



61 NVA Killed 1st Day

101st Paratroopers Launch Benton

CHU LAI — Two battalions of paratroopers launched Operation Benton with air assaults into Communist strongholds Aug 13, west of here killing 61 NVA in the first 24-hours of fighting.

The operation began with the 2nd Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf. and 2nd Bn. (Abn), 302nd Inf. deploying from selected landing zones, anticipating contact with an NVA regiment believed to be operating in the area.

VC Deflate Trooper's 'Soft Sleep'

CHU LAI — Two paratroopers in the 101st Airborne's Operation Hood River found out how quick "Charlie" can shoot. They also discovered one particular VC couldn't shoot straight.

"We were operating along a high ridge line in the mountains and following a well-used trail in hopes of finding some VC when we came upon a base complex," said Pfc. Harold G. Morris, Redondo Beach, Calif., of C Co., 2nd Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf.

Morris's unit, the 2nd Platoon, had discovered a company-sized area of huts, mess hall, animal bins and storage pits.

"My squad had point responsibility," said Sgt. John R. Grimes, Maysville, Okla. "I set up security positions around the huts while the other squads searched for anything 'Charlie' may have left behind."

"Morris took one side of a trail leading down from the mountain and I took the other," explained Pfc. James E. Johnson, Mobile, Ala. "The trail came down to a 'v' and went back up and it took two of us to provide adequate security."

The dense underbrush and thick jungle handicapped the paratroopers' visibility; however, minutes later three Viet Cong suddenly came into view.

"They surprised the hell out of me," said Morris. "I fired a quick burst, hit one, and another sprayed our positions with an AK-47."

"We had been resupplied the day before," said Morris. "Charlie" tore up my rucksack, putting holes in all but two of my C-ration cans. He also ruined my sweater and two canteens."

Johnson's problem was a little more serious.

"The VC not only ruined my C-rations, but shot my air mattress full of holes. If there's anything I hate, it's sleeping on hard, rocky ground."

As darkness fell, the tactical command post of the "No Slack" battalion was attacked by enemy mortars.

Moments later, B Co. of the 'o-deuce' was hit from three sides.

The long night began with all available supporting fires provided to the units in contact.

Flare and helicopter gunships were joined by Air Force dragon ships. Flares turned the battlefield into day as their guns raked enemy positions with withering fire.

At one moment during the battle, Lt. Col. Edmond P. Abood, Brooklyn, directed the fires of the dragon ship to

within 50 meters of his defensive circle.

"Black Panther" was really cool," said a sergeant who took mortar fragments in the arm. "He really kept us up tight."

In B Co. of the 302nd, Capt. Ronald Odom, San Francisco, was leading his paratroopers in a blistering attack on the enemy

forces that all but surrounded his company.

As tracer bullets cut long red arcs into the enemy locations, helicopter crews carried out ammunition resupply missions to the engaged units and evacuated their wounded. Some chopper pilots had logged more than 18 hours of flying time when dawn broke over the battle areas.

With daylight, Odom's command searched the battlefield for enemy dead. Thirty-five bodies littered the perimeter, including 11 AK-47 automatic weapons, five SKS rifles and two light Russian machine guns.

Meanwhile, the "No Slack" command post continued to receive small arms fire as they moved out to engage the enemy.

At noon the next day the enemy disengaged to lick his wounds.

A Co., of the 1st Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf. was inserted as a blocking force early in the afternoon as the Screaming Eagle brigade prepared for whatever the enemy had to offer.

Night fell in silence.

VN Captain Continues Struggle

MINH LONG—The commander of the South Vietnamese Special Forces camp here is a veteran of more than 20 years of combat, having fought in World War II, the French Indo-China War and now the war to deny Communist control of South Vietnam.

Capt. Le Van Chanh served with the Japanese during their occupation of Saigon in 1944-1945. After the Japanese defeat, Chanh, with other members of the Cao Dai religious order, aligned themselves with the Viet Minh to oppose the French. However, in 1947 the Cao Dai recognized the threat Communism presented to South Vietnam, and joined the French forces in fighting the Viet Minh until the French withdrew from Indo-China in 1954.

