. Staff Sgt. Roy Logue, Danville, Va., used the artificial illumination and an infra-red scope to snipe at movements in the field.

As the flares floated to the earth signaling the end of light, the probe also ended. The paratrooper of Indian blood relaxed in his foxhole, tired but less tense. The probe was over. He knew they'd find blood trails in the morning. They always did.

Soon it would be daylight. Another night probe was behind them.



Battle-weary paratroopers relax on "Screaming Eagle Beach" near Duc Pho after Operation Malheur II. The beach had everything but "dames." (Photo by SP5 William P. Singley)

Screaming Eagle Briefings

Bear Says Hello

Spec. 4 Robert Mirata, Ukiah, Calif. set himself in a prone position for a routine night of perimeter guard.

Sometime later, he felt something brushing against his leg.

"I thought it was the platoon sergeant, checking the perimeter," said Mirata.

The rifleman of C Co., 2nd Bn (Abn), 502nd Inf., turned and found himself staring into the face of a small, ominous-looking black bear.

"I jumped up and the bear took off running," said Mirata. "From the look on the bear's face, I think he was more scared than me."

Draw Raincoats

The new Army Green Raincoat has been authorized for initial issue to enlisted personnel returning from Vietnam for assignments in the United States or other areas overseas.

Only personnel to be hospitalized and those having less than six months active service remaining will not receive the new raincoat.

Individuals may obtain their raincoat (shade 274) while processing through their port of debarkation while enroute to their next permanent duty station. If not available there, the raincoat can be issued at the next permanent station.

The raincoat is not an authorized item for personnel while serving in Vietnam.

Stares at Death

Sgt. George Jurkowski, Milwaukee, shook his head as he told fellow paratroopers about his closest call during Operation Malheur II.

Jurkowski was with a 10-man patrol of Tiger Force, 1st Bn (Abn), 327th Inf., returning from search and destroy operations in the Song Ve valley when he stepped on a mine.

Pfc Lon Hicks, Rochester, N.Y., walking behind Jurkowski, saw the mine — a "Bouncing Betty" type — spring out of the ground. "I threw myself down and screamed 'mine,'" said Hicks.

The mine bounced into the air — shoulder high — in front of Jurkowski. "I just stood and looked at it," he said, "I was so

stunned I couldn't move. My only thought was—I'm dead."

Every man tensed, waiting for the explosion. It never came.

As the patrol moved out, Sgt. Ervin Lee, Anniston, Ala., said, "Jurkowski, somebody definitely is looking out for you."

Sgt. Stock Tops

Newly-promoted S.Sgt. Walter D. Stock, Philadelphia, has been the honor graduate of four U.S. Army schools and now is serving with the 1st Brigade.

The Ranger School, Recondo School in Vietnam, the Infantry School's Instructor Training Course and the 7th Division's NCO Academy are the military institutions in which he achieved his successes. In 1961, USARPAC selected him Soldier of the Year.

Stock is serving with the Hawk Platoon of the 2nd Bn (Abn), 327 Inf.

"He's the best team leader in the Army," said Plat. Sgt. Frank Lincoln, New York City.

Stock feels all the training has been a help in Vietnam.

"Three basic things keep you alive over here," he said. "Aim your rifle, be quiet and use camouflage."

'Moonlighting'

The versatility of "No Slack" troopers was demonstrated during Operation Malheur II when an ambush patrol composed of cooks, mechanics and other base camp personnel scored their first kill.

Finishing their "normal" duties, a 10-man team led by Staff Sgts. James P. Ballengee, Glen Ferris, W. Va., and Dannie E. Bailey, Hardy, Ky., entered a small wooded area where they planned to set up an ambush.

Suddenly, the patrol spotted three Viet Cong and opened fire. One VC was killed and his weapon captured.

The next day the patrol members went back to cooking, re-

pairing, and routine duties — until nightfall.

CO Godboldte

Capt. Cordell Godboldte, Philadelphia, took command of C Co. of the 2nd Bn (Abn), 502nd Inf. on an LZ in the Song Ve Valley.

Former company commander, Capt. Stephen Silvasy, Northtown, Pa., presented the unit colors to Godboldte.

During the ceremony, Silvasy, the only officer in the brigade to command a company for more than 10 months, was honored.

