



LTC Kimmel Takes Command Of 1/35th

Before a distinguished group of visitors at LZ OD, including Major General William R. Peers, Commanding General of the 4th Infantry Division, and Major General Richard T. Knowles, Commanding General of Task Force Oregon, Lieutenant Colonel Robert G. Kimmel formally assumed command of the 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry.

Presenting LTC Kimmel with the battalion's colors was the outgoing commander, Major James E. Moore, Jr. Major Moore, in the past year, had established himself as one of the most respected members of the 3rd Brigade, serving first as S-3 and later as commander of the "Cacti Green."

Generals Peers and Knowles, and Colonel George E. Wear "Bronco" Brigade commander, all had high praise for the accomplishments of the "Cacti Green" under Major Moore and a warm welcome for LTC

(continued on page 4)

LTC Petro

Takes Command Of "Dragons" CHAPLAIN EARNs SILVER STAR

Lieutenant Colonel Peter P. Petro, of St. Petersburg, Florida, assumed command of the 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry "Golden Dragons," replacing Lieutenant Colonel William H. Miller, who had rotated back to the States last week.

LTC Petro, a graduate of the Reserve Officers Training Program, Syracuse University, is beginning his second tour in Vietnam. He had formerly served as an advisor with the Special Forces camp in Pleiku.

(continued on page 2)

For saving the life of a young medic severely wounded during a mortar attack, Captain John A. Szilvasy, assistant chaplain of the 3rd Brigade was awarded a Silver Star.

The award for gallantry was presented to the chaplain by General Harold K. Johnson, Army Chief of Staff, during a ceremony at the "Bronco" Brigade's tactical command post.

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LTC Petro cont Takes Command

A recent graduate of the Armed Forces Staff College, LTC Petro has also graduated from the basic officer course, career officer course and the Command and General Staff College.

His decorations include the Bronze Star, Joint Services Commendation Medal, Combat Infantrymen's Badge and Master Parachutist Badge.

LTC Petro's wife, Dodie, and two sons; Steve, 11, and Mark, 9, reside in St. Petersburg.

PSYOPS TEAM CAPTURES VC SQUAD

The power of psychological operations was excellently displayed when Team Nine, 244th Psyops Company, attached to the 3rd Brigade, captured an entire squad of Viet Cong without firing a shot.

The psychological "reactionary force," consisting of SFC Heyward Rourk and a Vietnamese interpreter, were called into action when A Company, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry chased the heavily armed squad into a tunnel complex north of Duc Pho.

Taking off by chopper from LZ Montezuma, it was only a matter of minutes before they had their portable loud speaker system positioned at the tunnel entrance. Sergeant Rourk, working through his interpreter, instructed the Viet Cong to surrender within five minutes or they would be killed by the waiting infantry unit.

As the time limit was up, one Communist troop emerged from the tunnel dragging an AK-47 behind him. The frightened captive walked up to the moustached sergeant and handed him his weapon.

The threats were followed by words of encouragement, and seeing that the Americans had no intention of harming him, the VC willingly talked the others in the tunnel into surrendering.

Along with four more prisoners, the American soldiers collected another AK-47, grenades and an M-1 carbine with grenade launcher.

The squad leader, the first man out of the tunnel, directed the friendly forces to a nearby cave which concealed the other four members of his squad. Upon a command from the squad leader, the four gave themselves up and added two AK-47's, one machine gun and a B-40 rocket launcher to the weapons haul.

Outstanding achievements such as this by Team Nine have saved the infantrymen of the 3rd Brigade great risk and have given misguided Viet Cong a chance to work toward becoming useful members of the South Vietnamese society.

"BIRDDOG" SPOTS LOST SOLDIER

Lost, fatigued and after fighting off six Viet Cong, PFC Melvin Gilpin of C Company, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry continued his trek down a lonely stretch of beach north of Duc Pho until he was able to signal his rescuers with the top of a C-ration can.

(continued on page 6).

CA Programs Gain Vietnamese Confidence

A Vietnamese woman shouting to American soldiers and pointing at a bunker concealing Communist guerrillas were the first signs that MEDCAPS and other civil affairs programs are winning the confidence of the Vietnamese people in Duc Pho District.

