

2nd Bde Gets Pres. Citation

HUE—South Vietnam's President Nguyen Van Thieu presented Col. John H. Cushman and the paratroopers of the division's 2nd Brigade Task Force the Vietnamese Presidential Unit citation here recently in recognition of their combat record while operating in northern I Corps during the last five months.

In front of COMUSMACV, Gen. Creighton W. Abrams, and other allied military commanders, including 101st Airborne Division Commander, Maj. Gen. O. M. Barsanti, Thieu stepped down into the hot sun and attached a special streamer to the brigade's colors and pinned the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm on Cushman's chest.

During the ceremony the entire citation was read first in Vietnamese, then in English. The citation read in part:

"During Operation Carentan II conducted from 19 April to May, 1968, in the Delta of Quang Dien District, the 2nd Brigade Task Force bravely attacked and destroyed the enemy command post and completely stopped any further enemy attempt to attack Hue.

"During Operation Nevada Eagle, the unit was successful in defending the people's crops, causing many casualties to hostile units of the 5th Viet Cong labor camp and destroying the 803rd Regiment of the 324th NVA regular forces.

"As a result of these opera-

tions, 2,382 enemy were killed, 257 suspects were detained and 724 weapons were captured."

Thieu chose the Republic of Vietnam's Armed Forces Day for the occasion of presenting the distinguished unit citation.

Maj. Gen. Ngo Quang Truong, commander of the ARVN 1st Infantry Division, and his troops were also presented the same citation for their participation in operations in the 11th Division tactical zone in northern I Corps.

Highlight of the 2nd Brigade's tactical operations during this I Corps fighting was the highly successful cordon of Thon Phuoc Yen village in Thua Thien province. During that five-day battle, 309 NVA regulars were

killed and 104 gave themselves up to paratroopers from each of the 2nd Brigade battalions.

Division elements that formed the 2nd Brigade Task Force that are now eligible to wear the Vietnamese Presidential Unit Citation include: 1st Bn. (Abn), 501st Inf.; 2nd Bn. (Abn), 501st Inf.; 1st Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf.; 2nd Brigade Headquarters; 1st Bn. (Abn), 321st Arty.; 2nd Sqd., 17th Cav.; C Co., 326th Eng. Bn. (Abn); B Co., 326th Med. Bn. (Abn); B Co., 501st Sign. Bn. (Abn); 2nd Plt., A Co., 301st Maint. Bn. (Abn); Forward Support Element, 501st Supply Co.; 2nd Plt., 101st M.P. Co.; 2nd Plt., 265th Radio Research Co.; and members of the 34th Public Information Detachment.



HIGHEST TRIBUTE—Col. John H. Cushman, commander of the division's 2nd Brigade, receives the Vietnamese Presidential Unit Citation from President Nguyen Van Thieu during the republic's Armed Forces Day celebration in Hue recently. The 2nd Brigade Task Force was awarded the citation for its outstanding performance in northern I Corps during Operations Carentan II and Nevada Eagle. (Photo by Spec. 4 Robert Johnston)

The Screaming Eagle



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THE STALKER—101st Airborne Division trooper Staff Sgt. Robert S. Harris, York, Pa., uses the quick kill position in leading C Co., 2nd Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf. in a reconnaissance-in-force mission during Operation Nevada Eagle being conducted north of Hue. (Photo by Spec. 5 Richard McLaughlin)

Four Generals Praise Eagles Role In Operation Delaware

CAMP EAGLE — Maj. Gen. O.M. Barsanti, division commander, received messages here from four generals lauding the Screaming Eagles' performance in Operation Delaware completed recently.

"On behalf of the Joint General Staff of the RVN Armed Forces, I wish to extend my deep appreciation and warm congratulations to all those who took part in the remarkable series of actions at A Shau and Aluoi," said Gen. Cao Van Vien.

"To the remarks of General Vien, I add my personal congratulations for a job well done," said Gen. William C. Westmoreland. "The professional competence displayed by the officers and men who participated in this achievement reflects great credit on themselves, this command, and the United States forces."

A message from Lt. Gen. R.E. Cushman, commander of the III Marine Amphibious Force, also praised the para-

troopers for their "military professionalism."

