



Tigers Fool VC With Bait

By Spec. 4 Matt J. Peeco
DUC PHO, (1/327-10) — Curiosity killed five Viet Cong in a moonlight ambush near here when an element of Tiger Force, 1st Bn (Abn), 327th Inf. baited them with a pile of C-ration cartons and cans on the fringe of a deserted village. A claymore mine rested nearby.

The Tiger element, led by Sgt. William Doyle, Kansas City, Mo., hid in tall elephant grass that ringed the village. Four-hundred meters across an open rice paddy, the Tiger reserve waited.

"We didn't have to wait long," said Spec. 4 Craig Johnson, Winnetka, Ill. "Shortly after sunset, about 20 VC — some with American equipment — entered the village. Part of the enemy force took up positions on the trails leading into the village and overlooking the open rice paddy. Three or four others went straight to the bait."

As the Viet Cong fingered through the debris, Pvt. Richard Moore, Easton, Pa., heaved a grenade into the scavenging enemy, killing two.

The VC immediately evacuated their wounded and began searching for the cause of the explosion.

Satisfied there was no one around and apparently assuming the debris had been booby trapped, the VC returned to their positions, others began poking around in the pile.

"We waited until there were several of them in a group," said Doyle, "and that's when I set off the claymore."

"When the claymore exploded," said Pfc. Wymon Helms, Fort Meade, Fla., "the VC guarding the trail and rice paddy began signalling back and forth with red lights."

"Then they began to fire in all directions," said Doyle. "We broke up their fire with a barrage of grenades and opened up with our weapons. When the fire-fight started, our reserve came running across the paddy. 'Charlie' broke contact and fled."

Five enemy bodies, three rucksacks and three weapons stayed behind.

The Patch

According to Civil War records, the shoulder patch was approved on May 23, 1823. The black shield recalls the "Iron Brigade" of the 8th Regiment, 101st Division which fought in the Civil War. The Eagle represents "Old Abe", the famous war eagle now on display at the Smithsonian Institute.

When the 101st was reactivated as an airborne division, General William Lee, commander, gave Screaming Eagles the inspirational prophecy: "We have a rendezvous with destiny."



Pointman

Spec. 4 Hendrik "Dutch" Groenewoud, Derry, N.H., walks point with his M-60 machine gun during Operation Malheur II. His face shows the vigilance and tension of a job where the enemy may lay around the next bend in the trail. (Photo by Spec. 4 James Lehr)

MEDCAP Helps Grateful Natives

By Spec. 4 Dennis Stout

DUC PHO, (1/327-10) — Continuing the quiet battle to win the hearts of the Vietnamese people, a MEDCAP team from the 101st Airborne visited the small village of Sa Huynh near here during Operation Malheur II.

The team from the 1st Bn (Abn), 327 Inf. had been expected by the villagers. When the paratroopers arrived they were swarmed with requests for aid. Some natives had traveled two days to come to the village for treatment. They stood in the hot sun, waiting for their turn as the medics began treating the sick.

"They had almost every disease known to man," said Spec. 6 Kenneth Gant, Washington, D.C., a senior medic with the battalion. "They appreciate the treatment."

Patients carried on bamboo stretchers were treated first, then children. One mother cried out of happiness when her baby was given medical attention.

"Several of the children would have died without immediate treatment," explained Gant.

As the people were treated, Spec. 4 Gary Nichols, Wynn,

Ark., the brigade veterinarian, inquired about alling animals. A man stepped forward and led him to a bombed out pagoda which served as his stable.

"I gave the cow several injections," Nichols said. "Then the people wanted me to treat their chickens. There isn't much you can do for them."

The Vietnamese villagers were reluctant to visit the dentist, but when they saw the treatment was painless they sought his aid.

"The major was swamped after the first patient walked away smiling," said dental assistant Pfc. Dan Wheeler, Milan, Tenn.

"They were eager to be treated," said the dentist, Maj. James M. Ruff, Atlanta. "Language is no barrier when the problems are obvious and the people willing to be treated."

At the end of the day, the team had treated 78 dental patients, and 505 medical cases, 341 of whom were children.