Units of the 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry have been conducting numerous MEDCAPS in the area south and southeast of Duc Pho since arriving in the area in April. While the villagers are given medical care, children are entertained and soap and candy distributed, in hopes that the people will accept our good faith in trying to help them.

Indications that our constant efforts to aid the people have been successful, appeared recently when the Reconnaissance Platoon, with Regional Forces soldiers, were moving toward the village of Vinh Phuoc, where frequent MEDCAPS are conducted. The men were surprised to have a woman run up to them excitedly pointing to a bunker and shouting, "VC, VC!"

The platoon moved quickly to surround the bunker. After several fruitless attempts by the interpreter to persuade the enemy to surrender, grenades were thrown in the bunker resulting in three VC killed and two weapons captured.

Upon questioning by the interpreter and RF's, the woman said that the Viet Cong have promised many things but have never fulfilled them. They came to the villages and took food and clothing, while the Americans came to the villages to help the people.

Learning from the villagers

that the VC had been there to gain refuge the interpreters began questioning a wounded VC who acknowledged that the other Communist were hiding nearby. Leading the infantrymen through the village he pointed out two other bunkers containing VC. Checking out the bunkers, the combined force netted three more enemy KIA, and four more weapons taken.

"We have been holding MEDCAPS in this area for the last 6 weeks and this is the first instance of civilians volunteering information to our troops since we entered this area. We believe the people are gaining confidence in our efforts and I hope we will have many more instances like this," said Major James E. Moore, 1/35th commander.

SILVER CONT STAR

Chaplain Szilvasy's life saving action took place shortly before dawn on the night of March 14. On Operation "San Houston" near the Cambodian border, the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry's fire base camp came under heavy mortar attack with one round striking the medic's bunker.

Suffering from over 50 shrapnel wounds the medic, Private First Class Steven Jaros, was unable to be moved. Chaplain Szilvasy covered the soldier with his own body and at one point administered mouth to mouth resuscitation when his breathing stopped.

Through the efforts of the chaplain, PFC Jaros was able to make it through the attack until a helicopter could evacuate him.

PFC Jaros, by a strange quirk of fate, turned out to be from the same home town as Captain Szilvasy (East Chicago, Indiana) where their parents had been neighbors and friends.

1/35th

CONT

Change of Command

Kimmel.

In recognition for his fine job as 1/35th leader, which he termed, "The proudest moment of my life," Major Moore was awarded the Legion of Merit and an Air Medal with V Device.

LTC Kimmel, who comes to Vietnam from the Pentagon, began his career as a platoon leader with B Company of the "Cacti Green" during the Korean Conflict. General Peers, who once served over LTC Kimmel in the 5th Infantry Division, stated, "I know him as a charging lieutenant and I know he will serve you as a hard charging lieutenant colonel."

Broncos Surpass 1,500 EKIA Mark

The Reconnaissance Platoon, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry had just touched down on an early morning assault. The infantrymen began a sweep of the area when sniper fire broke the silence. Returning the fire, the "Cacti" swept the area to find one enemy killed.

For the Recon Platoon it was just one of many Communists who have fallen mortally wounded. But for the 3rd Brigade Task Force it marked the 1,500th enemy killed (by body count) since closing the Duc Pho area as part of Task Force Oregon.

After 108 days of aggressive search and destroy operations the "Bronco" Brigade has tallied 1,535 killed and 459 weapons captured. During this period the Brigade has 13 times

battled company-size or larger units and have reported over 540 smaller skirmishes.

The rich rice producing coastal plain in lower Quang Ngai Province has long been under control of the VC and NVA. The first week of operations saw the "Cacti" loosen the grip of Communist control. Infantrymen provided security while the local villagers harvested their rice without fear of Viet Cong terrorism.

Active patrols by ground units and helicopters caught enemy units by surprise. Large contacts were immediately followed by combat assaults of more troops, each time mauling enemy units. Disorganized, the enemy units took to their underground sanctuaries in tunnels and bunkers and moved only at night.

Artillery helped close the gap by providing harassment fires at night. Ambushes vigorously employed have helped to take the night from the guerrillas.

