

Westy, CG Praise 501st INF Actions

CAMP EAGLE—Two battalions from the division received congratulatory messages from Gen. William C. Westmoreland, COMUSMACV, and Maj. Gen. O. M. Barsanti, division commander, following two separate actions during Operation Carentan II resulting in more than 100 enemy dead in northern I Corps recently.

Westmoreland's messages read: "Congratulations to the 1st and 2nd Bn. (Abn), 501st Inf. for highly professional actions conducted seven kilometers north of Hue on 18 April. Ability to react quickly to initial contact resulted in surrounding and decisive defeat of enemy forces. Well done!"

His second note read as follows:

"My congratulations to the elements of the 2nd Bn. (Abn), 501st Inf. for heavy casualties inflicted on the enemy 14 kilometers east of Quang Tri City on 10, 11 April. Light friendly losses indicate a well-planned cordon operation."

Barsanti sent the following message to Col. John H. Cushman, 2nd Brigade commander: "I wish to add my congratulations to those of Gen. Westmoreland for the results achieved by this cordon operation. Success of this kind results only by detailed planning, coordination, effective teamwork, and outstanding leadership."

During the two day period starting April 17, paratroopers from the 1st Bn. (Abn), 501st

Inf. and A Co., 2nd Bn. (Abn), 501st Inf. successfully sealed the village of Dong Xuyen, north of Hue. Following artillery and aerial bombardment, the airborne infantrymen entered the village.

Their sweep netted 53 NVA dead and nine weapons captured or destroyed.

During the two-day period starting April 10, paratroopers from Co.'s A, B, and D, 2nd Bn. (Abn), 501st Inf. cordoned a village southeast of Quang Tri City. They located an estimated NVA company.

Following aggressively initiated actions, the paratroopers killed 88 NVA and captured 23 individual and crew-served weapons. (Continued on Back Page)



Commander Awarded

Maj. Gen. O. M. Barsanti, division commander, is congratulated by Lt. Gen. William B. Rosson, commander of Provisional Corps, Vietnam, after receiving the Air Medal with "V" (second oak leaf cluster) at Camp Eagle for valorous actions while directing a combat assault during the Communist Tet offensive near Bien Hoa. (Photo by Spec. 4 Tony Viglione)

The Screaming Eagle



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79 NVA Fall In I Corps

Geronimo's Smash Enemy

QUANG TRI—At least 79 NVA regulars were confirmed kills for paratroopers of the division after a two-day battle south of here recently during Operation Carentan II.

Initial contact was made by airborne infantrymen from A Co., 2nd Bn. (Abn), 501st Inf. near Thun Phuoc Dien Village southeast of here. After a brief firefight, the enemy broke contact and took refuge in the deserted village.

The next day, D Co. para-

troopers from the same battalion were called in to reinforce A Co. The Communist force, estimated to be a battalion, struck back at the Screaming Eagles with heavy automatic weapons fire and rocket powered grenades.

A third company of paratroopers then joined the fight. "With our B Company added to our force, a ring was formed around the village, sealing it off," said Lt. Col. Richard J. Tailman, Homestead, Pa., battalion com-

mander. "There was no escape for the Communists."

Following artillery strikes by supporting airborne artillerymen, tactical air was called in to pound the NVA positions. Then psychological operations (psy-ops) teams were called in to broadcast messages to the besieged Communists.

"Through an interpreter, we told them to surrender," said Capt. Larry W. Cochran, psy-ops officer from Thomaston, Ga. "Again we repeated the message that there was no escape and added that those who did surrender would be treated well and given proper medical attention."

Two NVA soldiers came out from a woodline bunker near the village wall with their hands up immediately after the first broadcast. They were used in the second broadcast and helped to persuade four more Communist soldiers to defect. (Continued on Back Page)

BG Lekson New ADC For Support

CAMP EAGLE—In an impressive ceremony conducted within the headquarters quadrangle here, Maj. Gen. O. M. Barsanti, Division Commander, welcomed Brig. Gen. John S. Lekson, Cleveland, as the new assistant division commander for sup-

port operations.

The familiar sounds of "Queen City" and "Rendezvous With Destiny" was played by the division band as Lekson trooped the line and was introduced by Barsanti to all principal staff officers.