The fourth message was from Lt. Gen. W. B. Rosson, provisional corps commander. "Congratulations to the Screaming Eagles for another magnificent combat accomplishment," he said.

In a recent communique the division commander told his men they had every right to feel proud of themselves and their unit.

900 Enemy Dead In Nevada Eagle

CAMP EAGLE — Paratroopers from the division's 1st and 2nd Brigades killed 55 and recovered 37 enemy bodies from previous actions during a week of light and scattered contact near Hue recently.

The kills pushed Operation Nevada Eagle's five-week toll on the enemy to more than 900. More than 1,800 weapons were captured during the time span also.

In the largest recent action, airborne troops from the 2nd Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf. killed 27 as they engaged an estimated enemy company southwest of the imperial city.

The infantrymen called in artillery and tactical air strikes on their well-entrenched foes during the fierce fighting. A final paratrooper assault drove them from their positions and into the dense jungle, where contact was lost shortly before dark.

A sweep of the battlefield found 37 enemy bodies, 20 weapons and a 122mm rocket launcher.

Viet Cong Rally

Psychological Operations paid a dividend also when a Viet Cong village chief rallied to the government because all of his soldiers had been captured by division elements.

Meanwhile Screaming Eagle forces captured 31,000 pounds of rice in one day as they continued the rice denial phase of the operation.

The rest of the week's action featured successful ambushes of small enemy elements northwest of Hue.

A patrol from the 2nd Bn.

(Abn), 501st Inf. engaged a small NVA force from an ambush position four miles northwest of Hue, killing four. The next day four Viet Cong were killed in a night ambush by a patrol from the same battalion.

Ambush Patrols

Ambush patrols from the 1st Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf. and the 2nd Bn. (Abn), 501st Inf. had earlier made contact with an unknown enemy force three miles further north. The infantrymen returned fire and called for artillery support. A sweep of the contact areas revealed five enemy bodies.

Elsewhere troopers from 1st Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf. drove the enemy from a bunker complex and seized more than 1,200 gallons of gasoline and diesel fuel.

20-Year Wait

HUE — Reaching back through 20 years of their Army careers, General William C. Westmoreland and Sergeant Major A.B. Cannon of San Angelo, Tex., met at the division headquarters here recently for some unfinished business.

Sgt. Maj. Cannon, of the 2nd Brigade, had orders making him a Master Parachutist dated 15 June, 1948. There was no signature above Westmoreland's name block.

As Westmoreland signed the special order Cannon had kept for so long, he said, "From looking at the order, I see you were a staff sergeant in 1948 and I was a lieutenant colonel. I guess we've both come up a bit."



ALWAYS CONCERNED—Maj. Gen. O.M. Barsanti, commanding general of the 101st Airborne Division, monitors incoming action reports in the field north of Hue at tactical command posts and fire support bases. Radio-telephone operator is Spec. 4 Jack A. Teamore, a member of the 1st Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf. of the 1st Brigade.

2nd Bde Mess Sgt Fixes 'Great' Chow

LZ SALLY — When paratroopers from the 2nd Brigade deployed to I Corps from Cu Chi last January, the men of the Headquarters Co. and supporting units could expect a box of cold C-rations and a sympathetic smile when it came around to meal time.

But thanks to the hard work of mess sergeant Roger K. Erickson, Worcester, Mass., more than 250 hungry GIs are now eating hot meals three times a day, seven days a week.

"It all wasn't accomplished overnight," Erickson said. "as we gradually improved the quality of the food and methods of its preparation."

Gradually the troopers' chow escalated to hot Cs, then to canned and powdered B-rations, and finally to the relative elegance of freshly prepared A-rations.

In the early days, a soldier took his meal and a canteen cup full of warm Kool-Aid and squatted blissfully on the nearest sandbag. In bad weather, the problem was more acute, as all of the office tents overflowed with eating and working personnel.

Then one day a GP-large tent appeared in the rear of the mess tent. Those who knew where the tent came from weren't talking, and those who didn't know were polite enough not to ask.

Instead of many mess tents, now there was one, complete

with table, chairs and even napkins. Gone forever was the race back to the office before a hamburger cooled from the effects of wind and rain.