The grateful villagers also helped the Americans. They served cold soft drinks and fresh coconut milk to the paratroopers. Later they also pointed out a VC suspect and an enemy mine in a nearby road.

Wounded Early RTO Stops VC Attack

By Pfc. Bob Mosey
DUC PHO, — Accurate adjustment of artillery and gunship fire by a badly-wounded radio-telephone operator saved a platoon from a severe mauling when attacked by a reinforced Viet Cong company near here recently.

The Reconco paratroopers of 2nd Bn (Abn), 502nd Inf., set up night defensive positions next to a deserted hamlet in the Song Ve valley.

Minutes later, sounds of clanking metal and rustling bushes told the paratroopers they were not alone.

Alert eyes searched the huts dotting the flat, fertile valley. Attentive ears listened for any

distinct sound or movement. Lt. Clarence Long, Ruskin, Mass., gave instructions to use grenades if the enemy was spotted.

Pfc. Jerry Cain, Cody, Wyo., alerted artillery and gunships for possible fire missions.

An alert Reconco on the platoon's perimeter saw two Viet Cong run under a tree. Warning the rest of the platoon, he threw a grenade. The explosion triggered an attack by an estimated 100-man VC force.

Using 80-mm mortar, 37-mm recoilless rifles, grenades, heavy machine gun and small arms fire, the enemy quickly maneuvered to three sides of the platoon, setting up a deadly cross fire.

Cain, Hq. Btry, 2nd Bn (Abn), 320th Arty, radioed for supporting fire. Within minutes, friendly artillery created a protective sheath around the platoon. Overhead, heavy machine gun fire from attacking gunships raked the enemy positions. Flares turned night into day as the battle raged.

"The supply of grenades 'Charlie' had seemed endless," said Pfc. Ronald Gardner, Alamogordo, N.M.

Cain, now suffering a facial wound from shrapnel, continued calling in artillery fire, often within 100 meters of his position.

Despite his wounds, Cain manned his radio throughout the battle, providing the vital link between his platoon and supporting fire.

"His courage was boundless," said Gardner, "though blood covered his face and eyes, Cain's corrections were constantly accurate."

Artillery and gunships pounded the enemy with withering fire.

The VC carried their casualties across a shallow river adjacent to the platoon front, at the same time attempting to re-enforce their stricken company. Gunships raked the river to thwart any attempt of the Viet Cong force to link-up.

Four hours later, unable to overrun the Reconco platoon, the enemy withdrew across the river, gunships still in pursuit.

Ten enemy lay dead. Enemy blood trails led into the jungle.

A tired, but smiling Cain and other wounded were medivaced to the comfort and care of an Army hospital.

Ex-Cook In Charge

DUC PHO — During the Viet Cong attack, Spec. 4 Walter Keyes, Jackson, Mich., assumed virtual command of the Reconcos when the platoon leader and platoon sergeant were wounded.

Keyes, a cook turned Reconco, saw two Viet Cong under a tree and threw a grenade. Two secondary explosions followed the blast.

"Apparently they had grenades in their hands with the pins pulled," said Keyes. "Then the attack came."

In the first moments, the platoon medic was killed and Keyes was wounded in the back and head by shrapnel.

Despite his wounds, Keyes bandaged the wounded and encouraged them to keep fighting.

As artillery and gunships pounded the enemy, Keyes kept the platoon firing. At one time, VC were only 30 yards away.

"With the help of the flares, we could see what we were up against," said Keyes. "The enemy was being hit hard but attempting to reinforce their positions. Cain's accurate direction of supporting fire prevented the VC from overrunning our position."

When the four-hour battle ended, Keyes helped the wounded onto the Medivac helicopter.

He was the last to be evacuated.



Conducting perimeter defense for the Reconcos are (left to right) Pfc's John J. Williams, Palatka, Fla.; Franklin Sterling, Memphis; and Rodney Griffin, Newberry, S.C. (Photo by Spec. 4 James Lehr)



Twenty-two Vietnamese were freed from captivity in stocks such as these by 101st Airborne paratroopers. Three men and 19 women were liberated, some after two years of imprisonment. (Photo by Spec. 4 James Lehr)

POW's Tell of Imprisonment

By Lt Barry Hana

DUC PHO — A grisly account of life in a prison camp was revealed here recently as three women and 19 men from Quang Nghia province told 101st Airborne paratroopers of intimidation, abuse and death at the hands of the Viet Cong.

