

Gen. Barsanti Says Goodby

By Maj. Gen. O. M. Barsanti

Camp Eagle—As I reminisce back over my year as Commander of the 101st Airborne Division, I ask myself, "What greater heights can a man reach?" The opportunity to command the famous "Screaming Eagles", and especially during battle, is one of the greatest honors that any one man can receive. I am doubly fortunate insofar as I brought the division, minus the 1st Brigade, to Vietnam.

A little over one year ago, at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, I took command knowing we would face difficult tasks ahead. In August, of last year, the official notification was received that the division was to deploy to Vietnam. Training cycles were established, personnel departed for off-post and out of state schooling, loading lists were updated, and the mountain of administrative planning began to rise.

Historic Deployment

When General Westmoreland requested our presence, at an earlier date than planned, it was necessary to accelerate our training program. This was accomplished and you were ready. We deployed 10,356 men more than 10,000 miles from Fort Campbell in Operation Eagle Thrust. We closed the division in 41 days, ready for our mission. Every man in this division who participated in this historic move is to be commended for a job well done.

On 13 December 1967, I arrived, with my staff, at Bien Hoa Air Base and reported to General Westmoreland, "The 101st Airborne Division reports for combat in Vietnam." After a short in-country training period, you were ready to meet and defeat the enemy. Uniting with our 1st Brigade, the division once again became a balanced fighting force. You have written, with blood and sweat, your place in history, and continue to fulfill the division's "Rendezvous With Destiny"—Bien Hoa, Phuoc Vinh, Cu Chi, Song Be, Phan Rang, Phan Thiet, Bao Loc, Hue/Phu Bai, Phuoc Yen, La Chu, Veghel, Pinky, Bastogne, Sally and Eagle are familiar names, recalling enduring memories to us all.

Pushed Hard

I have pushed hard and demanded much, always knowing what the results would be—success and victory. I have talked to you in burning villages, sand-bagged bunkers, foxholes, wet jungles, and in the blazing sun on the coastal dunes. Your answer to my queries added much to my knowledge of the success of our tactics. The tactics used by this division are not new; they are only the sound application of good principles of war. You came with a job to do—defeat the enemy—and you have done this job well.

To accomplish this we have employed every resource in the command, day and night. My philosophy is simple: continuous attack with multiple-actions; always attack under an umbrella of friendly artillery; when a lucrative target is found, mass forces; and company size actions continuous around the clock on all fronts. You are experts at the art of night fighting and jungle fighting; you have learned well the valuable lesson of reacting violently to enemy fire, never break contact, and shoot low.

Keep Excellence

You are a well decorated, distinguished unit. We have tried to decorate every deserving individual. This would be nearly every man in the division. During the last six months you have established records that other units have not surpassed in much longer periods of time. This is a tribute to your dedication, "will to win," and discipline as an airborne division. The curtain now unfolds on an era that will bring new glory to this proud unit. Let your memories remain strong and keep your driving sense of competition, excellence, and aggressiveness—AIRBORNE!

The Screaming Eagle



Vol. 1, No. 25

101st Airborne Division

July 15, 1968



Maj. Gen. O. M. Barsanti, division commander

One Year With Division

Courage, Personal Touch Mark CG's Reign

CAMP EAGLE — Maj. Gen. O. M. Barsanti's reign as commander of the division was marked by courageous performance and a personal touch.

His unit's seven-month record in Vietnam speaks for itself: more than 8,000 enemy killed, more than 350 detainees taken, and more than 2,650 weapons captured.

In four major combat operations he proved his Screaming Eagles were prepared to move anywhere, anytime and fight.

Warning Orders

The division minus one brigade received its warning orders for deployment to Vietnam the month after Barsanti assumed command July 1, 1967, at Ft. Campbell, Ky.

His airborne troops trained long and hard to develop the combat readiness they would soon display on the battlefield.

Their deployment was accomplished in record time via the largest military airlift of the Vietnam War, and "Bold Eagle's" arrival at Bien Hoa Air Base Dec. 13, 1967, marked the beginning of a new era.

Prove Readiness

His paratroopers wasted little time in proving their combat readiness. During the Communist Tet offensive soon after their arrival, they played a major role in protecting the cities of Saigon, Bien Hoa, Song Be, Hue and Quang Tri.

"There is a reason for your outstanding performance," Barsanti told his men. "It is because of the spirit of the airborne soldier, his confidence, bravery and esprit de corps."

It was during Tet that Barsanti earned the first of a long series of combat awards. He received the Air Medal with "V" Device for commanding troops, detecting targets and calling in air strikes from his command and control helicopter near the division headquarters at Bien Hoa.

Despite heavy fire on his aircraft, he directed his door gunners to silence enemy positions. The air strikes he called caused numerous enemy casualties and secondary explosions.

By March his division's scene of action had shifted to north-

ern I Corps and the construction of the forward base here.

With his 1st and 2nd Brigades and the 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division, under his operational control, Barsanti soon sent his troopers out for Operation Carentan, the first of three major operations designed to

See picture story on pages 4 and 5

ease the pressure on the battered city of Hue.