"You can always improve a mess hall," said Staff Sgt. Harry L. Harris, Clarksville, Tenn., second man in charge. And that is exactly what the resourceful NCO did.

After a one-day scavenger hunt, Harris rolled into the paratroopers' base camp with plywood, tin roofing, frame lumber and concrete. After hard work by the brigade's "combat spoons," the base camp troops now eat in a solidly built tropical building, well-ventilated, and even built on a concrete floor.

Civil Affairs Team Builds Orphanage

CAMP EAGLE—Amid the war-scarred city of Hue, 114 Vietnamese orphans are now leading happier lives, thanks to the Division Artillery civil affairs section.

Capt. Daniel L. Davis, Fulton, Mo., civil affairs officer, was scouting for a civic action project when he came across the skeleton of an orphanage. Working with the U.S. Mission, he took charge of the reconstruction.

"We got tin roofing, cement, sand and lumber from Vietnamese and American sources," Davis said. "Vietnamese laborers did the work itself."

Helping the Vietnamese to help themselves is a pivotal part of civil affairs.

As the project neared completion, a gift of \$1,000 from American citizens was presented to the Vietnamese for the orphanage's upkeep. "The money will buy paint, desks and beds for the youngsters," Davis said.

USARV Sets Weapon Rule

No one in a combat zone is denied a weapon, but their use depends on the tactical situation. USARV Regulation 210-5 holds commanders responsible for the storage, safeguarding and disposal of the weapons until a situation demands that they be issued.

If a soldier is a line man the regulation does not take effect until he is sent back to a main base camp where an alert system is in effect and permanent guards are assigned to alert the area in case of attack.

Engineers Blow Tunnel Complex In Dense Jungle

HUE-PHU BAI — Charges are set, wires laid and the area cleared. The fuse is lit and suddenly a voice echoes "Fire in the hole" through the dense undergrowth, followed by a cracking explosion.

Another one of "Charlie's" hiding places is blown away by paratrooper engineers of Co. C, 326th Engineer Bn. (Abn).

Recently the engineers sent two demolition teams to blow six tunnels and several bunkers found by Co. C, 2nd Bn. (Abn), 501st Inf. north of here.

The airborne infantrymen had found the extensive tunnel complex carved in the side of a jungle-covered mountain. It contained an array of rifles, typewriters, radios, cameras and clothing.

The tunnels ranged from 50 to 150 feet in length with two or more exits, and were three feet in diameter.

"They were so solid and built so far underground that I knew

we could not completely cave them in," said Staff Sgt. James Scofield, Black River Falls, Wis. "We decided to blow up crystals of an anti-riot agent inside the tunnel, and at the same time cave in the entrances to seal the gas inside."

The engineers placed explosive charges at 25-foot intervals, accompanied by bags of crystals. "Because of the crystals it was important to rig everything to blow at once," Scofield explained.

With everything in place the fuses were lit and the demolition crews moved clear of the area. The ensuing explosion successfully closed the tunnel entrances before the gas could escape.

"The anti-riot agent was sealed in those tunnels and will last about one or two years," Scofield said. "If the enemy come back and opens those caved-in entrances, he's going to be in for a big surprise."



FRIENDLY ASSISTANCE—A division civil affairs officer, Capt. James Edwards, Mendota, Ill., gives packages of food to student spokesman Nguyen-Lan for other students at the university in Hu during a recent visit to Vietnam's institution for higher learning. (Photo by Spec. 4 Nate Lynch)

1/505, 239th RFs Team Up

CAMP RODRIGUEZ — Troopers of the 1st Bn (Abn), 505th Inf., 3rd Bde, 82nd Airborne Division and Vietnamese soldiers of the 239th Regional Forces Company proved the effectiveness of joint search and clear missions near here recently.

The operation, conducted

southeast of Hue, was directed by Col. Alexander R. Bolling, Ft. Bragg, N.C., from his command and control helicopter. Lt. Edward O'Donnel, St. Petersburg, Fla., commanded the ground forces as they searched for the Viet Cong.