The women — 42, 57 and 67 — were kidnaped by the VC because their sons serve in Popular Force or ARVN units. The men, ranging in age from 17 to 68, were abducted for various reasons: sons in Vietnamese units, informing government forces of VC activities and refusal to join the Communist guerillas.

Two of the liberated men were hamlet chiefs, another a school teacher. One had served in the Army of Vietnam for four years and five others were members of Popular Forces.

Their stories were similar. Some had been held captive for more than two years.

One 62-year old hamlet chief was taken from his home on May 16, 1965. He had two sons serving with ARVN forces. When first captured he was strong. He worked cutting wood for the VC. As he grew weak from malnutrition, he was bound hand and foot to prevent escape to his hamlet.

Another 64-year old villager

was abducted on the night of September 30, 1966. He had been known to support ARVN units and when he fed government troops passing through his village, the VC carried him away.

"I hoped they wouldn't kill me," he said. "I have six children. I hope they are safe."

Another liberated prisoner was a 25-year old Popular Forces soldier who killed six VC with a grenade during an attack on his village in 1965. His right arm had been amputated because of a wound suffered in the battle.

He told of the VC treatment at the camp since his capture in May, 1966:

"The strongest men in the prison camp were forced to carry rice and dig tunnels and caves," he said. "Thirty-four were in the camp when I was captured. Twelve died from starvation and beatings. At times I wished the VC to kill me."

The VC told his wife he was a prisoner and she must provide clothes for him. "I never got the clothing," he said. "The VC always took it after she gave it to them in our village."

The women also worked while prisoners in the VC camp. One 42-year old mother of four was kidnaped on March 30 because her two sons and younger brother served in the Army of Vietnam. Four months she worked within the compound, preparing the meager daily meal for the prisoners and mending clothes. She and the other women were bound each night.

As each former prisoner related a personal story of the captivity, the others nodded in agreement. They had been given only a half cup of rice a day, were tied hand and foot and beaten frequently.

One of the newly-freed Vietnamese — a 67-year old woman — asked to be returned to her family. One of her five children was a platoon leader in the Army of Vietnam, she said.

An interpreter told her and the others they would be taken to the province hospital at Quang Nghia and then reunited with their families.

The old woman nodded with a contentment she had not known since being captured in February. Her cataract-clouded eyes filled with tears and the moistness seeped only halfway down her aged, now happy face. Soon she would be home.

Troopers Liberate Prisoners from VC

DUC PHO — Paratroopers of the 101st Airborne crashed down the bamboo gates of a Viet Cong prison camp near here recently and liberated 22 starved and disease-ridden Vietnamese — some held captive for more than two years.

The compound was sighted by an aerial observer and a company of paratroopers was ordered to investigate.

Following a mountain stream toward the encampment, the paratroopers drew two bursts of small arms fire. Seven VC fled into the dense jungle as the infantrymen charged the position. There they found a 50-yard square enclosure sealed off by a 10-foot bamboo fence.

"Once inside you could see it was a prison camp," said Capt. Peter Mitchell, Levittown, N.Y.

"After we smashed down the gate we found a four-foot pit filled with sharpened bamboo stakes," said Spec. 4 Gary Johnson, Bankerft, Mich.

A Co. of the 1st Bn (Abn), 327th Inf. quickly set up a perimeter defense and began searching the compound.

The camp consisted of 12 thatched-roofed huts. As the paratroopers approached the only two enclosed huts at the rear of the camp, the smell of human waste grew stronger, more nauseating. Entering the huts, the battle-hardened paratroopers recoiled at what they saw: men of all ages sitting with

their feet shackled in foot stocks, their hands lashed behind their backs.

Ten other Vietnamese were found within the compound — they were too weak to move.

"The faces and bodies of these people showed many months of starvation, maltreatment, and forced labor," said Mitchell. "My medics began treating them. Everyone—young and old—suffered from either anemia, malaria, and starvation."