Lekson came to the Screaming Eagles following tours as assistant division commander for the 9th Infantry Div. and as chief of staff for the commanding general of II Field Force, Vietnam. He has been in country since May, 1967.

After qualifying as a parachutist in June, 1942, he joined the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment. He served as a platoon leader, battalion operations officer, executive officer and regimental operations officer with the 504th PIR. He participated in combat jumps in Sicily and at Salerno, Italy.

In 1944, Lekson was assigned to the G-3 section of the 82D Airborne Division. He participated in the Salerno, Anzio and Ardennes operations with the "All-Americans."

Post World War II days saw him as assistant G-3 for the 82D at Fort Bragg. He then became a battalion commander and regimental operations officer with the 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment.

A graduate of the Command and General Staff College and the Armed Forces Staff College, he was assigned as the assistant G-1 for the 101st at Fort Campbell in 1956. He then attended the Air War College at Maxwell Air Force Base before reassignment as a joint service operations officer with the United Nations Command, Korea.

Next he joined the 82D Airborne Division at Fort Bragg where he commanded the 1st Airborne Battle Group, 25th Inf.

In 1963, he was assigned to Allied Forces Southern Europe in Naples, Italy, where he served as the chief of the Policy and Special Projects Section. In July, 1968, he returned to the United States as the Deputy Assistant Commandant of the Infantry school, Fort Benning.



BRIG. GEN. LEKSON

Arty Blunts VC Attack At Perimeter's Edge

HUE—A human wave of NVA regulars tried to overrun a division artillery battery during Operation Carentan II northwest of here recently, but point blank firing blunted the attack and netted 30 enemy killed.

The Communists tried to breach the perimeter defenses of B Btry., 1st Bn. (Abn), 221st Arty, after crawling to within 50 meters of the outer bunker line encircling the gun positions.

"They came at us screaming and yelling like madmen," said Pfc. Curtis Jenkins, Philadelphia, and assistant gunner. "All we did was grab our weapons and piled 'em up as they tried to break through the perimeter."

Lt. James C. Ritter, Ft. Campbell, Ky., took command of the battery and directed fire on the enemy. He quickly ordered all gun crews to fire anti-personnel rounds at nearly point blank range, stopping the main enemy thrust.

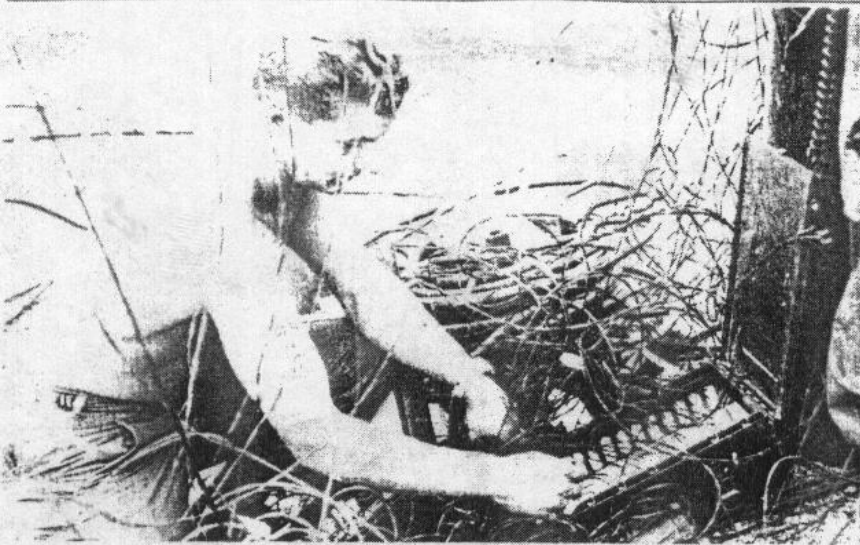
Ritter left his command post briefly to supervise a different type of "firefight" in the battery ammo dump. When he returned, all of the battery's guns were still blazing.

As the enemy force broke contact and fled, aerial observers spotted many enemy soldiers being dragged off the battlefield by their no longer ambitious comrades.