The airborne infantrymen and the 239th searched the

area carefully — tunnels and holes for hiding weapons and men were thoroughly combed to deny the enemy any sanctuary. They netted 13 suspects and found one dead Viet Cong in full battle gear.

Lt. O'Donnel had high praise for the esprit and drive of his Vietnamese allies.



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Lost & Found Confuses VC

PHU BAI — Somewhere in the hills north of Hue lurks an unarmed NVA battalion, no doubt wondering what happened to its weapons.

The equipment, ranging from SKS carbines to 122mm rocket launchers, was captured recently by paratroopers of the division's 2nd Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf.

While conducting reconnaissance in force operations, the troopers encountered a large complex of enemy bunkers. After flanking the positions and assuring they were vacant, Lt. Thomas R. Sewell, Alexandria, Va., sent a squad to investigate the bunkers.

"The first two were empty," said Staff Sgt. Jerry Garrison, Montgomery, Ala. "When I looked into the third, I could hardly believe my eyes." Hidden in the small fortress was a variety of enemy weapons. The platoon leader immediately ordered an intensive search of the remaining bunkers and the surrounding area.

"Three of the bunkers were full of weapons and ammunition," Sewell said. "It took us most of the day to get the equipment out where we could assess it and prepare for its extraction to the rear."

After a long day of digging, the men of C Co. established a perimeter for the night. The next morning, Chinook helicopters began airlifting the find to the battalion command post.

The bunkers contained one 82mm mortar with seventy rounds of ammunition, 30 60mm mortar tubes complete with bipods, baseplates, sights and 60 rounds of ammunition, three

122mm rocket launchers, 147 SKS carbines, 11 AK-47 assault rifles, one Mauser, and 14 Chinese Communist machine guns.

There were also 340 B-40 rockets, 10 RPG rocket launchers, seven 60mm anti-tank rounds, two gas masks, two boxes of 7.62 ammo, 30 boxes of AK-47 ammo, three bags of plastic explosives, and 1 NVA soldier who had been killed by artillery.

The cache was described as containing enough weaponry to equip an NVA battalion.

Dentist's Work Is Endless

LZ SALLY — Pausing only to wash his hands, Army dentist (Capt.) John B. Carpenter greeted the day's 14th patient with a cheery "Airborne, troop."

The paratrooper dentist assigned to B Co., 326th Medical Bn. (Abn) here faces at least 25 cases a day.

"I wish some of my instructors from the University of Washington could see me now," the Helena, Mont. native said. "Everyday out here I run the gamut of dental problems under what would be considered back in the states adverse conditions. The text books never tell you what to do when the generators fail and all of your power shuts off," he said.

Preferring to handle his most tedious cases after dark because it is cooler, Carpenter's tent is often still crowded after most of the 2nd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division base camp has gone to sleep.

He often attracts several would-be dentists who meet in his tent for an account of everything he accomplished that day. "But my most avid listeners are usually the patients who are probably hearing for the first time what is wrong with their teeth," he said.

Decorations AIR MEDAL

Col. Lawrence L. Mowery, Hqs. 3rd Bde
Lt. Col. David E. Grange, 2/506
Spec. 4 Rochne A. Tibbetts, 1/501
Pfc. William E. Baker, 2/506
Pfc. Howard E. Wilson, 3/506
Pfc. Jose G. Ramos, 3/506
Pfc. Vicente Benavides, Jr. 1/502

AIR MEDAL "V"

CWO Robert F. Knight, Avn. Bn.
WO John Murry, Avn. Bn.
Spec. 5 Eugene A. Haskamp, Avn. Bn.

BRONZE STAR

Lt. Michael G. Watson, 1/321
CWO Edwin M. Leeper, Admin. Co. (20LC)
Spec. 6 Joseph C. Cox, 326 Med. Bn.
Spec. 3 James Dustman, 801 Maint. Bn.
Pfc. Bradley P. LeClear, 3/327
Pvt. Faulagoffle P. Malae, 3/506
Pfc. Joseph W. Short, 2/506



PERSISTENT PARATROOPERS—The thick jungles north of Hue do not stop the progress of these paratroopers from the division's 2nd Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf. as they conduct a reconnaissance-in-force operation during Operation Nevada Eagle. (Photo by Spec. 5 Richard McLaughlin)

15 VC Give Up Cautiously, Find Chieu Hoi Program OK

HUE-PHU BAI — In a flurry of revelation during the division's Operation Nevada Eagle, 13 enemy soldiers in nearby Quang Dien District decided there was no future in Communism.