While medics cared for the liberated prisoners, other paratroopers searched the compound. They discovered camouflaged tunnels which held more than two tons of rice and corn.

"The rice was for the VC," said a youthful Popular Forces trooper held captive since February. "The VC are low on food and forced us to carry rice to other parts of the mountain."

Paratroopers gave the rice to the starving Vietnamese who quickly prepared their first full meal over hastily-made fires.

As the Vietnamese ate their fill of rice, paratroopers marked the punji-pits surrounding each hut. Then they radioed for helicopters to evacuate the freed prisoners to the Screaming Eagle base camp.

Prior to boarding a helicopter, a frail Vietnamese took a paratrooper's hand in both of his.

"Thank you," he said. "Thank you."



A paratrooper helps four of the liberated prisoners into a helicopter for evacuation to the hospital at the Screaming Eagle base camp. (Photo by Pfc Robert L. Mossey)

Province Chief Visits, Embraces His People

DUC PHO — The Quang Ngai Province Chief, Dr. Bui Hoanh, visited with the three women and 19 men liberated from the Viet Cong prison camp and was horrified at their appearance.

Tears flowed freely as Dr. Hoanh embraced each of them and listened to their story of imprisonment.

From each hospital bed the story was the same: Hope had been lost. Death was so close. Eighteen of their fellow prisoners died. The survivors had resigned themselves to death.

Dr. Hoanh, who had treated many of them in years past, was shocked at seeing some of them again.

"I never dreamed I would see people of my province in such a pathetic condition," said Dr. Hoanh. "I am utterly shocked." Prior to his departure, the province chief repeated the sur-

vivors' appreciation to the paratroopers who rescued them. Adding his personal gratitude, Dr. Hoanh said: "My people have been given a second birth."

The province chief was accompanied through the hospital tent by Mr. James A. May, senior provincial advisor, CORDS, and Col. John W. Collins, deputy brigade commander.

Generals Call

Prior to their evacuation to the Quang Ngai hospital for further treatment, the liberated prisoners were visited by Gen. Dwight E. Beach, CG, USARPAC; Lt. Gen. Robert E. Cushman, Jr., CG, III MAF; Maj. Gen. Willard Pearson, MACV; and Maj. Gen. Richard T. Knowles, CG, Task Force Oregon.



Death Cheated

Nguyen Van Phuong, 20-year-old Popular Forces member, stares at the VC prison he survived for two years until liberated by 101st Airborne paratroopers. (Photo by Spec. 4 James Lehr)

Awards

Bronze Star-V

Lt. Charles F. Verga, HHC, 2/327; Platoon Sgt. David Kato, B Co., 1/327; Spec. 4 Paris L. Bendixen, B Co., 2/502; Lt. Harold V. Toop, A Co., 2/502; Staff Sgt. Charles O. Walker Jr., B Co., 1/327—All awarded the First Oak Leaf Cluster.

Sgt. Gonzalo Estrada, Jr., A Co., 2/502; Sgt. Ivan C. King, A Co., 2/502; Spec. 4 Edward R. Reddin, A Co., 2/502; Staff Sgt. Frank C. Lincoln, HHC, 2/327; Maj. Jerry L. Denman, HHC, 1/327; Sgt. Charles E. Bowen, HHC, Bde; Spec. 8 Frankie G. Johnson, HHC, Bde.

Spec. 4 William D. Sneed, A Co., 2/502; Spec. 4 Carlson L. McKee, A Co., 2/502; Staff Sgt. Henry E. Kniskern, A Trp, 2/17; Sgt. Bobbie E. Williams, A Co., 2/502.

Bronze Star

Maj. Stephen C. Doherty, HHC, 2/502; Capt. Peter J. D'Alessandro, E Co., Spt Bn; Capt. Thomas Deputy, HHC, Spt Bn; Capt. Dennis Finnegan, HHC, 2/327; Capt. James B. Leonard, B Btry, 2/328.

Capt. Lawrence L. Naughton Jr., HHC, 1/327; Capt. Lucius V. Reeves, B Co., 2/502; Lt. John A. Marshok Jr., HHC, 2/502; Lt. Gerald L. Moroy, A Co., 2/327; Lt. Joseph R. Schwabenberger, HHC, 2/328th; CW3 William E. King, HHC, 2/328th.