Personal Touch

Here again he displayed the personal touch that has won him so much success.

Co. B, 1st Bn (Abn), 501st Inf., whose morale was low because of casualties the previous day, was preparing to sweep the west bank of the Song Be River in Quang Dien District when Barsanti landed near its command post.

His mere presence boosted the troops' morale and confidence as he discussed the tacti-

cal situation with their commander.

The command post came under mortar attack before the briefing ended, however. Nevertheless Barsanti stayed with his men and left only after the attack lulled.

He ordered his helicopter pilot to fly at extremely low altitude and directed suppressive fire on suspected enemy positions.

For his heroism he was awarded his first Silver Star in Vietnam, the fourth of his career.

He won his fifth Silver Star a month later for his courageous and immediate involvement in the classic Battle of Phuoc Yen, which resulted in 429 NVA deaths and 107 detainees.

Making use of intelligence reports, he ordered the 1st Bn (Abn), 501st Inf. to surround the hamlet which was suspected of housing an NVA battalion.

Ground Control

During the five-day battle that followed, Barsanti spent most of his time on the ground, moving from position to posi-

tion under hostile fire to advise subordinate commanders and bolster the morale of the battle weary troops.

As the enemy tried to break through the cordon, he adjusted troop deployment to insure their containment. At one point he even accompanied two companies as they drove deep into the enemy's position.

Barsanti's feat was accomplished in spite of a painful leg wound suffered while returning from one of his numerous visits to the field.

Helicopter Hit

Seconds after its take-off from Fire Support Base Bastogne, Barsanti's helicopter had come under enemy fire.

As automatic weapons fire tore into the aircraft, pieces of splintered metal pierced his leg. Ignoring his pain and bleeding, he directed his door gunners to rake the enemy position.

At the same time he called in artillery to pound the area. Only after he was sure the en-

(Continued on Back Page)

Nevada Eagle Nets 204 Tons Of Enemy Rice

CAMP EAGLE—Paratroopers from the 1st and 2nd Brigades continued the rice denial phase of Operation Nevada Eagle near Hue recently, raising their total of grain captured to 204 tons in six weeks.

Screaming Eagles from B Co., 1st Bn. (Abn), 501st Inf. seized 4,500 pounds of rice while searching an area four miles northwest of the imperial city. Then C Co., 1st Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf. located 1,200 pounds of enemy rice in a hut one mile east of Hue also.

The next day, paratroopers from the same battalion uncovered three tons of rice while searching a bunker complex four miles northwest of the city.

While patrolling an area five miles east of Hue, airborne infantrymen from C Co., 1st Bn. (Abn), 501st Inf. captured 2,400 pounds of rice shortly after engaging a group of NVA, killing two.

Meanwhile a unit of the 1st Bn. (Abn), 501st Inf. captured three tons of rice hidden in a small pagoda five miles north of Hue.

Twelve kills were scored by 2nd Brigade paratroopers, ARVN rangers and district Vietnamese soldiers in the coastal plains east of Hue.

ARVN soldiers met little resistance as they swept through the villages. Paratroopers from the 1st Bn. (Abn), 501st Inf. engaged the retreating enemy, killing two and detaining 20 suspects.

A company of the 1st Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf. killed seven enemy and captured three weapons in a contact five miles northwest of Hue. Sweeping the area, the paratroopers found

four tons of rice hidden under a haystack.

Paratroopers of the 1st Bn. (Abn), 501st Inf. discovered two caches containing more than 14 tons of rice while conducting reconnaissance-in-force operations four miles east of the city.

Total enemy body count for the week was 22.

Field Haircut

PHUOC VINH — Field expedience expanded into the realm of haircuts for paratroopers of the 3rd Brigade north of here recently.

Company A, 1st Bn. (Abn), 506th Inf. was stationed on an isolated hill when 1st Sgt. Donald W. Larimore, Greenville, Ala., saw his men begin to look a bit shaggy.

He lined up his troops, reached into his rucksack and produced a pair of clippers. "Hair really started to fly," said Spec. 4 John Polk, Ft. Atkinson, Wis., one of the men.

"It was kind of like sheep sheering," said Lt. Stephen Hayward, Bath, Me., as he rubbed his slick head. "At least you can't beat the prices."



BEATS WALKING—After completing a village sweep during Operation Nevada Eagle, paratroopers of the 2nd Squadron (Abn), 17th Cav. and Vietnamese soldiers of the 2nd Bn., 3rd Inf., 1st ARVN Div. crowd on a tank while returning to their base camp southeast of Hue.

(Photo by Sgt. Ormer Rogers)

Use New Tactics

3rd Bde Surprises VC

PHUOC VINH — Paratroopers from the 3rd Brigade caught the enemy off guard near here recently with a surprise night helicopter assault, killing four Viet Cong and detaining five suspects.

"As far as I can determine, this was the first time this sort of thing has ever been done in Vietnam," said Maj. John B. Sharp, Excelsior Springs, Mo., brigade operations officer, as he described the method of deployment.