Waving the Chieu Hoi leaflets guaranteeing safety, the ex-comrades came in twos and threes to surrender to local government troops and to elements of the 2nd Brigade's "First Strike" battalion.

Paratroopers from Co. C, 1st Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf. were just settling down to early breakfast when a Viet Cong soldier in a blue shirt and shorts walked timidly up to the company perimeter.

In one hand was an AK-47 assault rifle, and held protectively in the other was a Chieu Hoi leaflet.

"We didn't know he had a buddy hiding in the bushes with an SKS rifle," said Sgt. John E. Patrick, Laurel, Miss., a squad leader in the 2nd Platoon. "When the second Viet Cong realized we weren't going to harm them, he gave up, too."

The Viet Cong told the paratroopers they were in the area to join seven of their cohorts. When the others missed the rendezvous, the pair felt suddenly alone and chose wisdom instead of senseless valor.

As did the other Hoi Chans, the two cited artillery, air bombardment and the relentless pressure of the airborne troops as their reasons for giving up the fight.



SORRY ABOUT THAT, CHARLIE—Airborne infantrymen from the division's C Co., 1st Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf. test the maneuverability of one of the five enemy 85 mm howitzer cannons they captured north of Hue while on reconnaissance-in-force operations during Nevada Eagle. (Photo by Spec. 4 Terry M. McCauley)



AIR ASSAULT—Paratroopers from the division's 1st Brigade scramble out of a helicopter north of Hue during a reconnaissance-in-force mission. The men of C Co., 2nd Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf. are participating in Operation Nevada Eagle. (Photo by Spec. 5 Richard McLaughlin)

Tug-Of-War With 2 Viet Cong Explodes Into Smoky Firefight

HUE-PHU BAI — A tug-of-war exploded suddenly into a firefight when two Viet Cong officers tangled with division paratroopers recently near LZ Sally.

The Viet Cong, a captain and a lieutenant, had sealed themselves in a spider-hole bunker at the edge of a hamlet being swept by the 2nd Brigade's Co. B, 1st Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf.

When the paratroopers began to lift the door, it was immediately slammed shut from the inside. No matter how hard they tugged, they could not outpull the Viet Cong, who were in the best leverage position.

Realizing that a hand grenade dropped in the hole would probably come right back out at them, the airborne soldiers decided to use some strategy.

The battalion's intelligence non-commissioned officer, Staff Sgt. George M. Statler, Chambersburg, Pa., knew the bunker had to have at least one ventilation hole.

He suggested that they pry open the door just far enough to drop in a smoke grenade and then throw fragmentation grenades down the holes where the smoke came out.

"It seemed like a good plan," said Statler, "but the grenade got stuck in the doorway. Pretty soon there was red smoke all over the place."

Suddenly the trap-door sprang open and the Viet Cong captain popped up like a jack-in-the-box, tossed a grenade at Statler and began to sprint away carrying a Chicom automatic pistol. The lieutenant also jumped out and ran off in a different direction.

The grenade erupted in a mighty blast, but the Screaming

Eagles had hit the dirt and only one man was nicked by the shrapnel.

Meanwhile the Viet Cong lieutenant met instant death when he ran into one of the company's platoons just outside the village.

Not wishing to share his companion's fate, the senior Viet Cong whirled and found himself face to face with the com-

pany commander, Capt. William D. Hughes, Cordele, Ga.

"We stood for a moment, about ten yards apart, just staring at each other," Hughes said. "I wanted to give him a chance to surrender."

But the Viet Cong set himself on the run again, and Hughes killed him with a short burst from his stubby assault rifle.

Half an hour later, a squad of Viet Cong padded silently down the trail, looking for trouble. Directly in their path were two of the "Third Herd's" four-man positions, one on either side of the narrow trail.

"They couldn't see us, but we could see their silhouettes against the light from the brigade base camp," said Pfc. Donald J. Fore, Augusta, Ga.