Following the partitioning of his country into North and South Vietnam, Chanh enlisted in the Army of the Republic of Vietnam and continued opposing Communism and the Viet Cong.

Trained in special forces operations, he has commanded six different special forces camps.

During the 101st Airborne's Operations Malheur I and II, Capt. Chanh's forces worked with paratrooper elements in search and destroy operations near here.

Fast Foot Saves Two Lives

QUANG NGAI — A swift kick and quick shooting by a 101st Airborne paratrooper saved his life and that of his platoon leader near here recently during Operation Hood River.

C Co., 2nd Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf. had selected defensive positions for the night with 2nd platoon assigned an area near a trail along a rice paddy.

"We had searched the valley all day," said Spec. 4 Gerald A. (Frenchy) Soileau, Ville Platte, La. "We failed to find as much as a water buffalo."

"As soon as it was dark," added SFC David J. Harper, Columbus, Ga., acting platoon leader. "I had the men set out warning devices. Less than 20 minutes later, 'Charlie' probed our position."

"We had just set up the devices when I heard a pop and

saw a trip flare burning," explained Soileau. "I was sure someone in the platoon had accidentally tripped the flare. Then I heard a Claymore explode."

"When the Claymore went off, I yelled for 'Frenchy' and we went down to check the area," Harper recalled. "I covered 'Frenchy' as he searched the paddies."

Twenty feet from where the trip flare was burning, a log appeared to be floating on the water covering the rice paddy.

Suddenly the log stood up! "He scared the living hell out of me," laughed Soileau. "It's funny now, but it sure wasn't then. I wasn't more than three feet from him and he was trying to pull the pin from a grenade."

Soileau kicked the grenade

from the Viet Cong's hands.

"I lost my balance and fell into the paddy," chuckled Soileau, "but managed to nail him with a short burst as I fell."

Watching Soileau kick and shoot, Harper added: "I saw 'Charlie' rock back, but he wasn't dead. He got out another grenade and was working on the pin. I couldn't shoot, so I yelled for 'Frenchy' to stay down."

Harper's words were wasted. As Soileau fell after kicking the grenade from the enemy's hands, he rolled over to the narrow dike and came over the top with his M-16 blazing.

"I didn't hear Harper yell," he said, "but I saw the grenade as I topped the dike and just opened up as fast as I could."

"Yeah," said Harper. "This time 'Charlie' stayed down."



'Hang in There, Sarge!'

S. Sgt. Larry T. Jacobs, Nashville, Tenn., leans away from a hard left thrown by Lt. Col. Edmond P. Abood, Brooklyn, as paratroopers of the 2nd Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf. shout encouragement. Boxing was a feature attraction of the day of rest and relaxation on the beach following Operation Malheur II near Duc Pho. (Photo by S. Sgt. Mike Mangiameli)

Shadows and Silence...



Nine paratroopers of the 2nd (Abn), 502nd Inf., who died during Operation Malheur II fighting were honored by their comrades recently. The three berets represent Reconcos.

(Photo by Spec. 4 James Lohr)

...And Those That Continue

Bronze Star with "V" Device
M. Sgt. Lloyd L. Smith Jr.,
HHC; Pfc. Richard P. McCarthy,
B Co. 2/502; Lt. James T.
Unger, C Co. 2/327; Spec. 4 Daniel
Cooper, C Co. 1/327; Cpl.
Elliot R. Allen Jr., A Co. 2/502;
S. Sgt. David E. Sirois, C Co.
2/327; Pfc. Gary Ristline, HHC,
2/502.