However, the underground hiding places no longer provide the VC safety. Quickly learning how to locate the tunnels and spider holes, the "Cacti" continued to destroy the Communist infrastructure.

Thus far, 264 Hoi Chanhs have rallied to the GVN. Each tells of fear of constant patrols, lack of food and medical supplies and their continual movement to avoid detection.

With the help of the civil affairs teams, refugee centers sprang up in Duc Pho, housing 13,000 people. MEDCAPS are conducted on a daily basis as well as assistance in construction of schools and hospitals.

While the job of pacification is only beginning, the progress so far has been encouraging. The soldiers of the 3rd Brigade have certainly lived up to their motto, "None Better."

FEATURE

PAGE

TEST YOUR FACTS

MAJOR LEAGUE BASE



NATIONAL LEAGUE

	W	L	Pct.	GB
St. Louis	58	40	.592	—
Chicago	56	42	.571	2
Atlanta	51	44	.537	5½
Cincinnati	53	47	.530	6
San Fran.	51	49	.510	8
Pittsburgh	48	48	.500	9
Phil.	47	48	.495	9½
Los Angeles	43	54	.443	14½
New York	39	56	.411	17½
Houston	41	59	.410	18

AMERICAN LEAGUE

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Chicago	55	40	.579	—
Boston	54	41	.568	1
Detroit	51	43	.543	3½
California	54	46	.540	3½
Minnesota	50	45	.526	5
Washington	48	52	.480	9½
Cleveland	44	53	.455	12
Baltimore	43	52	.453	12
New York	42	54	.438	13½
Kansas City	42	57	.424	15

1. The country having the highest immigration quota to the U.S. is
 (a) Germany. (b) Poland.
 (c) Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

2. The Vernal Equinox is another name for
 (a) The first day of winter.
 (b) The first day of spring. (c) The first day of autumn.

3. The United Nations presently has how many members?
 (a) 121. (b) 99. (c) 110.

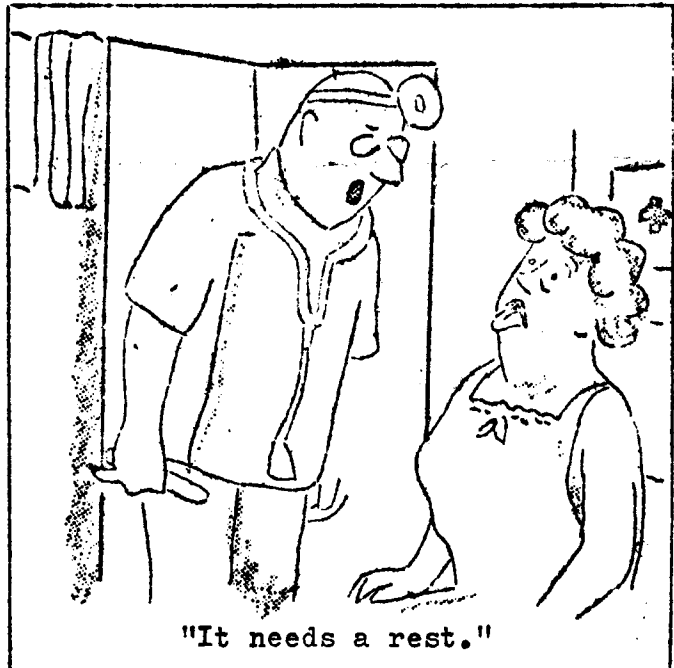
4. Who reigns as Miss America for 1967?

(a) Jane Anne Jayroe, Miss Oklahoma. (b) Holly Smith, Miss Colorado. (c) Deborah Molito, Miss South Dakota.

5. Whose picture is on the 100 dollar bill?

(a) James Madison. (b) Benjamin Franklin. (c) Thomas Jefferson.

(answers on page 6)



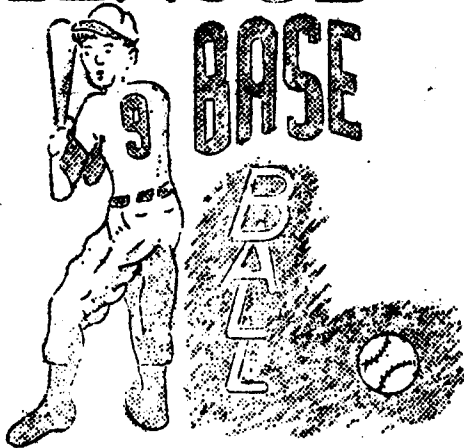
"It needs a rest."