Silent Vigilance

A machine-gun team keeps a sharp look out for NVA regulars during Operation Carentan II north of Phu Bai recently. Pfc. Theodore R. Hollis, Sillsbee, Tex., the gunner, and Spec. 4 Terry M. McCauley, Seattle, Wash., are members of the 2nd Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf. (Photo by Spec. 4 Ben Croxton)



Spaghetti Man

Connecting the many required communications lines coming into Camp Eagle from other field command posts and support bases into a terminal box is signalman Pfc. John J. Baumann, Irvington, N.J. It is here that Maj. Gen. O. M. Barsanti, division commander, is directing Operation Carentan II, resulting in more than 600 enemy deaths in northern I Corps during the first month of fighting. (Photo by Spec. 4 Nate Lynch)

Medic Braves River, Enemy To Rescue Man

By Spec. 4 Charles Bailey
HUE—Medic! Medic! A blast of automatic weapons fire or an exploding mortar round can instantly change a paratrooper into a casualty, "Doc" with his aid kit, skill, and courage into an instant hero.

During a firefight north of here recently, Spec. 4 Frank Gentile, Greenwich Village, N.Y., a medic with the 2nd Bn. (Abn), 501st Inf., became such a hero.

"Gentile swam 120 feet across a river to a wounded man who was stranded on the other side," said Spec. 5 Larry L. LaBorde, Biloxi, Miss., another medic.

The owner of two Silver Stars swam across the river while a firefight raged from bank to bank. He held his aid kit and deflated air-mattress above his head as he swam, making himself as little a target as possible.

"When I got to the other side, I had to pull myself out of the water," Gentile said. "I didn't think I could do it. I was so tired."

But he made it onto the side of the river, and in a low-crouching run made his way to the wounded paratrooper.

Gentile dressed his wounds and inflated his air-mattress. After dragging the man's limp body to the river bank, he lowered the mattress down onto the water.

"After I put the fellow on top

of it, I began swimming down stream pushing him ahead of me," he said. Gentile swam 400 yards down the swiftly-moving river, trying to get out of the firefight to a safe area so a MEDEVAC helicopter could land and extract the wounded trooper.

"While I was in the water, he stopped breathing five times," the 29-year-old medic said. "Each time I pulled myself up onto the mattress. I gave him mouth-to-mouth resuscitation or massaged his heart until he resumed breathing."

Wounded Troops Saved By Silver Star Winners

PHAN THIET — Two paratroopers from the 3rd Bn. (Abn), 506th Inf. recently received the Silver Star here for heroic actions while the "Currahees" blunted the Communist Tet offensive against this coastal city.

Sgt. Arlen R. Mayfield, Jr., Lewisville, Tex., a squad leader with A Co., volunteered for a dangerous night patrol to retrieve wounded comrades from an enemy position.

Mayfield guided the patrol since he knew the exact location of all of the casualties. He acquired this knowledge by making the original assault and was pinned down near them until an air strike allowed him to get away, although he was pinned

The helicopter circled high above Gentile and his patient, waiting for an opportunity to land.

Finally the wiry little medic succeeded in pushing the raft out of danger and found a place where the helicopter could set down. In seconds the chopper landed and was airborne again with the wounded man on board.

Later, after checking on the man's condition, Gentile was pleased to find out his work was not in vain. The man was going to live.

down in another area for almost two hours before he made it back to his company's night defensive perimeter.

The citation read, in part: "Upon returning to the site that night, Mayfield made several trips to drag the casualties back to the security element, including one man who was on the front porch of a building the Viet Cong were using as a bunker."

"During the patrol, he was under continuous sniper fire and occasional mortar fire. A sweep of the area the next day revealed 19 enemy bodies and numerous blood trails."

Pfc. John P. Meigaard, Los Angeles, a member of headquarters company, was pinned down by intense automatic weapons fire near a landing zone northwest of here. Upon learning of a wounded man lying in the open in need of help, Meigaard ran through enemy fire to reach the paratrooper.

The medic treated the casualty, and assisted in carrying him off the battlefield. Three more troopers were wounded while enroute to the landing zone.

The citation read, in part: "Meigaard, still under intense fire, treated these individuals and assisted them across 80 meters of open field, constantly exposing himself to enemy rounds."