Sgt. William R. Doyle, A Co.
1/327; Lt. David G. Sherrard, C
Co. 2/327; Sgt. Billy D. Miller,
A Co. 2/502; Spec. 4 Duwayne
R. Sonnenberg, C Co. 2/327;
Spec. 4 Richard R. Recendez,
B Co. 1/327; Spec. 4 Edward L.
Carr, B Co. 2/502; Lt. Edward
R. Throckmorton, B Co. 2/502.
Pfc. John C. Adams, B Co.

1/327; Spec. 5 Dolfey Jenkins,
HHC 2/502; Sgt. Larry L. La-
Salle, A Co. 1/327; Spec. 4 Na-
thaniel Fells, B Co. 2/502;
S. Sgt. Raymond A. Proctor, B
Co. 2/327; Sgt. Charles D. Jen-
kins, C Co. 2/327; Spec. 4 Mi-
chael Taylor, B Co. 1/327.

ARCOM with "V" Device
Pfc. Les H. Paschall, HHC,
2/327; S. Sgt. Hans W. Wolf, E
Co. Spt Bn; Spec. 4 Bennie
Thomas Jr., A Co. 2/502; Spec.
4 James H. Johnson, C Co.
1/327; Lt. Bennie L. Jagears,
HHC, 2/327; Pfc. James R. Gil-
letta, C Co. 2/502; Lt. Thomas
R. Glueck, C Co. 2/327.

Pfc. Jimmy W. Logsdon, B
Co. 2/502; Lt. Norman E. Fret-
well, A Co. 2/327; Spec. 4 Brady
F. Boyd, A Co. 326th Eng.; Pfc.
Danny Stokes, C Co. 2/502;
Capt. Anton J. Jirka, HHC,
2/327; Pfc. Juan O. Pena, C
Co. 2/502; Spec. 4 Ray Lovato,
C Co. 2/327.

Bronze Star
S. Sgt. Donald L. Dreiling, A
Co. 2/327; Spec. 4 Valdosta Bel-
ton, B Co. 2/502; Sgt. James Z.
Wyatt, B Co. 1/327; Spec. 4
Robert W. Hemenway, C Co.
2/327; Spec. 4 Raymond Gillison,
C Co. 2/327; Spec. 4 Timothy
Costello, B Co. 2/502; Capt. Rob-
ert H. Iwaski, 181 MI Det.

Maj. Fred S. Lindsey, HHC;
S. Sgt. Robert E. Ellis Jr., A
Co. Spt Bn; Sgt. Patrick A.
Knaub, HHC, 2/320; Spec. 5
Norman B. Hardinger, A Co.
326th Eng.; Cpl. Daniel T. Pien-
ta, B Btry, 2/320; Spec. 4 Leon
Carr, HHC, 2/502; Spec. 4 Don-
ald H. Bowers, B Co. 2/327.

ARCOM
Spec. 5 Farrell R. Harden,
HHC; Pfc. Richard E. Dew, A
Co. 2/327; Pfc. Richard M. Ham-
mond, A Trp. 2/17; Pfc. Karl A.
Parrish, C Co. 1/327; Pfc. Rob-
ert C. Walters Jr., HHC, 2/327;
Spec. 4 Douglas V. Corley, A
Co. Spt Bn; Spec. 4 Alfonse Cos-
tanza, A Co. 2/502.

Pfc. Marion N. Wilson, HHC,
1/327; Pfc. John F. Hurley, C
Co. 2/502; Spec. 6 Frankie G.
Johnson, HHC; Spec. 4 James T.
Tyrrell, A Trp. 2/17; Spec. 4
James N. Page, A Co. 2/502;
Spec. 4 George Laessig III, 406th
Radio Res Det; Pfc. Michael
Rogner, A Co. 1/327.

Pfc. William E. Ross, B Co.
1/327; Pfc. Hauward L. Veteto,
A Btry, 2/320; Spec. 4 John E.
Maldon, A Co. 2/502; Spec. 4
Robert S. Schmeiz III, A Co.
1/327; Spec. 4 Douglas F. Two-
mey, A Trp. 2/17; Spec. 4 Bobby
L. Whitlow, HHC; Pfc. Michael
Wargolet, C Btry, 2/320.