Brigadier General S.H. Matheson and Colonel Harry A. Buckley presented the Strike Force officer with the Silver Star, Soldier's Medal and Air Medal. The Silver Star and Soldier's Medal were awarded for heroic action near Tuy Hoa and Song Mao.

Silvasy has been assigned to Ft. Benning, Ga.

Eagle-Gram Birth

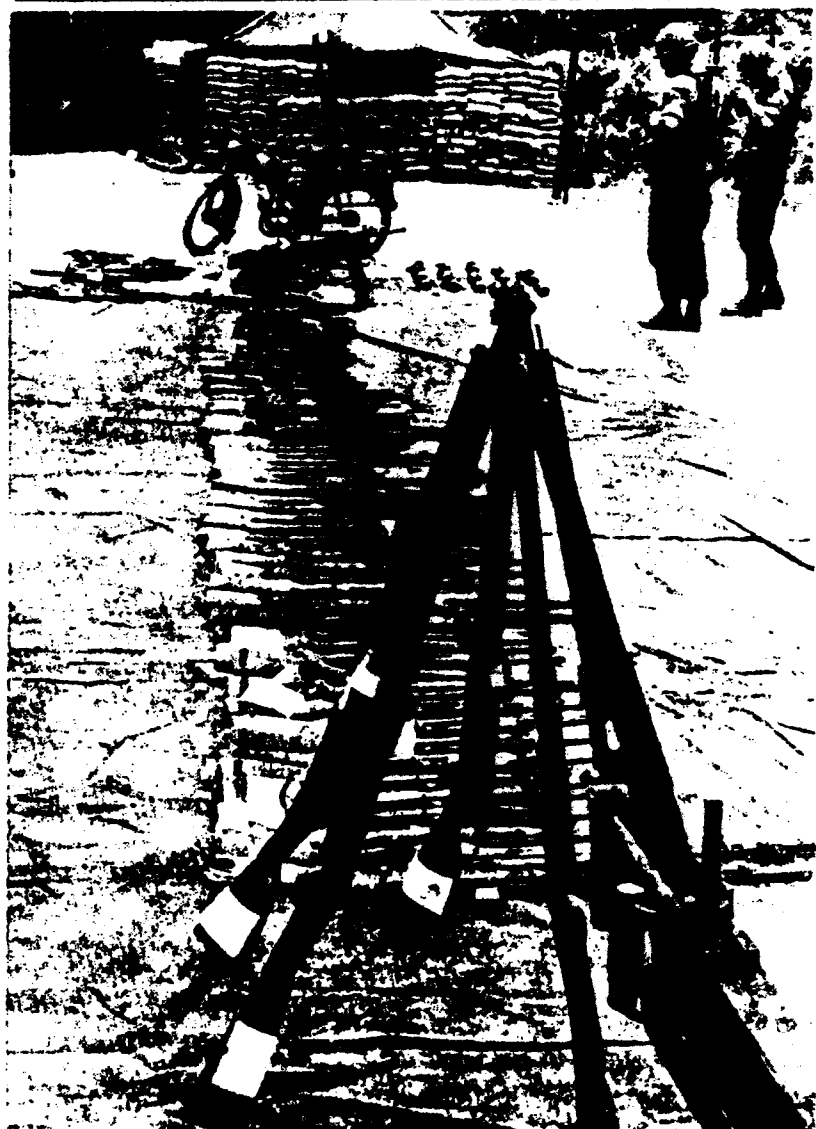
The 'Eagle-Gram' entered its third month of publication within the brigade forward area recently, providing troops with up-to-date news flashes from around the world.

Spec. 4 Dayle Edwards, Las Cruces, N.M., has expanded the distribution to more than 600 copies daily. All unit mess halls in the forward base camp receive the news sheet before breakfast each morning.

The 'Eagle-Gram' began as a pilot project with Hq. Co., Brigade. Response was so great that Edwards had to rise earlier each morning to make his rounds. Even the 176th Aviation Company clamored for the news sheet.

Edwards takes the success of the publication in stride, even though it expanded his work load in the Information Section.

"I think the guys enjoy it," he said. "They look forward to seeing the latest headlines each morning. It isn't the New York Times, but after all this is a war zone."



Enemy Weapons

Various weapons captured during Operation Malheur II are displayed near the 101st command post. The motor bike belonged to a VC courier. (Photo by SP4 Thomas Cleland)

PAYROLL SAVINGS MAKES DREAMS PAY OFF

GET WITH IT — STAY WITH IT!