Capt. James T. Collins, HHC, Bde; Staff Sgt. James L. Howard, A Trp, 2/17; Staff Sgt. Kenneth D. Kratzberg, HHC, 1/327; Staff Sgt. Johnnie C. Lindsey, HHC, 1/327; Staff Sgt. Thomas E. Smith, HHC, Bde; Staff Sgt. Albert W. Tolbert, A Trp, 2/17; Staff Sgt. Wesley Walker, HHC, Bde.

Paratroopers Find Parasol

DUC PHO — Lt. Clyde Herrington, Lumberton, N.C., led a 16-man reconnaissance patrol of the 101st Airborne across a rice paddy towards the smoldering huts of a VC village hit by artillery.

The paratroopers encircled the village and were joined by other elements of C Co., 1st Bn (Abn), 327th Inf.

Quickly a search of the area was begun. Staff Sgt. Glen Berg, Fayetteville, N.C., supervised a check of all tunnels and possible cache sites in the area. Within two hours, more than two tons of rice, 10 sets of black pajamas, a khaki uniform with a black beret and two sets of civilian clothes were found.

Two homemade charges of nitric starch explosive also were uncovered along with maps and documents. Four mines were found and destroyed by combat engineers.

Then Herrington made a final important discovery: a lady's parasol.



On the Way to 'Charlie'

Spec. 4 David D. Duram, Fowler, Ind., prepares to fire a grenade into a Viet Cong position during a skirmish by the 1st Bn (Abn), 327th Inf. (Photo by Spec. 4 Dennis Stout)

Screaming Eagle Finds Baby in Hut

A pointman of the 1st Bn (Abn), 327th Inf. had an unusual experience while leading his platoon through an enemy village. Instead of finding an enemy soldier inside a hut, he found a newborn baby.

Pfc Leslie D. Thornton, Washington, D.C., found the baby in a hammock. The baby's skin looked diseased and his face was caked with dirt and grime.

"I carried the child to a water tank and washed it as best I could," said Thornton. "I wrapped him in a towel and took him to my platoon leader. He put him on a helicopter to

be evacuated to the medics at the base camp."

The paratroopers of the 326th Medical Detachment treated the child for skin infections and sent him to an orphanage.

Gr-Assy Ride

Pfc John J. Colligan, Westfield, Mass., has found ingenuity goes a long way.

"Everything gets easier when you use your head a little bit," said Colligan.

The paratrooper of the 1st Bn (Abn), 327th Inf. found a downhill trail through thick elephant grass slippery. Five times he lost his footing and found himself sitting down on the job.

After the fifth fall he just stayed there. He crossed his legs and using his rifle butt like a paddle, moved down the trail like a canoe.

"I'm just glad I didn't have a pencil stake rip my hull," he said after reaching level ground.

Calf in Well

Three paratroopers of the 101st Airborne took time off from Operation Malheur II to rescue a calf trapped in a deep hole.

Troopers of A Co., 2nd Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf., were moving

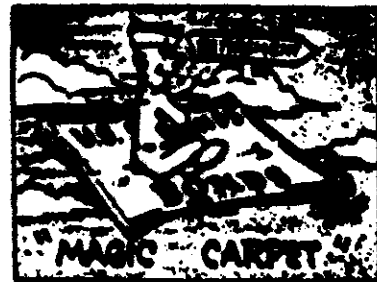
through a deserted village in the fertile Song Ve Valley when they were charged by an enraged water buffalo.

"Because of the potential danger to us," said Sgt. Joe Craven, Miami, Fla., "we decided to shoot it—until we heard the cry of a calf."

Investigating, the men of 2nd platoon found the frightened baby buffalo at the bottom of a dried-up village well, miraculously unhurt.

While his buddies kept the nervous mother at bay, Pfc Lester Johnson, New Orleans, was lowered down the 15-foot well by a utility rope. Soon the calf was safely out and reunited with his mother.

"The guys were so proud of their good deed," quipped Johnson, "they nearly forgot I was still in the well."