Rendezvous Begins For New Soldiers

DUC PHO—Four men sat on a hill west of here and stared across the valley. Their young faces revealed traces of doubt, concern, apprehension, curiosity and determination.

The four were replacements, waiting for a helicopter to take them to their assigned units—

the 1st Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf.

"I'm looking forward to it," commented Pfc. Roger Polasky, Pittsburgh, "but I am kind of scared, I guess."

The other three nodded in agreement.

Pfc. Joe LaPorte, Massillon, Ohio, said, "I think I'm just doing my part."

Someone shouted for the replacements to be ready to move in 20 minutes.

They checked their equipment.

"I read about this in the papers, I heard about it on the radio and I saw it on TV," said Pfc. Kent McGown, DeQueen, Ark., "But it's hard to imagine I'm really a part of it now."

A helicopter arrived, sending dust swirling. A helmeted figure motioned the four to climb aboard.

Pfc. Hugh Major, Tucker, Ga., hefted his rifle and grinned: "What do I see about B&B?"

HHC 'Top' Follows Family Tradition

By SP4 Dan Stroebel
CHU LAI—As he played and skied in the 18-foot snow drifts of winter-time Czechoslovakia, it seemed highly improbable to 10 year-old George M. Sekerak that he would ever be a first sergeant in the United States Army.

The son of a farmer who departed for the United States in 1927, George Sekerak, his two

brothers, and mother anxiously awaited the time when they would be able to join Michael Sekerak in the United States.

First Sergeant Sekerak of HHC, 1st Bde., 101st Airborne Div., left Czechoslovakia in 1939 for the United States with his mother and two brothers.

"I remember when we got on the train to Hamburg, Germany, where we were to board the ship for the United States, the Nazi storm troopers pushed us out of our seats and we had to stand all the way to Hamburg," said Sekerak.

The family arrived in New York and journeyed to Cleveland, where Michael and Mary Sekerak settled to rear their family.

"We lived in a neighborhood which was predominantly European. There were people there who spoke Russian so I had no problem until I went into school," said Sekerak. It wasn't mathematics or history, but English took some time.

In 1945 he was drafted and chose the Army.

"I always wanted to be a soldier because the family had a history of soldiers. My grandfather rode with the Cossacks."

After talking to some paratroopers in Cleveland he decided to join the Airborne.

"I wanted to be a Marine at first, but I felt the Airborne would be a better deal," he said.

Sekerak completes 22 years in the Army this month. He is married, has four children and still writes his mother in their native language.

"What else?" laughed First Sergeant Sekerak. "It's all she can read."



Tired Old 'Dogs'

Platoon Sgt. Edward A. Birmingham, Rutland, Vt., washes his feet in a jungle stream during Operation Hood River. The paratrooper is a member of C Co., 1st Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf.

Assn. Sends Best Wishes

(Editor's note: The following telegram was addressed to the brigade during Operation Benetton.)

CHICAGO, Ill. — As we start our 22nd annual reunion celebrating the 25th anniversary of the 101st Airborne Division our thoughts, prayers and every wish for continued success are with you, our Screaming Eagle comrades in Vietnam.

We are very proud of each one of you and your carrying of the traditions of the division with its "Rendezvous with Destiny."

From World War II, Fort Campbell and Vietnam veterans in attendance — Airborne All The Way to the "Always First Brigade."

— H. L. Harlan, President, 101st Airborne Division Association.

The
Screaming Eagle



Commanding General
Information Officer

BG S. H. Matheson
MAJ Billy E. Spangler

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'02 Diversion Catches VC

QUANG NGAI — A platoon of 101st Airborne paratroopers used diversionary tactics to surprise three VC recently during Operation Hood River near here.

"We were walking up a small stream bed in thick jungle when I heard voices," recalled Pfc. Jimmy Morris, Adel, Ga., "I motioned for silence in the column."