No Prep Fire

Two battalions were inserted without previous artillery preparations on the landing zones (LZ's) as the paratroopers began the cordon and search of a suspected Viet Cong staging area.

The only warning the enemy had was the sudden appearance of 1 million-candle-power flares dropped by the Air Force.

Airborne infantrymen from the 3rd Bn. (Abn), 187th Inf. hit the three strategic LZ's without interference. As the element of surprise faded, however, part of the 2nd Bn. (Abn), 508th Inf. was forced to land on a "hot" LZ.

Choppers Hit

Tracer bullets criss-crossed the sky as the enemy attempted to down the troop-bearing helicopters. Three "choppers" in trail were hit by enemy cross-fire, but no one was injured.

Before dawn the paratroopers

had completely sealed off the villages and a helicopter hovered overhead broadcasting instructions in Vietnamese to the inhabitants.

Police Search

At daybreak Vietnamese National Police, aided by the Screaming Eagles, began their search. Suspects were held for questioning.

One revealed that he was a member of an NVA regiment.

Another turned out to be the executive officer of an enemy medical group.

Meanwhile Cobra gunships flew overhead in support of the ground action. Six enemy sampans were blasted from a neighboring river while trying to escape the trap.

The four enemy soldiers were killed as they tried to break through the encircling paratroopers.

Trooper's Memory Brings Viet Smiles

PHUOC VINH—A paratrooper's memory of fun shared during recess in grade school led to the acquisition of playground equipment for the village school here recently.

"I noticed that the children just stood around because there was nothing to play on," said Spec. 4 Daniel Cross, Long Beach, Calif., of 2nd Bn. (Abn), 506th Inf. "It was nothing like when I went to school."

Cross talked to the battalion civil affairs officer, Lt. Melvin Rittner, Blissville, Mich., and suggested they try to help.

Rittner began to observe the government-run grade school located outside the front gate of the 3rd Brigade base camp.

"These children were playing

the only thing they were familiar with—the good guys against the bad," he said. "That was when they played at all. Most of them just seemed to wander aimlessly."

The only playground equipment was a dilapidated set of swings.

Rittner outlined his idea to Staff Sgt. Ernest Mattin, Eugene, Ore., of C Co., 34th Engineer Bn. Two days later, Pfc. Alfred C. Flatt, Gainsboro, Tenn., moved into the school yard with a 2½-ton truck load of building materials.

By the end of the day, four seesaws were installed and the swing set restored. The children swarmed over their new playground equipment amid laughter and squeals of happiness.

"This is the way it should be," Rittner said. "These children should be happy just like we used to be."



WORKING OUT—Airborne artillerymen of C Btry., 1st Bn. (Abn), 321st Arty., worked rapidly under intense heat to repel an enemy mortar and small arms attack on Landing Zone (LZ) Henry, a division fire support base north of Hue.

(Photo by Spec. 4 Paul Higgs)

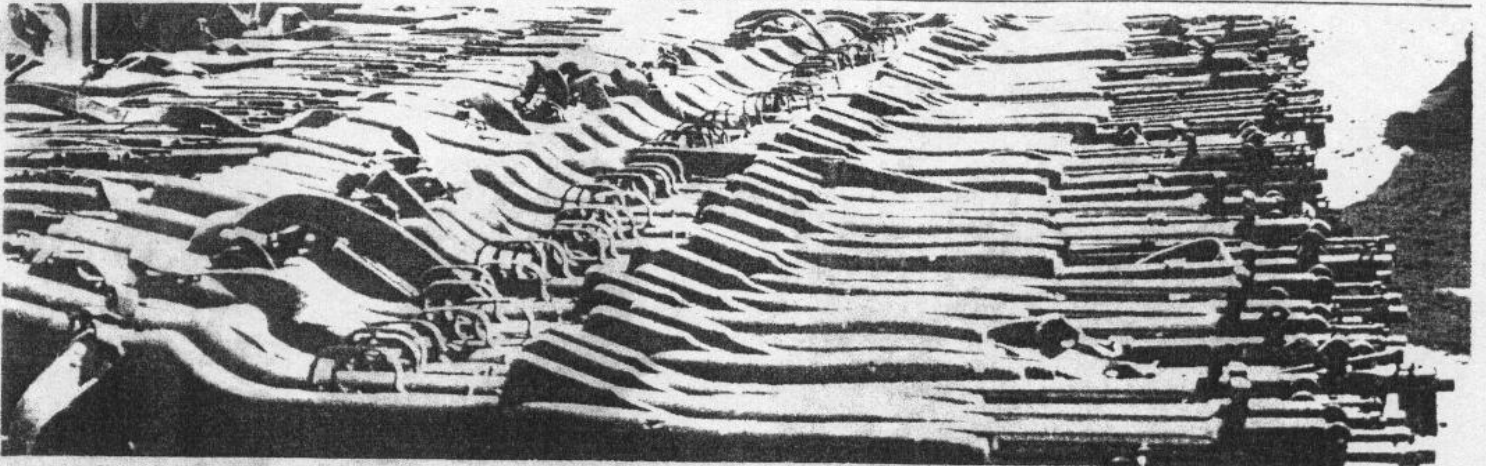


The Screaming Eagle is an authorized Army newspaper published weekly by the 101st Airborne Division, RVN, for military personnel. Views and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. Reproduction of all material other than copyrighted items is authorized. Address all communications to: Editor, Screaming Eagle, Headquarters, 101st Airborne Division, APO San Francisco 96323. Printed in Tokyo, Japan, by Pacific Stars and Stripes.