VC Flee O-Deuce Ambush

DUC PHO—The ambush was ready. Grenades and ammunition were within easy reach as paratroopers of the 101st Airborne waited on a trail high above a small village.

The night before, Spec 4 Edward G. Lee, Belmont, Mass., and his squad had surprised a VC element in the village as they were eating.

Suspecting the Viet Cong would return, the men of A Co., 2nd Bn (Abn), 502nd Inf., exercised caution as they prepared their ambush site.

"The best position was above the village," said Lee. "All our firepower was concentrated into the VC area."

Near midnight, Lee and Spec. 4 Walter Holt, Oklahoma City, saw a Viet Cong in the darkness. As they watched, they could hear others talking. Lee and Holt awakened their buddies. When Lee tossed a grenade, everyone opened fire.

The enemy returned the fire and tried to flank the paratrooper squad. Spec. 4 Ronnie G. Miller and two other squad members protected the flank with a hail of bullets and grenades. Pfc Leonard R. Kunze, Buffalo, N.Y., was wounded in the face as he tried to throw a grenade. He threw it anyway.

As quickly as the battle started—it stopped.

"The VC pulled back," said Lee. "Moments later VC mortar rounds hit our position, but no one was wounded. For a while it was a hairy night."

Next morning, the paratroopers entered the battle-scarred village. In a nearby cave they found one VC body and numerous blood trails leading into the jungle.

Legion of Merit To 'Lifeline' CO

PHAN RANG — Lt. Colonel Quinton P. Sunday, Eufaula, Okla., was decorated with the Legion of Merit for exceptionally meritorious service in ceremonies held here recently.

Brigadier General S.H. Matheson, brigade commander, presented the medal to Sunday recognizing the latter's performance of duty at Ft. Campbell, Ky., where he served as the division's support group executive officer from July, 1963 to October, 1964.

Sunday presently is serving as support battalion commander at the 101st Airborne's base camp here. The veteran paratrooper has served 51 months overseas during his career.

His previous decorations and awards include two awards of the Combat Infantryman's Badge, Master Parachutists Badge, French Fourragere, Korean Presidential Unit Citation, and Army Commendation Medal.

During World War II, he participated in combat parachute jumps at Normandy on D-Day and in the Rhine river assault. He wears battle stars for combat in the Ardennes, Rhineland, and Central Europe in World War II and two campaigns in Korea.

The Screaming Eagle

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Soap...

PHAN RANG—The residents of Vinh Thuan in Ninh Thuan Province are gaining a better understanding of personal hygiene from a medical team composed of members from the Support Battalion, 101st Airborne and the 568th Medical Company.

The integration of personal hygiene with the medical aid program began when the team discovered most of the ailments were caused by improper hygiene. Two washtubs, sturdy wash cloths and soap were added to the team's medical supplies.

When the team visits the village, a portable dispensary is set up. While villagers wait in line for treatment, members of the team demonstrate how to bathe a child correctly as a Vietnamese medic explains the importance of personal hygiene. After the explanation and demonstration, mothers are encouraged to use the washtubs to bathe their children.

Since the program went into effect a month ago, nearly 1,000 people have attended the demonstrations and received medical treatment. More than 5,000 bars of soap were distributed to the villagers.

The soap was furnished through collective efforts of Mr. George Kaplanis, Villa Roma Motel, San Francisco, and Mr. John Halls, Harrah's, Stateline, Nev. after Captain John R. Blanks, Jr. of the 101st Airborne wrote a friend of the need. The friend, Major John Swaren, Jr. of the ROTC Department at the University of San Francisco, contacted Mr. Kaplanis and a soap drive was begun.



"I've Got Mine!"

A small boy and other children of Vinh Thuan village touched soap for the first time when members of the Support Battalion distributed soap during a sick call.

Photos and Story by Capt. Wes Groesbeck

...And Treatment



Does it Hurt?

Awestruck, a small girl watches a paratrooper demonstrate bathing techniques to villagers of Vinh Thuan.



Treating a Cyst

Capt. William Babson, Gloucester, Mass., treats a boy for a cyst during a sick call. Doctor Babson serves with the 568th Medical Company.