Freezing in place, men of A Co., 2nd Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf. heard VC talking 100 yards to their front.

"At first we thought they were moving toward us," said Morris, "so we set up a hasty ambush and waited. The VC

continued to talk, but we couldn't hear any sound of movement. We decided to move toward them."

Realizing the sound of dead wood breaking underfoot would alert the enemy, Spec. 4 Lester Johnson, New Orleans, radioed for fire from B and C Btrys. of the 2nd Bn. (Abn), 320th Artillery.

"Every time a round exploded," Johnson explained, "our column would advance a few feet, but it was too slow."

The platoon also called for an airborne psychological operations team to fly overhead, broadcasting an endless Chieu Hoi appeal into the area below, concealing the paratrooper advance.

Spec. 4 Manuel Aberez, Amarillo, Texas, pointman, cautiously approached a clearing.

"The diversion worked," said Aberez. "Three VC were sitting around a fire, their attention locked on the helicopter circling overhead."

Suddenly a dead branch snapped, alerting the enemy.

"They started running for a trail leading into the jungle," said Aberez, "our point element opened fire. We dropped one and wounded the other two who escaped."

Searching the body of the dead VC, the paratroopers discovered papers indicating he was a Viet Cong battalion commander.



Tunnel Rat

Pfc. William J. Coldwell, Plano, Ill., a tunnel rat with C Co., 2nd Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf., crawls from a bunker complex after a search during Operation Hood River. Coldwell searched more than 25 tunnels in one afternoon. (Photo by S. Sgt. Mike Mangiameli)

Platoon Uncovers Lucky 13

DUC PHO (1/327-IO)— A platoon from B Co. of the 1st Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf. captured a 'baker's dozen' of VC weapons while exploiting a gunship attack on an enemy base camp near here recently.

Lt. Floyd Williams, Detroit, said 176th Aviation Co. gunships opened fire when they saw 13 VC moving into the undergrowth.

"During our search we found clothing, cooking utensils and 1,500 pounds of rice abandoned by the VC," said Williams.

Intensifying their probe, Williams' platoon discovered five French light machine guns concealed under bushes.

"We were excited about the find and we fanned out to cover every foot of the camp," Williams added.

The platoon soon found a Chinese sub-machine gun, five rifles, two shotguns, a grenade, and an assortment of small arms ammunition.

Knights in Top 10

ARMY "GOLDEN KNIGHTS" Parachute Team finished among the top 10 in the national parachute competition. Four members of the team garnered honors in meet sponsored by Parachute Club of America. Judging was on accuracy in hitting the ground target and maneuvers formed in free fall.

Malaria Is Subtle Enemy

Malaria control is a responsibility of the individual soldier. Although we can not avoid every mosquito, we can reduce the probability of malaria by using mosquito netting whenever possible, using insecticides, applying repellent to exposed areas of the body, keeping sleeves down and collars buttoned after dark, avoiding swampy areas after sunset, and taking malaria pills regularly. This tropical disease is known to reoccur years after one has supposedly been cured. At an older age, it can be more dangerous.

Log Over 600 Sorties in 24 Hours

Brigade Served and Saved by Flying 'Minutemen'

By SP4 Dan Stroebel
CHU LAI — The "Minutemen" of the 176th Aviation Co. shouldered one of their heaviest workloads since arriving in Vietnam as they ferried troops, ammunition and supplies for the 101st Airborne during Operation Benton near here recently.

On D-Day the sound of rotor blades whipping the damp morning air echoed over the brigade area as the "Minute-

men" lifted the first wave of paratroopers into the combat zone. Back and forth the choppers shuttled as the day wore on.

Late in the afternoon, 2nd Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf. made contact and the pilots of the 176th remained in their cockpits furnishing supplies, Medivac and gunship support.

WO Dennis D. Bostad, Stevens Point, Wis., flew nearly 19 consecutive hours during the

first day of the operation.

"After the first 10 hours, I was numb," recalled Bostad. "Then I caught my second wind and kept going."