Commander's Corner

M. G. O. M. Barsanti



I have read many accounts of your jungle fighting and each account bears out my belief in the value of the night ambush. Many of you recall the accelerated training you received prior to deploying with the division for Vietnam, and the emphasis that was placed on night fighting. Since that time, I have seen you become competent, confident, night fighters. You have become good at it, the results and achievements speak for themselves. You have become proficient in moving with stealth, ease, and cunning to predetermined ambush positions during the hours of darkness. You have shown that the long night, many times just a patient vigil resulting in nothing, has in no way discouraged your confidence in the value of night action. When a target has presented itself, the decisive precision with which you have triggered the violent and explosive action is the mark of a seasoned fighter. You have prepared well, you have "stoien the night from the enemy." He is no longer sure that he can move safely after dark. This slows him down and shows people he is not the vaunted fighter he would have us try to believe he is.

The strategy of the night ambush is not new. It has been employed in every major war. It is especially characteristic of the airborne. In this division, I have established a policy whereby we conduct a large percentage of our fighting at night, thus keeping relentless pressure on the enemy. He has long lost the day and has had to resort to the night for movement and resupply, but now that has been taken from him in our areas of operation.

"Charlie" now literally risks his life when he ventures forth at night. You have fought in the jungles, the mountains, the villages, and among the coastal sand dunes, defeating the enemy in bunkers, foxholes, and trenches with many of these actions successfully accomplished at night. In the Screaming Eagles' area of operation, the night belongs to us.

Take note that the enemy does not seek us—he tried to avoid us—and he moves at night. Exploit this fact. It will pay us handsomely in victories and lives saved among our troops. Keep your night fighting skill sharp by developing and practicing patience, stealth, fire discipline, and proper weapons employment techniques.

As of April 28th, this division has killed 834 enemy at night since arriving in Northern I Corps Tactical Zone. The night belongs to us! Keep up the good work.

Troopers Overrun NVA Position Close To LZ

PHU BAI—Paratroopers from the division recently overran an attempted NVA ambush north of here, killing five insurgents.

While moving down a trail to secure a landing zone (LZ), paratroopers of C Co., 2nd Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf. began receiving intense enemy fire.

"We were within 150 meters of the LZ when we received automatic weapons fire from two concealed bunkers to our right flank," said SFC Julius C. Herron, Goldsboro, N.C.

Herron got his men on line and gave the command to "...get low and follow me." The men began moving toward the bunkers, utilizing fire and movement. The rest of the element, commanded by Lt. George F. Reaves, Jacksonville, Fla.,

maneuvered in from the left front, forcing the remaining enemy to withdraw.

The company then continued its sweep to the landing zone site but they were again brought under fire. Reaves immediately requested air support, and within minutes, gunships were hovering overhead.

Once again Reaves' unit was sent to the left flank while Herron's element pushed straight up the trail. The troopers pushed on, advancing cautiously and neutralizing bunker after bunker as they moved.

A sweep of the area netted three AK-47's, two SKS carbines, and one RPG rocket launcher. The enemy force, in their hasty retreat, left behind five dead soldiers.



New Sergeant Major

Receiving congratulations for his promotion to sergeant major of the 1st Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf. is Cecil J. Cash, Stone Mountain, Ga. The five star salute includes Lt. Gen. William B. Rossen, commander of Provisional Corps, Vietnam, and Maj. Gen. O. M. Barsanti, 101st Division commander. (Photo by Spec. 5 Eddie Rusk)

The Screaming Eagle



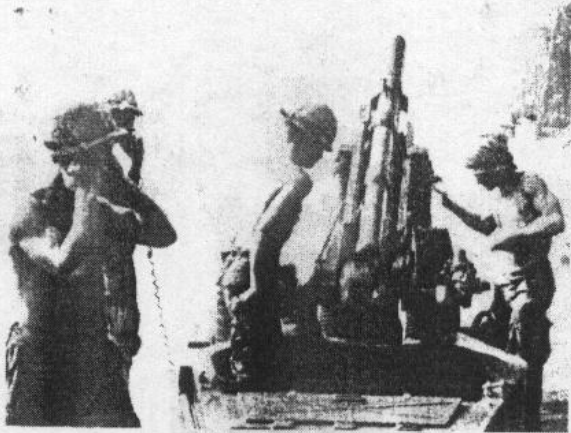
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Heliborne Assault Nets Rockets Aimed At 1st Cav



Fire Mission

This howitzer gun crew from A Btry., 2nd Bn. (Abn), 319th Arty. sends a round on its way toward enemy positions south of Phuoc Vinh. Holding his fingers in his ears is assistant gunner Pfc. Warren Young, Baltimore, as Staff Sgt. William Pratcher, Memphis, receives the "fire" command. Pfc. Marvin Gulhousen, Jacksonville, Fla., prepares to catch the extracted casing as Pfc. Lon Hanson, Los Angeles, pulls the lanyard. (Photo by Sp4 Robert Sennott, Jr.)