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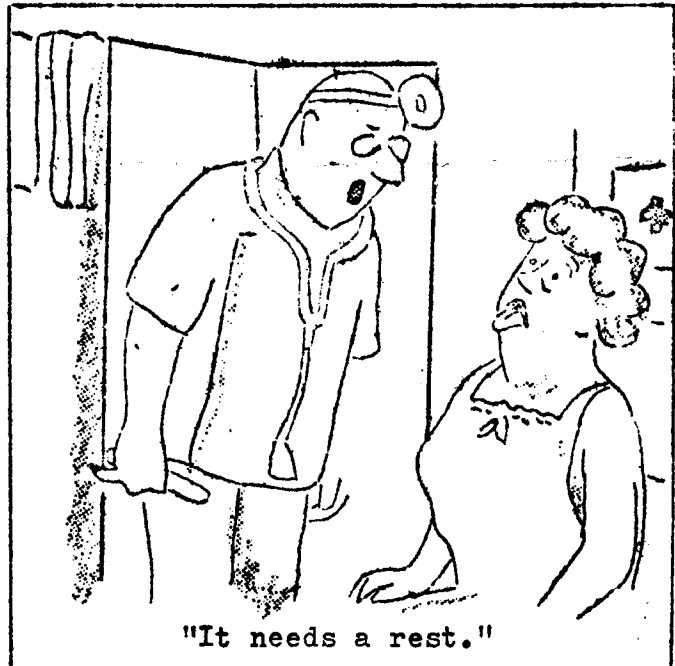
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BRONCO BUGLE

5

LOST SOLDIER

Cont

The men from the 3rd platoon were searching and clearing a village and upon completion the last four men of the platoon were to give one quick, final check. Going out of his way to check a hut, PFC Gilpin became separated from his three companions.

The 3rd platoon had now moved 300 meters south into another village and were setting up to search it. After a break for chow a squad count was taken showing one missing. A squad was immediately dispatched to search the area in which PFC Gilpin was last seen. Unable to find him, the entire 3rd platoon was committed to the search.

An hour and a half elapsed and the entire company was committed along with tanks and APCs from C Company, 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor.

Choppers equipped with loud speakers were circling the area trying to locate the lost soldier as a complete sweep of the area was on.

When PFC Gilpin realized that he was separated, he fired two signal shots in hopes that they would be answered. After waiting in the area for five minutes an acknowledgement was not received. Gilpin then entered a trench and followed it for about two kilometers to the beach on the coast of the South China Sea.

Once on the beach, he began

walking south to link up with another element or make it back to the brigade's forward base camp.

"I was walking along the water's edge and had moved about five 'klicks,'" recalls PFC Gilpin, "when I received fire from my right. I was able to spot six VC firing from behind small sand dunes."

With a full magazine and an M-79 round in his over and under M-16, he engaged the six enemy. Killing two, later confirmed by aircraft, the other four fled to the tree line.

Spotting an observer plane in the area, PFC Gilpin cut the top off a C-ration can and signaled the O-1, Birdog. The attempt was successful and within minutes a gunship was in picking up the wayward soldier.



TEST YOUR FACTS ANSWERS.

1. (c) Great Britian and Northern Ireland.
2. (b) The first day of spring.
3. (a) 121.
4. (a) Miss Jane Anne Jayroe, Miss Oklahoma.
5. (a) James Madison.

The BRONCO BUGLE is an authorized publication of the 3rd Brigade Task Force, 25th Infantry Division APO US Forces 96355 in Vietnam. It is published weekly for all units of the 3rd Brigade Task Force by the Brigade Information Office. The circulation of the BUGLE is 1,200. Opinions and views expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. This newspaper utilizes Army News Features, Armed Forces Radio and Television Service, and Armed Forces Press Service material. CO.....Col George E. Wear Info Off.....Cpt Don F. Morton Asst Info Off..Lt Paul Armstrong Editor.....Sp4 Edward Helenic