Bostad flew four types of missions during his long stint at the controls. After 11 hours and 30 minutes of combat assault flying, he switched helicopters and flew the command and control ship for Lt. Col. Ralph Puckett Jr., commander of the paratrooper battalion.

Later Bostad was flying ammunition resupply missions. When he landed his helicopter at the end of the long day, he had been evacuating wounded from the battlefield, often under fire.

"The night flying was the most challenging," Bostad explained. "About midnight, the moon set and the troopers on the ground had to use flashlights to guide us in. It got to the point where we quit hoping

we could do it — we just knew we had to get in."

The gunship pilots and crews of "Minutemen" battled their way through the long day with mission after mission of close support for the paratroopers. Two and three gunships orbited the battle areas, lacing the Communist infested jungle with machinegun and rocket fire.

Capt. Matthew M. McGuire, Long Island, N.Y., was flying his gunship in support of 2nd Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf. when a .50 caliber enemy bullet smashed through the helicopter windshield and struck him in the chest. His armored vest saved his life.

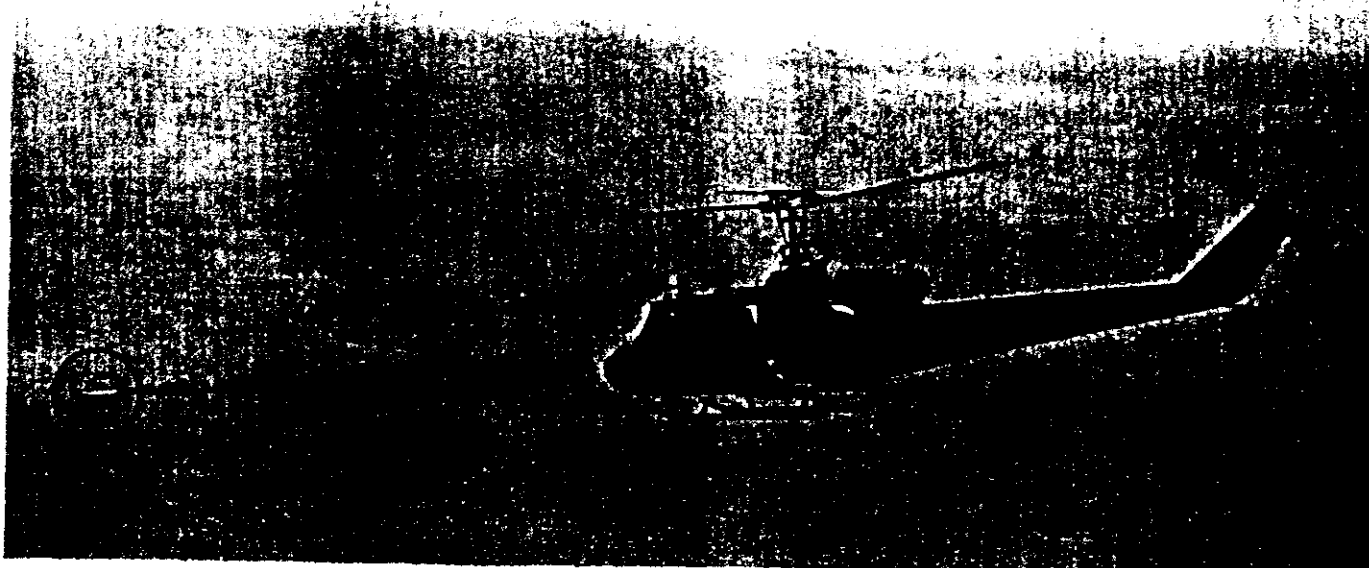
"It knocked the wind out of me, but I was more concerned about where the bullet came from," McGuire said. "We weren't aware of any ground fire, but it came from somewhere."

McGuire had logged 14 hours when he walked away from his chopper.

WO Kim P. Hogan, Evanston, Ill., flew his gunship nearly eight hours that night, supporting paratrooper forces who battled the enemy at hand-grenade range.