CAMP EVANS — Nine 122mm enemy rockets, already primed and aimed for the heart of the base camp of the 1st Air Cavalry Div. here in northern I Corps, were snared in a daring heliborne assault during daylight hours by a platoon of paratroopers from the division.

Running before the Screaming Eagles was an estimated NVA company who chose not to defend their hilltop bunker complex. Instead they fled into the heavy jungle.

The HU-123 assault helicopters carrying paratroopers of the 1st Platoon, C Co., 1st Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf. set down on top of the enemy bunkers. Some of them hovered low over the uneven terrain to let the paratroopers jump out and form a hasty perimeter.

"We expected sure contact," said Sgt. Thomas N. Grassel, Worcester, Mass. "This place had already been bombed and hit before by helicopter gunships and artillery, but nearly all of

the bunkers were still intact."

The paratroopers found the deadly 5½-foot long rockets set in bamboo braces and wired so that all nine could be fired off at once. "We sighted along the rockets and every one of them was aimed right at Camp Evans," said platoon leader Lt. Terry F. Stuloe, Chattanooga, Tenn.

Members of the "First Strike" Battalion, assigned with the task of defending this base camp, were alerted to the Communist rocket menace by an Air Force observation pilot, who spotted the enemy stronghold in a clearing atop Hill 350, southwest of here by 12,000 meters.

"There were at least 35 bunkers in an area about the size of a football field," Grassel said. "All around us there was nothing but a silent green wall of jungle."

Besides the rockets, the paratroopers found a sandbag full of AK-47 ammunition, several blocks of TNT satchel charges and numerous blood trails leading into the jungle.

"They had built some pretty elaborate bunkers," said Sgt. Bobby L. Harrell, Anniston, Ala. "They used heavy bamboo, rocks, and grass for camouflage."

The battalion commander, Lt. Col. Bertram J. Bishop, Washington, D.C., followed his men into the enemy base camp and picked up the nine rockets and other captured gear in his command control helicopter.

"If we hadn't got those rockets during the day, they might have hit us with them that night," said Sgt. Ronald G. Nagy, a squad leader from Bath, Pa.

NVA Battalion CO Slain By 501st Troops

HUE — Paratroopers of the division killed an NVA battalion commander during an early morning ambush north of here recently during Operation Carentan II.

The high ranking NVA officer was one of seven enemy killed

during the ambush trap set off by members of the 3rd Platoon, C Co., 1st Bn. (Abn), 501st Inf.

"It was nearly dawn when I heard voices coming down the trail where we were ready to take up our claymores," said Staff Sgt. David A. Tucker, Nashville, Tenn. "I noticed two NVA regulars coming up in line with the one that I set, so I set it off when they were within its range."

After engaging an enemy patrol with small arms fire, the remaining insurgents fled and a paratrooper fire team went outside their perimeter to investigate.

"We saw seven bodies and found a field pack on one of them containing lots of documents," Tucker said. "Then we came to one of them that was just carrying a pistol, so we knew he was an officer."

The documents recovered confirmed that he was the commander of the 1st Bn., 803rd NVA Regiment.

Uninvited Guests

1/502 Invades NVA Hideout

HUE—An unknown size Communist force proved themselves terrible hosts as they evacuated their mountain hideout north of here recently only minutes before a company of "Screaming Eagles" dropped in for lunch.

Paratroopers of B Co., 1st Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf. found pots of rice simmering on wood-burning stoves and wash basins, complete with bars of soap still wet and sullied from Communist hands.

In their haste, the fleeing NVA regulars abandoned a carbine and two semi-automatic rifles—an unpardonable sin among top combat troops.