Circulation 15,000

Commanding General
 Officer-in-Charge
 Editor

Maj. Gen. O.M. Barsanti
 Maj. Bobby J. Bishop
 Lt. Samuel B. Huff
 Spec. 5 Jack Hurst



Row of SKS carbine on display at Fire Support Base Veghel. They were captured by paratroopers of the 2nd Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf.

Nevada Eagle Reaps Arms Bumper Crop

Division paratroopers display some of the nearly 2,000 enemy weapons captured thus far during Operation Nevada Eagle.

Company A, 2nd Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf. struck a bonanza early in the operation as it uncovered two major weapons caches in one week.

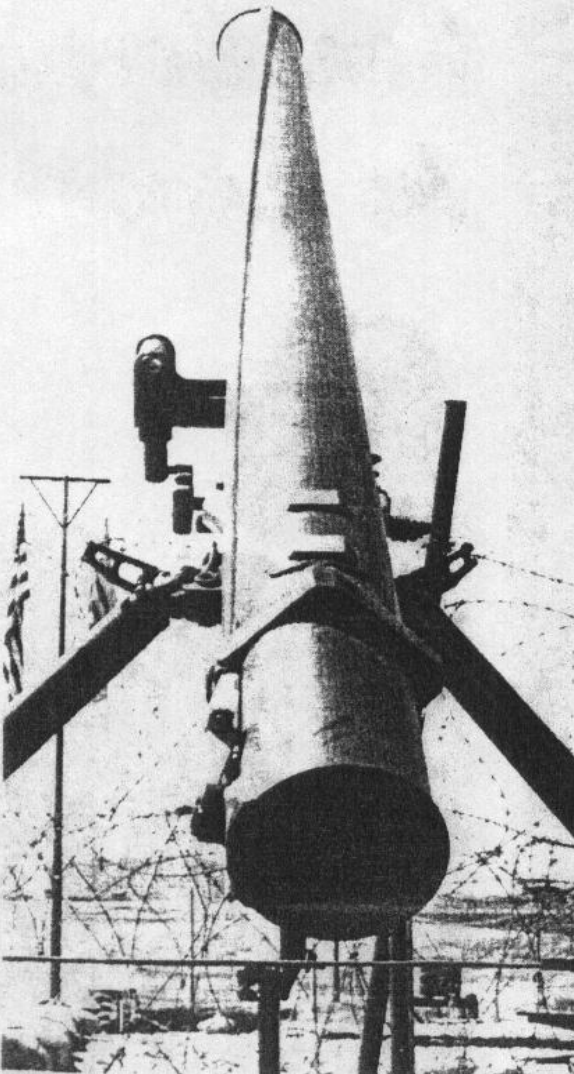
Beneath a triple canopy jungle 12 miles southwest of Hue, the riflemen uncovered a bunker complex containing 238 individual and crew-served weapons, including 167 SKS rifles and 32 cases of AK-47's.

They found a second major cache four miles east of the A Chau Valley. The 423 enemy arms included 209 bolt-action Chicom rifles, 107 SKS's, 91 AK-47's and 12 complete 60mm mortars.