"The paratroopers had a man on the perimeter use a flashlight to mark their forward positions," said Hogan, "and we went in firing as close as possible. It was tight all the way."

In the first 24-hours of Operation Benton, the "Minutemen" pilots of 176th Aviation Co. logged 214 hours in the air while flying 648 sorties in a spectacular demonstration of Army aviation support.



176th Aviation 'Musket' Smokes VC

A rocket from a gunship of the 176th "Minutemen" streaks toward its target during Operation Benton fighting.

(Photo by Pfc. James Nelson)

Father and Son



Maj. Henry Nachtsheim Jr. (right) passes on his camouflaged helmet cover to his son, Lt. Henry Nachtsheim III at Phan Rang. The elder Nachtsheim, who served as executive officer of the Spt. Bn. wanted to welcome his son into the brigade before leaving for a European assignment. (Photo by Spec. 5 Robert Lloyd)

Cavalrymen Sweep Through VC Village

DUC PHO—Like an eagle falling out of the sky to claim its prey, paratroopers of A Troop, 2nd Sqdn. (Abn), 17th Cav. swooped down on an apparently deserted village near here, killing three VC and rescuing a Vietnamese orphan.

The airborne cavalrymen were conducting a reconnaissance of the Song Ve valley when five VC ran from a hut.

A helicopter gunship of the 176th Aviation Co. piloted by Capt. Matthew M. McGuire, Long Island, N.Y., laid down a base of fire as Maj. Bobby G. Hanna, Columbus, Ga., landed the cavalry element in another chopper 100 meters from the village.

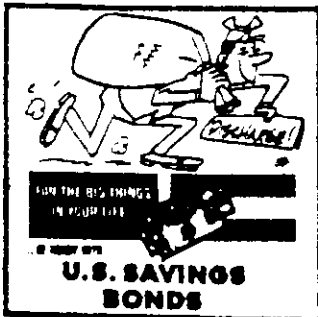
Capt. James R. Harding, Chicago, troop commander, led the cavalrymen in pursuit of the fleeing enemy.

"The VC were carrying rucksacks," Harding said. "When we searched their bodies, we found various documents, medical supplies and articles of new cloth-

ing — including woolen sweaters."

As the paratroopers searched each hut in the village, they found a 12-year-old boy.

"The boy told us there were VC in the area," said Harding. "And he said his parents were dead. We brought him out with us and took him to the GVN refugee center at Minh Long."



Added to Menu

Snake Puts Squeeze On Squad

CHU LAI — Walking point for his platoon, during Operation Hood River recently, Spec. 4 Patrick S. Campbell, Chattanooga, Tenn., spotted a 20-foot python on the trail.

"I remembered the small zoo the 101st has in Phan Rang," said Campbell. "I thought the snake would make a nice addition for it."

The 20-year-old member of C Co., 2nd Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf., jumped on the snake and grabbed it behind the head.

"The python just shook me off, but I was determined that snake would get to the zoo."

Campbell grabbed the snake again, applying a stronger grip.

"I must have really made him mad," laughed Campbell. "He whipped around until he coiled himself around me and tried to bite me. That's when I decided I needed help."

The rest of the squad had been watching the wrestling match and making small bets on the winner. When it was evident the snake was getting

the best of Campbell, the squad decided to help him.

"That snake started really getting serious," said Private Anthony W. Dean, Gatesville, Tex., "I grabbed a machete while the rest of the squad attempted to uncoil the snake from Campbell's body."

"I started getting a little scared when seven men couldn't pull the snake off," said Campbell. "Even the machete, sharp as it was, didn't do any good." Perseverance paid off. The

snake finally was killed but instead of winding up in the Phan Rang zoo, it became the supper meal for eight tired paratroopers.

How was it? "Delicious," said Dean. "But of course I became a little used to eating snake during trips in Texas." Campbell didn't quite agree.

"I sort of lost my appetite after I realized I must have been on the snake's menu for supper."