Shielded from aerial detection by a heavy jungle canopy, the complex of huts, bunkers and tunnels was judged to be a haven for at least a company and possibly a battalion of NVA regulars.

The discovery came when Spec. 4 Noel S. Andrewin, Brooklyn, N.Y., knelt at a stream to fill his canteen and

spotted a well-camouflaged hut dug into the mountainside.

"It blended into the jungle so well, I almost didn't see it at all," Andrewin said. "Their hooch was made out of straw and bamboo and was big enough for about 15 enemy soldiers."

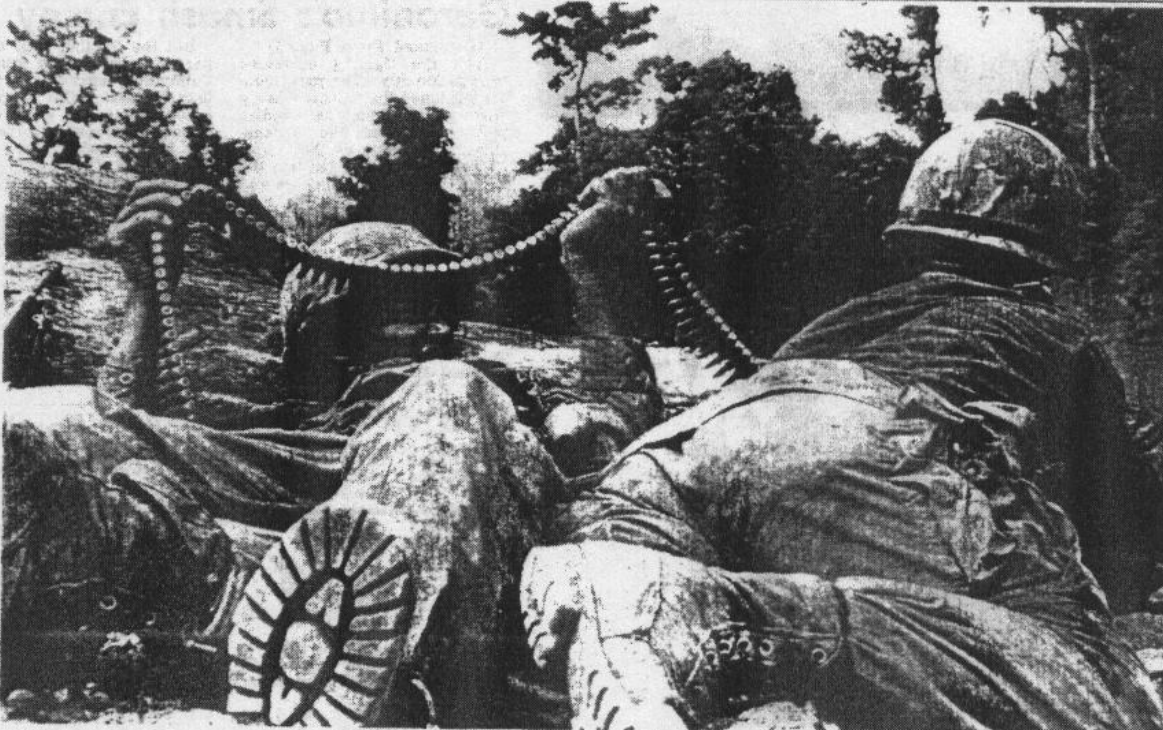
Under the hut's bamboo floor-mat, he found a one-man bunker and a tunnel leading toward a nearby trail.

The trail turned out to be the axis of a base camp that

stretched up the mountainside and included about 20 huts.

"The trail sounded hollow when we walked on it," Andrewin said, "so we did a little digging and found a tunnel underneath that stretched all the way up the trail."

Each hooch had an underground connection to the main tunnel and there were spider holes dug at intervals to serve as firing ports along the trail, he said.



'Keep Feeding 'Em Baby'

Spec. 4 Calvin Harrison, Bronx, N.Y., feeds an ammunition belt into the M-60 machine-gun of Spec. 4 Ronald D. Davis, Kingston, N.C., as he provides a base of fire for attacking infantrymen of C Co., 2nd Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf. The paratroopers overran a bunker complex north of Phu Bai recently during Operation Carentan II. (Photo by Spec. 5 Richard McLaughlin)

Special Birthday For Currahees

PHAN THIET—For most units serving in Vietnam, the beginning of April marked an uneventful turn of the calendar with the anticipation of another month of hard fighting ahead. But for the "Currahees" of the 3rd Bn. (Abn), 506th Inf., it had a special meaning.