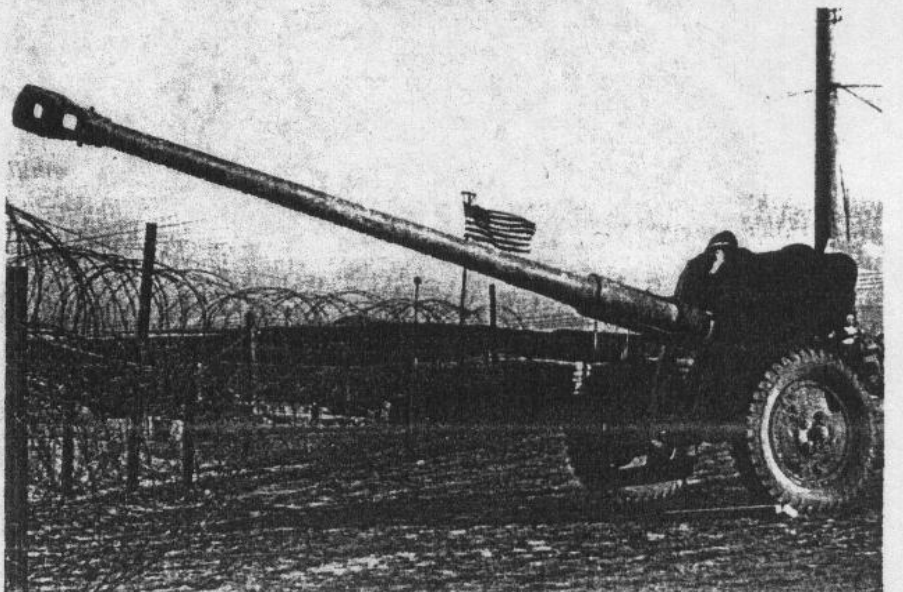
**Information
Office
Photographs**



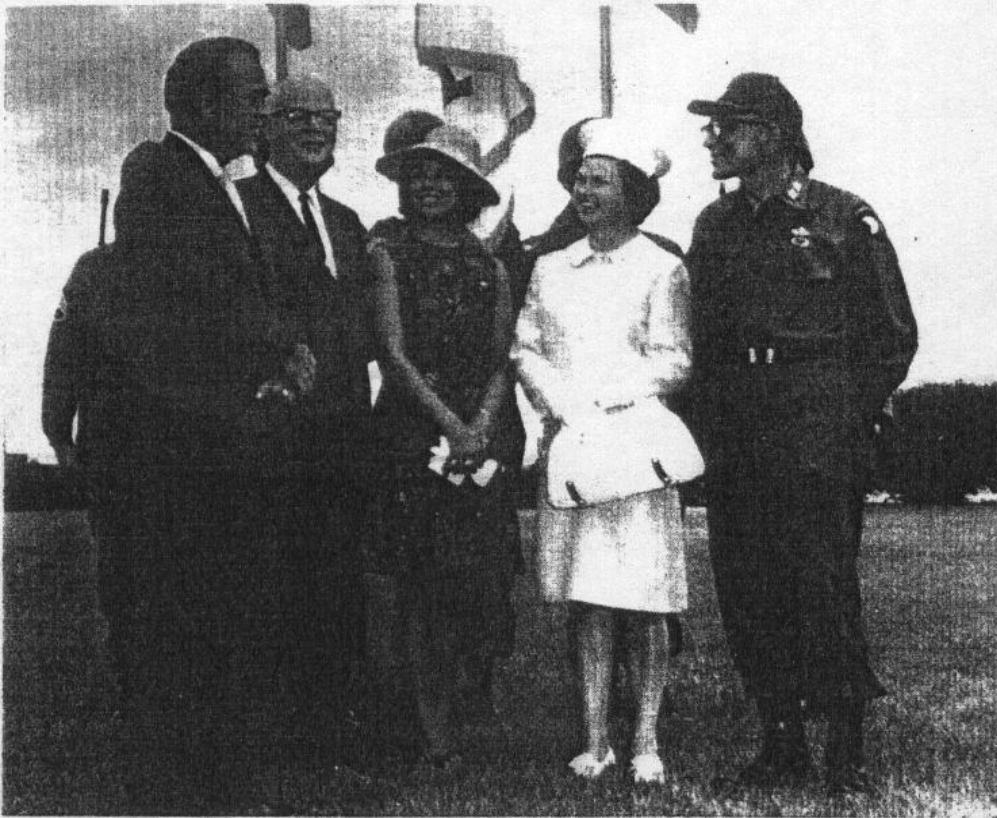
Paratroopers gaze at stacks of enemy ordnance, including mortars, rifle grenades, rocket-propelled grenades and carbines.



Captured 122mm rocket launcher points skyward at Camp Eagle.



Soviet 85mm field gun now bears the Screaming Eagle insignia as it rests with an American flag waving in the background.



Being greeted by Clarksville, Tenn., VIPs after joining 101st at Ft. Campbell, Ky.



Chatting with troops as they embark for Vietnam.



Escorting Lt. Gen. Bruce Palmer during former USARV commander's last visit to Camp Eagle.

Gen. Barsanti As Leader Of



Bolstering the morale of Screen.



Ft. Campbell, Ky., during Operation Eagle Thrust.



Meeting RVN Chief of Joint General Staff, Gen. Vien, as Gen. Westmoreland looks on.

ends Busy Year Screaming Eagles



es during one of many trips to the field.



Inspecting enemy ordnance captured during Operation Nevada Eagle.



Screaming Eagle paratrooper conducts a house-to-house search in a village north of Hue.



1st Brigade reconnaissance element wades through a mountain stream as it searches for NVA positions north of Hue.

Abn Troops Kill 2,100

Information
Office
Photographs

"Relieve the pressure from the area around Hue," was the standing order given paratroopers of the 1st and 2nd Brigades and 3rd Brigade, 62nd Airborne Division as they launched Operation Carentan II, April 1.

The combined airborne force responded with a 47-day siege of enemy positions which resulted in 2,100 NVA deaths, 157 detainees and 381 captured weapons.



Airborne rifleman and machine-gun crew engage entrenched NVA regulars north of the imperial city.



Armed airborne infantryman escorts one of 93 detainees who gave themselves up following a five-day battle at Phuoc Yen, north of Hue.



Paratrooper holds a rag-wrapped smoke grenade to signal an incoming helicopter.