"I put a shotgun round in my M-79 grenade launcher and waited until the lead man was about two yards away."

Fore's blast was followed immediately by exploding claymores, hand grenades, a machine gun and M-16s as the startled insurgents tried to run back to their village sanctuary.

At first light, the platoon followed two heavy blood trails into the village. At least three enemy were killed, by body count.

"We might have killed more if they weren't looking for us," a paratrooper said later. "But gossip kills, too."

Viet Cong Sympathizer Gives Away Position

HUE — A greeting from a suspected enemy sympathizer led to the destruction of a Viet Cong squad probing a night ambush position near here recently.

The 3rd Platoon of Co. D, 1st Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf. set up the position near a bridge outside an enemy-held village.

Shortly before midnight the paratroopers were surprised to hear a woman's voice say "hello" in Vietnamese. Peering into the darkness, Platoon Sgt. George J. Weber, Mansfield, Mass., discerned the shapes of five women carrying heavy bags of rice.

"They thought we were Viet Cong," Weber said. "When they found out we were Americans, they dropped the rice and ran away."

"We knew they would tell the Viet Cong we were out there," said Lt. Stanford J. Bailey, Marysville, Mich. "But we were in a good position and we had our claymore mines set up. We figured we could handle any-

1/506th Traps Foil VC Night

PHUOC VINH—A company from the Division's 3rd Brigade killed more than 40 enemy by body count in a week-long series of night ambushes near here recently.

"My men set up an ambush at the junction of two trails and were preparing for a long wait," said Platoon Leader Lt. Donald R. Leahy, Rochester, N.Y., Co. A, 1st Bn. (Abn), 506th Inf. "Just as it was getting dark, the enemy came down the trail."

"Their noise discipline was good and there was about five to ten meters between men. We could only get 12 to 15 in the 'kill zone' of our claymore mines," said Sgt. David Armock, Chippewa Lake, Mich.

The "Ambush Alpha" troopers waited until the Viet Cong point man was within five feet of their last man, Spec. 4 Lincoln Hogan, Columbia, S.C.

Spec. 4 John Brow, Braintree, Mass., opened up and triggered the ambush. Several positions covering the kill zone blew their claymores and the surviving Viet Cong were caught in the grazing cross-fire of two M-60 machine guns manned by Spec. 4 Robert L. Harvey, Saginaw, Mich., and Spec. 4 John VanRipper, Texarkana, Tex.

"I'm pretty sure we got at least 14 in the kill zone," said Spec. 4 Ecaracion Cano, Jr., San Antonio, Tex. "However, there were probably quite a few down the trail."

The paratroopers began receiving RPG rocket fire from several hundred meters up the trail, but they were dug in.

"We called artillery fire which came in right on top of the RPG flashes. It took less than three minutes for our artillery to respond," said Pfc. Jerry Ghearing, Wellston, Ohio.

The next morning, a sweep of the area revealed six bodies from the ambush and firing from the 2nd Bn. (Abn), 319th Arty. as well as numerous blood trails and drag marks.

"We heard them out there all night dragging their dead and wounded off. We threw quite a few grenades at them," Brow said. "They couldn't get to the six we found because they were only a few feet from our positions."

Among the dead was a commander of unknown rank. He had on him several documents of high intelligence value.

This was just one of many surprise night skirmishes initiated by the company in the space of a week.



ROUND ON THE WAY—Spec. 5 James L. Jones, Columbia, Tenn., drops a round into the tube of an 81 mm mortar while other members of the crew cover their ears. They are providing fire support for the units of the division during Operation Nevada Eagle. (Photo by Sgt. Ormer Rogers)

Rags To Detainees

HUE — An apparent pile of rags surprised a paratrooper from the 2nd Brigade by turning to life near here recently.

Spec. 4 Steven Selman, Victorville, Calif., of Co. B, 2nd Bn. (Abn), 501st Inf. was searching a village when he approached a house with furniture and boxes piled on the porch.

"I lifted the lid on one of the boxes and saw what appeared to be a pile of rags in the corner," Selman said.

As he replaced the lid the rags began to move. Soon an NVA lieutenant emerged with his hands in the air surrendering.