It was their first birthday since reactivation last April 1 at Fort Campbell, Ky. The day in Vietnam ended with the confirmation of their 506th enemy killed since they arrived for combat in late October of last year.

Conducting Operation McLean northwest of here, paratroopers of C Co. made contact with a Viet Cong squad. The historic kill was made by Sgt. O'Neil Newark, Kelly, N.C., when he shot a Viet Cong officer from 275 meters away, saving his platoon leader from an enemy ambush.

Orphanages Receive Help From Eagles

HUE—A 2½ ton truck carrying paratroopers from the division on a good-will mission rumbled through the war torn streets of the imperial city laden with sacks of rice, flour, tool kits, boxes of soap and toothbrushes recently.

Key passengers were Maj. Paul S. Moscovic, Cannonsburg, Pa., civil affairs officer, Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Donald R. Sather, Madison, Minn., and assistant Chaplain (Maj.) James A. Peleman, Wilmington, Del. Their first stop was the office and residence of two Catholic Sisters, Marcella Shuller, Minneapolis, and Elizabeth Sadler, Cleveland, of the Catholic Relief Service, Vietnam.

Moscovic contacted the Sisters when he learned they were trying to assist several orphanages near here. After talking with Sister Marcella and introducing the chaplains, Moscovic and his assistant, Spec. 4 Michael Killby, Richmond, Va., drove the group to the Vien Bao Anh orphanage, where 102 Vietnamese boys live.

The oldest is 17-year-old Nguyen Tra, the group's leader. With him stood Sister Sadler, who arrived earlier to help supervise the cleaning and reconstruction of the buildings damaged by the war.

As the truck pulled into the courtyard, many of the boys' faces turned questioningly to Sister Sadler and Nguyen Tra. Again the Screaming Eagles were introduced by their interpreter, Miss Phan Thi Hien Vien, before all the boys began to unload their share of the precious cargo from the truck.

The chaplains began to hand out tools and demonstrated their use to the boys. Meanwhile Mos-

covic supervised the rice and flour distribution while Sister Shuller showed some of the boys the proper use of the soap.

As the paratroopers left Vien Bao Anh, the faces questioned no more. Smiles replaced their anxiety as they waved their new toothbrushes in a good-by gesture.

"It feels good to be able to help these young people," Moscovic told the group in the truck. "I only wish we could do so much more for them."

Following a 10-minute drive, they entered the courtyard of a second orphanage and were greeted this time by two Buddhist nuns. Soon most of the 118 boys and girls of the Co Nui Vien Tay Loc orphanage crowded around the truck.

After discovering their mission, the nuns immediately expressed their appreciation and deepest gratitude to the paratroopers.

Again more tool kits, rice, flour, soap and toothbrushes were distributed. The instant reward was seen by the civil affairs team as a glimmer of hope lit the children's faces.



Easy Does It

A large sack of rice is steadied on the shoulder of a Vietnamese boy at the Vien Bao Anh orphanage near Hue by division civil affairs officer, Maj. Paul S. Moscovic, Cannonsburg, Pa. He is assisted by Spec. 4 Michael Killby, Richmond, Va. Rice, toothbrushes, tool kits and soap were also distributed. (Photo by Spec. 4 Nate Lynch)

Cold Shower Turns Hot

PHUOC VINH—A cold shower turned into a hot one for a paratrooper of the division here recently.

"I had been in the shower for about three minutes and was completely soaped up. I remember that the water was pretty cold," said Staff Sgt. Frank Butler, Palmetto, Fla.

Then the enemy began dropping 82mm mortar rounds into the base camp area.

"The explosions were very rapid and close. I dropped to the floor and seconds later bits of hot metal tore into the shower stall where I had been standing," said the B Co., 501st Signal Battalion trooper.

"I'd sure look silly wearing a flak jacket into the shower, but if this happens again, I may just try it," Butler said.