'Bird Dogs' Guide Air Support For 101st

HUE — An Air Force jet fighter broke the silence of the morning mist north of here as paratroopers of the 2nd Brigade peered through the elephant grass 300 meters from an NVA-held village.

Three companies from the 1st Bn. (Abn), 501st Inf. surrounded the village after an initial probe was stunted with stubborn enemy resistance. The ground commander called for artillery fire to be followed by an air strike.

Flying high above the bunkered enemy positions, a Cessna C-1 "Bird Dog" spotter plane marked and adjusted the incoming artillery fire until the shells fell with a high degree of accuracy along a hedgerow.

After the artillery was lifted, Maj. Brad Teishaw, Clovis, N.M., the Bird Dog's pilot, began guiding in the jets already in position for their bombing runs.

Before the strike, Teishaw

briefed each of the fighter pilots on the enemy situation. "It's a part of my job to recommend their approach and direction of attack," he said. "No sooner had my marking rocket begun smoking over the target, than the first jet made its initial run."

Climbing to 1,500 feet, the Cessna pilot observed the impact area and relayed more coordinates to the fighter pilots. Each time a bomb found an enemy position, the Bird Dog

would swoop down seeking more NVA strongholds.

Satisfied that the jets were clear of the area, Teishaw then radioed the ground commander and gave him the all clear to begin sweeping the village.

Recently while flying a visual reconnaissance mission over a mountain top north of here, he spotted 30 deadly 122mm enemy rockets pointed directly at Camp Evans, headquarters of the 1st Air Cav. Division.

He immediately radioed the brigade operations center and for the next two hours directed artillery missions and air strikes on the launching site.

"While the fighters were delivering their ordnance, I saw eight of the enemy rocketeers flee their bunkers and head for the dense jungle nearby," he said. "As they entered the jungle at the edge of the hilltop, the fighter pilots completely saturated the area."



LOOKING FOR BUSINESS—Senior medic for D Co., 1st Bn. (Abn), 501st Inf., Spec. 5 Francis W. Fulton, Titusville, Pa., searches an NVA bunker near Hue after he heard a call for help during Operation Nevada Eagle. (Photo by Spec. 4 Roger Downs)

On Song Bo Banks

Troopers Spring River Trap

HUE — Paratroopers of the 2nd Brigade killed 21 Viet Cong in a night ambush of three sampans on the Song Bo river north of here recently.

The 2nd Platoon of C Co., 2nd Bn. (Abn), 501st Inf. established a night perimeter near the east bank, 200 yards from where the river winds down from the mountains.

"I had one of my squad leaders positioned on the riverbank with four of his men," said Platoon Sgt. Eddie Sweat of Columbia, S.C. Sweat stayed with several of his men near a trail above the river.

Before midnight, Pfc. James Johnston, Tucson, Ariz., spotted a large sampan forging slowly up the center of the stream toward their position.

He notified Jackson, who silently ushered his men to where they would have maximum fire power.

"As the sampans came abreast of my position, I could see three of them about 15 yards apart with about 25 men in each," Jackson recalled. "They appeared to be alert, so I waited until the last boat was even with my position before I opened up with my M-16 and triggered the ambush."

"With my men firing from above and Jackson's men blasting from below, we really caught the enemy by surprise."

Sweat said.

As the paratroopers' deadly small arms fire ripped into the enemy vessels, several Viet Cong leaped into the river and scrambled toward the west bank.

"I popped an illumination flare and by its light we opened up with grenade launchers to cut down more enemy trying to swim away," Jackson said.

"It was the best ambush I've ever seen," Sweat claimed.

3rd Bde Choppers Blast 6 Sampans

PHUOC VINH—Helicopters from the 3rd Brigade had a field day as they sank six enemy sampans near here recently.

Col. Lawrence L. Mowery, brigade commander, was directing a two-battalion operation from the air when his command and control helicopter spotted four camouflaged vessels on the river below.

Door gunners Spec. 5 Marlo K. Donn, Scottsdale, Ariz., and Spec. 4 Samuel Miller, Brooklyn, opened up with their M-60 machine-guns. The sampans slid beneath the green-toned water.

Later in the day, a light observation "Cayuse" helicopter carrying members of Mowery's staff spotted two more enemy boats.

Maj. James S. Brewer, Colorado Springs, Colo., was sitting

near the left door with an M-79 grenade launcher in his lap. After calculating his windage he fired, and a flash followed as telltale grey smoke popped in the middle of the first sampan, sending it to the bottom.

The pilot, WO James C. Jones, Spencer, Va., banked the aircraft and started a run for the second sampan. In the best "John Wayne" tradition, Brewer splintered the second sampan with another shot.

'Hoi Chanh' Save Paratrooper Lives

CAMP EAGLE — A helicopter orbits above an enemy village as a voice crackles from a large electronic loudspeaker in Vietnamese. The voice belongs to a

NVA Lighter

HUE—A paratrooper searching a swamp for his cigarette lighter outside an enemy-held village near here recently brought to light more than expected.