Paratroopers Build Bridges of Peace

PHAN RANG — Paratroopers of Spt. Bn. (Abn) here are building a reputation of friendship with the Vietnamese of Ninh Thuan province by joining with them in rebuilding vital

community services for the people.

The battalion's most recent project was the reconstruction of a bridge linking Cau Dap to Buu Son, the district capital. The bridge, built by the French in the late 1940's, had deteriorated and was unsafe for even the lightest vehicle traffic.

When battalion civil affairs officer, Capt. Barry J. Roller, learned of the unsafe bridge, he offered the services of the Screaming Eagles to help rebuild the treacherous span.

Six Popular Forces soldiers volunteered to assist the Americans in the task.

Side by side, Vietnamese and Americans worked at widening, strengthening and replacing all of the stringers and supports of the bridge. A total of 1,398 board feet of lumber was used to cover the 30.5 foot span.

Roller praised the Popular Forces troopers and credited them with doing the major portion of the construction.

Battalion personnel furnished the materials, tool, transportation and engineering assistance.

Previously, the paratroopers conducted extensive MEDCAP programs throughout the province and expanded treatment to include bath demonstrations and orientations on personal hygiene, climaxed by the issuance of soap provided by donors in the United States.

Another project which received acclaim throughout the province was the construction of a playground for children of Phan Rang.

The program of building friendship with the Vietnamese people also includes a scholarship program, construction of a new school, and language classes.

In order to support these many and varied projects in the province, the paratroopers established a warehouse where surplus and repairable items are stored. Other supplies contributed by people in the United States for the Vietnamese villagers are stored there before distribution.

Travel Tips Alleviate Confusion In CONUS

SAIGON — U.S. servicemen returning to Vietnam from compassionate leave in the States should be prepared to buy an airplane ticket, a USMACV spokesman said recently.

Both Travis Air Force Base, Calif., and McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., have reported that space available travel is extremely difficult to obtain.

Although many flights leave both bases for overseas destinations, the seats are filled with either replacements or others traveling in a duty status.

A man with insufficient funds for a return ticket to Vietnam must report to the nearest transportation officer. An airplane ticket may be supplied, but the cost will be deducted from the serviceman's pay.

Going in the other direction, many GIs returning from Vietnam are discovering they do not have standby travel status because they either do not have or have not completed DD Form 1580.

A recent Army survey of mili-

tary traffic at San Francisco International, Army Personnel Center, Oakland, and the Seattle-Tacoma Airport found more than 7,000 military members trying for a space without the Military Standby Authorization for Commercial Air Travel (DD Form 1580).

The Army has asked all its commanders to take appropriate action to insure all personnel are properly briefed on requirements for DD Form 1580 and are provided with necessary authenticated forms prior to commencement of travel.

Baggage has acquired a new status in transportation. Military Traffic Management and Terminal Service (MTMTS) and 31 airlines have reached an agreement to speed delivery of unaccompanied military baggage to servicemen.

Baggage will be flown as air freight to domestic and overseas points, reducing the time required for a serviceman's extra personal baggage to reach him at a new assignment.



Prettiest Gun Crew Around

Red Cross "Dollies"—(l-r) Rosemary Cook, Great Falls, Mont.; Margaret Goodrich, Winston-Salem, N.C.; Ginny Bradley, Merced, Calif.; Martha Foadren, Jackson, Miss.; and Gail Allen, Gultman, Ga., got a bang out of their visit to a battery of the 2nd Bn. (Abn), 320th Arty. (Photo by S. Sgt. Mike Mangiameli)

Infantry Board Tests New Shell

FT. BENNING—The Army Infantry Board is evaluating a 40 mm smoke-marking round to identify targets in inaccessible areas. Effective for marking positions from ranges of 200 to 400 meters, it is fired from a M-79 grenade launcher. Smoke is emitted for about one and one-half minutes allowing enough time for marking a potential target, strike area or landing zone.