Paratroops Complete Operation Jeb Stuart

HUE—Paratroopers from the 2nd Brigade concluded their phase of Operation Jeb Stuart in northern I Corps recently following a four-day battle which took 248 Communist lives in Quang Dien District.

The kills were scored by the airborne infantrymen of the 1st Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf. along with those of D Co., 2nd Bn. (Abn),

501st Inf., plus artillery and air strikes.

The paratroopers attacked a giant bunker complex housing an estimated NVA battalion.

The early days of the battle saw 23 NVA and Viet Cong perish in ambushes by the paratroopers as artillery and air strikes pounded the enemy stronghold.

On the fourth day, "Strike Force" paratroopers from A Co., commanded by Capt. Terry Spieffberg, Tacoma, Wash., penetrated the gates of an enemy-held village and killed 23 insurgents. Companies B and C, advancing behind a wall of supporting automatic weapons fire and grenades, killed seven more enemy.

Sweeping the area the next day, A Co. counted 88 enemy bodies resulting from artillery fire and air strikes. All batteries of the 1st Bn. (Abn), 321st Arty. blasted the enemy positions steadily during the four days.

The body count for the battle raised the 2nd Brigade's toll on the enemy during Operation Jeb Stuart to 1011. The paratroopers took 130 detainees during the operation also.

Geronimo's Smash Enemy

(Continued From Page 1)
Then the fighting continued to rage fiercely. The paratroopers tightened their noose, slowly moving across the rice paddies that surrounded the village, killing the enemy as they went.

"Tear gas was hurled into the village by ground launchers and low-flying helicopters," Tallman said. Three Communists with burning throats and crying eyes scrambled out of a concealed bunker directly in front of the oncoming paratroopers. They were quickly disarmed and detained.

More air strikes were called in and the "redleg" artillery pounded the village again and again. "I've never seen anyone receive such a beating," said Lt. W.F. Aronow, Great Falls, Mont., executive officer with D Co. "I don't see how anyone could live through that artillery pounding."

Awards

BRONZE STAR "V"

Capt. Paul W. Bucha, 3/187
Capt. William T. Knapp, 328 Med. Bn.
Lt. Patrick C. Brooks, 2/508
Plt. Sgt. Herman L. Trent, 2/308
Staff Sgt. Delbert L. Mulvaney, 2/17 Cav.
Staff Sgt. James L. Patao, 2/508
Sgt. Patrick Bayard, 1/508
Sgt. Billy L. Simmons, 3/508
Sgt. Edward R. Tilson, 2/308
Spec. 4 Gary E. Munoz, Hqs. 2nd Bde
Spec. 4 Ralph W. Newby, 2/508
Spec. 4 Michael F. Dunphin, 1/501
Spec. 4 Lawrence E. Mize, 2/501



Keeping Dry

Fording a stream in a Vietnamese canoe north of Hue are Spec. 4 George R. Sanchez, Laredo, Tex., and Spec. 4 Patrick Hurley, San Diego. The 2nd Brigade infantrymen were operating with B Co., 1st Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf. during Operation Carentan II.

(Photo by Spec. 4 Paul Higgs)

2/501st Paratroopers Complete Successful Amphibious Assault

HUE—Becoming faintly audible above the sound of the South China Sea night surf was the steady whine of U.S. Navy patrol boat engines.

Suddenly the huge ramp-door of the amphibious craft slammed down onto the wet sand. Thirty-two division paratroopers raced down the ramp and disappeared into the night.

Three-thousand meters down the coast, another "sea monster" landed and 28 more paratroopers were disgorged.

"It was the first sea assault for us," said Capt. Michael Birdwell, Modesto, Calif., commander of C Co., 2nd Bn. (Abn), 501st Inf. Three platoons were used in the assault of a Viet Cong village during Operation Carentan II.

"Our platoon landed first and became a blocking force," said Staff Sgt. Fred Moye, Princeton, W. Va.

Between the two forces, several thousand meters inland, another platoon, led by Lt. Robert Santos, Long Beach, N.Y., moved into another blocking position. The only escape route open to the Viet Cong was by sea.

"With dawn's first light, Sgt. Poole's platoon began moving toward the village," Birdwell said. "The Communists were caught completely by surprise."

Poole's men swept through the village, nabbing the 17 Viet Cong at their breakfast tables. Those who tried to escape were quickly netted by the blocking forces.