"I was preparing to smoke when I realized I had dropped my lighter," said Spec. 4 Frank McEntee, Philadelphia, of C Co., 2nd Bn. (Abn), 501st Inf.

McEntee started backtracking through a swamp, kicking water lilies in disgust, when suddenly the brackish muck erupted under his feet.

An NVA holding a hollow reed in his mouth emerged with his hands in the air surrendering. The water-soaked infiltrator was trying to flee his unit's doomed stronghold.

former enemy soldier who is imploring his friends to lay down their arms and rally to the government.

In this way former enemy terrorists now working with the division are saving American lives almost daily.

"An enemy troop is promised medical care, good food and a new start in life if he surrenders," said Maj. Charles R. Kelly, Idabel, Okla., division psychological operations officer.

First the "Hoi Chanh" is paid for his weapon and taken to a collection point.

"Here he is photographed and questioned for intelligence information," Kelly said. "Usually during the first few days he is taken up in a helicopter to broadcast of his surrender and possibly persuade other NVA or Viet Cong to give up."

After making a broadcast a "Hoi Chanh" is sent to a compound for training and processing. Eventually he goes to a village where he is joined by his family and given a home and a chance to start a new life.



HANDLE WITH CARE—Paratroopers of the 1st Bn. (Abn), 501st Inf. unload enemy mortar rounds and other war material found during a village sweep near Hue during Operation Nevada Eagle. (Photo by Spec. 4 Roger A. Downs)



SCREAMING EAGLES IN CONCERT—Staff Sgt. Clarence L. Deben, Boston, leads the division band as they play for the musical enjoyment of the Tay Loc Orphanage in Hue. This is one of a series that the band is presenting at various orphanages, hospitals and refugee centers in the area.

(Photo by Spec. 3 Tony Viglione)

VC Meet Sudden Death As Light Spurs Quick Ambush

PHUOC VINH — Five NVA soldiers met hurried death as they disturbed a division ambush team before it had time to move into position north of here.

The team from the 3rd Brigade's A Co., 3rd Bn. (Abn), 137th Inf. was enroute to its ambush site when the point man stopped, crouched low and motioned silently to the left flank.

A flashlight was moving toward them about 50 yards away. Quickly a small ambush was set up and the team waited as the light edged closer. When the light came within 30 yards it suddenly vanished, as if the paratroopers' presence had been detected.

"The light didn't come on again, but we could hear someone slowly picking his way toward us," said Sgt. John E. Waaranemi, Minneapolis, Minn. "A few minutes later it sounded like someone else was walking through the underbrush to our right front."

Pfc. Joe Lewis, New Orleans, nudged his team leader and silently pointed at the blackness

AWARDS

Recent division awards and decorations included: Bronze Star with "V" Device for Spec. 4 James I. Smith, B Btry., 2nd Bn. (Abn), 320th Arty.; Pfc. William D. Cotter, B Co., 1st Bn. (Abn), 501st Inf.; and Lt. Michael G. Watson, B Btry., 1st Bn. (Abn), 321st Arty.

of the jungle. A form slowly took shape.

"I looked where he pointed and could barely make out a man bent forward at the waist," Waaranemi said. "He was carrying a rifle in his hands."

The night's silence was broken by the thunderous clap of claymore mines sending white-hot shrapnel into the midst of the enemy. The team then sent a flurry of fire from their M-16 rifles and grenade launchers.

Having revealed their presence the airborne infantrymen began to rush back to their company perimeter.

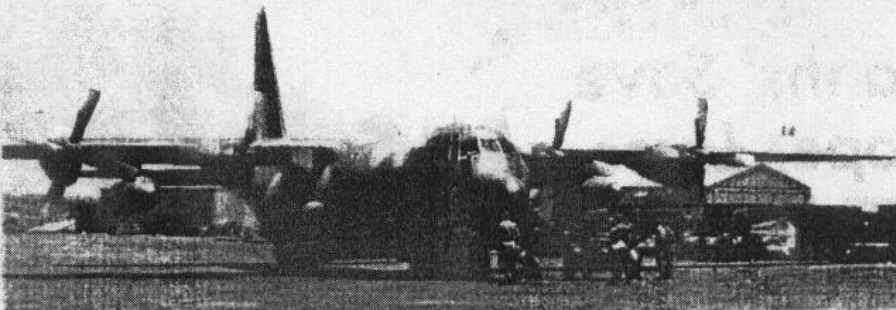
A hand flare was launched to signal their fellow paratroopers

of their early return. The light of the flare caught a lone enemy standing up.

"He was about 25 yards away and appeared to be startled into indecision by the sudden bright green light of the flare," Waaranemi recalled. "I hit him with four quick shots and the team moved sharply into the company perimeter."

A quick reconnaissance the following morning revealed four NVA had been killed in the initial engagement and another had been killed by Waaranemi.

"That isn't bad for an ambush that didn't get set up as planned," Lewis said the next day as he cleaned his rifle.



WELL, I'LL BE!—It is not every day that the maintenance section of the 3rd Bn. (Abn), 306th Inf. gets the task of starting a huge C-130 cargo plane. The aircraft developed battery trouble at Phan Thiet and with the aid of a jeep and battery booster cables the engines were started and the big plane was able to continue its mission.

(Photo by Pfc. Jerry Berry)

Local Approach Boosts Psy-Ops Effort

HUE — A localized approach to psychological operations is giving a big boost to the effort of the division's 2nd Brigade near here.

"Self identity is very important to the Vietnamese," said Lt. Dave Hendry, East Hartford, Conn., as he explained how the "psy-ops" team broadcast messages are designed.

"The Vietnamese people hear the name of their district and automatically they associate themselves with the broadcast,"

he said. "This method has brought about a large response."

As a helicopter passes over a village with its loudspeaker amplifying information in Vietnamese, even the message itself is patterned to deal with the specific problems of that particular community and the actions its citizens should take.

In the Phu Yang, Hung Thuy and Phu Tu Districts southwest of here, villagers are asked to cooperate with ARVN and para-

troopers in detecting mines and booby traps.

The people are cautioned of the danger to their children and livestock should they accidentally set off the explosives. They are instructed to observe any suspicious acts and notify friendly forces through their district chief.

In areas where NVA are believed to be located, the broadcasts are directed at the enemy, telling them their position is

Trooper Saved By Doc's Effort

BIEN HOA — With the heavy afternoon rain dropping from the low overhanging clouds the familiar sound of an approaching chopper signaled an emergency. A Screaming Eagle soldier was hurt.

Automatically aid men rushed out of a bunker carrying a stretcher. Swiftly and cautiously the "dust off" landed. The rain, heavier now, glistened as it streamed down the crimson cross on the aircraft's nose.

Quickly the wounded man was placed on the stretcher. The aid team ascended the small hill in front of the bunker, slipping in the soft red earth.

VC 'Jams' Trooper

PHUOC VINH — An NVA soldier hiding in a tree got a paratrooper from the division's 3rd Brigade in a jam during a reconnaissance-in-force operation north of here recently.

"I was famished and just sat down to chow when I got the feeling that someone was staring at me," said Sgt. James W. Guynn, Pembroke, Ky., of Co. A, 2nd Bn. (Abn), 506th Inf.

He scanned the nearby tree-line and suddenly found himself face-to-face with a lone enemy troop. Tins of C-rations flew in various directions as the airborne infantryman leaped for his rifle and yelled "NVA!"

Guynn returned to his former resting place, avidly scraping off the pineapple jam he had spilled on his uniform in haste. "Our security element blasted the trees in the right direction, but all we came up with later was his helmet," the sticky paratrooper recalled.

Awkwardly they entered the narrow passage of the bunker. Care was taken to insure their precious cargo was not jarred. The stretcher was placed on steel pipes driven into the walls.

Medical personnel fluttered about the wounded man. The only sounds heard were the doctor's stern words, "Tourniquet, swab, sponge, clamp." Hours, seemingly days, passed as experienced hands were at work.

Then it was all over. Capt. David H. Leeper, Paducah, Ky., slowly took off his glasses, wiped his brow and walked through the bunker's passage.

The rain had stopped. Squinting his unaccustomed eyes against the new brilliant sunlight, Capt. Leeper took a deep breath and looked around the muddy hill.

Another paratrooper would soon recover. For the captain, the age-old battle against death had been won.

Smoke Traps 58 Detainees

HUE — Paratroopers from the 2nd Brigade used artillery smoke rounds to lead the enemy into a trap that resulted in 58 detainees near here recently.

The rounds, normally used to signal landing zones for a helicopter assault, were lobbed into a suspected enemy area. The Viet Cong, wise to the signal, immediately fled the apparent assault area and joined nearby farmers who were tilling their fields.

Suddenly along a road southeast of the farmers' rice paddies, a portion of B Co., 2nd Bn. (Abn), 501st Inf. tramped into view and formed a blocking position. Instantly another blocking force appeared to the north.

Meanwhile a platoon from A Co., 2nd Bn. (Abn), 501st Inf. completed a sweep through a nearby village and blocked off any western escape route.

Amid the stunned and confused faces of Viet Cong and farmers a platoon of Vietnamese National Police landed via helicopter in the center of the rice fields and closed the noose.

Fourteen of the detainees were later confirmed to be Viet Cong.

Barsanti...

(Continued from Front Page) emy was fully engaged did he proceed to a hospital.

For his gallantry he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. The action also resulted in the first of two Purple Hearts earned in Vietnam.

Vietnamese Medals

During a recent visit here, Vietnamese Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky presented the commanding general with the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm and the Vietnamese National Order Fifth Class.

The vice president praised Barsanti for the Screaming Eagles' accomplishments in northern I Corps during Operations Delaware and Carentan II.

Early in his tour, Barsanti received the Vietnamese Master Parachutist Badge also.

Although "Bold Eagle" soon moves on to new responsibilities, many paratroopers will long remember him proudly as having been their commanding general.